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THE HASTINGS BANNER

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Commission on Aging seeks approval for $5.7 million preliminary budget for new facility



This rendering shows what the dining room in the new Commission on Aging Building may look like. Barry County COA Executive Director Courtney Ziny spoke in front of the Barry County Board of Commissioners Committee of the Whole this week, seeking approval for the project's preliminary budget. **Images provided**

Jayson Bussa
Contributing Writer

February tends to be a month of milestones for the Barry County Commission on Aging and its marquee project.

In February of 2023, conversations started between the senior services organization and the county about possibly building a new facility to replace its current headquarters, which is old and in various states of disrepair.

In February of last year, the COA worked to develop construction designs and enter into a contract with a contractor, which is Vicksburg-based Frederick Construction.

This week, those February milestones kept on coming when COA Executive Director Courtney Ziny appeared in front of the Barry County Board of Commissioners Committee of the Whole to seek approval for a preliminary budget for the 16,500-square-foot project, which will be located adjacent to Thornapple Manor's Harvest Pointe assisted living facility on McKeown Road in Hastings. The COA will share a kitchen and common areas with Harvest Pointe. The proposed preliminary budget is just for the COA portion of the project.

Frederick Construction previously created and released bid packages and received a total of 60 bids throughout various trades. The preliminary budget landed at $5.7 million, which was $800,000 less than a previous project estimate.

Furniture, fixtures and moving expenses (to transport equipment from its current facility at 320 Woodlawn Avenue in Hastings) are additional areas that the COA will have to consider with the project.

"One thing I want to point out is that the COA board and the (project) steering committee has always been about what we need without adding a lot of wants," Ziny said in front of commissioners on Tuesday morning. "So, really, what does the building need to look like and what does it need to function? Even as we did the post-bid interviews a painter came back and said 'If

See **AGING** on 2

County to embark on $42,000 jail feasibility study

By Jayson Bussa
Contributing Writer

The journey to resolving a problem that has dogged Barry County for over a decade promises to be a long one filled with hurdles.

But, Barry County Commissioners took the first step in that journey on Tuesday morning.

The Board of Commissioners Committee of the Whole this week approved a proposal from Kalamazoo-based consulting firm Abonmarche Byce to conduct a jail feasibility study, which would essentially jumpstart the local government's attempts to finally address the outdated Barry County Jail.

Barry County would pay the firm $42,000 for the process, which would provide insight on how to most effectively move forward with the project.

Next week, the Board of Commissioners is expected to give the request final approval.

County Administrator Eric Zuzga appeared in front of the Committee of the Whole during its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday morning, calling the feasibility study the very first step in potentially addressing the aging structure, helping to bring clarity to simple but burning questions like where the jail should be located and how much it would cost.

"It really will take us from 'A' to 'Z'," Zuzga said.

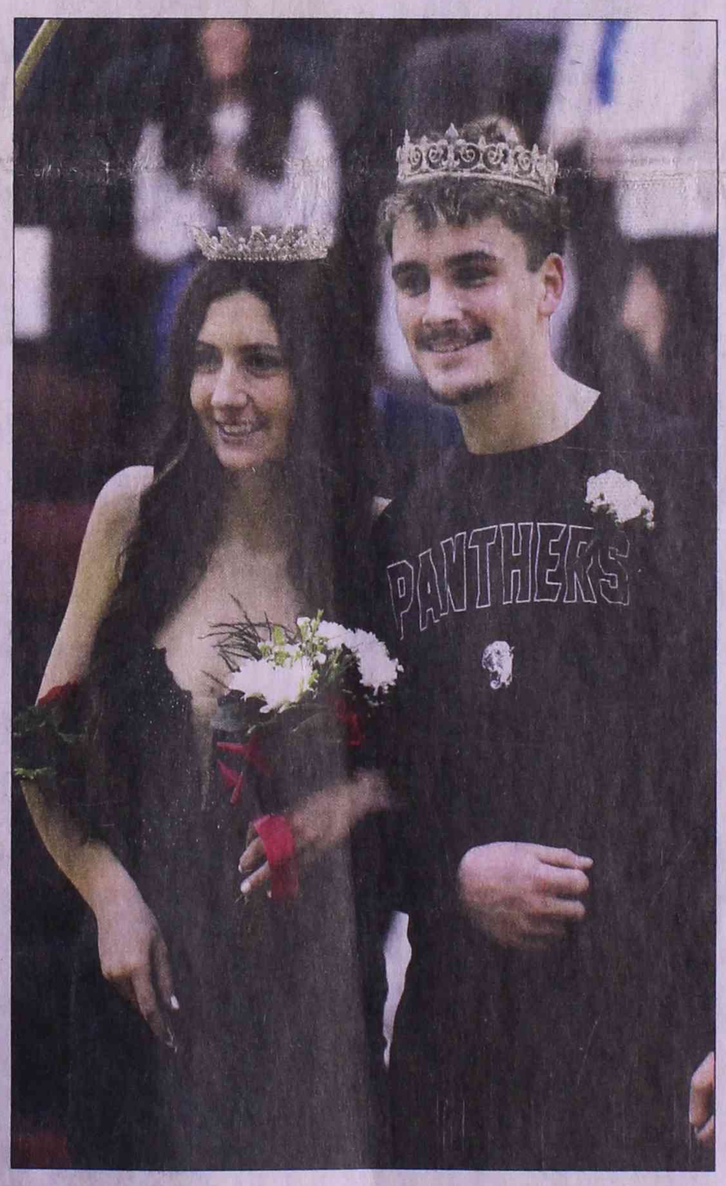
The extensive study is expected to take from four to six months, giving commissioners this important information already this year so they can use it to hatch a plan to bring to voters.

