A look inside a small business navigating the affects of global tariffs

U.S. Representative Kelly Morrison sits with Yum! Kitchen and Bakery owner to discuss impact of tariffs

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(SUN PHOTO BY NATALIE TRIMBLE)

U.S. Rep. Kelly Morrison (D-Minn.) sits with Robbie Soskin in his restaurant, Yum! Kitchen and Bakery in Minnetonka, March 10.

U.S. Rep. Kelly Morrison, D-Minn.,who has introduced legislation to shield small businesses from tariffs, met with small-business owner Robbie Soskin at Yum! Kitchen and Bakery in Minnetonka on March 10 to discuss the impacts of global tariffs on the restaurant's operations.

Soskin, alongside his wife Patti Soskin, owns four Yum! Kitchen and Bakery locations throughout the Twin Cities metro area, said the business has faced significant challenges since the global tariffs were imposed last year by President Donald Trump under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act of 1977.

Supporters of tariffs argue they can protect domestic industries and reduce reliance on foreign supply chains. But for Soskin, the most notable areas of concern mentioned relate to the importation of necessary ingredients they can't get in the U.S. as well as paper and packaging materials.

"We have great supply partners," Soskin said. "The food products that we use here most impacted would be things like avocados in Mexico and limes and peppers and a lot of things that we import from Mexico. In Indonesia, there are things like coconut milk and different sesame oils. Canada, we get things like lobster parts and things like that. So it is, it's all over restaurants."

Soskin also noted that domestic sourcing was impacted by tariffs. However, the increased demand for domestic products has led to higher prices, leaving small-business owners with fewer options.

"One reality was that the local or the domestic sources weren't necessarily cheaper, as the tariffs would cause prices to go up, because there'd be more demand for the domestic products, the market would rise. So we didn't," Soskin said. "There wasn't a lot of opportunity, since we're a stacked buyer. We care more about exactly what goes into the food. So we didn't have a lot of flexibility just to shift the price. So real world, real impact. Prices are up."

In regard to paper and packaging supplies, Yum! Kitchen and Bakery's custom packaging materials have been temporarily replaced with plain white bags and labels. Soskin and his team have been unsuccessful in finding affordable local suppliers to produce the restaurant's signature packaging materials. While Soskin fully intends to return to custom packaging eventually, the restaurant is making do with its temporary packaging replacement.

Even with the financial strain brought on by tariffs, Yum! Kitchen and Bakery doesn't want to compromise the integrity of its menu and recipes. Food service distributor US Foods has been a partner of the restaurant for about 20 years and has played an integral role in the restaurant's acquisition of supplies during this time, especially. Soskin credits US Foods for attempting to "get out ahead of this" to assist its affected partners.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled last month that the tariffs were imposed unlawfully and ordered the Trump administration to refund billions of dollars to businesses that were obligated to pay tariffs previously, according to the Associated Press.

Morrison sits on the House Small Business Committee and recently introduced the Small Business RELIEF Act with U.S. Rep. Chris Pappas, D-N.H. If the bill is passed, small-business owners

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POLICE REPORTS

Minnetonka police reports March 1-7

Included in the Minnetonka Police Department reports for March 1-7 were these incidents:

March 1 — Chase/pursuit near the intersection on Highway 169 and Cedar Lake Road

- Disturbance near the intersection of Cedar Lake Road and Royals Drive
- Disturbance on the 12900 block of Ridgedale Drive
- Civil matter on the 12400 block of Wayzata Boulevard

March 2 — Shoplifter on the 13200 block of Ridgedale Drive

- Theft on the 12400 block of Wayzata Boulevard
- Disturbance on the 10700 block of Cedar Lake Road

March 3 — Accident on the 17500 block of Highway 7

- Drunk problem on the 2400 block of Royals Drive
- Animal complaint near the intersection of Shady Oak Road and Minnetonka Boulevard
- Car theft on the 2500 block of Cedar Crown Drive
- Shoplifter on the 13200 block of Ridgedale Drive
- Accident on the 18600-18898 blocks of Highway 7
- Accident near the intersection of County Road 101 and Highway 7
- Harassment on the 12600 block of Ridgedale Drive

March 4 — Accident near the intersection of Lamplighters Lane and Woolman Drive

- Car theft on the 15800 block of Wayzata Boulevard
- Recovered vehicle on the 2600 block of 16th Avenue South
- Theft on the 12400 block of Wayzata Boulevard
- Suspicious activity on the 13400 block of Orchard Road
- Pickup/warrant on the 4900 block of County Road 101
- Damaged property on the 10400 block of Cedar Lake Road
- Theft on the 13500 block of Ridgedale Drive
- Forgery on the 11000 block of Cedar Hills Boulevard
- Theft on the 9600 block of Waterstone Place

March 5 — Theft on the 12400 block of Wayzata Boulevard

- Accident on the 17500 block of Minnetonka Boulevard
- Recovered vehicle on the 2500 block of Colfax Avenue South
- Disturbance on the 6000 block of Chasewood Parkway

March 6 — Accident on the 6100 block of Chasewood Parkway

- Car theft on the 12400 block of Marion Lane West
- Disturbance on the 13200 block of Ridgedale Drive
- Forgery on the 3600 block of Plymouth Road
- Harassment on the 10700 block of Cedar Lake Road
- Fight on the 2400 block of Royals Drive

March 7 — Accident near the intersection of Lake Street Extension and Williston Road

- Theft on the 13000 block of Ridgedale Drive
- Pickup/warrant on the 10900 block of Bren Road East

Eden Prairie police reports March 5-11

Included in the Eden Prairie Police Department reports for March 5-11 were these incidents:

March 5 — Fifth-degree criminal sexual conduct on the 7500 block of Office Ridge Circle

- Theft of property $1-$500 on the 8900 block of Neill Lake Road
- Tamper with motor vehicle on the 400 block of Prairie Center Drive

March 6 — Theft by shoplifting $501-$1,000 on the 8300 block of Flying Cloud Drive

- Second-degree DWI near the intersection of Dell Road and U.S. Highway 212
- Theft by shoplifting $1-$500 on the 12100 block of Singletree Lane
- Accident near the intersection of Mitchell Road and West 78th Street
- Accident near the intersection of Flying Cloud Drive and College View Drive

March 7 — Theft by shoplifting $1-$500 on the 12100 block of Singletree Lane

March 8 — Second-degree DWI near the intersection of Flying Cloud Drive and Technology Drive

- Theft by shoplifting $1-$500 on the 8300 block of Flying Cloud Drive
- Theft by shoplifting $1-$500 on the 12100 block of Singletree Lane
- Accident near the intersection of Edenvale Boulevard and Indian Chief Road

March 9 — Theft by shoplifting $1-$500 on the 8300 block of Flying Cloud Drive

- Theft by shoplifting over $1,000 on the 8200 block of Columbine Road
- Accident on the 7800 block of Equitable Drive
- Accident near the intersection of Riverview Road and U.S. Highway 169

March 11 — Theft by shoplifting $1-$500 on the 8200 block of Flying Cloud Drive

- Fourth-degree DWI near the intersection of U.S. Highway 212 and Prairie Center Drive

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would be exempt from paying baseline tariffs and those who paid them previously would receive a refund.

"I've introduced legislation to exempt small businesses from [tariffs] and to provide some relief for the tariffs that have already been paid. We'll see what comes of all this. But as you know, the Supreme Court just ruled that the way the President imposed the tariffs was unconstitutional and it seems to be that he thinks that the court has indicated that they need to be refunded."

Soskin anticipates that any future tariff relief would likely go to suppliers, like US Foods, first. But the Yum! Kitchen and Bakery team remains hopeful that the financial strain brought on by tariffs could soon be alleviated. As for the restaurant's customers, they've continued to be supportive of the local business even with the increased costs.

"We are optimistic and so when we hear things that should suggest that there'll be some relief, that's great. We're not counting on it yet, but you have to be optimistic to be in this business."

Minnesota's 3rd Congressional District spans much of the western and northern Minneapolis suburbs, including Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Hopkins, Plymouth, Wayzata, Bloomington and other cities in the majority of Hennepin County, along with a portion of Anoka County.

Obituaries

Stanlake "Rex" Mhiripiri



Rex Mhiripiri, beloved husband, father, grandfather, artist, and businessman of deep Christian faith, passed away on March 9, 2026 at age 90. Born Stanlake Mhiripiri in 1935 in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), he emigrated to the U.S. in 1966 and built a life in Minnesota marked by entrepreneurship and devotion to family.

Rex and his wife Julie raised nine children: Dave, John, Rhoda (Frank), Mudzingwa (Ebony), Rugare (Mark), Maruva (Steve), Regina, Titus (Angela), and Maria (Jason). He was also the proud grandpa of Nick, Jonah, Isaiah, Ava, Laura, Kaleb, Sterling, Nyla, Maddie, and Reese.

A longtime resident of Bloomington and Lakeville, Rex founded Mhiripiri Gallery, which he operated for 40 years in downtown Minneapolis and later at 90th and Penn in Bloomington, sharing his paintings and African stone sculpture.

A Celebration of Life will be held March 28 at Grace Church in Eden Prairie (9301 Eden Prairie Road), with visitation at 11:00 a.m. and service at 12:00 p.m. An open house will follow from 2:00-5:00 p.m. at Mhiripiri Gallery (9001 Penn Ave S, Bloomington). The service will be livestreamed at Grace.live/memorial. Donations in Rex's honor will support education, medical care, clean water wells, and subsistence farming in Zimbabwe.

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