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NORTHVILLE RECORD

THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2022 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Novi School District faces leadership shake up

Superintendent plans to officially resign this week

Susan Bromley
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Novi Schools is facing a major shake up of leadership.

Superintendent Steve Matthews plans to resign officially this week and

leave the district in July to lead Rockford Public Schools.

Following him out the door could be Assistant Superintendent RJ Webber, who is among the finalists to become the next Northville superintendent.

Matthews called it a "perfect storm" and it appears many parents and staff in the district agree, trying to ward off the



Matthews



Webber

specter of losing not just one, but two valued leaders, both of whom have been with the district for more than a decade.

Jason Michener, a Novi resident who filed election petitions to run for the Novi Board of Education, was among those addressing the school board with concerns on the leadership changes.

"You are in this rare place where you have been blessed with such talent and skillful administrators that their talents have been noticed and desired by other districts outside of our own," he said.

Michener asked the board to use "a very small window to make a shrewd and swift decision" and offer more than \$225,000-\$235,000 in salary to Webber to be the next Novi superintendent.

See LEADERSHIP, Page 1A

Milford woman sheds 150 pounds after life-changing surgery



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

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

See GIBSON, Page 1A

Morel mushroom hunting champ 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

See MUSHROOM, Page 1A

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Hospitals are safe, so don't put off your care



Safa Kassab
Columnist

As Chief of Surgery at St. Joseph Mercy Oakland and as one of our region's busiest orthopedic surgeons, I perform hundreds of hip and knee surgeries each year and am intimately involved in all facets of surgical quality and safety within the hospital.

There has been a lingering misconception throughout Michigan that hospitals are to be avoided except for the most gravely ill, or that non-critical or non-life-threatening medical procedures can and should be put off until COVID-19 is written about in history books. This is not only false, it's dangerous.

Although our hospitals have been on the

frontlines for the treatment of COVID-19, they have also continued to treat many other conditions during the pandemic. We continue performing lifesaving procedures as well as procedures that help to improve the quality of life for local residents. The hospital is a place for healing and the improvement of a patient's wellbeing.

I hear it in my office every day. When I meet with patients to discuss their treatment options, including the possibility of surgery, many are surprised to learn that hospitals are still doing procedures amid the last two years. This isn't the anecdotal experience of one physician in Oakland County, it's a well-documented medical problem unfolding across our state and across the country.

According to a report from the Centers for Disease Control, four in 10 Americans have

avoided medical care because of concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic. To state that simply, that's 40% of all people.

This statistic is alarming. It represents a significant danger to the collective health and wellbeing of our community. Like most hospitals, at Saint Joseph Mercy Health System, we continue to perform the full spectrum of surgeries from critical heart and cancer-related cases to life-enhancing cases, such as hip, knee and spine procedures.

We have not felt a need to suspend hospital surgical cases since the very beginning of the pandemic because we have confidence in the safety processes and safeguards in place. Guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as well as from state and local health officials, are being followed to make sure we provide the safest environment for our patients and staff.

I urge you, whatever your medical concern, to please seek the timely guidance of an experienced medical expert. Don't choose to live with chronic pain when surgical options are available and don't risk the deterioration of your health and wellbeing out of fear.

If you or a loved one needs surgery, please talk it over with your doctor and proceed confidently knowing that your treatment inside the hospital will be provided in a safe and healing environment.

Safa Kassab, MD, is a board-certified orthopedic surgeon practicing in Oakland County with the St. Joseph Mercy Health System. Reach the St. Joe's Physician Referral Line at 844-237-3627.

Wayne, Oakland COVID-19 cases and deaths tracker

Mike Stucka

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Michigan reported far fewer coronavirus cases in the week ending Sunday, adding 3,759 new cases. That's down 30.6% from the previous week's tally of 5,418 new cases of the virus that causes COVID-19.

Michigan ranked 28th among the states where coronavirus was spreading the fastest on a per-person basis, a USA TODAY Network analysis of Johns Hopkins University data shows. In the latest week coronavirus cases in the United States increased 20.8% from the week before, with 238,885 cases reported. With 3% of the country's population, Michigan had 1.57% of the country's cases in the last week. Across the country, 34 states had more cases in the latest week than they did in the week before.

Wayne County reported 758 cases and 10 deaths in the latest week. A week earlier, it had reported 1,097 cases and 25 deaths. Throughout the pandemic it has reported 399,476 cases and 7,895 deaths.

Oakland County reported 656 cases and nine deaths in the latest week. A week earlier, it had reported 706 cases and 18 deaths. Throughout the pandemic it has reported 286,376 cases and 3,814 deaths.

Across Michigan, cases fell in 58 counties, with the best declines in Macomb County, with 470 cases from 910 a week earlier; in Wayne County, with 758 cases from 1,097; and in Genesee County, with 70 cases from 194.

Michigan ranked 35th among states in

share of people receiving at least one shot, with 66.7% of its residents at least partially vaccinated. The national rate is 77.2%, a USA TODAY analysis of CDC data shows. The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, which are the most used in the United States, require two doses administered a few weeks apart.

In the week ending Sunday, Michigan reported administering another 109,894 vaccine doses, including 8,216 first doses. In the previous week, the state administered 57,638 vaccine doses, including 6,940 first doses. In all, Michigan reported it has administered 15,614,502 total doses.

Within Michigan, the worst weekly outbreaks on a per-person basis were in Washtenaw County with 149 cases per 100,000 per week; Mackinac County with 56; and Macomb County with 54. The Centers for Disease Control says high levels of community transmission begin at 100 cases per 100,000 per week.

Adding the most new cases overall were Wayne County, with 758 cases; Oakland County, with 656 cases; and Washtenaw County, with 546. Weekly case counts rose in 18 counties from the previous week. The worst increases from the prior week's pace were in Alpena, Sanilac and Marquette counties.

In Michigan, 70 people were reported dead of COVID-19 in the week ending Sunday. In the week before that, 134 people were reported dead.

A total of 2,393,265 people in Michigan have tested positive for the coronavirus since the pandemic began, and 35,776 people have died from the disease, Johns

Hopkins University data shows. In the United States 80,396,250 people have tested positive and 985,504 people have died.

Note: In the Johns Hopkins University coronavirus data, cases and deaths for the Michigan Department of Corrections and the Federal Correctional Institution separately from Michigan counties.

Michigan's COVID-19 hospital admissions rising

USA TODAY analyzed federal hospital data as of Sunday, April 10.

Likely COVID patients admitted in the state:

- Last week: 625
- The week before that: 564
- Four weeks ago: 779

Likely COVID patients admitted in the nation:

- Last week: 38,444
- The week before that: 37,242
- Four weeks ago: 48,172

Hospitals in 19 states reported more COVID-19 patients than a week earlier, while hospitals in 16 states had more COVID-19 patients in intensive-care beds. Hospitals in 26 states admitted more COVID-19 patients in the latest week than a week prior, the USA TODAY analysis of U.S. Health and Human Services data shows.

The USA TODAY Network is publishing localized versions of this story on its news sites across the country, generated with data from Johns Hopkins University and the Centers for Disease Control. If you have questions about the data or the story, contact Mike Stucka at mstucka@gannett.com.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CITY OF NORTHVILLE

The City of Northville Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a public hearing to receive public input on variance requests in regard to the City of Northville Zoning Ordinance:

- On premises zoned R-1B, First Density Residential District on property located at 440 Dubuar St., Northville, Michigan, 48167, parcel number 48 002 02 0429 000. The applicant is seeking a variance to construct a new accessory structure (shed) in the rear yard setback. The variance needed is 4 feet from the rear yard requirement in Section 18.04

The public hearing will be held on May 4, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the City of Northville Municipal Building Council Chambers, 215 W. Main Street, Northville, Michigan, 48167, 248-449-9902. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comment on the variance requests.

The variance applications are available for review at the City of Northville Building Department during normal business hours of 8am to 4:30pm Monday through Friday, local prevailing time or on the City website www.ci.northville.mi.us (Services, Building and Planning, Board of Zoning Appeals).

Written comments to the BZA pertaining to the proposed variance requests must be submitted no later than 4:30pm, May 3, 2022 to the City Clerk at the above address, or using the City Hall drop box, or emailed to dmassa@ci.northville.mi.us

DOMINIC SILVESTRI, CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

Published April 14, 2022

LD-0000361950 3X3.5

PUBLIC HEARING IS APRIL 26 FOR PROPOSED
IMPROVEMENTS
TO 12 MILE ROAD, BECK TO DIXON, IN NOVI AND WIXOM

Beverly Hills, MI — The Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC), in partnership with the cities of Novi and Wixom, invites the public to attend a public hearing about proposed improvements to 12 Mile Road from Beck Road to Dixon Road on Tuesday, April 26.

The hearing will take place from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the City of Novi Firearms Training Center, 26350 Lee BeGole Drive (off of 11 Mile Road west of Meadowbrook Road, north of the Novi Department of Public Works Building).

The public hearing is in association with a federally mandated "environmental assessment" (EA) and in compliance with federal regulations CFR Title 23, Chapter 1, Subchapter H, Part 771.111(h)(2)(iv). The EA analyzed multiple alternatives to improve safety and reduce congestion along the corridor.

The proposed improvements include the widening of this section of 12 Mile Road to a narrow median, four-lane boulevard including pedestrian facilities along both sides of the road.

The hearing will be open-house format with no formal presentation. RCOC staff will be present to answer questions. Maps and visual diagrams of the proposed improvements will be available for public review.

Right of way acquisition for the proposed project is anticipated in 2023-2024, and construction is expected in approximately 2025-2026. RCOC right of way acquisition staff will be in attendance to answer questions and provide information regarding acquisition rules, requirements and processes.

A copy of the EA document is now available on the RCOC website www.rcocweb.org, at the Novi and Wixom city offices, and will be available at the public hearing.

The public is invited to offer comments at the hearing or to submit electronically to design@rcoc.org. Public comments will be received by RCOC until May 6, 2022. If you wish to attend the meeting and require special accommodation in accordance with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or Title VI, including those requiring language assistance, RCOC will provide such services, free of charge, with reasonable advance notice (seven business days).