The study will probe the feasibility of a few different scenarios: building a new jail at a new site, building a new jail on the existing site, renovating the existing jail at its current site, renovating and expanding the existing jail at its current site and other alternatives that may arise during the study.

This crop of commissioners who have been in

See **STUDY** on 4

Delton Kellogg crowns its 2025 Winterfest royalty



Seniors Grant McArthur and Kylie Main are crowned the 2025 Delton Kellogg High School Duke and Duchess between the DKHS varsity girls' and boys' basketball games against visiting Gobles Friday night in Delton. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

BCSO continues investigating weekend shooting

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

The Barry County Sheriff's Office is continuing its investigation into a weekend shooting that left one man with "life-threatening injuries."

According to a BCSO statement, deputies responded to reports of a shooting in the 15000 block of North Avenue in Assyria at shortly after 4:30 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 1.

"The adult male victim was transported to Bronson Kalamazoo with life-threatening injuries and remains in critical condition," sheriff officials stated in the announcement released Monday. "The suspect was known to the victim and was taken into custody at the incident scene.

"This incident remains under investigation."

Undersheriff Kevin Erb on Tuesday said there were no further updates on the reported shooting, adding the alleged incident was still an "active investigation."

BCSO officials were assisted in their efforts by Barry County Central Dispatch, Michigan State Police-Wayland Post, Johnstown Township Fire Department and LifeCare EMS.

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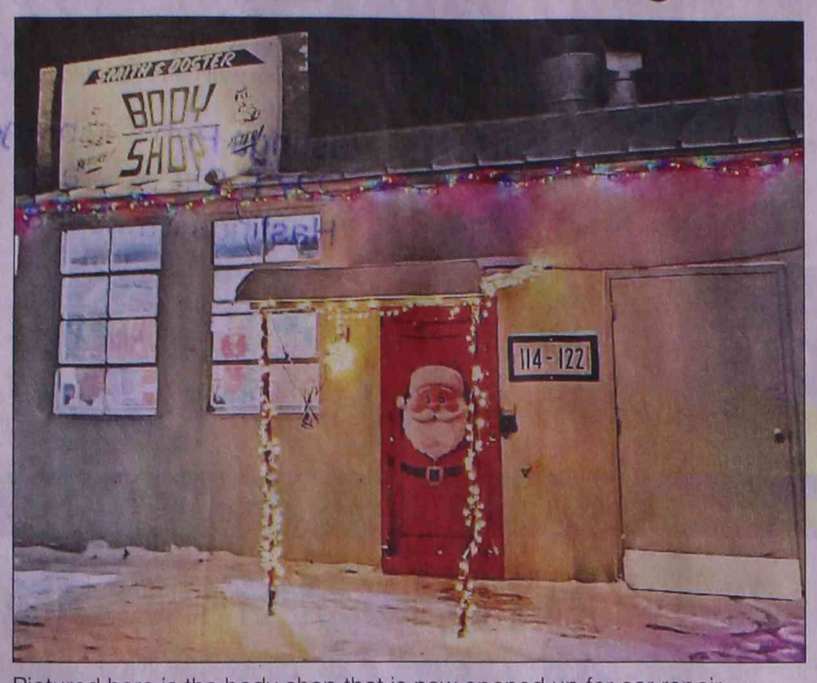
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Smith & Doster owner plans to rebuild after fire destroys main building



Pictured here is the body shop that is now opened up for car repair services in Delton after a fire destroyed the Smith & Doster building on Nov. 4. The Smith family decorated the exterior of the body shop during Delton's Hometown Christmas Festival. **Photo by Lisa Roodbergen**

Karen Turko-Ebright
Contributing Writer

After a fire destroyed the iconic Smith & Doster building, a 100-year-old business, three months ago, owner Mike Smith tells the Banner that he wants to rebuild.

"Yes. That is the game plan," said Smith, who noted there is still work to be done on the grounds after the fire and he has to meet with planning and zoning to discuss many details. "We are going to build a service and sales center similar to what we had, but not as large."

On Nov. 4, flames tore through the iconic Smith & Doster building that once sat at 114 N. Grove St. in Delton. The business thrived as a family-owned car showroom and auto sales business.

Local fire departments worked tirelessly for 10 hours to put out the fire. "I'm grateful for the firefighters and there were no injuries," Smith said.

Fire marshals told Smith that not enough of the building remained to determine where the fire started or what caused it. Four vehicles were lost in the fire. The Model A, which sat in the showroom, was also destroyed.

However, the body shop next door to the iconic building survived the fiery blaze nearby. Smith and his wife, Jan Smith, recently opened the shop for business.

"We are doing limited service and continued sales in the old body shop until I get the new facility built," Smith said. "We made a little office up front where our old tool crib was and started servicing cars again."

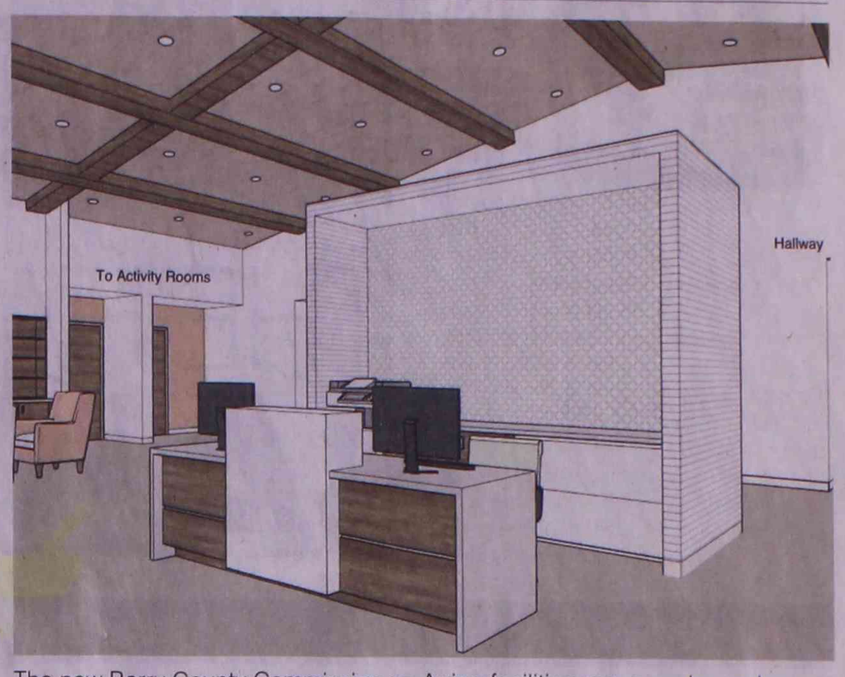
Smith said he is feeling more positive about moving forward. He described Smith & Doster as more than a building but his family's history.

"We are going to be back in full steam hopefully by the end of summer, but right now, we're going to operate as hard as we can out of this old body shop," Smith said. "She's going to have to provide for the customers for the next six or eight months it takes to get a new facility up and running."

Although rebuilding his business is going to be a challenge, Smith said he and his family look forward to it.

"It's the only thing you can do because you can't look back and get stuck in the past, so we're looking forward to it," Smith said. "That's what we have to do."

To read more about the 100-year-old business and its owners' plans to rebuild, look to this weekend's edition of The Reminder.



The new Barry County Commission on Aging facilities may soon be under construction. Here is a view of what the new reception area could look like.



A proposed sitting area in the new COA facility.

AGING

Continued from Page 1

you did this with the ceilings, that would save you thousands of dollars.' …We were very open to making decisions that were financially reasonable but also sticking to having some standards for the project. We want to make sure it's a quality building when we're done."

The preliminary budget for the project will go to the Board of Commissioners next week for final approval. Once the board gives the thumbs up, Frederick Construction will be able to move forward hiring sub-contractors to get started.

If all goes smoothly, the COA and Frederick Construction expect shovels in the ground and construction to begin in April with a roughly 12-month timeline.

Many of the recommended sub-contractors have ties to Barry County and the surrounding areas, which was a point of emphasis for the county board and the COA.

This list includes names like Choice Concrete (Freeport), Genesis Painting (Middleville, Gun Lake), Gale Plumbing (Hastings) and Big C Lumber (Nashville).

"It has been an amazing experience — I've enjoyed every moment of it," Commissioner Bob Teunessen said of the process that went into developing the COA's new home. "Probably the biggest thing I've witnessed is the cooperation between (Thornapple Manor Administrator) Becky DeHaan and Courtney and how they want to work together for the betterment of the whole."

DeHaan joined Ziny at the meeting and did not provide a timeline for the construction of Harvest Pointe's addition. She said that one hurdle the organization is facing is recruiting a team to staff the dialysis wing, which will be part of the expansion.

Delton woman dies in single-car crash

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

A Delton woman reportedly died in a single-vehicle crash in the early morning hours of Sunday, Feb. 2, according to a release issued by the Barry County Sheriff's Office.

BCSO deputies reportedly responded to the fatal crash on Orchard Road, near Kingsbury Road, in Barry Township at about 2:10 a.m. Sunday.

The department's initial investigation indicated a 2011 Chrysler 200 was traveling east on Orchard Road, exited the roadway and then struck a tree. Sheriff officials stated Kaylee Ward-Justice, 25, of Delton was pronounced dead at the scene of the crash.

No other details were available as of press time and BCSO Undersheriff Kevin Erb said the incident remains an active investigation.

The BCSO was assisted in its efforts in responding to the crash by the Delton Fire Department, LifeCare EMS and Barry County Central Dispatch.

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HASTINGS GLOBETROTTERS

Hastings teachers and first responders faced off on the hardwood this week for a charity game that kicked off Winterfest festivities. The teachers bested area first responders 42-31. **Photo provided**

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Commissioners debate spraying as county spongy moth population could soon see die-off

Molly Macleod
Editor

Barry County Commissioners will decide in the coming months if aerial spraying is needed this spring to combat spongy moth infestations around the county. Representatives from the Barry Conservation District spoke on spongy moth population trends in Barry County at last week's Barry County Board of Commissioners meeting.

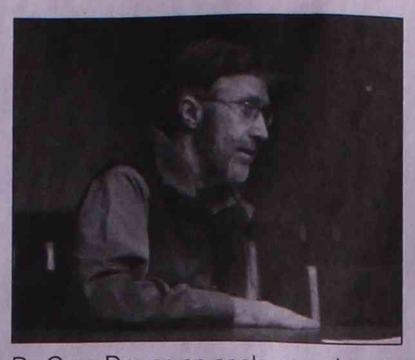
New Barry CD Executive Director Danielle Zoellner introduced herself to the board last week before handing off the presentation to District Forester Ben Savoie, who, along with seasonal staff, has been studying spongy moth populations in various locations around the county.

Savoie explained that Barry County's "favorite critter," the spongy moth, is an invasive species introduced in the 1800s as a failed silkworm experiment. The moths quickly spread across the United States.

"We have done a study based on your (the commissioners') request to figure out what the damages are going to be to Barry County for the coming years," Savoie said.

While spongy moths can feed off a number of different host trees, Savoie said the caterpillars prefer to feed on oak trees — a resource Barry County is flush with.

"They appear in early May and feed throughout June and July, which is what most people notice," Savoie said. "They eat all of the leaves on the trees and leave their waste everywhere. The adults themselves don't feed, but they lay a lot of eggs, which perpetuates the problem into the next year."



Dr. Greg Dwyer, an ecology and evolution professor at the University of Chicago, is teaming up with the Barry Conservation District performing his own research on spongy moth populations in Barry County and the presence of a deadly disease to spongy moths. **Photo by Molly Macleod**



Barry County Conservation District Forester Ben Savoie spoke to the Barry County Board of Commissioners last week, updating them on progress the conservation district has made studying spongy moth populations in the county. **Photo by Molly Macleod**

Spongy moths operate on a five- to seven-year outbreak cycle, he explained. The population builds slowly, growing each year before a massive die-off once the population hits its ceiling. A disease that only infects spongy moths helps speed up the die-off process.

If commissioners decide to go for an aerial treatment to combat the spongy moths, application would occur in the spring to affect the caterpillars as they feed.

Savoie said the conservation district is working with a local scientist to see how present the fatal spongy moth disease is in Barry County populations. This could negate the need for any insecticide treatment.

Dr. Greg Dwyer, an ecology and evolution professor at the University of Chicago, owns property on one of southwest Barry County's many lakes. He saw Barry County's spongy moth infestation firsthand — and took it upon himself to study it. He has been working with Barry CD, studying the spongy moth population in Barry County.

"I own 8-and-a-half acres with my wife on Little Cedar Lake, and a big chunk of that is forested. The spongy moths have been attacking madly — so I sort of have some skin in the game," said Dwyer.

Though he acknowledged there is room for error in these results, Dwyer found 99 percent of the caterpillars he sampled that died were infected with the fatal spongy moth disease. He is hopeful that a die-off could soon hit the county's spongy moth population.

Dwyer said he has access to National Science Foundation funding through the university to help fund his ongoing research in Barry County. He should know by mid-March how present the disease is in Barry County spongy moths — and whether an aerial treatment should be needed.

As for now, the Barry Conservation District is expecting a lower spongy moth population this year than last, with peak numbers in the first few weeks of May. Should spraying be desired, Savoie said it may be wise to apply the treatment to isolated pockets of the county with high infestation rates — mainly in the Delton, Hope Township and Barry Township areas.



A spongy moth caterpillar is seen munching on an oak leaf. **Photo provided**

Barry County Community Corrections Advisory Board set to dissolve

Molly Macleod
Editor

The Barry County Community Corrections Advisory Board (BCCCAB) is set to dissolve this month after a final vote from the Barry County Board of Commissioners next week. The dissolution, agreed to by the BCCCAB at its meeting last month, comes after the board has struggled to receive state funding amid changing rules.

The board, which offers programs and services in lieu of incarceration, was formed so the county could receive Public Act 511 (the Michigan Community Corrections Act) funding. That act was passed by Michigan's legislature in 1988 in efforts to improve incarceration and recidivism rates.

"My office used to accept funding from the state for services that covered both Problem-Solving Courts (PSCs) and MDOC probationers," said BCCAB administrator Tammi Price at Tuesday's Board of Commissioners Committee of the Whole meeting. "The state has slowly but surely changed the rules and made it more and more difficult for rural counties to follow their rules in order to receive their funding."

The BCCCAB hasn't received PA 511 funding in two years, Price said. She and Barry County Trial Court Administrator Ines Straube went before the state board to express their concerns with how rural counties receive state funds. They met with the Michigan Office of Community Corrections, as well.

Price said she and Straube met with Reps. Julie Callie, Gina Johnsen and Richelle Smith, trying to change state funding rules that better apply to rural counties like Barry County.

"It really just seemed to us that they were interested in funding the larger counties — which is unfortunate, because the larger counties already have a plethora of resources and Barry County really has to make do with what we have and do the best we can," said Price.

Price said the BCCCAB voted to dissolve at its meeting last week. "It doesn't seem that we can meet the criteria that (Michigan Office of Community Corrections) OCC has in order to receive funding," said Price.

Despite the BCCCAB's dissolution, Price said the board is finding other sources to fund its programming to specialty courts in Barry County, including grant funding and assistance from the Southwest Michigan Behavioral Health Authority (SWMBH). Additionally, Price said, the Michigan Department of Corrections' local office in Barry County has been using Kalamazoo County's virtual services for its probationers.

"We've kind of covered what we need to with different funds, and so there's no reason to go forward trying to meet the state's requirements to receive the funding. And ultimately, local funding would have to step in and pay because we didn't meet state requirements. And I think that puts Barry County at risk — I'm not willing to do that," said Price.

County board looking to extend county administrator's contract through 2028

Molly Macleod
Editor

Barry County Administrator Eric Zuzga has already logged six months on the job, taking over for longtime administrator Michael Brown in August of last year. This week, members of the Barry County Board of Commissioners Committee of the Whole made moves to extend Zuzga's employment contract with the county through 2028.

County board chair Dave Jackson explained that Zuzga's initial contract was approved last summer on a one-year basis, anticipating a new board makeup in 2025. Now that the board is set for this year and the coming years with commissioners' new, four-year terms, Jackson said it's within the scope of the board to extend Zuzga's contract through 2028.

"There's no additional pay raise," Jackson explained. "The money that he agreed to when he started back in July is staying through the balance of this year. There'll be a process in place for evaluation, probably in July, where everybody'll have input from various stakeholders throughout the county who are working with Eric just to see that and as we go into the next budget, we'll negotiate what the next salary will be for the next year."

Zuzga, whose original contract ran from Aug. 26, 2024, through Aug. 25, 2025, will be paid a salary of $137,500 this year.

The county board is set to approve the request to extend Zuzga's contract at its regular meeting next week.

Zuzga, a Barry County resident, most recently served as Director of Community Services for the City of Marshall and received an offer from Barry County on July 23 after he emerged as the favorite among four different candidates who were interviewed for the leading role in the county's front office.

"I think in the six months, I know Eric's hit the ground running. We all had a big question mark when you had someone (former administrator Michael Brown) that's been there for 30 years, like 'Holy crap, what are we going to do?' But I think Eric's come in, built some relationships, covered a lot of ground quickly, learned some of our systems, hasn't come in with a baseball bat and demolished a lot of things, but is trying to learn from a lot of people who had that institutional knowledge," said Jackson.

"I've been impressed with what he's done in a short amount of time," he continued. "It's been a quick learning curve into this, so I think he's done an excellent job. Like I said, it was a 'question mark' on how to replace those years of Michael, but I think we've got the right person in the right position and I am in favor of extending that contract for a three-year term."



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You can put more into your 401(k) this year

Once you retire, you'll likely need to draw on a variety of financial sources — and one of the most important ones may be your 401(k). And for 2025, you can put even more money into your plan than ever.

You can invest in your 401(k) in one of two ways, depending on your employer's plan. With a traditional 401(k), you contribute pre-tax dollars, which can lower your taxable income, and your money can grow tax deferred. If you have a Roth 401(k) option, you can contribute after-tax dollars, which aren't deductible, but your eventual withdrawals will be tax-free if you've had your account at least five years and you're at least 59½.

For either a traditional or Roth 401(k), as well as similar plans such as a 457(b) (for government employees) or a 403(b) (for educators and employees of some nonprofit groups), the contribution limit has increased by $500 for 2025, to $23,500. If you're 50 or older, you can contribute an additional $7,500, for a total of $31,000. And under the SECURE 2.0 legislation, if you are between 60 and 63, you have a higher catch-up contribution — $11,250, instead of $7,500, for a total of $34,750.

If you can afford to contribute the full amount to your 401(k) or similar plan, consider doing so. Of course, not everyone is in that position. If you're a younger worker, you may well have other financial obligations, such as paying off student loans. And even if you've been in the workforce for a while, you may be putting away money for other things — such as your children's education — as well as your own retirement. But even if you can't "max out" on your 401(k), try to contribute at least enough to earn your employer's matching contribution, if one is offered.

Regardless of how much you contribute to your 401(k), consider these suggestions on managing the money within your plan:

• **Create a portfolio that fits your risk tolerance.** Most 401(k) plans offer up to a dozen investment options, while some plans offer many more. You obviously want to increase your 401(k) balance as much as possible, but that doesn't necessarily mean putting all your 401(k) dollars into the most aggressive funds available. Instead, consider spreading your 401(k) contributions among a range of investments, which can help you lower your risk level while still giving you opportunities for long-term growth. Everyone's risk tolerance is different, though, so you'll want to evaluate yours when constructing your 401(k) portfolio.

• **Adjust your portfolio as needed.** It's a good idea to review your 401(k)'s investment mix at least once a year to see if it's performing as you'd hoped. But be patient — one "down" year doesn't necessarily mean you must make changes. However, as you approach retirement, you may want to lower the risk level of your 401(k) by moving some of your dollars into more conservative vehicles. Still, even when you're retired and have started drawing money from your 401(k), you might want to keep some growth potential in it to help you stay ahead of inflation.

By contributing what you can afford to your 401(k), and by carefully managing the investments within your plan, you can help maximize the value of this powerful retirement savings vehicle — and give yourself a key asset to help you enjoy your retirement years.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

Local Salvation Army officials celebrate 2024 fundraising campaign



Representatives of American Legion Post No. 257 and No. 298 representatives received the "Golden Kettle" award during a recent dinner for finishing first from among all service clubs during the Salvational Army of Battle Creek's 2024 Red Kettle fundraising campaign. **Photos provided**



Rotarians finished in second place in the Golden Kettle competition.



Kiwanians finished in third place in the Golden Kettle competition.



Members of the Hastings Elks Lodge with Barb Coppins traveled to Battle Creek to receive their certificate for a fourth-place finish.

Nearly 90 people arrived at The Salvation Army in Battle Creek for a recent dinner and awards ceremony that celebrated the contributions of all volunteer bell ringers who participated in the annual Red Kettle Campaign, which reached new highs for the fundraising effort.

The Battle Creek Army hosted visitors from Battle Creek and beyond, with bell ringers coming from as far away as Hastings and Marshall to enjoy the evening.

To set the tone for the evening, Capt. Grace Roinila encouraged the big crowd to sing "Happy Birthday" to Capt. Mika Roinila, who celebrated his birthday on Jan. 27. While the dinner was served, photos of all volunteer bell ringers in action at their respective locations were shown on a large screen.

The dinner was followed by an awards ceremony in the chapel, with Salvation Army officials announcing that the 2024 Red Kettle Campaign raised a total of $130,607 – beating totals for each of the past two years – and the overall 2024 Christmas Campaign garnered $322,614, representing the highest in the past five years.

"We are very happy to have surpassed our goal of $250,000," said Capt. Mika Roinila. "We have been blessed."

Individual volunteers who attended the evening were awarded with certificates of thanks for their charitable efforts. Bill Hohman was honored with the first-place Brass Bell plaque for raising $3,067 during the recent campaign. Kim Johnson was second ($3,012) and third place was awarded to Mark Baga, who raised $2,686 for The Salvation Army.

In the race for the Golden Kettle, a total of nine service clubs participated in this year's effort. The American Legion Posts No. 257 and No. 298 collectively raised more than $11,000 to top the field, with representatives from both on hand to receive the trophy, which will be kept at the two lodges for six months and shared amongst the winners – much like the NHL's Stanley Cup.

The Rotary Clubs were second in the team rankings after collecting more than $6,900, and Kiwanis Clubs were third with just over $5,350 raised during the campaign. Other participating clubs included Elks Lodges (4th, $3,410), Optimist Clubs (5th, $3,034), Masons (6th, $2,448), Lions Clubs (7th, 2,334), ARC of Calhoun County (8th, 1,078) and Altrusa Service Club (9th, $382).

The evening finished with comments and a closing prayer by Grand Valley Area Commander Major Tim Meyer, who traveled from Grand Rapids for the event.

Meyer shared that the funds raised during the Christmas Holiday Season served a total of 474 families, representing more than 1,600 people. That is only a part of the annual numbers, which in 2024 reached 3,100 families and served over 14,000 people, according to Salvation Army officials. — *DM*

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ecaswell@mihomepaper.com

One of the many benefits our readers get by engaging with our locally-owned community newspapers is a look inside their local schools. It's always great to see the various special events, clubs, sports teams, assemblies and learning projects area students participate in throughout the year. It's especially fun when my nephew or niece (who was just elected to student council!) or my best friend, who teaches first grade, show up in the pages of one of our newspapers.

Last week one of our education stories stopped me in my tracks. From our coverage in the *Lake Orion Review*, "Lake Orion High School (LOHS) students volunteered to give up their cell phones and laptops for a full day Friday to participate in the school's 10th annual Cell Out for Soldiers event. The charity event started with a group of senior boys who wanted to ask students to give up their phones during lunch, according to LOHS Leadership Advisor Lori Hogan. In the years since, it has raised around $24,000 for the nonprofit Cell Phones for Soldiers, which provides cost-free communication services and emergency funding to active-duty military members and veterans, according to its website … Students sealed their phones in bubble-wrapped envelopes, and stored them in their backpacks – this way phones are accessible if absolutely necessary. Doing so makes for a unique and fun day for students of the digital age …"

Students reported that the classrooms, hallways and the cafeteria are much louder during the Cell Out, and hands-on fun, like a giant connect four game, take place during lunch.

The photos from the day made it clear that it's a fun and high-energy day at the school. This part of our coverage really stood out to me.

"The occasion also provides an extra learning experience for students because face-to-face conversation can cause stress and anxiety for some students, according to Hogan. 'So they're really kind of forced outside of their comfort zone, in a good way for a good reason, to talk to other kids,' Hogan said, adding it is an important adulting skill for students to speak with people they normally would not."

Reading this I realized it's not just students who could use a lesson in face-to-face communication or benefit from a digital detox, we all can.

A *forbes.com* article on the topic gives many reasons business leaders should engage in a digital detox, sharing the not-so-shocking statistic from an Asurion survey that "individuals checked their phones an average of 96 times per day, equating to once every 10 minutes."

This constant connection to our phones and technology isn't great. One issue it causes according to that same article is attention residue, which is the cognitive cost accumulated when shifting from one task to another. From the article, "Even brief micro interruptions can affect our productivity, with a Deloitte study indicating it takes 15 to 23 minutes to regain total concentration."

Another more serious issue is the toll constant phone checking, for example, takes on one's mental health. From the *forbes.com* article, "A Stress in America report by the American Psychological Association reveals that 1 in 5 Americans cite technology as a significant source of stress, with levels escalating as technology use increases."

Of course, social media is part of issue. The article cites research from the *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* that "indicates that unplugging from social media for as little as one week can enhance mental well-being and foster greater social connectedness."

Finally, the *forbes.com* article hit on what the students at Lake Orion High School discovered during their Cell Out — human connection is important. Face-to-face social interaction is a skill we all need to practice in order to master, and it's nearly impossible to do so with a phone stuck to our face.

The students in Lake Orion have inspired me. In the days and weeks ahead I'm going to challenge myself to set parameters for my phone use. I've put a book next to my bed to avoid nighttime scrolling, and I plan to leave my phone at my desk or in my car during meetings.

If a digital detox is good for you, imagine what it can do for your brand. I've written before about the importance of taking your brand's marketing offline. A Digiday article noted that many marketers are turning to traditional advertising methods like newspapers to stand apart. From the article, "the ever-growing digital ad market is getting increasingly cluttered, making it more difficult for marketers to stand out." You know what really stands out? A newspaper ad.

A digital detox allows you time to recharge and focus on strategic brand building. As an added bonus, you'll also have more time to read the newspaper.

Want to learn more about a digital detox for your brand? Email me *ecaswell@mihomepaper.com*.

Emily Caswell is the Brand Manager for VIEW Group, the branding division of View Newspaper Group.

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THE HASTINGS BANNER
VIEW Newspaper Group

STUDY

Continued from Page 1

place for the past two-plus years have often stated how leery they are to burden the taxpayers with this project, but the idea of the county paying for it itself does not seem realistic at this point. The information contained in the feasibility report would help county government to know the best approach to take in terms of funding it.

"I'd like to also loop in our judges and probation (officers) and people who are working around there (to learn) how do we make their jobs easier because Barry County has been great for collaboration," Chairman Dave Jackson said during Tuesday's meeting. "We need to figure out how to not just incarcerate people but to rehabilitate people and how do we incorporate education and information and just make this a better thing."

Abonmarche Byce has worked with other municipalities for the same purpose. In fact, a few weeks ago, some commissioners took a trip to Branch County to tour its jail, one that was developed through help from the firm.

Commissioners on Tuesday morning also took a tour of the Barry County jail to get an idea of its current state and to start developing ideas for the needs of the county.

However, this step does not necessarily indicate a pending solution to this long-standing problem. Roughly six years ago, the county teamed with consultant Tower Pinkster for essentially the same purposes before voters nixed a $25 million millage proposal in the election that followed.

Still, commissioners will give it another go to build what Chairman Jackson called a "generational building" that would last far beyond the board's tenure.

"The question is, how do you put together a building that creates a safer community," Jackson said.

'Family Science Night' returns to local library Feb. 19

Hastings Public Library is set to provide a night of family fun exploring the wonders of science when it hosts its annual "Family Science Night" from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 19.

HPL organizers are inviting area families with children from preschool through fifth grade to attend the annual event and participate in a variety of hands-on activities provided by community organizations.

According to library officials, Family Science Night is an opportunity for kids and their families to discover the joy of science together as the library and partner organizations – Pierce Cedar Creek Institute and Great Start Collaborative of Barry County – aim to create an environment where learning is fun and accessible for everyone.

At the Feb. 19 event, participants will be about to engage in stations where they can conduct chemistry experiments, make seed paper, learn about finger printing, solve STEM problems with the Three Little Pigs – and much more.

HPL officials stated this year's "Family Science Night" will be the biggest yet, with representatives from more than 20 organizations sharing their passion for science and inspiring families to continue exploring at home.

Admission is free and everyone is welcome at this open house-style event.

With over 300 attendees expected, this event promises to be a memorable evening filled with curiosity, creativity, and community spirit.

The HPL is located at 227 E. State St. in Hastings. For more information, contact the library by calling 269-945-4263. — *DM*



Hastings Public Library is hosting its annual "Family Science Night" from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 19. **Photo provided**



Kids and families can discover the joy of science together through hands-on learning at the Hastings Public Library's Family Science Night on Feb. 19. **Photo provided**

Hastings High School releases honor roll

Hastings High School has announced its honor roll for the first semester of the 2024-25 academic year.

The following honor roll is calculated based on a cumulative grade point average, starting with a student's first semester of high school through the end of first semester this school year. An asterisk for students in ninth, 10th and 11th grades indicates a 4.0 GPA.

12th grade

Top honors (4.0 and above)

Isabel Gee, Donald Kuck, Alyson Miller, Lilyah Solmes.

Highest honors (3.75-3.99)

Naomi Grummet, Rachael Hewitt, Kennedy Lewis, Jordan Milanowski, Brennan Reser, Brandon Simmons, Brooklyn Strickland, Victoria Tack.

High honors (3.25-3.74)

Tanner Allerding, Tanner Armstrong, Jett Barnum, Mason Benton, Riley Bondurant, Anika Bourassa, Carter Favreau, Ella Ferguson, JoDee Gaskill, Ondreya Griswold, Baylie Guernsey, Makaila Hawkins, Jordan Humphrey, Emma Jeanette, Micah Johnson, Logan Kerby, Kalli Koning, Alan Li, Miles Lipsey, MaeLynn Miller, Mia Miller, Jayse Peterson, Seth Pirtle, Amelia Price, Elijah Randall, Hayley Rasey, Heaven Simmet, Nicklas Stehr, Jennifer Stoline, Melany Vargas, Zoe Watson, