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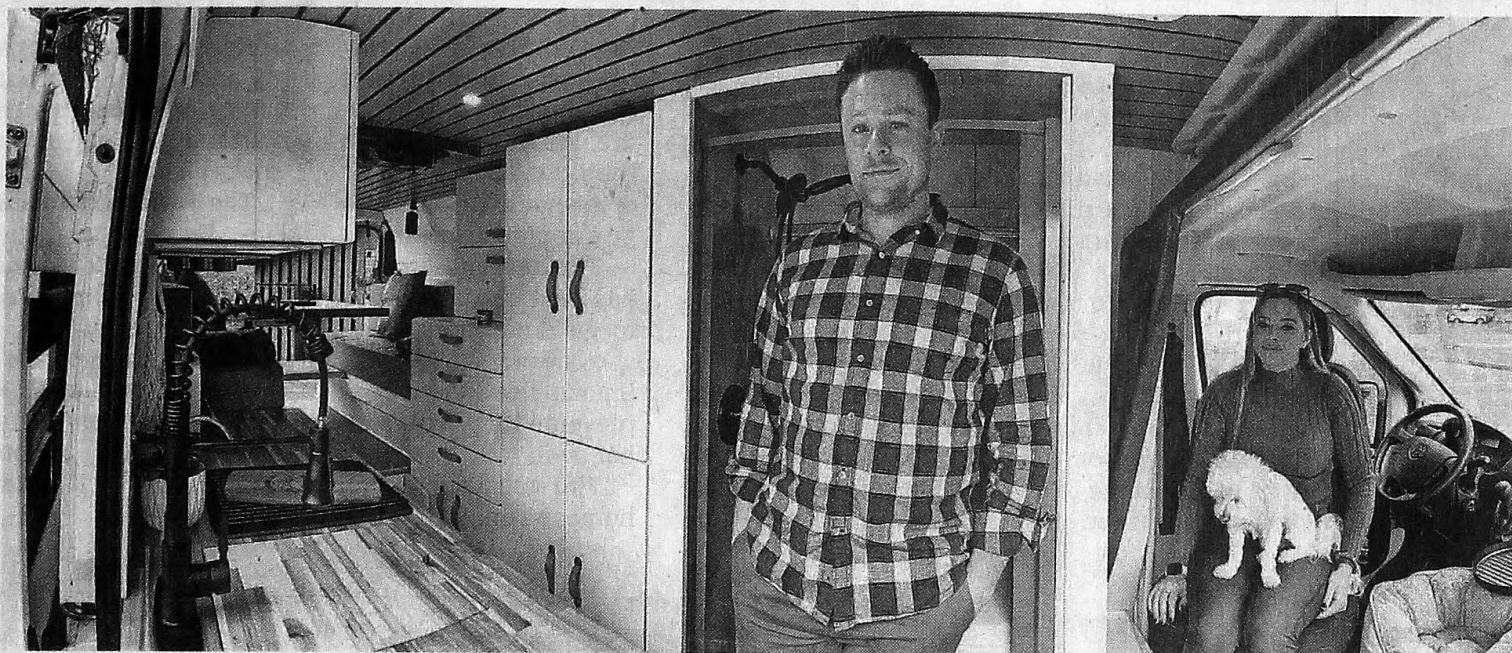
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THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2022 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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Nick Kokenos and Erica Battle's Ram ProMaster travel van is ready to hit the road. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Wayne considers tax request for city's underfunded pensions

Shelby Tankersley

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Wayne's city council is considering putting a tax request on November ballots.

Council approved directing the city attorney's office to craft ballot language for a millage proposal that would levy up to 8 mills a year for five years during its April 5 meeting. Once drafted, the council members will vote on whether to put the proposed language before voters.

The millage would be an Act 345 millage, which allows cities to create tax levies specifically for police and fire retirement plans. The city has struggled to keep up with its contributions to retirees' pension plans, and a judge ordered the city to levy 13.1399 mills during 2020's winter tax collection to make up a deficit.

"We need to get ahead of this before we get ourselves in the same situation we were already in," Mayor John Rhaesa said. "Our goal is to have no judgment levy at all."

A mill is \$1 for every \$1,000 of taxable value on a property. Most Wayne homeowners would pay \$200-\$300 extra in property taxes under such a proposal.

The city's pension plans are through MERS, the Municipal Employees Retirement System of Michigan, which has previously sued Wayne to get the city's required contribution.

In 2008, then administrators in Wayne offered early retirement to employees in order to cut labor costs during the Great Recession. But now, the

See COUNCIL, Page 3A

Road livin'

Farmington Hills couple heads west as they set off to live van life

Shelby Tankersley

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Nick Kokenos and Erica Battle's first home together is a 2021 Ram ProMaster 3500 van.

And they wouldn't have it any other way.

The couple, who until recently lived in Farmington Hills, has been outfitting the van as a mobile home for nearly a year and they plan to travel the country in it. They'd originally hoped to set off around Thanksgiving last year, but all good things take time.



Nick Kokenos and Erica Battle's Ram 3500 ProMaster van they've worked on to create their own RV live-work home. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

"This is our first home together," Kokenos said. "We didn't want to cut corners."

The van is totally livable. It has a shower, toilet, exhaust fan, running water, counter, sink, storage for food and clothes, a table that can shift into a

bed foundation, a projector, lighting, internal heat, space for their dog, a security system and more. Kokenos and Battle built it all themselves, finishing the work while living with some

See VAN LIFE, Page 4A

Two Schoolcraft instructors pass first part of elite master chef exam

Shelby Tankersley

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

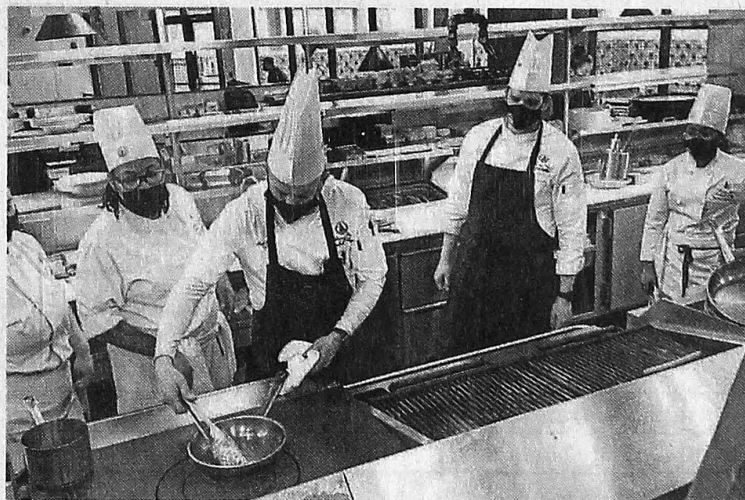
Chefs spend a fair chunk of their careers working toward the prestigious master chef distinction. Two instructors at Schoolcraft College appear well on their way to earning the coveted title.

Chef Drew Sayes and Chef Paul Grosz recently passed the first section of

American Culinary Federation's two-part practical exam hosted by Schoolcraft. Sayes and Grosz tested alongside a master chef candidate from Washington, D.C. The exam takes place twice a year, and there are fewer than 80 master chefs in the world.

"I think the strength of our program, the recognition Schoolcraft has within

See CHEF, Page 3A



Schoolcraft culinary school students get some instruction from Master Chef candidates Paul Grosz, left, and Drew Sayes on April 6, 2022. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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Detroit man arrested, arraigned in death of Redford gas station clerk

Susan Vela
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A 28-year-old Detroit man was arraigned Thursday on four felony charges due to Redford Township police suspicions that he killed a gas station clerk in February.

David Tyrell Fitzgerald is scheduled for an April 19 probable cause conference on three assault charges and a charge of failing to stop at the scene of a serious personal injury accident.

"These charges will be amended at some point since the victim died from his initial injuries," Capt. Al DiPrima

said.

The police department did not issue an official report on the incident.

Surveillance video released to the media shows apparent shoplifters at the Marathon gas station on Telegraph Road, near Interstate 96, run toward a car by the pumps.

The 53-year-old clerk leaves the store to approach their car, which then strikes him.

The clerk was taken to a hospital but later succumbed to his injuries.

Contact reporter Susan Vela at svela@hometownlife.com or 248-303-8432. Follow her on Twitter @susanvela.

Farmington Hills firefighters rescue woman, 62, from burning home

Susan Vela
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Farmington Hills firefighters rescued a woman early Wednesday morning from a burning Waldron Street home with no working smoke alarms.

They said they were called to the two-story home near Olde Towne Park, north of Grand River Avenue, at 4:17 a.m. April 6 because of a reported fire.

Upon arrival, they saw a large blaze consuming the first floor of the south side home. Firefighters Kayla Geffert and Manndez Blanch went directly to the backyard following the dispatcher's report and saw a woman, 62, standing amid smoke at a second-floor bedroom window.

They climbed a ladder to rescue the woman and then provided advanced life support.

They made sure she was transported to Beaumont Hospital in Farmington Hills, where she was further stabilized. Medical personnel then transferred her to a regional burn center.



Farmington Hills firefighters rescued a woman from this Waldron Street home the early morning of April 6, 2022. COURTESY OF FARMINGTON HILLS FIRE DEPARTMENT

"A Farmington Hills resident was rescued and given the chance to survive a tragedy today due to the outstanding professionalism of dispatchers and the aggressive actions of first-arriving firefighters," Fire Chief Jon Unruh said in a statement.

Firefighters said the fire remains under investigation but appears to be "accidental in nature." Fire Marshal Jason Baloga

said the blaze may have started in or near the kitchen. He said the fire ultimately spread to the second floor and attic of the home, and looks to be a complete loss.

The rescued woman has said she attempted to go downstairs when she awoke to smoke. Smoke, heat and flames prevented an escape on her own.

Fire officials remind homeowners to install

working smoke alarms on each level of their homes and to change batteries whenever clocks change.

The Farmington Hills Fire Department provides free smoke alarms to residents. Just call 248-871-2800.

Contact reporter Susan Vela at svela@hometownlife.com or 248-303-8432. Follow her on Twitter @susanvela.

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Redford state representative appears in court facing drunken driving charges

Susan Vela
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

State Rep. Mary Cavanagh, D-Redford Township, stood before a 16th District

Court judge Wednesday without any political backdrop to hide behind.

Seeking a Senate seat, the politician from a prominent political family is facing her second drunken driving charge.

She was stopped during the early morning hours of Feb. 25 after Livonia police spotted her trying to drive with two flat tires and opted for field sobriety tests when questioning her.

Cavanagh, 30, was



Cavanagh

arraigned last month on a misdemeanor charge of operating a vehicle while un-

der the influence of alcohol.

She appeared in a Livonia courtroom April 6 wearing a jacket, dress, leggings and mask. Cavanagh stuck close to her attorney Todd Perkins.

"You're still negotiating this matter,"

Judge Sean Kavanagh said before setting a new April 21 court appearance date.

Departing from the courtroom, the young politician said "we are taking this very seriously."

Cavanagh was elected to state office in 2020 to serve Redford Township and northwest Detroit. Her father, Phil Cavanagh, served in the state House for a handful of years, 2011 to 2015, and her mother is Redford Township's elected treasurer. Grandfather Jerome Cavanagh served as Detroit's mayor in the 1960s.

She pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor impaired driving charge in 2015, which resulted in a sentence of a year of probation that concluded in July 2016. Two similar charges were dismissed.

During her time in office, she successfully sponsored legislation permitting people to petition judges for the expungement of first-time drunken driving offenses.

Cavanagh was arrested around the same time she announced her candidacy for a new 6th state Senate district that includes parts of Redford, Detroit, Livonia, Farmington and Farmington Hills.

According to a Livonia police report, an officer was patrolling near Industrial and Merriman roads, just south of Interstate 96, when he heard a Ford Escape's thumping flat tires shortly after 2 a.m. Feb. 25.

Both driver side tires were flat.

The officer followed the driver on to I-96, where the vehicle began swerving and a driver side tire disconnected from the rim. The Ford

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH PORT STREET VACTOR PAD AND PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP POND

General Notice

The Charter Township of Plymouth (Owner) is requesting Bids for the construction of the following Project:

**PORT STREET VACTOR PAD AND PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP POND
PL21004/PL21006
Plymouth Township, Michigan**

Bids for the construction of the Project will be received at the Plymouth Township Hall located at 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth, Michigan, MI 48170 until Thursday, May 5th, 2022 at 10:30 am local time. At that time the Bids received will be publicly opened and read.

The Project includes the following Work:

Construction of a concrete vactor pad and site grading at the DPS Port Street site, and renovation of the existing pond at the Township Hall site.

The approximate quantities of the major items of Work are:

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173 LF	Storm Sewer, Conc, 12 Inch, TR Det A
2 EA	Drainage Structure, Outlet Control Structure
1 LS	Phragmite Herbicide Application
1 LS	Landscaping
1 EA	Aerator Fountain

Bids are requested for the following Contract: **PORT STREET VACTOR PAD AND PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP POND**

Obtaining the Bidding Documents

Information and Bidding Documents for the Project can be found at the following designated website:

MITN website at www.bidnetdirect.com/mitn

The Township is providing the Bidding Documents on the MITN website at www.bidnetdirect.com/mitn. Please see separate files uploaded which consist of the Project Manual and the Drawings. Bidder's inquiries shall be directed to Mark Collins, Spalding DeDecker, mcollins@sda-eng.com at 248-844-5400.

Instructions to Bidders.

Bid Security in the amount, form, and subject to the conditions provided in the Instructions to Bidders must be submitted with each Bid.

Bids may not be withdrawn for a period of 120 days after the actual date of opening thereof. This time period may be extended by mutual agreement of the OWNER and any Bidder or Bidders.

The Township reserves the right to accept any or all alternative Bids and award the contract to other than the lowest bidder, to waive any irregularities or informalities or both; to reject any or all Bids; and in general to make the award of the Contract in any manner deemed by the Township, in its sole discretion, to be in the best interest of the Charter Township of Plymouth.

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Cavanagh

Continued from Page 2A

Escape had taken an exit ramp when its hazard lights popped on, prompting the officer to initiate a traffic stop.

According to police, Cavanagh told the officer she was returning from the Livonia Democratic Party but she did not know where it was located or why her tires were damaged. She soon said she was returning from Lansing.

The officer asked her how much she had been drinking. Cavanagh's response was redacted.

"I asked Cavanagh to conduct some sobriety tests to make sure she was okay to drive, and Cavanagh consented to doing them," the report stated.

Police redacted information on Cavanagh's sobriety performance and her blood-alcohol levels.

Cavanagh's attorney said her supporters should not worry.

"This is obviously something she takes very seriously," Perkins said while standing outside the courthouse after the April 6 appearance.

The Detroit Free Press contributed to this report. Contact reporter Susan Vela at svela@hometownlife.com or 248-303-8432. Follow her on Twitter @susanvela.

Council

Continued from Page 1A

city has roughly 170 retirees and less than 80 employees paying into the pension fund.

Mayor Pro Tem Thomas Porter said he hopes having a millage in place would keep the city from having to levy another large tax under a judge's order, which voters had no say in. He added he'd like the ballot language to allow city council to vote annually on whether to levy the full 8 mills, which may or may not be needed in its entirety in any given year.

"It's the right of the people in this community to vote, and we need to enable them to make that decision," Rhaesa said.

Officials also noted the city doesn't raise in enough tax money to pay its pension obligations. The city put Act

345 millage requests before voters in 2013 and 2015; both were rejected by voter.

"Does it open up money in the general fund?" Porter said. "Absolutely it does, because we're paying out of the general fund."

Councilwoman Kelly Skiff cast the only dissenting vote, saying she feels many Wayne residents already deal with financial hardships that she doesn't want to add to.

"I know I'm going to be the lone person here tonight voting 'no' on this," she said. "I'm sure that comes as no surprise to anybody ... We are all going to be impacted on this. I understand that many of you can look at this and know that it'll be OK, but not everyone is going to be OK."

Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at stankersle@hometownlife.com or 248-305-0448. Follow her on Twitter @shelby_tankk.

Chef

Continued from Page 1A

the culinary community and the facilities themselves make it well equipped to host the exam," Sayes said.

Schoolcraft has hosted the exam several times at the American Harvest restaurant in the VisTaTech Center, most recently in 2019 and, at one time, the college had four master chefs on staff. But even though Sayes and Grosz were testing in a familiar kitchen, there was no home field advantage.

"It was convenient for travel, but that was about it," Grosz said. I actually think they held that against us and held us to a higher standard. There is some familiarity, but we're professionals who can cook anywhere in the world."

The first part of the exam, taken over four days, tests candidates on their free-style cooking, healthy cooking, global cuisine and baking skills. Sayes said the second part of the exam, slated to happen at Schoolcraft this coming fall, will require more precision and skill.

Ahead of the exam, candidates must be certified executive chefs and complete a variety of prerequisite courses.

"It was nothing like what I expected," Sayes said. "You know, I spent a lot of time getting ready for it and practicing and studying. But, nothing can prepare you for that level of intensity. It was an amazing experience."

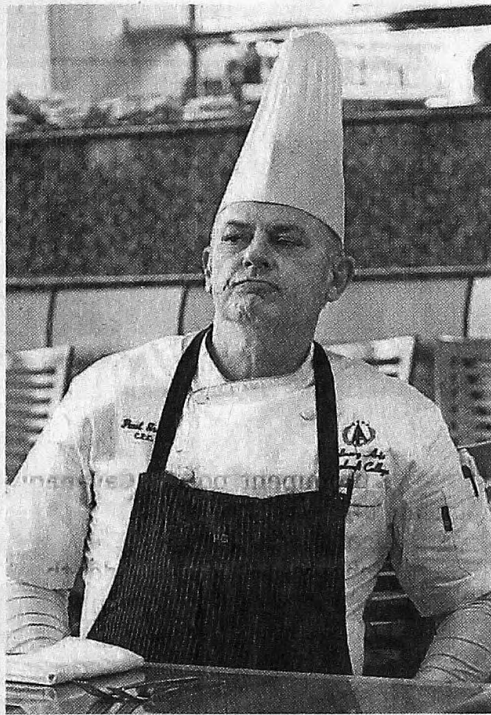
Grosz and Sayes said former Schoolcraft instructors who've gone through the exam served as mentors and encouraged them ahead of the big test. Their students were also able to watch the exam.

"A lot of our predecessors here are master chefs," Sayes said. "They've come back to support us through the process."

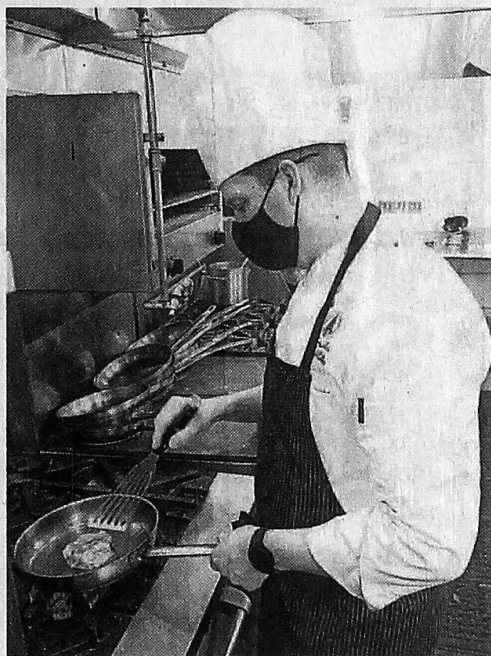
Grosz said students already expect a lot from Schoolcraft's culinary program, and passing the second part of the practical will add to that expectation. Sayes also noted having two master chefs on staff would create plenty of networking opportunities for students.

Aspiring chefs in Schoolcraft's program work alongside professionals like Grosz and Sayes to operate American Harvest, a full-service restaurant.

"We perform a live restaurant here that almost every class is involved in," Grosz said.



Paul Grosz oversees some of the lunch time efforts at American Harvest on April 5, 2022. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Master Chef candidate Drew Sayes works on sauteeing a piece of salmon at Schoolcraft's American Harvest restaurant. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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PLYMOUTH CHARTER TOWNSHIP
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

JERRY VORVA Clerk,
Charter Township of Plymouth

Van life

Continued from Page 1A

friends in West Bloomfield while finishing the build.

It hasn't been an easy process, though. The two had no building, plumbing or electrical experience before diving into the project. Doing the build in Michigan came with plenty of unique challenges, too. The couple touched based with Hometown Life three times since purchasing the van in June 2021, and they've called weather a challenge each time.

"We were working five, sometimes six, days a week on the build," Battle said recently. "But, it was weather-permitted. So if there was bad weather we couldn't work on the van."

However, Kokenos said there's no problem that didn't come with a solution. The two used what they call "YouTube University" to see what others living the so-called "van life" have done while also putting their own spin on things.

"Everything is figure-out-able," he said. "There's been so many things where I've been like, 'We're screwed. There's no solution and we're screwed.' But once you start to work the problem, you'll come up with a solution."

Their first stop will be San Diego, then they're hoping to head down to



In this summer of 2021 image Erica Battle and Nick Kokenos show off how they're placing particle board under and around their Ram ProMaster conversion van to place insulation in it to keep them cool in the summer and warm in the winter.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Mexico. Kokenos and Battle are both avid travelers and are excited for wandering to be part of their lives again.

"We're big travelers," Kokenos said. "We used to travel all the time and since we started doing this we don't really go anywhere. A week from now, our life is going to be totally different."

The van life may not be for everyone,

but Battle and Kokenos are confident they'll enjoy it. They've taken the van out a few times before completing the conversion and enjoyed it even without all the bells a whistles it has now.

"It was much needed and so nice," Battle said of their mid-build breaks. "For the first one, we didn't have anything. We just had like the floor insulat-

ed but I don't think the walls were yet. We just had like an air mattress."

A van is far "stealthier" than an RV, as Kokenos likes to say, so they'll be able to drive it just about anywhere and stay under the radar. The van's amenities can all run on solar power or, when needed, the van's battery or gas.

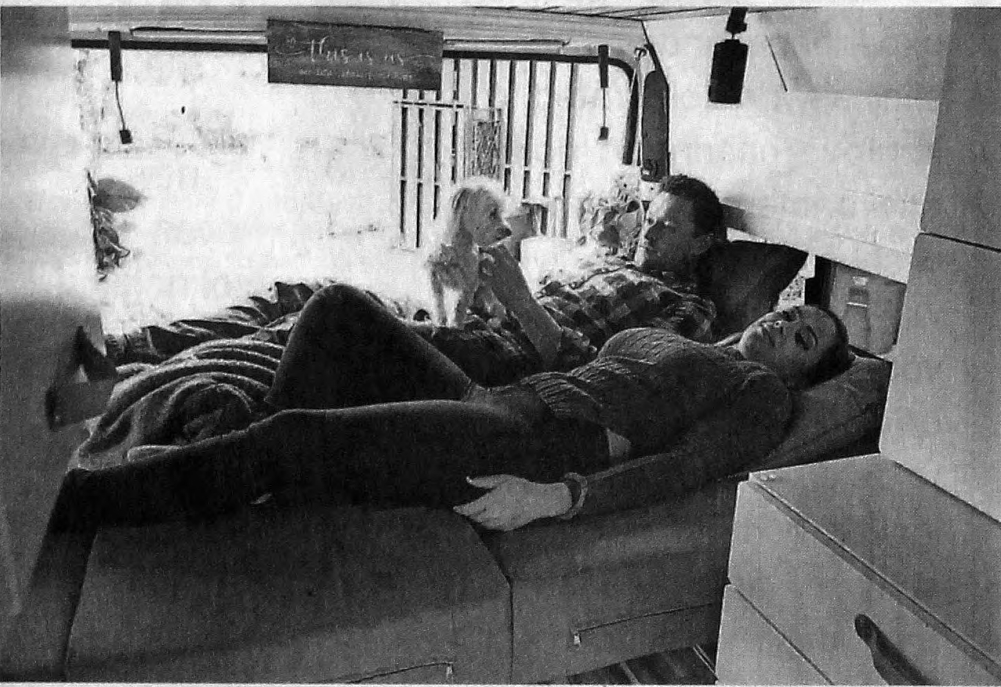
While they're on the road, the couple plans to be #VanLife influencers, or content creators, to make some cash so they don't have to go back to a conventional job right away. Their Instagram page, @Wanderlusttravelcouple, already has more than 21,000 followers.

"We've always made content but we've never done much with it," Battle said. "Once we stopped working and were focused on just the build we were able to get more into it and it's been really, really nice. It's our goal to focus on that and start building that."

They're unsure just how long the van will be their home — Kokenos joked in June 2021 that they just might live in it forever — but they plan to use it in part to find a good place to live long-te. Their home one wheels is designed to host friends when needed and enjoy their stops in a non-tourist manner.

From here on out, home is wherever they decide to park.

Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at stankersle@hometownlife.com or 248-305-0448. Follow her on Twitter @shelby_tankk.



Nick Kokenos and Erica Battle relax on their travel van's bed. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Nick Kokenos standing in the van shortly after he and Erica Battle purchased it in 2021. JOHN HEIDER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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Milford woman sheds 150 pounds after life-changing surgery

Susan Bromley

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

For years, Nicole Gibson always dreaded the moment when she would need to buckle her airplane seatbelt.

The frequent flier's fear was not of an impending crash, but of the humiliating possibility that she might not be able to strap herself in due to her obesity.

After losing 150 pounds with the help of bariatric surgery, this is no longer a worry. Gibson can easily buckle a belt across her slim, 5'5, 120-pound frame.

"When I got my weight down and I got in a plane and put my seatbelt on, that was my non-scale victory," Gibson said. "I thought, 'Holy cow, I don't have to struggle to put my seatbelt on now.'"

The 52-year-old Milford resident recently celebrated the third anniversary of her surgery and only wishes she had done it sooner.

Gibson waged a battle against excessive pounds that began in her late teens and continued throughout her entire adult life with little success in diet programs including Weight Watchers and Atkins, no-carb and low-carb, and even a "horrible" HCG diet that restricted her to 500 calories a day.

Despite all her attempts at nearly every diet, nothing worked at decreasing the pounds, and meanwhile, her health problems were increasing along with her weight. Gibson endured sleep apnea, joint pain, pre-diabetes, and low energy.

Her weight took a toll on her mental health, too, as she suffered low self-esteem and a lack of confidence.

In her job as a Novi manufacturing company's training facility coordinator, she felt she had to work harder to prove herself.

"In the world we live in, you are judged immediately by your appearance," Gibson said, adding she could never find nice things to wear.

At her heaviest, her clothing size was a 22 and she weighed 273 pounds in fall 2018. She had just been diagnosed with hypothyroidism when her family physician recommended bariatric surgery.

It certainly wasn't going to be a cheap and painless fix to a years-long battle.

"It is a tough thing to go through, it's not the easy way out for sure," Gibson said.



Milford resident Nicole Gibson picks her feet up as she enjoys a moment on her porch swing. Gibson wouldn't have had confidence before her bariatric surgery to sit on the swing, when she weighed about 273 lbs., as she worried its chains might not hold. Gibson is now down to 124 lbs. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Obesity on the rise during pandemic

However, Dr. Wendy Miller has seen an increasing number of patients over the years at the Beaumont Health Weight Control Center where she is medical director, as they seek the surgery to finally conquer their obesity.

"Unfortunately, it has gotten worse over the years," Miller said. "The percentage of people with obesity has increased and a lot of people have gained weight during the pandemic, too."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 73.6 % of Americans over the age of 20 are overweight, including 42.4% who are considered obese with a body mass index of 30 or greater. Obesity prevalence has increased from 30.5% in 1999-2000 to 42.4% in 2017-2018.

COVID has exacerbated sedentary lifestyles that were already on the rise. Miller points to increased use of devices including cell phones and social media and in addition to more sitting, more consumption of processed, high-sugar foods and beverages.

All of this has "definitely" led to an increase in the number of bariatric surgery patients, both locally and nationally. There is a larger percentage who qualify for the surgery as well, but who choose not to have it, or aren't aware they are a candidate for the surgery which is commonly covered by medical insurance.

The patients Miller and the Beaumont Health team sees are ones just like Gibson — they have tried diets, exercise, medications, and lost, but still regained the weight. Surgery was not their first resort, but the one that they hope ultimately will turn their weight, and their lives, around.

"It's really rewarding to see the transformation in people, their whole outlook changes, very positive environment and fun for our whole staff to see improvement in quality of life for people," Miller said. "Several different clinical trials show bariatric surgery is the most effective treatment for people with severe weight problems, more effective than diet and exercise."

Qualifying for bariatric surgery

To qualify for surgery, a patient's body mass index (weight in relation to height) must be 40 or above, or greater than 35 with at least one weight-related medical issue, such as high blood pressure, diabetes, sleep apnea or high cholesterol. They must also undergo a psychological evaluation to ensure they are in a good mental state for a positive outcome post-surgery, since a drastic change starts, but doesn't end, on the operating table.

Gibson had the most common bariatric procedure offered by Beaumont Health, the gastric bypass surgery, in which the stomach is divided into two sections, resulting in a one-ounce pouch about the size of an egg and a reduced appetite.

Miller said the surgery is considered very safe, with a low risk that is comparable to gall bladder surgery, and minimally

invasive. Patients typically return to work within two weeks.

Gibson was nervous pre-surgery, but also excited and well-prepared with six months of meetings pre-surgery on diet, exercise and what would be expected of her in the future.

"You are signing up for a lot when you get the surgery," she said. "You don't just get this and are done, they retrain your brain and start you on the path of being more mindful of eating."

Gibson lost 30 pounds in preparation for her March 18, 2019, surgery and on the operating table weighed about 250 pounds. She left the hospital the following day and in the days that followed, consumed a lot of soup and yogurt, mashed potatoes and soft foods in general.

What she had to give up entirely was carbonated beverages. Because she had previously drank Diet Coke every day, all day long, she thought this might be tough, but it wasn't. She now drinks coffee and iced tea and a lot of water. She avoids fried foods. She was never a meat eater, but she focuses on her protein intake by continuing to eat fish, cheese, and eggs.

The body can't process high levels of sugar after gastric bypass. While she was never big on sweets, she has cut down on carbohydrates including pasta, rice, and bread. She eats smaller meals, more frequently. In the morning she might have a cheese stick or a hard-boiled egg. A few hours later, a yogurt, then two hours after that, some almonds. Dinner consists of maybe a piece of fish and a small salad. She eats a lot of beans — black, kidney, pinto, or refried — for the protein.

She takes vitamin supplements and her exercise routine simply is walking.

The weight began falling off instantaneously and continued for a full year and a half. In her support group, people told her "don't go and buy a new wardrobe frequently." But it was fun for Gibson, a thrift store shopper who in addition to her full-time job also works at the Clothing Cove in Milford.

She found a lot of encouragement from her friends there, too, as well as from her parents and best friend Cathy, and said she lucked out in that way, as she couldn't imagine going through such a major life change without all the support she had.

In total, Gibson lost 150 pounds and 70 inches in the course of about 18 months. She now maintains her weight between 121 to 124 pounds, and alternates between a size 2 and size 4. Besides her improved weight and size, her complexion is better, her hair is better, and her overall health and outlook is better. She is looking forward to living a longer, healthier life and leaving the burden of weight she carried behind.

"I think everyone's point to go forward with surgery might be different," Gibson said. "I wish I would have done it many years prior, but the right time was when it was and that is what I did. I absolutely feel like a new person, with more energy and increased self-confidence. It was life-changing."

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

Obituaries

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

Robert W. Peck

LASALLE -

August 6, 1957 - April 2, 2022

Robert "Bob" Ward Peck, age 64 of LaSalle, MI, passed away suddenly on Saturday, April 2, 2022.

Born August 6, 1957, in Detroit, he was one of six children of the late Roger and Carolyn (Reece) Peck. Bob graduated from Farmington High School in 1975 and later continued his education at Northwood Institute; he received 2 associates and a bachelor's degree in 1980.

Bob met Laurie Owen, the love of his life, at the age of 15 and they married on July 18, 1981. They raised two children and spent over 50 wonderful years together.

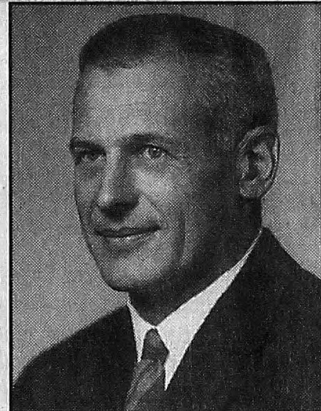
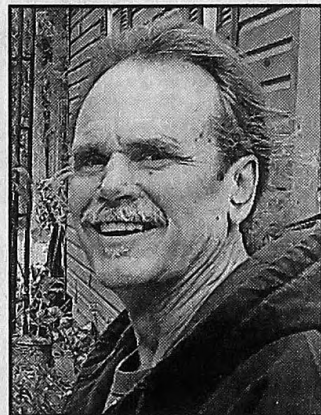
He got his start working at his father's dealership, Roger Peck Chevrolet, in Farmington Hills. He then opened his own business, Bob Peck's Show & Go Investments, specializing in muscle cars. Over his 30 year career, Bob sold more than 8,700 cars before retiring.

After retiring, they moved to LaSalle, where he discovered his love for homesteading and spent his time gardening. In his younger years, he enjoyed boating, muscle cars, and spending time with family and friends. Bob was known to lend a helping hand to anyone in need and was the center of the family.

Beloved husband of Laurie Peck. Loving father of Kyle (Kayla) Peck and Randi (Brett) Laird. Dearest grandfather of Nora Peck. Dear brother of Sharon (Glen) Holmes, William Peck, Linda Farley, Debra (Steve) Brock, and Carolyn (John) Thiele. Bob was preceded in death by his parents: Roger and Carolyn Peck. He will be deeply missed by his loved ones.

Everyone is invited to a visitation on Saturday, April 16, 2022, at Rupp Funeral Home from 9:30 to 1:00 pm. A funeral service will start at the end of viewing at 1:00 pm. Officiating is Rev. James Puhl. In accordance with Bob's wishes, cremation will conclude services.