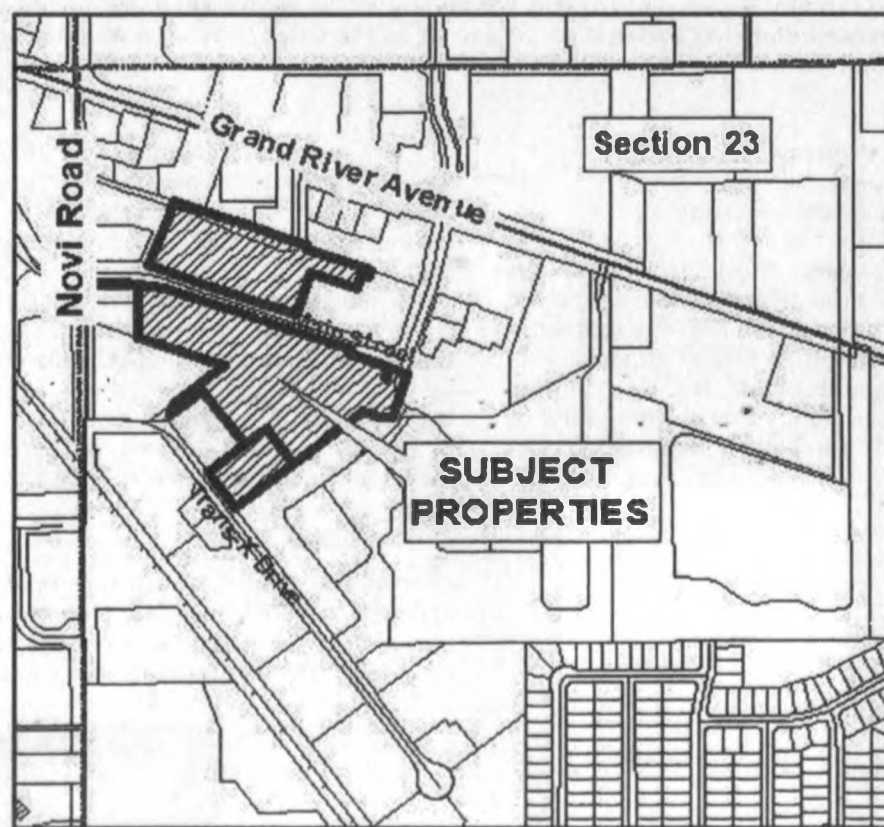
A transcript of comments received will be posted on the EA web page. Additional information is available at the EA web page (direct link: <https://www.rcocweb.org/557/12-Mile-Road-Environmental-Assessment/>).

Published April 14 & 21, 2022

LD-0000361950 3x5

CITY OF NOVI
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, April 27, 2022, at 7:00 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider TOWNES OF MAIN STREET, SITE PLAN NUMBER 20-35, LOCATED NORTH AND SOUTH OF MAIN STREET, EAST OF NOVI ROAD (SECTION 23) FOR RECOMMENDATION TO THE CITY COUNCIL FOR PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN, PHASING PLAN, WETLAND PERMIT, AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN APPROVAL. The applicant is proposing to develop 192 townhouse-style dwelling units on the 17.7 acre area. The subject properties are currently zoned TC-1, Town Center One. Plans are available for review at the Community Development Department in the Novi Civic Center.



Subject Property Parcel ID's: 50-22-23-176-035, 50-22-23-151-039, 50-22-23-151-013

All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments must be received by the Planning Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 until 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, April 27, 2022.

Published on April 14, 2022
Novi Planning Commission
Michael Lynch, Secretary

Published April 14, 2021

LD-0000361957 3x5

310-unit housing development proposed for Coyote Golf Course in Lyon

Susan Bromley
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A developer has proposed a 310-unit housing development at the current site of the Coyote Golf Club in Lyon Township.

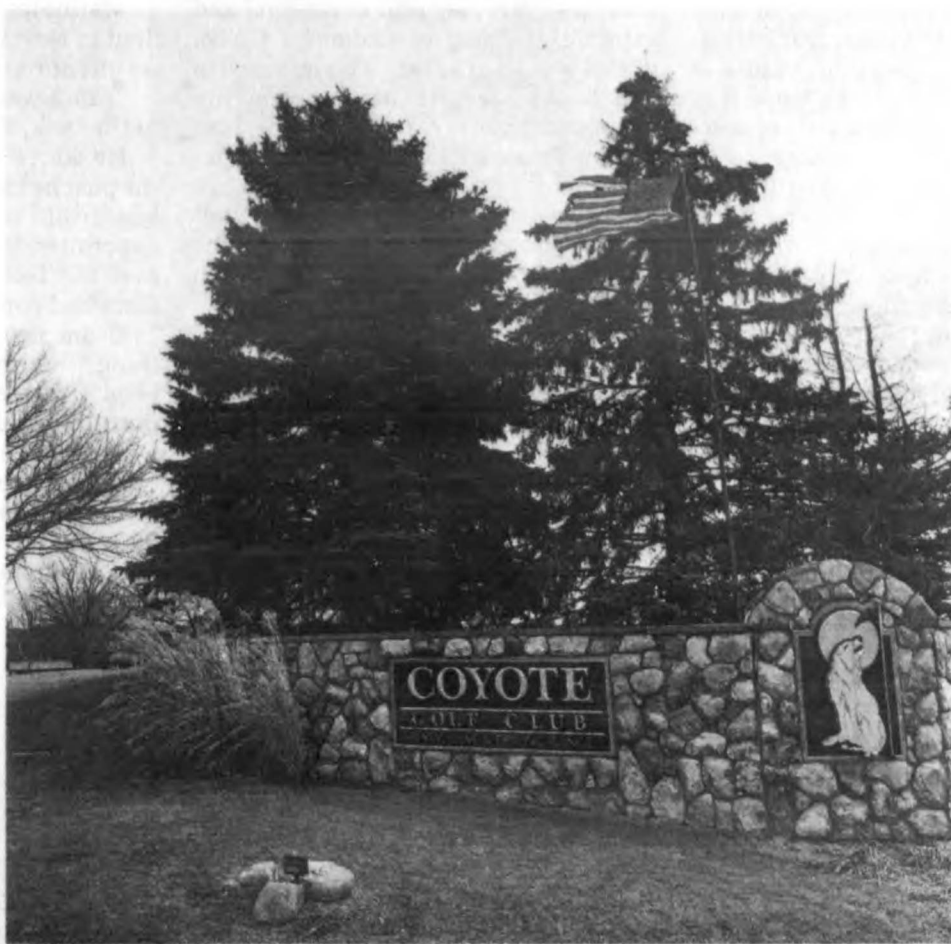
Paul LeBlanc, representing applicant SE Metro Property Services, offered a conceptual plan to the planning commission during a March 14 meeting. The plan features 90 single-family homes on large lots, 110 single family homes on smaller lots, and 110 townhomes.

"The project is laid out to take advantage of site features and make sure we are planning good buffering and a good transition," LeBlanc said. "It's a golf course now, but it remaining forever into the future is unlikely and that is in fact the case."

The development exceeds current master plan density of about 1 unit per 1.25 acres, but LeBlanc suggested it was in "master plan conformance" with more than half of the Coyote property was preserved as open space. The developer is also offering 10 acres at the site for public use, potentially for a new library, but that may be a bit late as the township and library boards recently agreed upon a different site for the proposed facility a mile down the road.

This is not the first time LeBlanc has brought a housing development plan for the Coyote Golf Club course to Lyon Township officials for consideration. In late 2019, he represented applicant Lombardo Homes in a quest to build a 477-unit development on the 201-acre property on the east side of Milford Road, north of 12 Mile Road.

The township board shot that plan down in short order, also citing



A 310-unit housing development has been proposed for the Coyote Golf Club property located at 12 Mile and Milford roads in Lyon Township.

SUSAN BROMLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

high density.

In this new plan, the highest density (4.77 units per acre) part of the project, the townhomes, would be placed to the north, abutting the Walbridge industrial property. Next would be the 110 single family homes (1.56 units per acre) on 70 feet-by-135 feet lots, and the plan finally has 90 single family homes with larger lot sizes of 90-by-150 (1.01 unit per acre) closer to 12 Mile Road.

In the conceptual plan, the developer has no approximation yet on the size or style of homes.

Conceptual plans by developers do not receive formal votes or recommendations, they are brought forth to garner feedback, and the planning commissioners obliged.

Commissioner Carl Towne suggested the developer eliminate four of the townhomes that fronted Milford Road and instead return

with a commercial use in its spot, such as a coffee shop.

Fellow Commissioner Jim Chuck noted the "pretty good-sized project" would put a strain on Milford Road, which already carries more than 20,000 vehicles per day, and noted traffic already backs up on Milford Road to get into an elementary school.

Patty Carcone, who is also the township treasurer in addition to being a commissioner, questioned why the developer hadn't brought the idea of giving 10 acres of the property to township officials sooner for an opportunity to research its potential uses.

"Do we need another 10 acres of property, and what would we do with it?" she wondered, adding that she opposed trading land for increased density for the development. "I think the density is way too high... You're dumping a ton more traffic on Mil-

ford Road."

Ray Cousineau of Advanced Land Development told the commission that a lot of time had been spent coming up with this concept and suggested density for the property was proper considering the industrial uses on property to the north.

"Reconsideration of the master plan is warranted and with higher density to accommodate this kind of use," he said. "(Reduction in) density will be a struggle. At the end of the day, this is a numbers game of dollars and cents, with \$3.5 million of off-site, improvements and it has to work out financially."

The applicants plan to return to the planning commission with a more detailed plan in April.

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

Westland man sentenced 22-40 years in shooting death of Novi teen

Susan Vela
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A Westland man may spend up to 40 years in prison for his admitted role in killing 17-year-old Robert Bigham during the summer of 2020.

Third Circuit Judge Chandra Baker-Robinson sentenced Duan Markeith Jones, 20, to 22-40 years for a second-degree murder charge.

At a March 31 proceeding, the judge also sentenced Jones to two years' incarceration on a weapons charge tied to the same shooting. Jones pleaded guilty to both charges, and the individual sentences will run concurrently.

Jones' attorney, Wright Blake, has previously said his client's guilty pleas were the smartest move considering the prosecutors' evidence.

"It's just a very unfortunate situation," Blake said after the sentencing. "Two families are impacted. My client is very remorseful. He made his

apology to the family, and he was sincere."

According to Westland police, Bigham was fatally shot while riding his bicycle near Grand Traverse Street and Missaukee Court the night of June 7, 2020.

Police initially arrested three teens. Jones was charged with murder. The other two individuals faced lesser charges.

Timothy Stevenson of Detroit pleaded guilty to larceny, admitting that he took Bigham's phone when he saw him suffering from his wounds. He's said in court that he intended to give the phone to Bigham's mother.

Stevenson did not appear for his sentencing, leading to a bench warrant.

The third individual does not appear in online records for Westland's 18th District Court or the higher Third Circuit Court in Detroit.

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



Robert Bigham was fatally shot while riding his bicycle near Grand Traverse Street and Missaukee Court the night of June 7, 2020.

COURTESY OF HUSBAND FAMILY FUNERAL HOME

Deputies, K-9 partners search school after bomb threat

Susan Bromley
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

South Lyon East High School students were dismissed early Thursday after a threat was found written on a boys bathroom wall.

Stephen Huber, spokesman for the Oakland County Sheriff's Office, confirmed there was a bomb threat found at the high school. Deputies and their K-9 partners remain at the campus, searching for possible explosives.

Superintendent Steven Archibald sent a communication by both email and text message to

families shortly before 11 a.m. April 7 announcing the school had entered a lockdown as school staff and sheriff's deputies conducted a search.

The message initially said a girls bathroom, but Archibald confirmed the message was found in a boys restroom.

Students were dismissed at 11 a.m.

"This will be a staggered process in which classes are released one at a time," Archibald wrote in a second message that immediately followed announcement of the lockdown. "Students will not be searched as they are dismissed. Bus transportation will be provided for

students."

In January, a message was found in a girls bathroom at South Lyon East that referenced a shooting. The threat prompted a nearly four-hour lockdown of the school and a room-by-room search. No weapons

were found.

Contact reporter Susan Bromley at sbromley@hometownlife.com or 517-281-2412. Follow her on Twitter @SusanBromley10. Reporter Susan Vela contributed to this report.



South Lyon East High School on Ten Mile Road locator. JOHN HEIDER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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Leadership

Continued from Page 1A

Betsy Beaudoin, a mother of three students in the district, also appealed to the board to retain Webber.

"I understand transition happens, but when losing one person, it makes sense to try to secure the other one," she said. "It is mind-blowing that they have a qualified capable candidate who has expressed interest in this leadership role and knows the community and has been spent 12 years building trust in this community and they are willing to let him go and do a search process."

The Northville School District's board was expected to interview Webber, Aaron Baughman, assistant superintendent of instructional services for Northville Public Schools, and Maysam Alie-Bazzi, Dearborn Public Schools executive director of staff and student services, for its top administrative position on April 12 with a decision coming pos-

sibly that day.

Webber did not immediately return calls for comment.

Matthews acknowledged the timing is awkward.

"I can't help the timing of things," Matthews said. "Dr. Webber is an exceptional educator and has a lot to offer a district... He will be a superintendent in the fall. Where that will be I'm not sure. Right now he's in the process with Northville and working hard to demonstrate his good qualities. At some point, he may have a conversation with our board, but right now he's committed to the process in Northville and I wish him good luck with that."

Novi Board of Education President Danielle Ruskin agreed the timing of the two possible departures was "unfortunate and puts the board in a very precarious position."

She added the board was working alongside Matthews to develop an ad-hoc superintendent search committee and would discuss the superintendent search at the April 21 board meeting.

"Dr. Webber is an exceptional, innovative, and educational leader," Ruskin said. "That being said, I feel it is incumbent on our board to go through a diverse and extensive superintendent search, which may pull in internal and external qualified candidates... I have faith it will land the way it is supposed to and these leaders will be where they are supposed to be. We will do our best looking forward for the future of our district."

She asked for patience from the community and said stakeholders would be engaged in the superintendent search process.

Matthews expected to complete contract negotiations with Rockford Wednesday, after which time he will submit a formal resignation to Novi.

Rockford Public Schools is a district of about 8,000 students north of Grand Rapids, one Matthews said is among the "premiere districts" in the state and said has a good reputation, exceptional facilities, a great staff and supportive community.

Matthews was contacted in mid-February by a Rockford Schools consultant about the position left open by the retirement of the superintendent who had served for 32 years in that role.

Matthews, 65, has been superintendent in Novi for 11 years and said he has no intention of retiring any time soon.

"I am a youngster and have lots of gas in the tank," Matthews said.

He added that while at one point in the past he had "a real struggle" with the board that prompted him to apply for superintendent positions elsewhere, over the last several years those conflicts had gone away.

"I am not running away from anything," Matthews said. "I could have been happy staying here, but a new opportunity and place to make a difference was a challenge I couldn't pass up."

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

Mushroom

Continued from Page 1A

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 returning, 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, and if you don't find them, it's ok. You're in the woods with baby foxes, baby por-

cupines, 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.



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

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Gibson

Continued from Page 1A

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.

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



A "before" photo of Nicole Gibson, a Milford resident who at her heaviest, weighed 273 pounds. She is now much slimmer, having lost 150 pounds after bariatric surgery. COURTESY OF NICOLE GIBSON

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



Nicole Gibson outside her Milford home on April 1, 2022. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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.

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Health officials say alcohol abuse increased in pandemic

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 instead 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 recent study by American Addiction Centers showed Livonia, Birmingham and 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 the hospital when they decide to seek help.

Sarah Wiegand, a peer recovery coach for Growth Works, said that in her



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

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



During the pandemic, as visiting crowded bars bring additional health concerns, more people seem to be enjoying their alcoholic beverages at home. PHOTO

ILLUSTRATION BY /JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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.'"

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

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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 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



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

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.

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



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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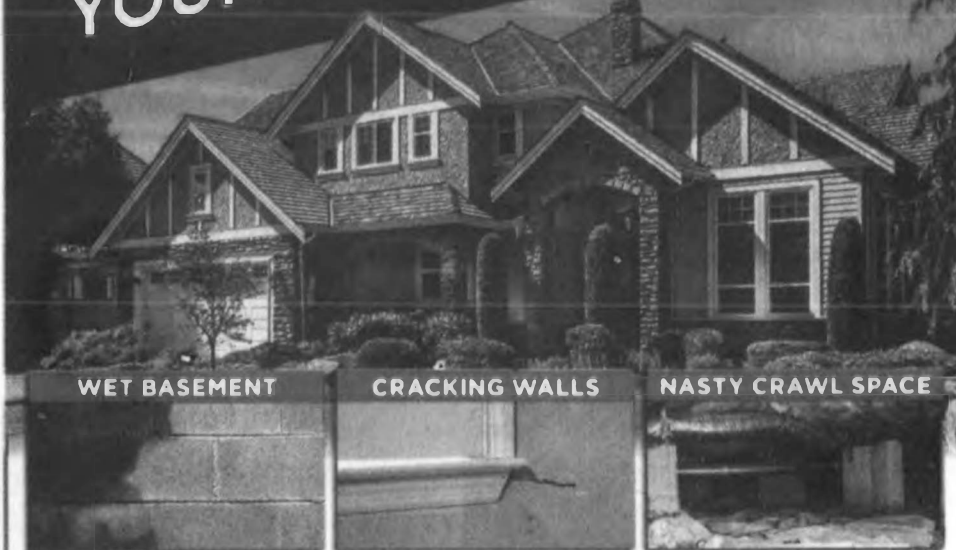


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This outdoor art park is tucked away on Novi's western border

John Heider
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

There's an outdoor museum of sorts on the western edge of Novi.

Novi's newest park, Villa Barr Park at 22600 Napier, is a showcase of many of the creations of its former resident, the late artist David Barr, who made the property available for purchase to the city before his passing in 2015.

The four-acre outdoor art park, officially managed by the City of Novi since late 2018, contains numerous metal and stone sculptures by Barr, who was internationally-known for his sculptures, and several other artists. Barr's former home and its landscape are dotted not just with his artistic creations but also reflect his interest in growing and maintaining a diverse and natural setting of trees, bushes and native plants that he personally curated and placed in the parcel's landscape.

The art park is open daily and has signs that explain the artwork created by Barr and his associates. Barr's former on site residence, designed by Chicago architect Lawrence Booth is still used to this day by an artists-in-residence program that create work for the park and other facilities.

"It's a passive park that has Barr's art pieces. Here he created pieces that are all over the world," Deputy Director of Novi Parks Tracie Ringle explained.

Barr approached the city with his idea to turn the property into a park, and things progressed from there. The city gladly accepted Barr's gift and has promised to keep it open to the public and maintain its property in the years to come.

Though busy and occasionally noisy Napier Road is just a stone's throw away, Villa Barr offers a measure of natural and creative beauty. Tall birch and pine trees dot the property's southern end and willow trees offer shade near Villa Barr's half acre pond on its east side. Intriguing stone and metal sculpture creations that draw in the visitor and ask for moments to ponder their place



A metal sculpture, at right, at the main studio-house at Villa Barr. The house was designed by Chicago architect Lawrence Booth. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

amidst the natural settings stand in easily walkable places around the property.

"It is a place for creativity, respite, discovery," Ringle said.

Barr, who lived 1939 to 2015, resided on the property with his wife and choreographer Beth Barr. The city agreed to allow Barr to stay up to 10 years at the Villa after he'd arranged for the city of Novi to take it over.

"It is a place for people to come, for creativity, for discovery, for respite He was into astronomy, mathematical equations and science, and all that is captured here in his creations," Ringle added.

Though an outdoor park like Villa

Barr may seem to be best experienced in the nicer climate of summer, its sculptures and natural setting hold appeal year-round and definitely attract visitors regardless of the seasons.

"We have people come out at all times of year. We have friends of Villa Barr Group - his former colleagues and friends and they really give us insight and direction for how to promote the park and promote the artist in residence program," said Ringle.

The city is proud of is its continuing artist-in-residence program (michlegacyartpark.org).

"We've had poets, musicians, metallurgists, and sculptors, so we've had the

gamut — and we're into that," Ringle said. "Barr was a writer and sculpture and teacher and appreciated it all. He touched everything as far as mediums for art — all mediums of art and it was his wish that the property change and adapt so we've added pieces to the park that aren't his."

Barr's creations are not just limited to Villa Barr in Novi. They are also part of the landscape at Novi Civic Center, Novi's Pavilion Shore Park on the south side of Walled Lake and at ITC park on Eight Mile Road.

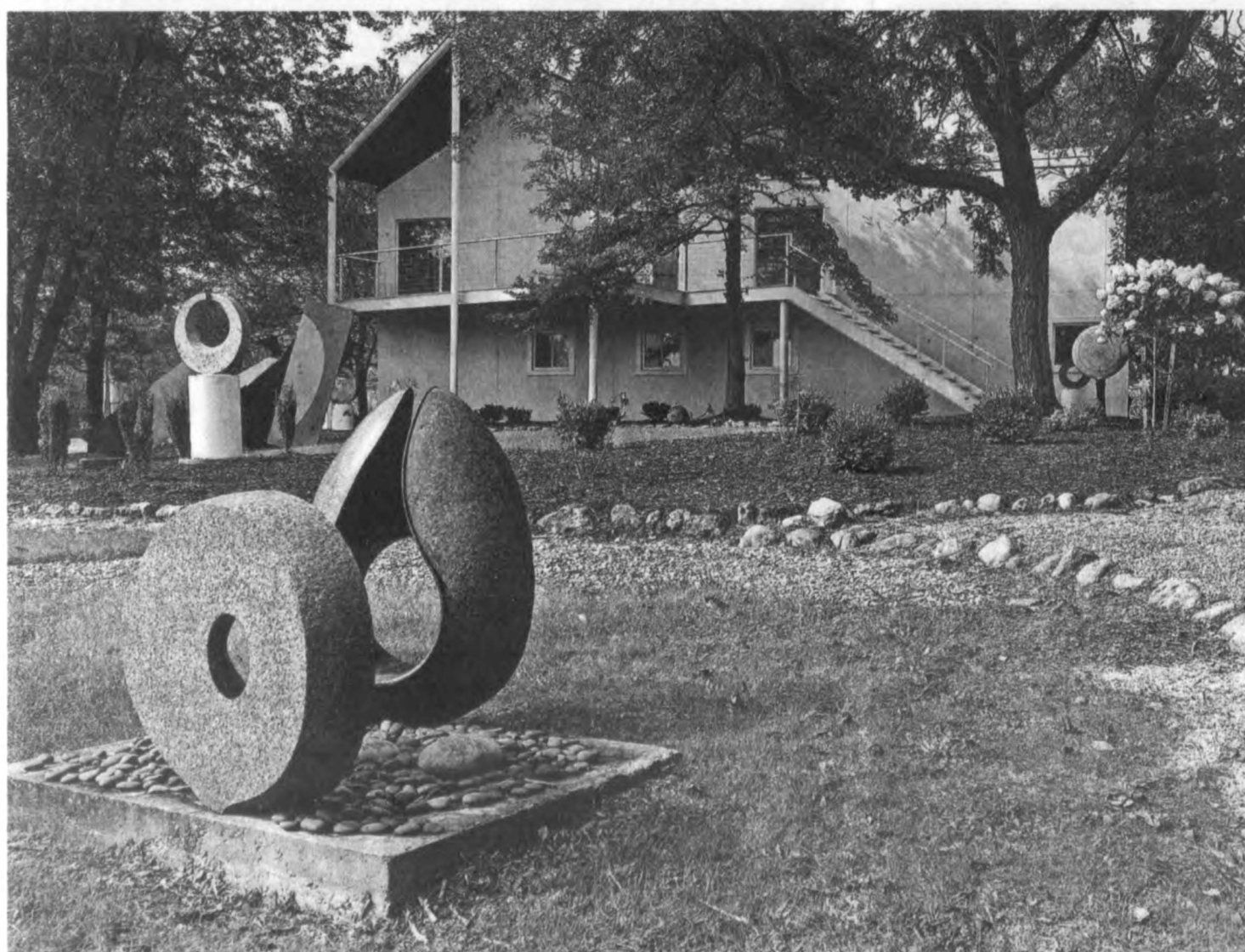
John Heider is photographer for Hometown Life. Reach him at jheid-er@hometownlife.com.



Equiknossos, inspired by ancient sites around the world like Stonehenge, used to keep time and mark the seasons. Created by David Barr in 1990. The sculpture resides on the east lawn of Villa Barr. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Bosque Urban sculpture at Villa Barr a wooden sculpture created by artist Jeff Zischke at Villa Barr in 2019. It was inspired by walks along local woods and streams and reflects the woods' shadows and patterns. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Villa Barr is where sculptor David Barr and Beth Dwalhy-Barr lived and worked. It is half residence, half studio. The sculpture in the foreground is Egg Seed. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



This obelisk, by the late Novi artist David Barr, was part of a series of sculptures created and placed along Eight Mile Road in honor of those throughout the history of the nation who surveyed land and drew lines on maps. It is on the northwest corner of Eight Mile and Center Street in Northville. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



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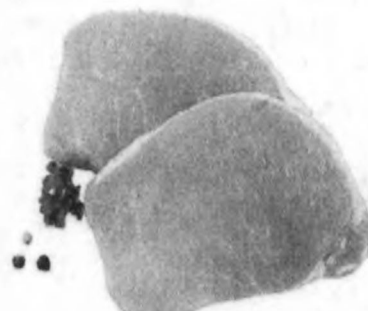
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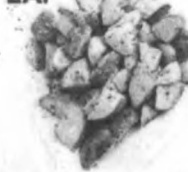
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SPORTS



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.

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

See SENIORS, Page 7B



Detroit Country Day seniors Kam Mayes and Kareem Aburashed in action. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



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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."

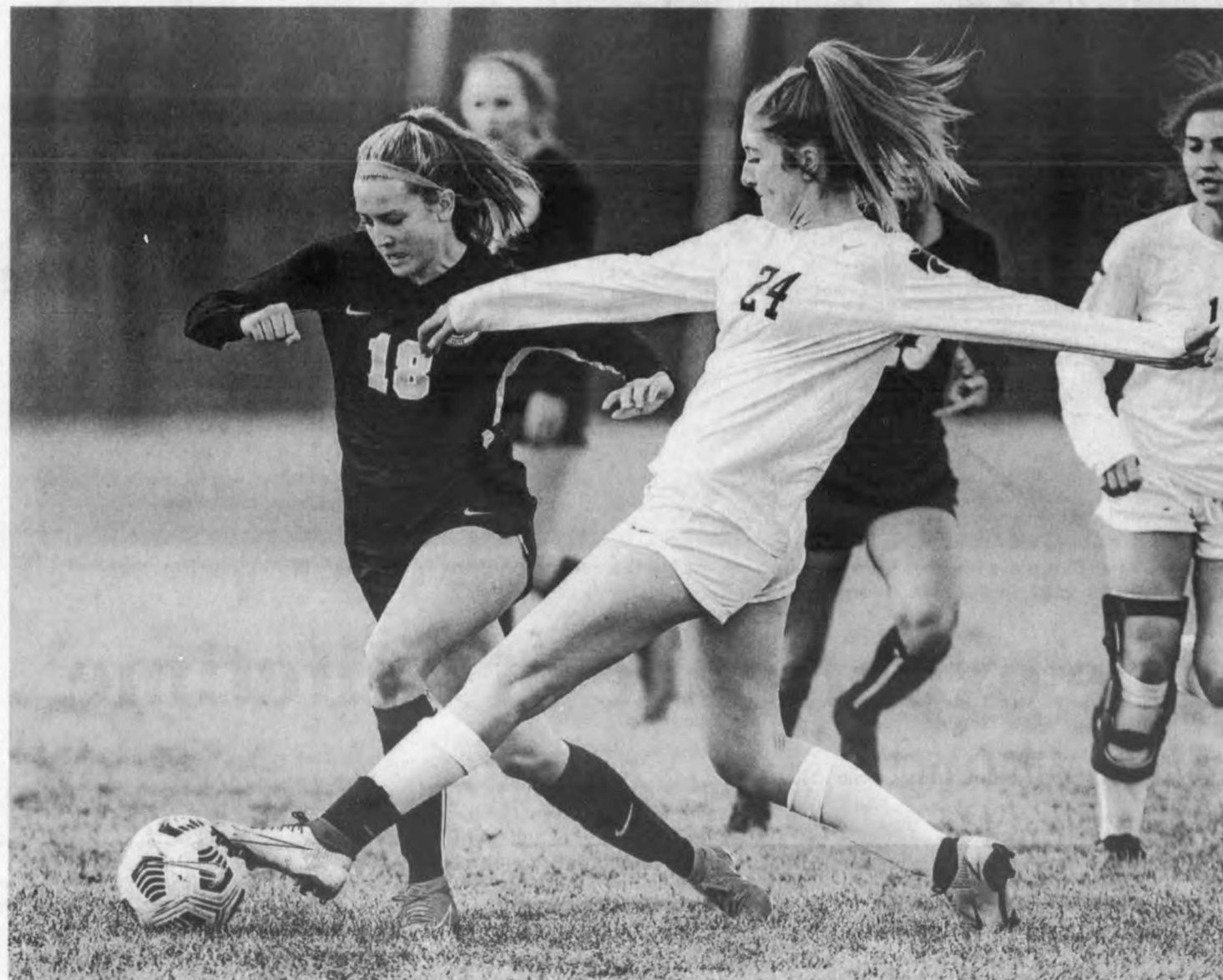
Roach fell one victory short of winning a state championship in basketball, but has an excellent chance to win one in soccer before moving on to the University of North Dakota on a basketball scholarship. Hartland returns some key pieces from a team that won the state title last June.

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.

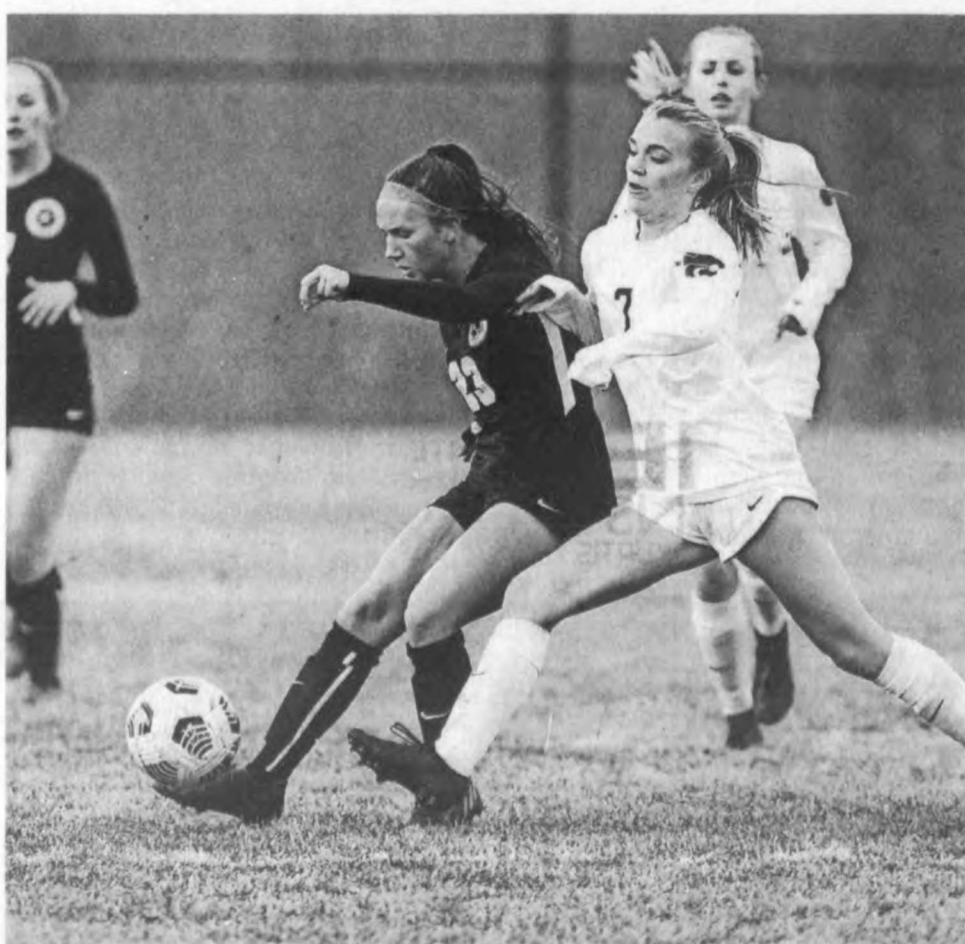
"They have 13 seniors, so they have experience coming back," Novi coach Todd Pheiffer said. "I know they lost a lot last year. L'Esperance was phenomenal. I know they were missing Hannah tonight. I thought she was their second-best player on their team last year."

"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. Amateur 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.

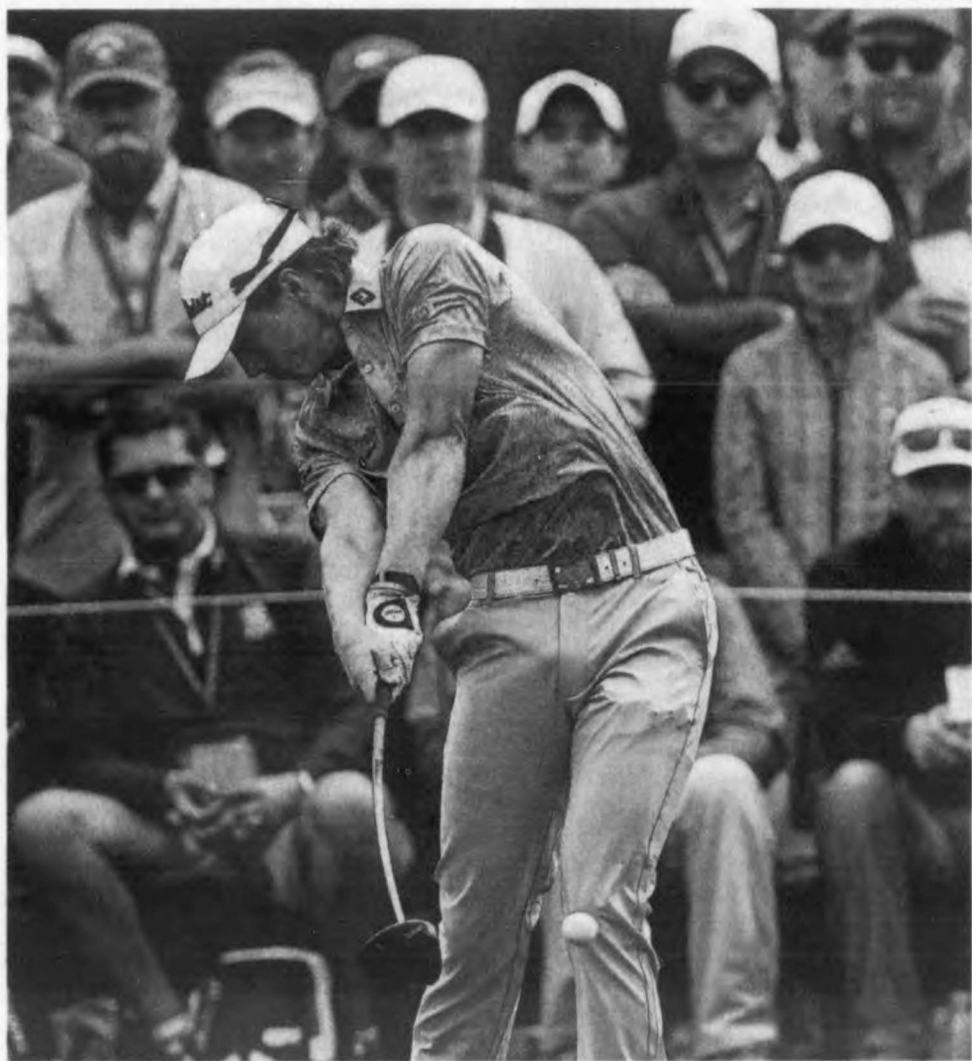
Keita Nakajima — he entered the week as the world's top-ranked amateur — and Austin Greaser (the player who lost to Piot in the championship match of last year's U.S. Amateur) shared low-amateur honors at 7-over par.

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

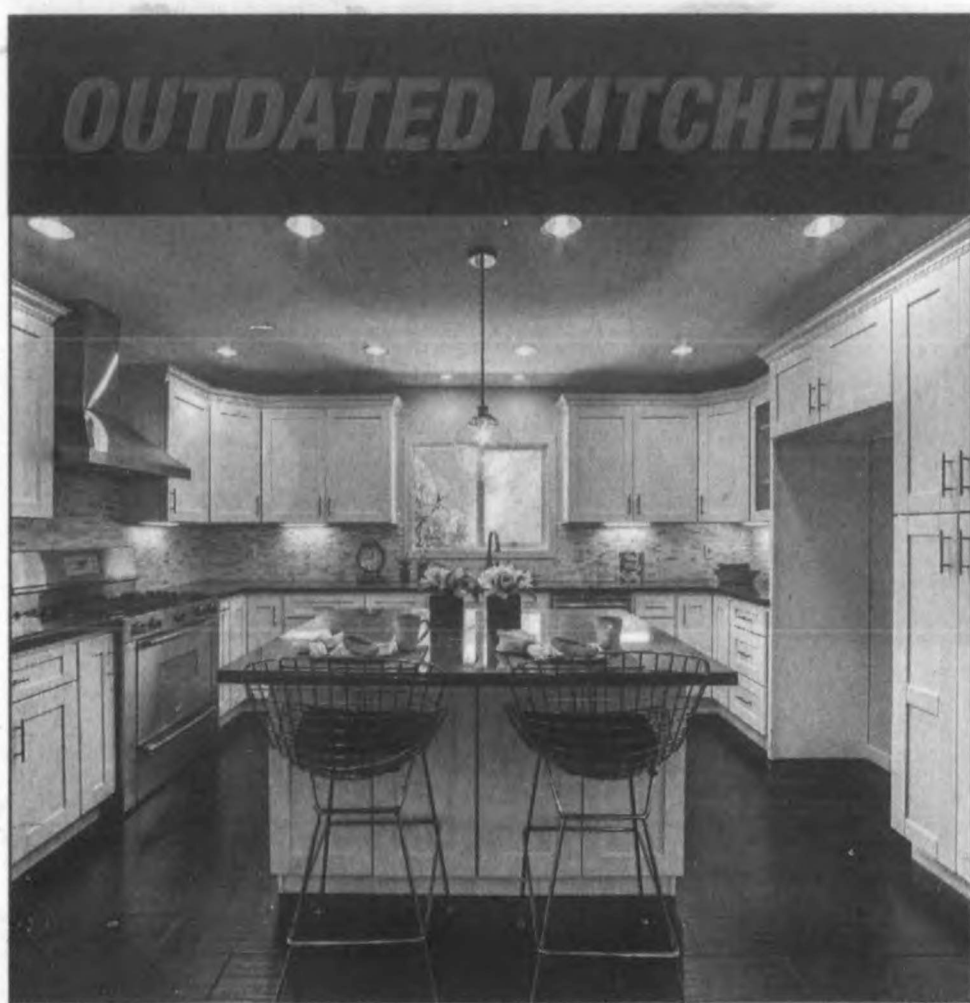
With his time in Augusta, Georgia, now over, Piot will return to East Lansing to try to end his Spartan career on a high note.

"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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New Pinckney football lead has same roots as former coach

Bill Khan

Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Pinckney football players shouldn't expect a major change with Jason Carpenter taking over after two seasons as Fremont's head coach.

Carpenter and previous Pinckney coach Rod Beaton established their roots in the sport in the same town and played for the same head coach, Steve Robb, at Milan.

Another common thread is the fact Carpenter played football in 1997 and 1998 with Josh Beaton, Rod's younger brother.

"I couldn't wait to be out there on Friday nights," Carpenter said. "That's how you are as a boy growing up in Milan. Back in the day, you went to games, maybe watched a half, played tackle football under the bleachers and on the side, and couldn't wait for your opportunity."

"The late '80s and into the early '90s when my uncle and Rod were there at Milan, that really sparked a lot of success Milan was going to have there in the '90s and into the 2000s and now that Jesse (Hoskins) has taken over. It's a great, hard-nosed, blue-collar community that we get our passion from."

Carpenter, whose hiring was made official Wednesday, hopes to create a similar experience for football players in Pinckney, while mindful of the fact a solid foundation has been established.

He has been in contact with Cody Patton, Pinckney's offensive coordinator and strength and conditioning coach, to get a feel for how many members of the previous staff plan to continue coaching. Carpenter hopes to retain as many past coaches as possible.

"I don't have to reinvent the wheel there," Carpenter said. "They've already been successful. Now, how do we take Pinckney football to the next level where we're winning district titles and regional titles and competing for state championships? That's the ultimate goal, to win a state championship. You don't play sports without wanting to win. How can we elevate what has already been a great base that Rod has laid down?"

Pinckney had six applicants for the job and interviewed four candidates after Beaton stepped down nearly four



Jason Carpenter COURTESY PHOTO

months ago.

"It's a huge weight off our shoulders," Pinckney athletic director Brian Wardlow said. "Football is a staple on Friday nights in Pinckney. We wanted to get it right. We felt like we knocked it out of the park with this guy."

Carpenter initially reached out to Beaton to express interest in the Pinckney job. Carpenter wanted to be closer to his family after stops in Ohio, Shelby, Spring Lake and Fremont. He had a 3-13

record in two seasons at Fremont, which was 1-44 in the previous five seasons.

"I have two nieces who go to Milan schools," he said. "I have two cousins whose kids go to Pinckney. My mom lives in Canton. So, most of my family is still there in southeast Michigan. We want to be closer to family. My wife and I want our kids to grow up with their cousins and be able to see them play sports and then come watch our kids

play sports, too. Family's really important; especially since the pandemic, it's become more and more important."

Carpenter will begin teaching math at Pinckney in April, rather than waiting until the next school year, to start building relationships with players. His family, which includes two children in elementary school, will remain in Fremont until the end of the school year.

"Tony Annese talks about this all the time at Ferris — you have to win their hearts," Carpenter said. "The sooner I can get there to start winning their hearts, the more they'll want to run through a brick wall for me and the football program. It's extremely important to get on the phone and talk to previous staff members who have built great relationships with the kids."

Carpenter's biggest selling point, Wardlow said, was his ability to connect with young people.

"He's engaging and he's passionate," Wardlow said. "He's experienced. Being a current classroom teacher, he has the knowledge of what kids need. Kids' needs are different right now. He knows what they are and is going to be able to meet those needs."

Carpenter is taking over a program that has made the state playoffs five of the past six seasons.

An important call high on his list is to freshman lineman Bobby Kanka and his family. Kanka has already attracted interest from major college football programs but, in a sign of the times, has also attracted interest from other local high school programs who sensed an opening when Beaton resigned.

Kanka's father, Tom, said the coaching uncertainty opened the possibility his son might transfer. Having players transfer is a sore subject at Pinckney, which saw one of its former students, Lucas Hanifan, catch five touchdown passes in the state championship game for Chelsea.

"I love that Rod already started that family and brotherhood culture there, very similar to what I'm bringing to the table, making sure you're loyal to Pinckney football," Carpenter said. "Once you're a Pirate, you're going to stay a Pirate and not get coerced by some area schools that have been successful."

Contact Bill Khan at wkhan@gannett.com.

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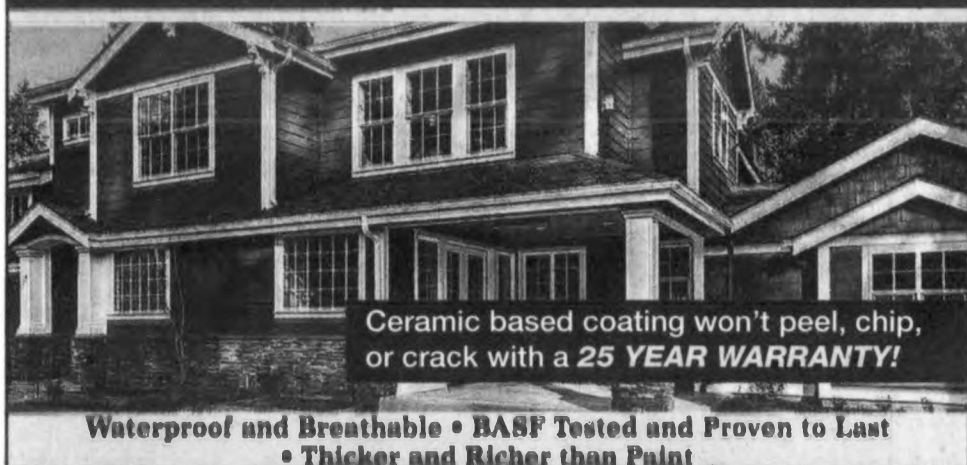
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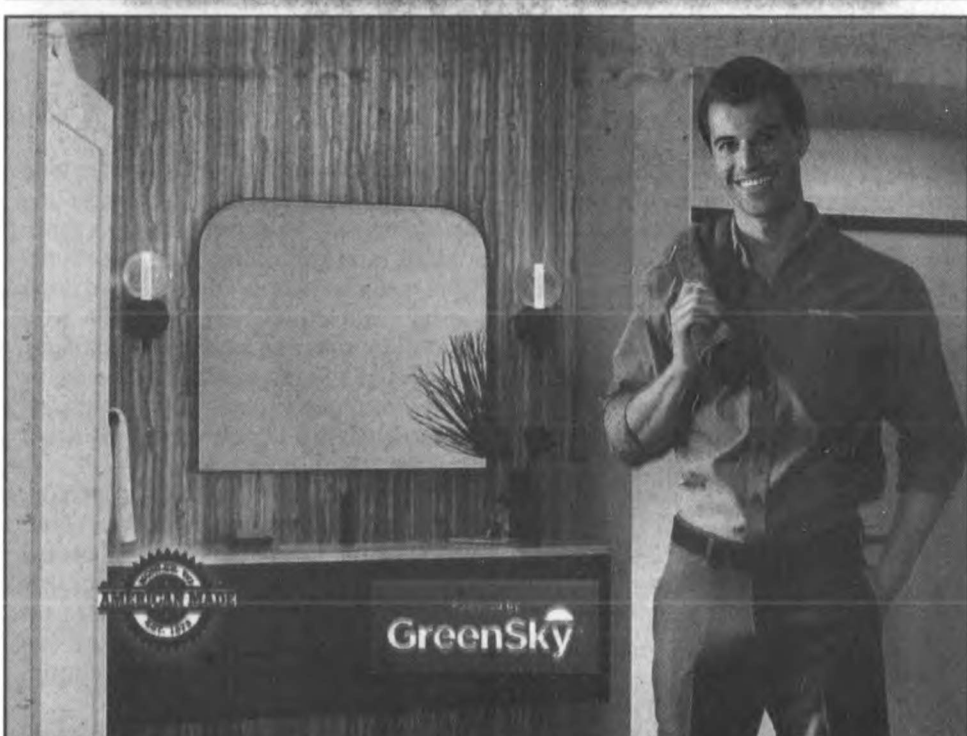
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No matter the season, park rangers always have a lot to do

Eve Chen
USA TODAY

Josh Scheffler never knows what the day will bring at Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area.

"You could be doing plumbing one day and working with horses the next, building a structure the next," he said. "When it's a small park, you're kind of all helping each other out."

As one of 32 permanent or career seasonal employees at the more than 120,000-acre National Park Service site straddling Montana and Wyoming, he wears a lot of hats: integrated resources technician, collateral duty safety officer, Youth Conservation Corps coordinator and resources fleet manager.

Above all, he's a park ranger.

One of the most common questions people ask Google about National Park Service rangers is: What does a park ranger actually do? A glimpse at Scheffler's day-to-day life makes it clear: a lot.

Scheffler doesn't do any of it, however, before having a good cup of coffee.

"I used to wake up five minutes before work, rush out of bed, throw everything on and get to work," he said. "And then I was always pretty grumpy."

He says waking up at 4:45 a.m. and easing into the day with a cappuccino helps make him "more pleasing to be around." Born and raised in the area, he has his own place in Lovell, Wyoming, about a mile away from the site's visitor center, but there is park housing available for seasonal employees.

Scheffler clocks in at 6 a.m., working 10-hour days Monday through Thursday, with three-day weekends.

Each week kicks off with a staff meeting, where he and his colleagues take turns talking about their plans for the week and where they physically plan to be in the park.

"There's not good (cell) service out in the Bighorn Canyon and so sometimes communication is really tough," he said.

Many times they'll pair up for safety to tackle their duties, which range from checking for invasive mussels on boats coming into the lake to repairing windows and roofs on the historic cabins within the property.

Scheffler's duties vary widely depending on the day or time of year.

In the winter, he spends a lot of time in



Josh Scheffler has helped fight wildfires all across the West as a wildland firefighter with the National Park Service. It's just one of his many roles. PHOTOS PROVIDED BY JOSH SCHEFFLER

the office performing safety database updates, coordinating safety checks and trainings, keeping track of fleet vehicle use and writing up proposals for projects years down the line, as well as requesting funding for them. But he definitely gets outside too.

Sometimes, he'll spend a whole day tracking Bighorn Canyon's wild horses.

"We try to monitor see if there's new foals and fillies ... understanding what station has what mares and keeping track of all of that," he said. He fills out spreadsheets by hand since there is hardly any wireless service along the horse range.

Other days, he'll check on fences around the park property. Local cattle ranchers are allowed to move their cattle through the area. Sometimes fences get damaged along the way. Rangers make sure there's nowhere the wild horses can get out, outside of their natural habitat.

Preservation is at the core of Bighorn Canyon and all 423 National Park Service

sites around the country.

Scheffler has learned all sorts of construction skills working on the park's historic buildings, including masonry.

"Luckily for me, I have had bosses and coworkers who are fantastic teachers," he said. "Nearly every skill I have learned has been thanks to the individuals in my park."

He's been able to transfer some of those skills to remodeling his own home, but he tries to change as little as possible about the historic ranches around Bighorn Canyon.

"It's all about maintaining the historical integrity of the building," he said. "If a log is completely rotted out and deteriorated and you can't keep it, we jack up the cabin and keep it in place, pull out the bad log and then replicate that log – the exact parameters – and put in a new one to keep that historical integrity. And then we bring the cabin back down and everything stays where it's at if we did it right."

Over the summer, Scheffler leads Bighorn Canyon's Youth Conservation Corps.



Josh Scheffler said he did some woodworking before becoming a ranger at Bighorn Canyon. Now he repairs cabins. PROVIDED BY JOSH SCHEFFLER

Park sites across the country host the eight-to-10-week summer work program for teens. This year his group will be brushing back and clearing trails, as well as helping with maintenance, like mowing grass or weed whacking, around historic structures.

"We do that for two reasons," he said. "One, for fire safety, so that if there happens to be a fire, it doesn't just run right into our buildings; there's a little bit of a buffer there. And then also rattlesnakes are an issue out here, so we keep the grass low where the public will be walking so that they can see the snakes, and they won't be hiding in there."

'You never know'

Scheffler knows how quickly a fire can move. In addition to all his other duties, he's a wildland firefighter. He's helped fight wildfires all across the West, but also close to home.

"Typically it's a lightning strike that starts it," he said. "There's also been sparks that get kicked up on the road, people throwing cigarettes out different things like that. ... You never know when or where it's going to pop up."

That's true for a lot of his plans, and that's the way he likes it.

"I do love just the variety of work that I have here," he said. "I'm not big on the mundane, same thing every day."

Engage with us and don't assume ability

Those who are facing challenges daily offer advice for others

Eve Chen
USA TODAY

Linda Williams doesn't make dinner reservations the way most of us do.

She makes a point to ask others about their accessibility needs first. The clinical psychologist and founder and CEO of Invisible Disability Project knows more than 1 in 4 U.S. adults have some kind of disability, whether or not it's obvious to others.

"There's probably something that exists in my friend group that I can't see," she said. "And unless I extend an invitation, they may not feel comfortable to speak up."

Being visually impaired herself, she knows what it's like to feel left out.

There are countless little things we can all do to accommodate people with disabilities. Over the past few months, USA TODAY has explored some of the unique but prevalent challenges travelers with disabilities face. Here are a few things USA TODAY readers and contributors with disabilities want fellow travelers to know:

1. Don't stare, but don't ignore either

"My mom always used to say, 'Instead of staring at me, ask me why I'm in this wheelchair so that I can educate you about disabilities,'" said Marta Rivera who has multiple sclerosis, as her late mother did.

Rivera's children hated when other people stare at their grandmother, but being ignored can also be hurtful.

"If you see somebody attempting to get into a building, it costs you nothing to hold the door open," Rivera said.

2. Acknowledge and engage with people with disabilities

"I know that the world is not built for us, but the fact that you're acknowledging that ... in an attempt to make it a little easier, that speaks volumes," said Bethany Hildebrandt, whose daughter Kaylee, has



Judy Tudor, who had to cancel a trip to Vienna because the nation closed its borders the day before she was scheduled to leave, said COVID-19 has complicated travel for people with disabilities who can't pivot as easily. PROVIDED BY JUDY TUDOR

cerebral palsy, among other medical complexities, and is considered nonverbal because only her family can understand her speech.

Hildebrandt calls American Disabilities Act guidelines the bare minimum for hotels and other travel entities and wishes people with disabilities would be invited to the table when it comes to designing spaces and experiences to accommodate them.

Deborah Dopkin, a bilateral amputee, says she could write a whole book on bathroom accessibility.

"Roll-in showers where it is impossible to reach the shower controls from the shower bench (are) a frequent problem, as are towel rods and robe hooks that are not reachable," Dopkin said. "Most hotel bathrooms in ADA rooms feature sinks that one can wheel under, but the mirrors are hung so high on the wall as to be useless from a wheelchair."

She says closet rods are also often out of reach and mattresses can be "so high off the ground that it is dangerous to transfer from a wheelchair to the bed." That's assuming she can get in the room in the first place.

"The simple act of opening the door to

the room – often heavy and spring-loaded – and wheeling into the room would be comical if it weren't nearly impossible to manage alone," Dopkin said.

"Communicate with someone who is living it," Hildebrandt suggested to people who design these spaces.

3. Know that COVID-19 complicates everything

While many countries have relaxed COVID-19 restrictions for travelers, we've seen throughout the pandemic that things can change very quickly. Travelers with disabilities, who require careful planning, may not be able to pivot last minute.

"In November, we had to cancel a trip to Vienna because the day before we were scheduled to leave, Vienna closed its borders," said Judy Tudor a Fora travel adviser who is paraplegic. "We wondered what would have happened if we were already on our flight when this change occurred and arrived in Vienna, only to be told we could not enter. This is an inconvenience for any traveler, but for travelers with disabilities who need special accommodations or arrangements, they can be left with very limited options to make changes."

Pandemic-related staff shortages may also make travel more difficult.

"Many travelers with disabilities often call ahead to hotels, restaurants and attractions to ask questions about accessibility or make specific requests for their visit," Tudor said.

4. Center people with disabilities

"Think, 'OK, where in my environment might someone with various diverse bodily needs bump up against a barrier that prevents them from fully accessing the space?'" Williams of the Invisible Disability Project said.

She acknowledged the difficulty in doing so, particularly for disabilities that may not be seen.

"If I'm an able-bodied person who sees and hears and smells and ambulates, how in the world can I imagine this?" she asked.

5. Don't assume ability

"Don't presume anyone's ability status

– especially when it comes to carrying luggage, walking longer distances, taking the stairs, etc.," said Amy Gaeta, a Ph.D. student and disability rights activist. "This includes people who look and don't appear disabled as well as people with mental illnesses and learning disabilities."

Gaeta has nerve damage in one leg as well as multiple invisible disabilities, including anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder.

"If traveling with a disabled person, ask them what you can do to be a better travel partner," she said. "If your disabled traveler partner agrees to it, inform any travel attendant staff that a disabled passenger is aboard and ask what options they (may) have to make the trip more accessible and comfortable for them."

Craig Harms wears a "deaf" sticker on his shirt when he travels so others can tell he's lost his hearing.

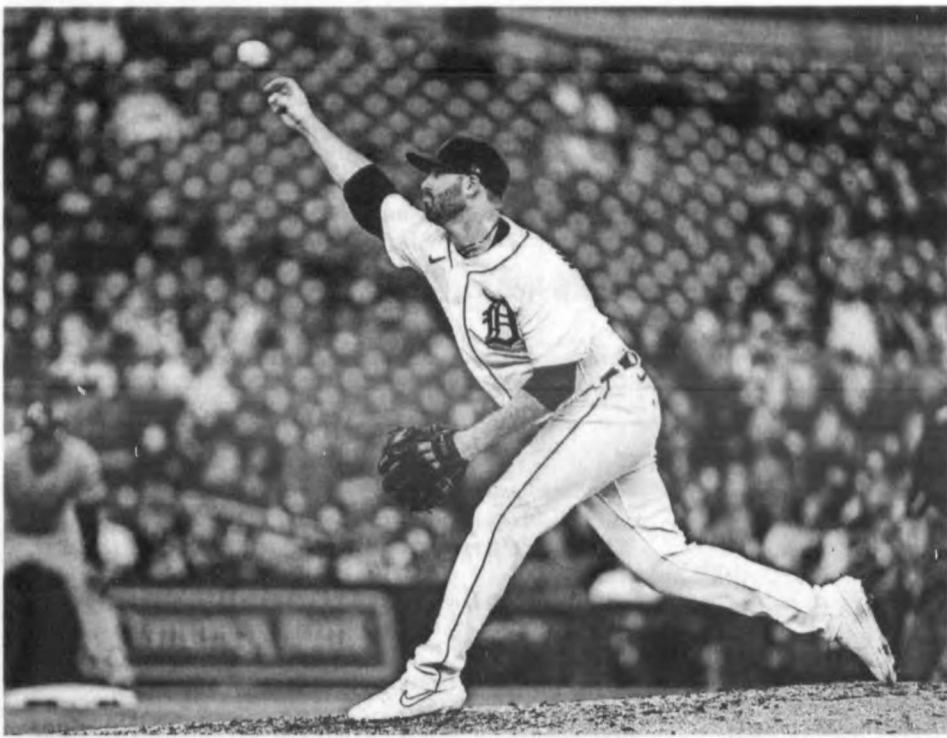
"It helps getting through TSA and boarding, and airport workers seem much more accommodating knowing that I can't hear rather than judging me as being obstinate or suspicious-acting," he said.

"Please be patient with us," he added. "If there are miscommunication problems, which occur, please resolve the issue instead of taking the easy way of walking off and ignoring us." And please don't think us rude if you try to talk to us and we ignore you – our ability to communicate effectively was the first thing robbed of us."

6. Don't forget people with disabilities

"Using a guide cane allows other people to know I am visually impaired, but the downside to pulling out the cane when traveling is being made to wait," said Maxine Freedom Starr, MSW, a wellness assurance counselor with the Center for Independence of the Disabled, New York. "People often see that disabled people get to skip lines and go first for a lot of things, but there are equally times when I am made to wait for assistance to arrive, assistance I do not require most of the time."

She said many places, like airports and attractions, see visually impaired people as a liability. "I am not allowed to walk freely or service myself despite saying I am physically able and competently able to do so," she said.



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

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 Jiménez.

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, Jiménez hit a comebacker to 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



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

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 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 21½ 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 Tigers 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."

Contact Evan Petzold at epetzold@freepress.com or follow him on Twitter @EvanPetzold.

Seniors

Continued from Page 1B

dunks.

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

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 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.



Calvin Marshall's Gold Team teammates celebrate a dunk of his during the 2022 Mitten Classic all-star high school basketball game played at Southfield's Bradford Academy on April 1, 2022. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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Who's Hiring Now?

Top 25 Companies Hiring in April

ZipRecruiter.com

1. Walmart

Posted 70,657 jobs in March.
Examples of job titles at Walmart:
Merchandiser, Software Engineer, Pharmacist, Cashier

2. Amazon

Posted 42,819 jobs in March.
Examples of job titles at Amazon: Operations Manager, Senior Product Manager, Software Engineer, Area Manager, Driver Trainer, Warehouse Associate

3. Deloitte

Posted 34,006 jobs in March.
Examples of job titles at Deloitte: Consultant, Engineer, Cloud Developer

4. McDonald's

Posted 25,762 jobs in March.
Examples of job titles at McDonald's: Restaurant Manager, Crew Team Member

5. Capital One

Posted 21,929 jobs in March.
Examples of job titles at Capital One: Designer, Engineer

6. Shipt

Posted 16,929 jobs in March.
Examples of job titles at Shipt:

Shopper, Delivery Driver

7. DoorDash

Posted 15,446 jobs in March.
Examples of job titles at DoorDash: Delivery Driver

8. Sam's Club

Posted 14,887 jobs in March.
Examples of job titles at Sam's Club: Personal Shopper, Meat Cutter, Cashier, Optician

9. Starbucks

Posted 14,206 jobs in March.
Examples of job titles at Starbucks: Barista, Retail Shift Manager

10. AT&T

Posted 11,615 jobs in March.
Examples of job titles at AT&T: Sales Representative, Engineer, Technician

11. TJX Companies

Posted 10,657 jobs in March.
Examples of job titles at TJX Companies: Retail Associate, Merchandise Associate

12. Verizon

Posted 10,042 jobs in March.
Examples of job titles at Verizon: Sales Representative, Engineer

13. KPMG

Posted 10,005 jobs in March.
Examples of jobs at KPMG: Analyst, Associate, Engineer

14. Microsoft

Posted 9,067 jobs in March.
Examples of jobs at Microsoft: Software Engineer

15. Domino's

Posted 8,891 jobs in March.
Examples of job titles at Domino's: Delivery Driver, Manager, Customer Service

16. Lowe's

Posted 8,838 jobs in March.
Examples of job titles at Lowe's: Merchandising Service Associate, Customer Service Associate, Loader

17. Whole Foods Market

Posted 8,090 jobs in March.
Examples of job titles at Whole Foods Market: Shopper, Cook

18. FedEx Ground

Posted 7,976 jobs in March.
Examples of job titles at FedEx Ground: Package Handler, Courier

19. Kroger

Posted 7,134 jobs in March.
Examples of job titles at Kroger: Retail Clerk, Cashier, Pharmacy Technician

20. CVS Health



Posted 7,070 jobs in March.
Examples of job titles at CVS Health: Pharmacist, Store Associate, Shift Supervisor

21. UnitedHealth Group

Posted 6,636 jobs in March.
Examples of jobs at UnitedHealth Group: Consultant, Medical Coder

22. Bank of America

Posted 6,422 jobs in March.
Examples of job titles at Bank of America: Relationship Manager, Relationship Banker, Financial Advisor

23. Aramark
Posted 4,904 jobs in March.
Examples of job titles at Aramark: Food Service Manager, Cook

24. Macy's

Posted 3,371 jobs in March.
Examples of job titles at Macy's: Retail Sales Associate, Receiving Support Associate

25. Burger King

Posted 3,256 jobs in March.
Examples of job titles at Burger King: Crew Member, Manager

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PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

ADDITIVE-FREE
ACROSS

- 1 Not suitable
6 "Sorry to intrude..."
10 Capricious ideas
15 Cartoonist Addams, informally
19 Payments to the IRS
20 Oscar winner Robert De —
21 Capital of Vietnam
22 Sword handle
23 Fifth Avenue skyscraper
26 Other, in Acapulco
27 Identity hider
28 Altitudes: Abbr.
29 — C (PC copy command)
30 What a groom may toss
32 "Uh-huh"
34 Pioneer Boone, informally
35 Orthodox Jewish movement
37 Rapper — Rida

- 40 Technique for viewing a slow process quickly
43 Cattle farm
45 Prefix with nourished
46 In a daze
47 First first lady of the U.S.
51 Gets close to
55 Sesame seed paste
56 Pucksters' org. with the Calder Cup
57 Newspaper think piece
60 Born as
61 Toon sheet
62 Hedy of "Ecstasy"
66 Rome's — Fountain
67 Dollar bill
68 Advance inquiry into a crime, e.g.
72 Israeli city close to Ben Gurion Airport
73 Big name in life insurance
74 Decrease
75 Doc for the neck up
76 D-H linkup
77 FDR or HST

- 78 Former "Idol" judge
79 Bob of play-by-play
82 Wolfed down
84 Launching of people into orbit
88 Insurance payment
92 "The Simpsons" shopkeeper
93 Was overlong
94 Dual-focus course about bodily structures
100 Some kitchen appliances, for short
101 From a northwest Italian port
102 Certain South African
103 Arena level
105 "Hallelujah Chorus" composer
106 Rough — wood
107 City vehicle
108 Gas brand in life insurance
112 Water, in Acapulco
113 What love is, per a Four Aces #1 tune, with "a"
118 Crate piece

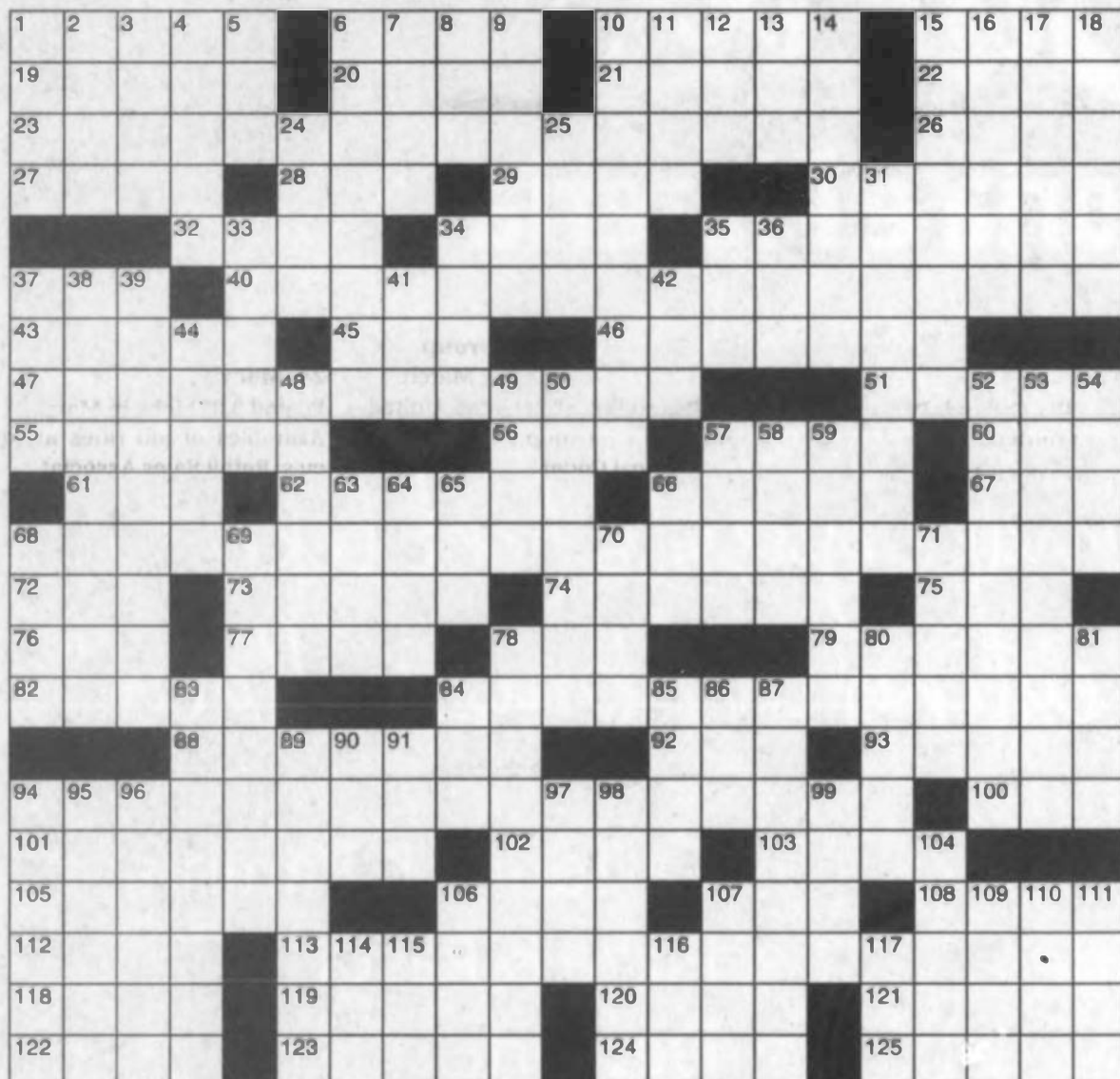
- 119 Capital of South Korea
120 Actress Best
121 Really mad
122 The "T" of 66-Down
123 Day divisions
124 Bargain
125 Restaurant notice that's applicable to this puzzle's seven longest answers?

DOWN

- 1 Bit of news
2 Wine valley
3 Allies' rival
4 Sprightly
5 Mao — -tung
6 Object of hate
7 Thwacks
8 Before
9 Woman's quaint headpiece
10 Jacuzzi, e.g.
11 Recital venue
12 Not Rep. or Dem.
13 Mimi's "me"
14 Celebrates with a tune
15 Animal with a backbone
16 Relative of a shout-out
17 Anew

- 18 Tempestuous
24 Spicy cuisine
25 — Reader (magazine)
31 Carrier based in New Delhi
33 Hawke of film
34 Salvador of surreal art
35 Spicy
36 From — Z
37 Sig Nu, e.g.
38 Video game tomb raider
39 Teetering
41 — -di-dah
42 Attila follower
44 Refrigerate
48 More artful
49 — a soul
50 — in Manila (Ali-Frazier fight)
52 Consecrating
53 Nevada airport
54 In view
57 Mining finds
58 Sampras of the court
59 Show plainly
63 Poker cost
64 Supplies with personnel
65 Coach
66 LG or RCA products
68 Petition
69 "Thumbs-up!"

- 70 Gas in signs
71 Gasless car
78 Tipoffs in hoops, e.g.
80 Christie's "A Pocket Full —"
81 Depots: Abbr.
83 Not old-fashioned
84 Cabinet dept. since 1965
85 Twosome
86 Abbr. on military mail
87 Societal
89 It might have mascara on it
90 Pas' mates
91 Opal ending
94 Horror-struck
95 All-Star pitcher Denny
96 Yearly
97 Gordie of hockey
98 Itched (for)
99 Seine feeder
104 Trendy again
106 Stimulate
107 — fide
109 Phony
110 Creates a lap
111 Blood type, for short
114 Prefix with pagan
115 Part of TTYL
116 HST follower
117 Loud noise



#2,086

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


Here's How It Works:

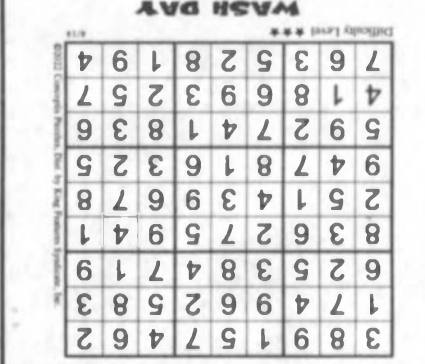
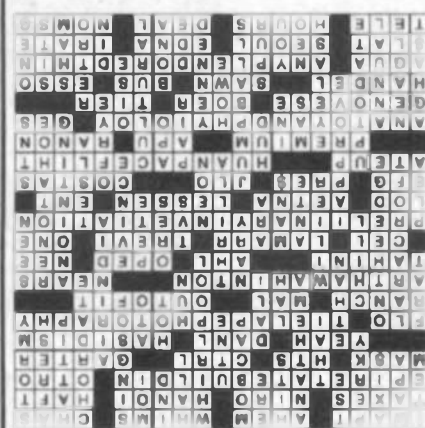
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues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

WASH DAY

Can you find all the words hidden in the grid? 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.

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

BASKET
BREEZE
CLOTHES
COLORS
COTTON
CYCLE
DAMP
DELICATE
DETERGENT
DIRTY
DRIED
DRIP
FABRIC
FAST
FOAM
FOLD
HALF LOAD
HOT
IRON
LATHER
LAUNDRY
LINE
LINEN
LIQUID
LOAD
MACHINE
MANGLE
MARK
NYLON
PEGS
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PRESS
PRE-WASH
RINSE
SHIRT
SHRINK
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ADOPT A PET
GET A JOB
FIND A HOUSE
BUY A BOAT
FIND A TREASURE
GET A MASSAGE
HIRE A HANDYMAN

Check out the classified section everyday.



Silvio's

Trattoria e Pizzeria

225 S. Canton Center Rd. in Canton
(inside Busch's Fresh Food Market)

"Our goal is to make guests feel like
they're eating in Abruzzo, Italy."

- Appetizers,
- Small Plates & Sides
- Soups & Salads
- Calzones & Paninis
- Pizza & Pasta
- Dessert

(734)-214-6666

silviostrattoriapizzeria.com

Happy Hour:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

3-6 PM

\$2 OFF wine & beer

Beer & a one topping pizza for \$15

25% OFF TOTAL

Silvio's

Trattoria e Pizzeria

BILL

Valid through 6/20/2022. Get 25% off entire guest check (excluding alcohol, applicable taxes, and gratuity) with showing of coupon. Can be used for dine-in or to-go orders. One coupon per check per table. Cannot be combined with any other offers, discounts, or coupons. No cash value.