Online condolences may be made through www.ruppfuneralhomeinc.com



Robert Paul Piotrowski

NOVI - Robert Paul Piotrowski, of Novi, Michigan, died peacefully at 104 years old with his family at his bedside. He was born in Manistee, the son of Peter and Gertrude Piotrowski, in 1917 and attended school there. In high school he excelled at football and went on to play for the Wolverines in 1936-1937 at U of M while obtaining his degree in pharmacy. He worked in Detroit for E.R. Squibb & Sons in their sales division for more than 50 years. He was blessed with three children, eleven grandchildren, and numerous great-grandchildren as well as three wonderful step-children and eight step-grandchildren. One of his nephews purchased the home in Manistee where he was born. The Piotrowski family will receive guests at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home Downtown Farmington, on Saturday, April 23, from 1:00 pm until 3:00 pm.

Former Barenaked Ladies frontman to perform at Canton's Village Theater

Courtesy of Canton Township

Singer-songwriter Steven Page, who gained legions of fans as one of the founding members and lead singer of Barenaked Ladies, is set to perform May 6 at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill.

Page's distinctive and powerful voice is among the most instantly recognizable in popular music. He is a member of the Canadian Music Hall of Fame with former bandmates, Barenaked Ladies, the multi-platinum award-winning pop-rock band he co-founded. As one of the principal songwriters and lead singer, Page spent 20 years with the group, touring the world and selling millions of albums.

Since becoming a solo artist, Page has carved out a diversified niche for himself that extends beyond recording and performing through an extensive array of projects in music, film, theater and television. He has composed six Stratford Festival scores, collaborated and toured North America with Toronto's innovative Art of Time Ensemble and performs with his rock star pals as a member of the Trans-Canada Highwaymen. Page journeyed across Canada and the U.S. as host of TV's The Illegal Eater, became a Chopped Canada Champion and appeared as a judge on Iron Chef Canada in their 2019/20 season.

"The Village Theater is thrilled to offer such a highly entertaining show featuring music from both Steven's



Steven Page COURTESY OF DAVID BERGMAN, WWW.DAVIDBERGMAN.NET

decade-long solo career, as well as classic hits from his 20 years as frontman of the Barenaked Ladies," Canton Performing Arts Coordinator Ben Frick said. "It's so great to see Steven continue his artistic evolution with his amazing solo projects and to be able to expose his music to old and new fans alike in the Canton community."

This special performance is slated to start at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are currently on sale ranging from \$30-\$35. Purchase your tickets online at www.cantonvillagetheater.org or by calling 734-394-5300. Tickets can also be purchased at The Village Theater Box Office one hour prior to showtime if still available.

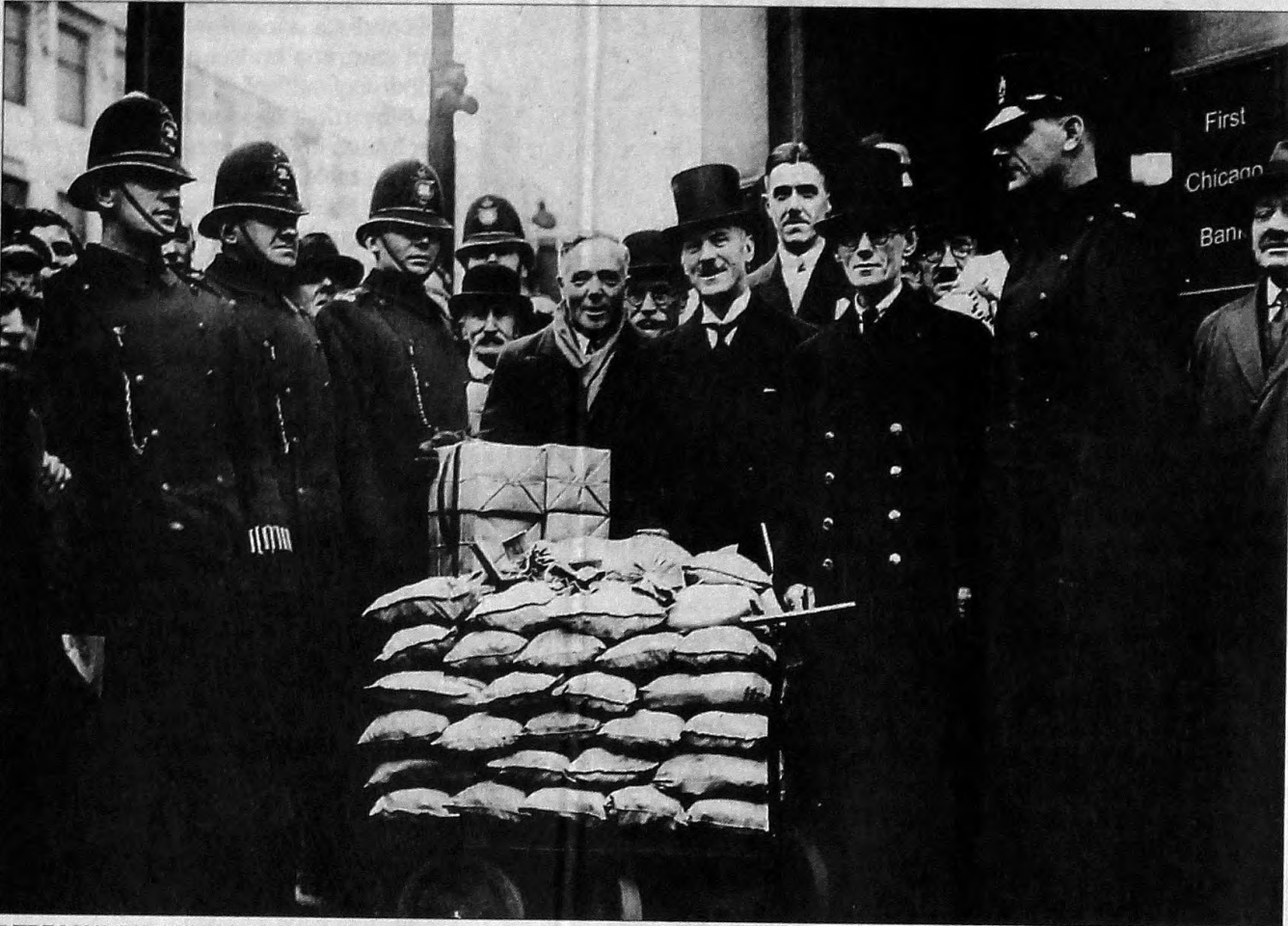
The Village Theater at Cherry Hill is located at 50400 Cherry Hill Road in Canton.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

DEFUNCT BANK BAGS FULL OF OLD MONEY UP FOR GRABS

Callers line up to get bags full of U.S. Gov't issued Coins and Currency

Important: Strict limit of 3 sealed Bank Bags per household will be strictly enforced



Here's what we know about what's in the defunct Bank Bags

Each bag contains nearly 4 lbs of old money packed at Federated Mint

Operators working the Toll-Free Hotlines are bracing for the flood of calls. The reason is the 7-day deadline applies only to readers of this publication. That means heavy Bank Bags bearing the name of one of several now defunct banks, each full of old U.S. Gov't issued coins and currency are actually being handed over to the general public by Federated Mint beginning at 7:30 am this morning.

And here's the best part. The price drops from \$649 to \$590 per bag for everyone who claims multiple Bank Bags plus free shipping and free handling as long as they call before the deadline ends. But do not forget this. Everyone who misses the 7-day deadline must pay \$849 for each Bank Bag.

That means all those who call the Toll-Free Hotlines printed in today's publication are getting Bank Bags full of old U.S. silver coins and currency some dating clear back to the early 1900's and could be worth up to 100 times their face value including the rarely seen Morgan Silver Dollar, the iconic Peace Silver Dollar, Barber Silver Half Dollar, stunning Silver Walking Liberty Half Dollars, the scarce Franklin Silver Half Dollar, the Barber Silver Quarter Dollar, beautiful Standing Liberty Silver Quarter Dollar, magnificent \$1 Dollar Silver Certificate Note, \$2 and \$5 Dollar Red Seal Notes and collectible \$2 Notes just to name a few. In fact, the bags weigh nearly four pounds and contain a

combination of over 200 U.S. coins and currency notes. That's why everyone should be taking the max limit of 3 Bank Bags before the deadline ends.

"These heavy Bank Bags weigh nearly four pounds and are full of old U.S. coins and currency which is why we're guessing everyone will be snapping up as many as they can while they still have the chance," said Federated Mint officials.

There's one thing readers need to know. Only U.S. residents who call the Toll-Free Hotlines before the 7-day deadline ends are getting the multiple Bank Bag price.

"These heavy Bank Bags bearing the name of one of several now defunct banks, each full of U.S. coins and currency some dating clear back to the early 1900's are impossible to get anywhere. In fact, they're only being sold off by Federated Mint directly to U.S. residents who call the Toll-Free Order Hotlines printed in today's publication", confirmed officials.

To make it fair, special Toll-Free Overflow Hotlines have been set up to ensure all U.S. residents have an equal chance to get them.

Operators are scheduled to be on duty beginning with the first calls being accepted at precisely 7:30 am this morning.

So many people are expected to call to get these Bank Bags, callers who cannot get through are being urged to call the special Overflow Hotlines printed in today's publication.

TREASURE HUNT: Operators are bracing for the flood of calls. That's because Bank Bags whose contents, some dating clear back to the early 1900's, are actually being handed over to the general public beginning at 7:30 am this morning. Coin values always fluctuate and there are never any guarantees, but requests for the bags are sure to be overwhelming since they contain nearly four pounds of U.S. Gov't issued coins and currency so there's no telling what treasures could be sealed away inside.

Contents date clear back to early 1900's

U.S. Gov't issued Silver coins, rare Indian Head coins, scarce Buffalo coins, old Wheat Cents - Silver Certificate, Red Seal Notes and more found inside

"Breaking the seal of one of these Bank Bags is like stepping back in time," said Laura A. Lynne, Director of Coin and Currency for Federated Mint.

That's because you just don't find Bank Bags like these or pick them up at a defunct bank. Records confirm the origin of each Defunct Bank Bag can be traced back to vaults at the Federated Mint where they were loaded with a combination of over 200 U.S. coins and currency notes some dating clear back to the early 1900's and then securely sealed for good. That means there's no telling what you'll find until you search through each Bank Bag. But you better believe at just \$649 these Bank Bags are a steal. And it gets even better. The price drops clear down to \$590 for all those who take multiple bags.

And here's the best part. Each of these Bank Bags

bearing the name of one of several now defunct banks, each full of U.S. Gov't issued coins and currency some dating clear back to the early 1900's and could be worth up to 100 times their face value are actually being handed over to U.S. residents who call the Toll-Free Hotlines listed in today's publication.

"But don't thank the Government. As Director of Coin and Currency for Federated Mint, I get paid to let the general public know when U.S. coins and currency are up for grabs. Ever since the decision by Federated Mint to turn over these heavy Bank Bags full of old money to the general public — Everyone wants to know how much the Bank Bags are worth? The answer is, there's no way to tell. Coin values always fluctuate and there are never any guarantees, but we do know this. Each Bank Bag weighs nearly four pounds and con-

tains a rarely seen Morgan Silver Dollar and just this one coin alone could be worth up to 100 times its face value," confirmed Lynne.

The only thing readers of today's publication need to do to get the multiple bag price is call the Toll-Free Hotlines printed in today's newspaper before the 7-day deadline ends.

This is very important. Do not miss the deadline. That's because the Bank Bag fee has been set for \$849 for residents who miss the 7-day deadline. So it's important for U.S. residents to call the Toll-Free Hotlines before the deadline ends. Thousands of U.S. residents stand to miss the deadline to claim the U.S. coins and currency. Now any U.S. resident who calls the Toll-Free Order Hotlines gets to claim the Bank Bags for themselves and keep all the U.S. coins and currency found inside. Just be sure to call right away because the deadline ends 7 days from today's publication date.

Phone lines are expected to be busy, so special Overflow Hotlines have been set up to handle all the calls.

That's because beginning at 7:30 am this morning Federated Mint is handing over sealed Bank Bags bearing the name of one of several now defunct banks, each full of old U.S. Gov't issued coins and currency to the general public.

Please read the following questions and answers before calling the Toll-Free Hotlines printed in today's publication.

QUESTION: Who gets the Bank Bags?
ANSWER: Thousands of U.S. residents stand to miss the deadline to claim the Bank Bags full of old U.S. coins and currency some issued clear back in the early 1900's. Now any U.S. resident who calls the Toll-Free Order Hotlines gets to claim the Bank Bags for themselves and keep all the U.S. coins and currency found inside.

QUESTION: How much are the Bank Bags worth?
ANSWER: It's impossible to say. Coin values always fluctuate and there are never any guarantees, but here's why everyone will be rushing to claim the Bank Bags while they still can. Nobody has knowledge of the dates or mint marks of the U.S. coins and currency inside the Bank Bags, and that is what determines collector value. But what we do know is after the Bank Bags were loaded from Federated Mint vaults with a combination of over 200 U.S. coins

and currency notes they were securely sealed for good. That means there's no telling what treasures could be found inside these Bank Bags. So you better believe the Bank Bags are worth every penny, since there's

no telling how much just one collectible coin alone could be worth in collector value.
QUESTION: Will the 7-day deadline be strictly enforced?
ANSWER: Yes. Unfortunately thousands of U.S. residents will miss the deadline set by Federated Mint to claim the money. That means the Bank Bags are up for grabs and now any reader of today's publication who calls the Toll-Free Hotlines gets to claim the Bank Bags full of money for themselves and keep all the U.S. coins and currency found inside. The price for each Bank Bag loaded with nearly four pounds of rarely seen U.S. silver coins of all denominations, rare Indian Head coins, scarce Buffalo coins, old Wheat Cents - Silver Certificate Note, Red Seal Notes and more has been set at \$849 for all those who miss the deadline, but for those who beat the 7-day deadline the Bank Bag fee is \$649 and the best part is all those who claim multiple Bank Bags cover just \$590 plus get free shipping and free handling as long as they call the Toll-Free Hotlines before the deadline ends.

7-DAY DEADLINE: The multiple Bank Bag price will only be honored for the next 7 days
The Bank Bag fee is set at \$849 for those who miss the 7-day deadline, but for those who beat the deadline the single bags are \$649 and just \$590 for multiple bags as long as calls are received before the 7-day deadline ends.
Begin calling at 7:30 am this morning
Call: 1-800-921-1609
Use Code DBB1059
OVERFLOW HOTLINE: All those calling to claim the Defunct Bank Bags who cannot get through to an operator need to call this special Overflow Hotline before the 7-day deadline ends: **1-800-923-5104 Code DBB1059**

Deadline set to claim Bank Bags full of old money

Everyone's heard the saying "the early bird catches the worm."

Well that old saying certainly rings true today.

That's because heavy Bank Bags bearing the name of one of several now defunct banks, each full of valuable U.S. Gov't issued coins and currency some dating clear back to the early 1900's and could be worth up to 100 times their face value are actually being handed over to U.S. residents who call the Toll-Free Hotlines listed in today's publication.

But there is one catch, readers of today's publication only have 7 days to call to get the multiple Bank Bag price.

That's why operators manning the Toll-Free Order Hotlines are bracing for a flood of calls beginning at 7:30 am this morning.

So if you want to get your



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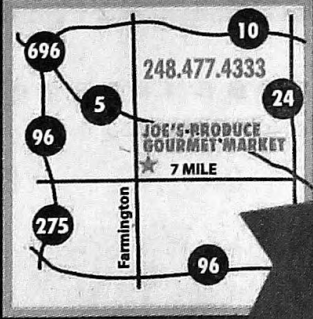
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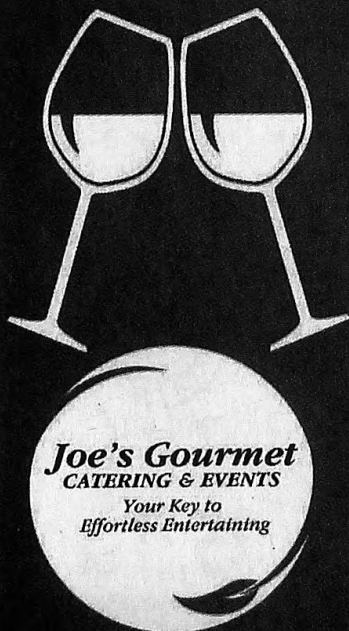
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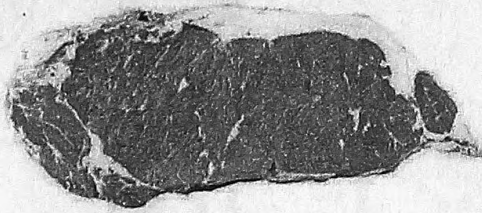
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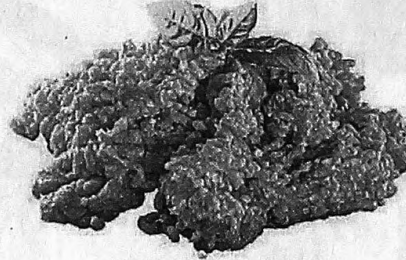
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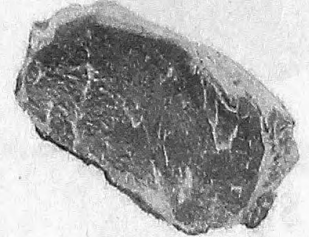
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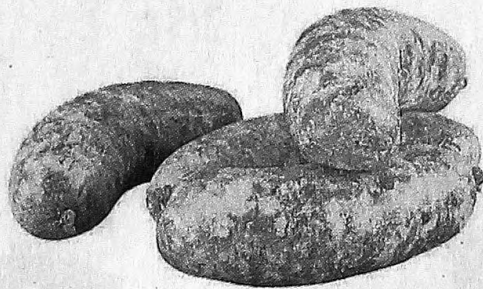
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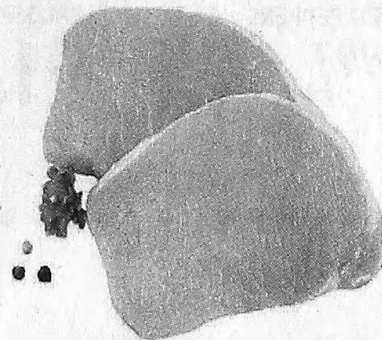
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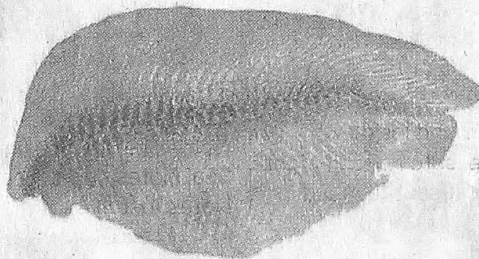


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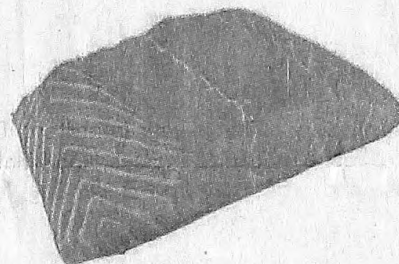


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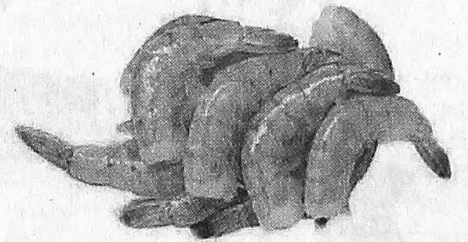
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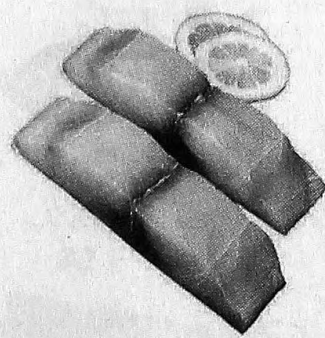
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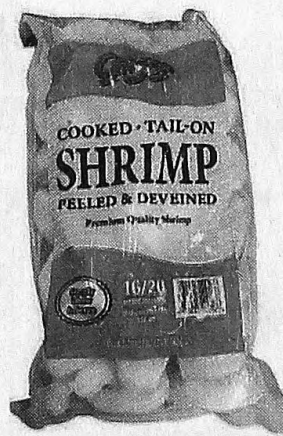
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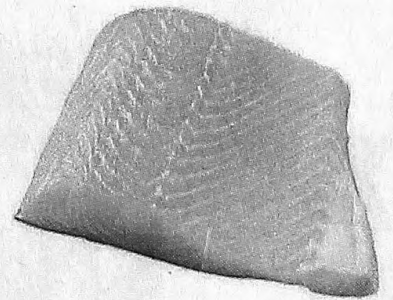
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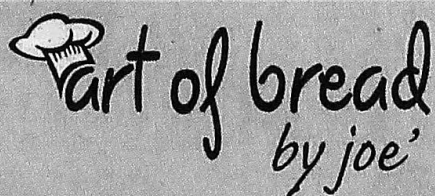
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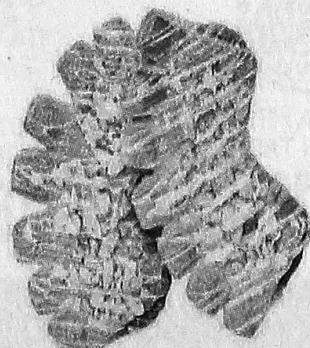


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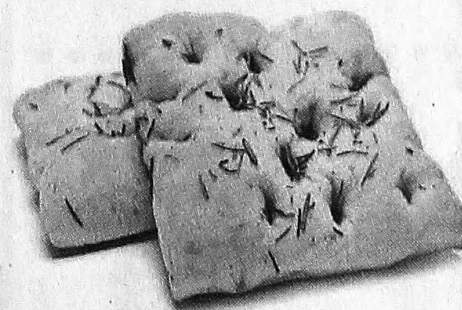


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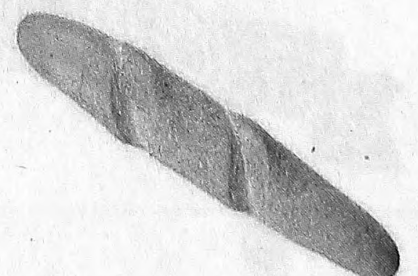
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SPORTS



Amateur James Piot plays his shot from the ninth tee during the second round of The Masters at Augusta National Golf Club on April 08, 2022, in Augusta, Georgia. GREGORY SHAMUS/GETTY IMAGES

'The experience of a lifetime'

After missing cut at Masters, CC grad has no regrets

Ryan Black
Lansing State Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

James Piot won't play the weekend in his first Masters appearance. But he has no regrets.

Piot, the reigning U.S. Amateur champion and a senior on Michigan State's men's golf team, carded a 2-over-par 74 Friday in the second round at Augusta National Golf Club — a seven-shot improvement over his score in the opening round Thursday, April 7. It wasn't enough for Piot to avoid going home, however, as he missed the cut by seven shots.

The Canton native and Detroit Catholic Central graduate didn't leave disappointed, though, as he called the opportunity "the experience of a life-

time."

It's a week he'll never forget. "It was an honor to represent Michigan State at the cathedral of golf," Piot said in a post on Instagram.

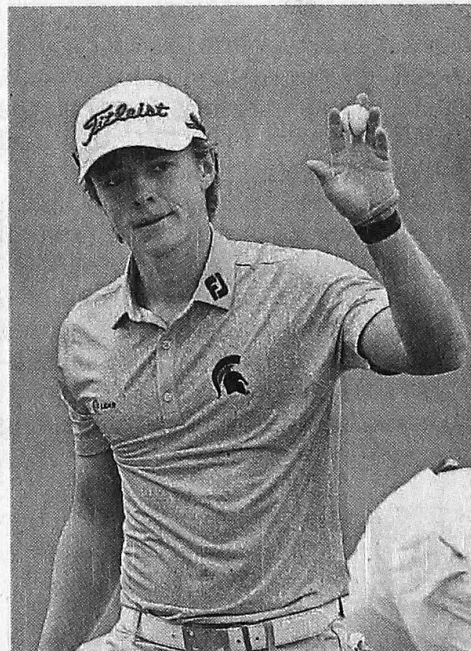
Piot started strong, birdieing the second and third holes to quickly move to 2-under on the day. But he gave back both shots on the par-4 fifth hole, where he made a double bogey. He rallied, though, once again posting back-to-back birdies, this time on holes 7 and 8.

After an up-and-down front nine, he made the turn at 1-under.

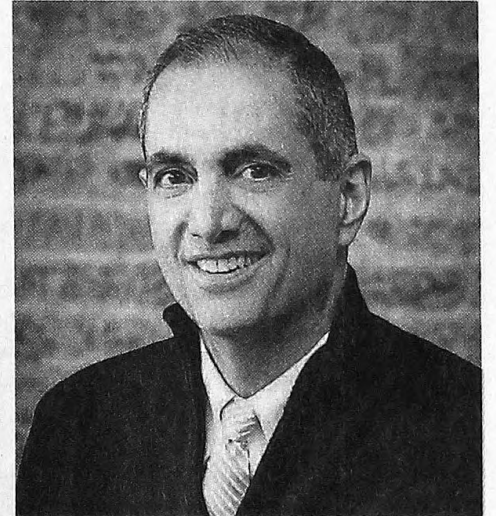
The back nine was far more difficult for Piot, who shot 3-over, carding bogeys on 10, 11 and 15; he parred the other six holes, playing in a group alongside defending champion Hideki Matsuyama and superstar Justin Thomas.

"I didn't play the way I hoped I would," Piot said in the Instagram post, "but getting the chance to play in a group with Hideki and Justin was

See PIOT, Page 3B



Amateur James Piot reacts after making a birdie on the seventh green during the second round of The Masters at Augusta National Golf Club on April 08, 2022, in Augusta, Georgia. JAMIE SQUIRE/GETTY IMAGES



Livonia Churchill athletic director Marc Hage announced on Saturday via a press release that he'll be retiring at the end of the school year. DEROCHE | PHOTOGRAPHICVISIONS

Livonia Churchill AD Marc Hage retiring after 26 years

Brandon Folsom
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Longtime Livonia Churchill athletic director Marc Hage will retire at the end of the school year.

Hage announced his plans to step down after 26 years leading the Chargers' athletic department via a press release on March 11.

"To the coaches at Churchill High School, you are the lifeblood, nerve center and pulse of everything we do," Hage wrote in the release. "You are the reason I chose to stay in my present capacity for the past 26 years. A good coach improves your game, a great coach improves your life. I never set out to hire good coaches, only good people. If you turned out to be a good coach as well, that was a plus."

The decision didn't come easy for Hage, who also attended and graduated from Churchill.

"I have labored over this decision for many months," Hage wrote. "My family and I are invested in our schools and community and we hope to remain in that capacity for years to come."

Prior to becoming Churchill's AD, Hage was a teacher for Berkley School District, Holt Public Schools and Livonia Public Schools.

The Michigan High School Athletic Association sports year concludes with the baseball, softball and girls soccer state championships on June 18.

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

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Westland John Glenn football fires head coach after 2 seasons

Calvin Griggs led the Rockets to just a 4-12 record

Brandon Folsom

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Wayne-Westland Community School District fired Westland John Glenn football coach Calvin Griggs after two seasons.

"At this time, our administration has made the decision to move forward with a new varsity football coach at John Glenn," John Glenn athletic director Jason Malloy wrote in a March 12 statement to Hometown Life. "That decision was made earlier this week. We are thankful for the time and commitment

that Coach Griggs has provided for our student-athletes here at John Glenn High School. We wish him well in his future endeavors."

Malloy said John Glenn will begin holding interviews for Griggs' replacement "in the coming weeks."

Griggs, who took over the Rockets in 2020 after having coached in Oregon, led the team to just a 4-12 record over two seasons, which includes only three victories against Kensington Lakes Activities Association-East opponents.

John Glenn was 2-7 this past fall, winning its final two games of the season against Wayne Memorial and Plymouth. It was forced to forfeit its Sept. 24 matchup against Livonia Franklin because of COVID-19 concerns. The team scored just 116 points, its third-worst offensive output during a nine-

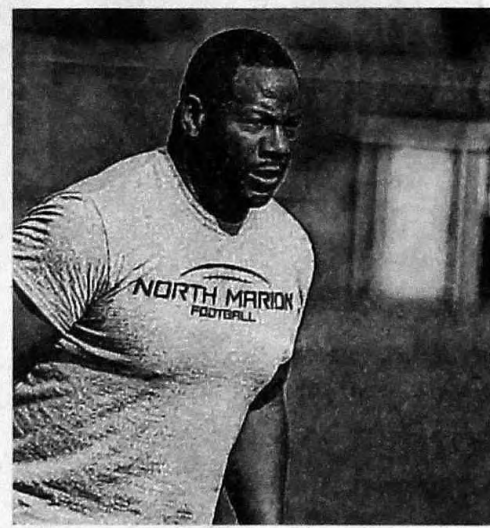
game schedule in program history.

His first season saw the Rockets post a 2-5 record after the pandemic delayed the start of football by three weeks.

"I see that John Glenn has struggled for a long time," Griggs told Hometown Life after accepting the head coaching job in 2020. "But with that being said, I see that they also have tremendous athletes at that school, and I think, with some different leadership and a new direction — getting these kids to believe in themselves — I think that we can compete with anybody."

The Rockets open the 2022 season by hosting Hartland for a KLAA crossover on Aug. 25.

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



Westland John Glenn recently fired football coach Calvin Griggs after just two seasons leading the Rockets.

COURTESY OF CALVIN GRIGGS

Hartland tops Novi in soccer battle of most recent state champions

Bill Khan

Livingston Daily

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

It's been three years since Amanda Roach played a soccer game.

Imagine what how good she'll be when she shakes off the rust.

The Hartland senior scored the Eagles' second goal April 5, as Hartland won 4-0 over Novi in a game that featured the two teams who have won the last three state Division 1 championships.

After helping her Legends travel team win the State Cup her freshman year, Roach put away her soccer spikes and focused on basketball. Not only was the season opener against Novi Roach's first game in three years, but it was only the fourth time she'd been on a soccer field during that time.

"Honestly, it's like my fun sport where I can just relax," Roach said. "Basketball is a little more stressful for me; it feels like a job. But soccer, I just get to be with some of my close friends and just play."

"It was my last chance to ever play soccer again. I really missed it. I really love the girls on the team. That's what made me play."

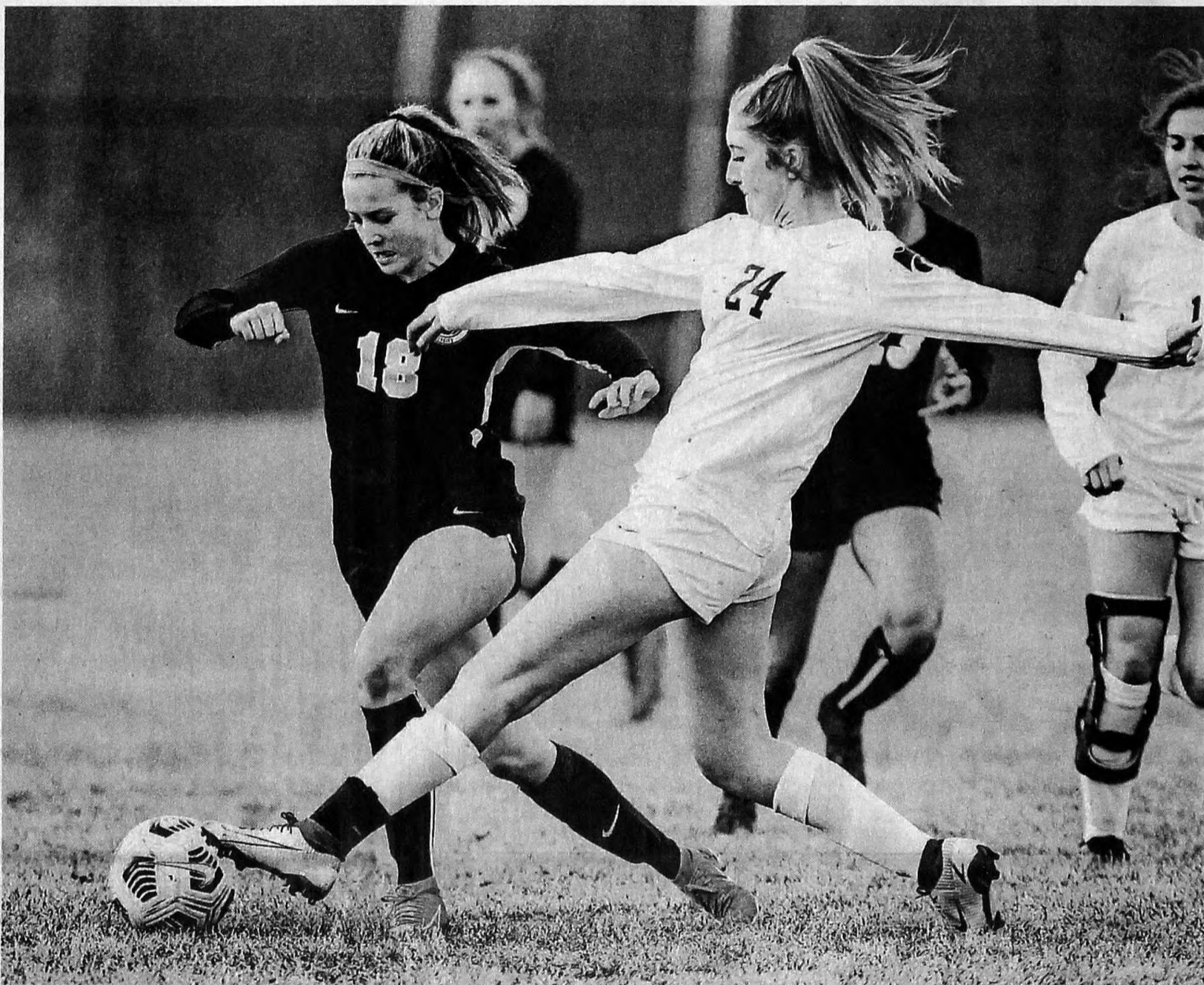
Roach fell one victory short of winning a state championship in basketball, but has an excellent chance to win one in soccer before moving on to the University of North Dakota on a basketball scholarship. Hartland returns some key pieces from a team that won the state title last June.

She made the decision to play soccer before the Eagles reached the state final in basketball, losing to West Bloomfield.

"My coaches let me have a mental and physical break for about a week," said Roach, who received honorable mention all-state in basketball. "I came back on Thursday before spring break. I was just ready to go then."

Hartland coach Andrew Kartsounes hopes Roach can help fill the goal-scoring void left by the graduation of all-state Dream Team midfielder Justina L'Esperance and an injury to senior midfielder Hannah Kastamo. Kastamo, who scored 23 goals last season, is expected to return in May.

"She's going to be a great target for us up top," Kartsounes said. "She brings a lot of strength and desire up there. At halftime, we were talking to her about her shooting. She said, 'I just turn and I



Charlotte Toor (18), who scored Hartland's third goal, battles Novi's Allie Niehaus for the ball on Tuesday, April 5, 2022.

GILLIS BENEDICT/LIVINGSTON DAILY

hit it.' That's exactly what she did. She turned and hit it and put it right in. It was a nice goal, a great way for her to start her season. It's great to have her on board."

Senior defender Bria Kastamo scored the only goal of the first half with 4:36 remaining when her long shot from the left side caromed in off the right goal post.

Roach made it 2-0 with 35:37 left in the game when she put a shot from 20 yards out under the crossbar.

Charlotte Toor scored the third goal with 24:35 remaining when she chased down the rebound of a shot by Sam Baker on a breakaway.

Emma Kastamo ended the scoring

with 6:20 remaining by scoring directly off a corner kick.

"Obviously, we graduated a lot of good seniors," Bria Kastamo said. "We knew we were going to have to fill their spots. Everyone who came up really stepped up today. Our team gelled together. I'm really excited for this season and we look really good."

"We know we have a little bit of a target on our back, so we're trying to embrace it and use it as motivation."

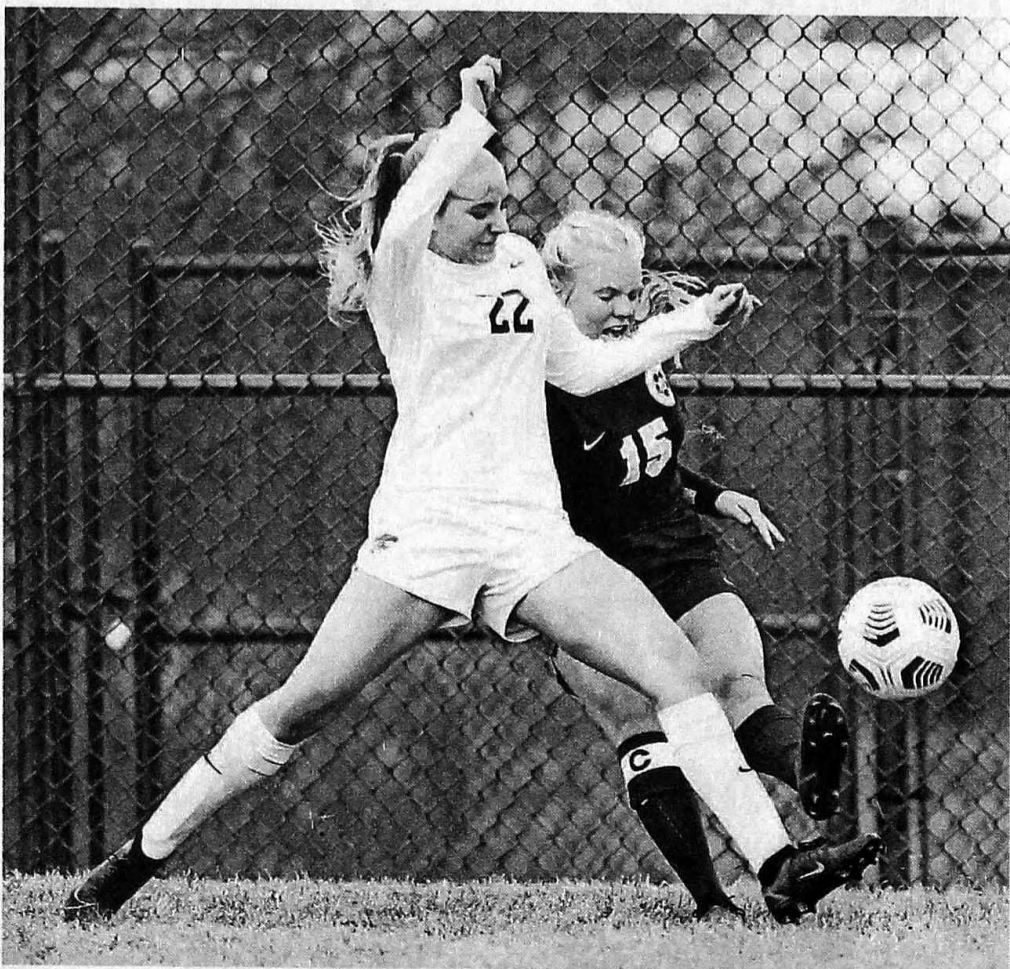
Before Hartland won the state championship last season, Novi won the 2018 and 2019 titles. While the Eagles have 14 returning players, the last remaining Wildcat from 2019 is senior Sammy Maday. Maday is a field player who was

brought up from the junior varsity late that season to play goal because of an injury.

"They have 13 seniors, so they have experience coming back," Novi coach Todd Pheiffer said. "I know they lost a lot last year. L'Esperance was phenomenal. I know they were missing Hannah tonight. I thought she was their second-best player on their team last year."

"The one thing they always seem to do, and Andrew does a great job coaching, is they just never stop working. They're hustling, they're working all the time. They're gonna grow, just like we do, over the season."

Contact Bill Khan at wkhan@gannett.com.



Hartland's Bria Kastamo (15) scores the first goal while defended by Novi's Amanda Perrine during the Eagles' 4-0 victory Tuesday, April 5, 2022.

GILLIS BENEDICT/LIVINGSTON DAILY



Alyse Daavettilla of Hartland navigates past Sarah Perrine of Novi in the girls' soccer game Tuesday, April 5, 2022.

GILLIS BENEDICT/LIVINGSTON DAILY

Piot

Continued from Page 1B

just incredible and such a learning experience for me.”

For Piot, the highlight of the week was having Michigan State associate head golf coach Dan Ellis as his caddy.

“He was with me during the U.S. Am-

ateur and he’s someone I know and I trust, and it was just fantastic to have him here,” said Piot, who also thanked MSU head coach Casey Lubahn and his family and friends for their support this week in his post.

Fellow amateur Aaron Jarvis also ended at 11-over par; ironically, Jarvis and Piot shot the exact same score both days (81-74). Piot and Jarvis were two of the six amateurs competing in this

year’s event. None of them made the cut.

Keita Nakajima — he entered the week as the world’s top-ranked amateur — and Austin Greaser (the player who lost to Piot in the championship match of last year’s U.S. Amateur) shared low-amateur honors at 7-over par.

The other two amateurs in the field, Stewart Hagestad and Laird Shephard, ended at 16-over and 22-over, respec-

tively. With his time in Augusta, Georgia, now over, Piot will return to East Lansing to try to end his Spartan career on a high note.

“I’m a college kid who got to play The Masters and stay at Augusta National,” he said. “It doesn’t get much better than that.”

Contact Ryan Black at rblack@lsj.com. Follow him on Twitter @RyanABlack.



Amateur, James Piot tees off on the eighth hole during the second round at the Masters golf tournament on Friday. DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

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Drew Hutchison was an unsung hero on Opening Day: Here's why

Evan Petzold
 Detroit Free Press
 USA TODAY NETWORK

Drew Hutchison saved Opening Day for the Tigers.

"When you come into a situation like that," said Hutchison, a veteran right-hander, "you have to keep it right where it's at and try to flip that momentum back in our direction."

Javier Báez won the game with a walk-off single in front of 43,480 fans at Comerica Park.

"Fans, it's not going to be easy this year, but it's going to be fun," Báez told the sold-out crowd. "We need your support. Let's go, Tigers."

Eric Haase clobbered a game-tying solo home run in the ninth, just before Báez's heroics. Miguel Cabrera delivered a clutch two-run single in the bottom of the eighth to spark the comeback.

Those players were the key contributors in Friday's 5-4 victory, but Hutchison — the 2015 Opening Day starter for the Blue Jays — set his team up for a chance to win in the late innings. The 31-year-old pitched scoreless fifth and sixth innings, after starter Eduardo Rodríguez allowed three runs in four innings.

The Tigers didn't score their first run until the bottom of the sixth.

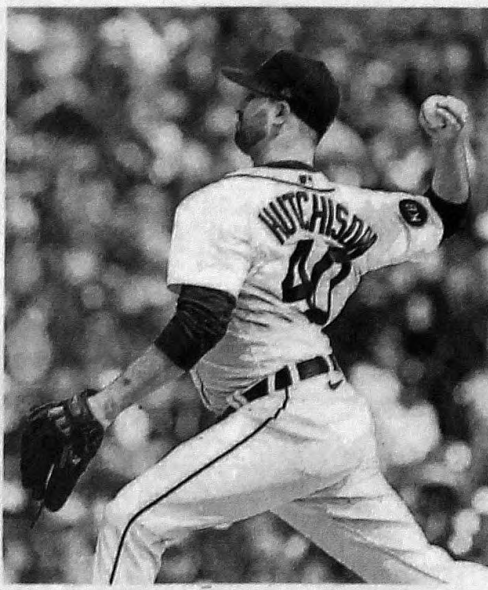
The rally wasn't a case of "too little, too late," thanks to Hutchison.

"We have a puncher's chance when you're down by three," manager A.J. Hinch said. "I would argue that might have been the biggest moment of the game. Obviously, the Haase homer is huge. The Javy walk-off is great. But Hutch, with second and third and one out."

Hutchison allowed a double to AJ Pollock and a single to Luis Robert to open the fifth inning, and Jose Abreu's groundout advanced both runners. With two runners in scoring position, Hutchison had to face Yasmani Grandal and Eloy Jimenez.

Grandal popped out to second baseman Jonathan Schoop, who caught the ball with his back to the infield dirt, immediately turned 180 degrees and fired a bullet to catcher Tucker Barnhart. Hutchison's 1-2 slider and Schoop's defense kept Grandal from scoring.

Then, Jimenez hit a comebacker to



Detroit Tigers reliever Drew Hutchison (40) pitches against the Chicago White Sox during fifth inning action Friday, April 8, 2022, at Comerica Park.
 KIRTHMON F. DOZIER, DETROIT FREE PRESS

Hutchison for the third out. He returned for the sixth and retired the three batters he faced.

"Four-to-nothing, five-to-nothing at that point in the game, it's a little slippery and pretty dangerous," Hinch said. "I give him credit for that, and I like him in that role, that swing role where he's going to throw multiple innings and keep us in the game. It's exactly what he did."

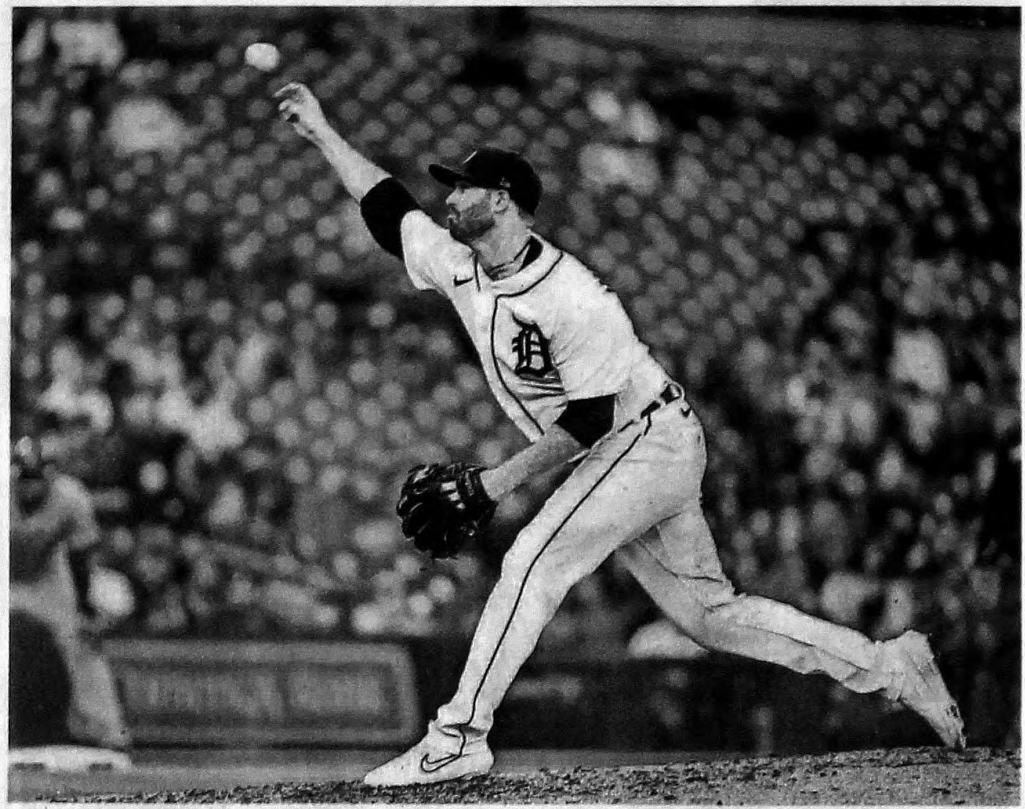
"You just gotta make pitches," Hutchison said. "It sounds cliché, but I mean, it's quality pitch after quality pitch. You put yourself in a position to get out of it. I got ahead of Grandal right away, so we were able to go wherever we wanted there and get some weak contact. You do that, and you're one pitch away."

'Knows how to pitch'

The Tigers signed Hutchison on March 15 to a minor-league contract. He pulled into spring training in Lakeland, Florida, with an opportunity to earn a spot on the 28-man Opening Day roster.

As bullpen injuries and work-visa delays piled up, the chances of Hutchison breaking camp with the Tigers increased. He learned he made the team April 5, three days before his relief appearance in the opener.

"The way I felt and the way my arm



Drew Hutchison of the Detroit Tigers delivers a pitch against the Kansas City Royals during the top of the fifth inning at Comerica Park on Sept. 25, 2021 in Detroit.
 NIC ANTAYA, GETTY IMAGES

feels, I knew I was in a good place," Hutchison said. "I just needed that opportunity. I was able to get that, and I was able to take advantage of that opportunity."

Hutchison pitched nine games, including two starts, for the Tigers in 2021. He posted a 2.11 ERA with 11 walks and 10 strikeouts across 21⅓ innings. Hutchison hadn't pitched in MLB since the 2018 season, and in 2020, he was out of affiliated baseball. He salvaged that year with six starts for the Milwaukee Milkmen of the American Association, a 12-team independent league.

"Looking back at his career," Hinch said, "he's been an Opening Day starter before, so he clearly knows how to pitch. The experience has helped him."

Spanning seven MLB seasons, Hutchison boasts a 4.95 ERA with an 8% walk rate and a 20.2% strikeout rate over 100 games (81 starts) for the Blue Jays (2012, 2014-16), Pirates (2016), Phillies (2018), Rangers (2018) and Tigers (2021-22).

As Hutchison experienced, there's a significant difference between his mindsets starting and relieving. The Ti-

gers believe, for Hutchison, an aggressive approach has led to better performance.

"I know he's going to execute," Hinch said. "I think the stuff ticks up a little bit. He doesn't dance around the strike zone as much in a bullpen role as he might as a starter. I don't have to worry about the second time, third time through (the batting order)."

Hutchison has pitched 483⅓ innings in his career.

On Friday, Hutchison dominated in two of those innings. He fooled the White Sox with 20 sliders (63%) and 11 four-seam fastballs (34%), along with one sinker. His slider stood out the most, with three swings and misses and one called strike.

His fastball averaged 92.8 mph.

"I felt good," Hutchison said. "Slider was good. Fastball command was pretty good. I was able to get in on a couple of guys, and I was just able to settle down and execute some pitches after the first two guys."

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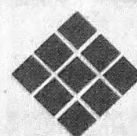
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With Coupon, Expires 4/30/2022.

18 Months No Interest on New Furnace & AC System
*Restrictions apply.

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LIMITED-TIME SPECIAL OFFER
FREE SHOWER DOOR **Plus** **\$500 OFF** LUXSTONE WALLS **Plus** **12 mos.** SAME-AS-CASH

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Walk-In Systems Guru

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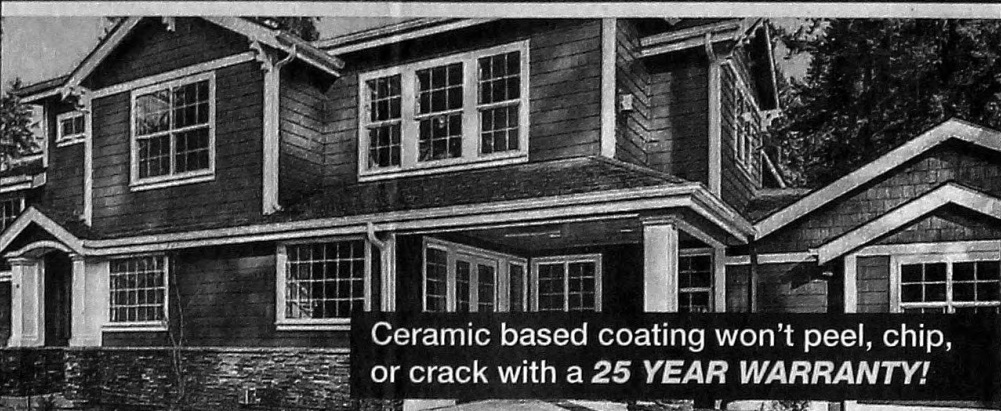
*Cannot be combined with any other offer. Previous sales excluded. Good at initial presentation only. Financing available from GreenSky LLC for qualified buyers only who purchase with plan 3128. For deferred interest plans, interest accrues during the promotional period but all interest is waived if the purchase amount is paid in full before the end of the promotional period. Standard New Bath Today Sliding Door Installed with complete shower purchase. \$500 off installed luxstone walls purchase.

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KOHLER Walk-In Bath

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+ SPECIAL FINANCING OFFER

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*Offer ends April 30, 2022. Participating dealers only. Not available in AK; HI; Nassau Cty, Suffolk Cty, Westchester Cty, or City of Buffalo, NY. \$1,500 off average price of KOHLER Walk-In Bath. Dealer sets all prices and is responsible for full amount of discount. Cannot be combined with any other advertised offer. Contact local dealer for financing details. *Subject to credit approval. Interest is billed during the promotional period but all interest is waived if the purchase amount is paid before the expiration of the promotional period. There is no minimum monthly payment required during the promotional period. Financing for GreenSky® consumer loan programs is provided by federally insured, equal opportunity lender banks. NMLS #1416362. GreenSky® Program is a program name for certain consumer credit plans extended by participating lenders to borrowers for the purchase of goods and/or services from participating merchants. Participating lenders are federally insured, equal opportunity lender banks. GreenSky® is a registered trademark of GreenSky, LLC. GreenSky Servicing, LLC services the loans on behalf of participating lenders. NMLS #1416362 GreenSky® financing offers available at participating dealers only.

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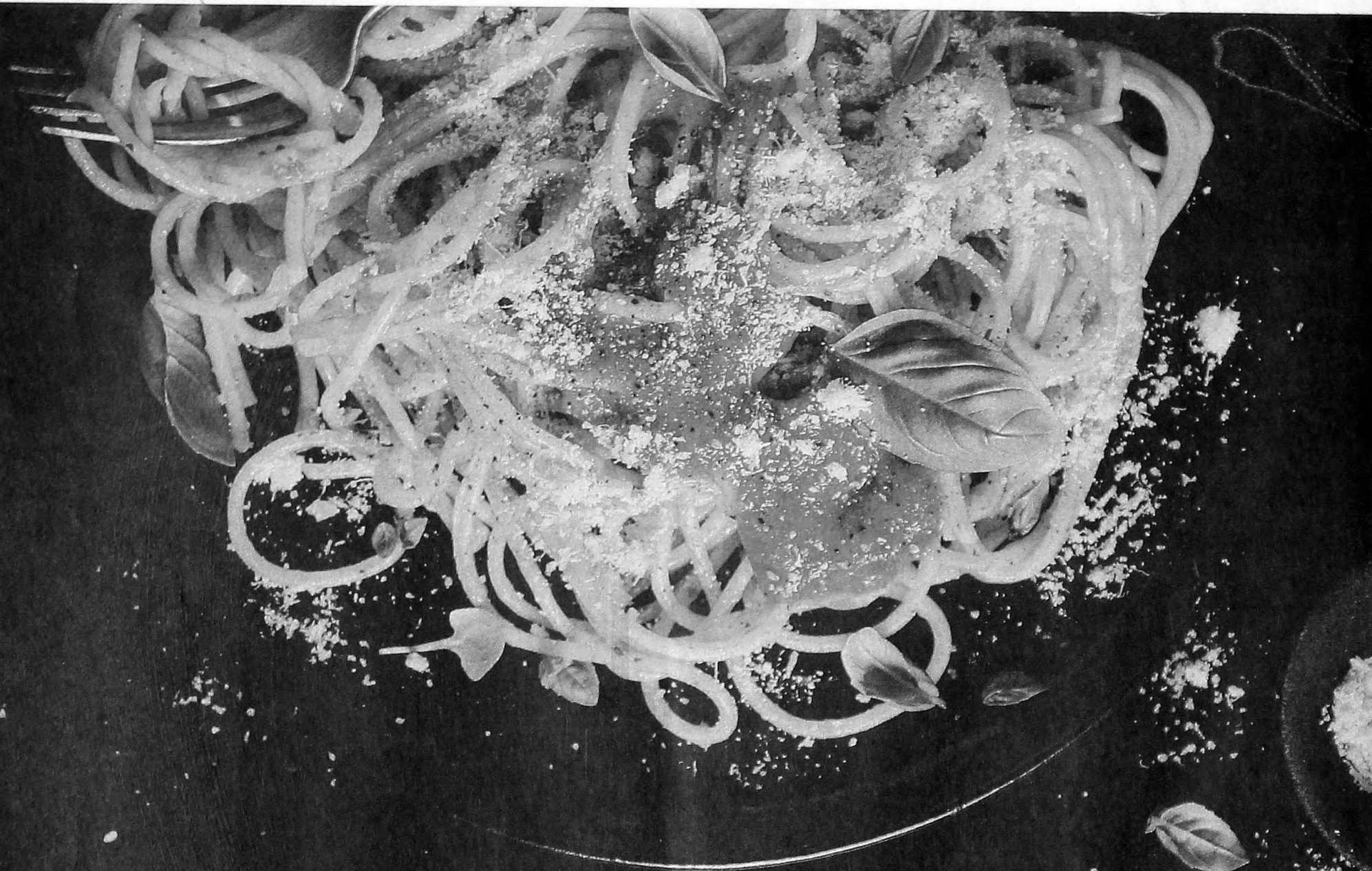
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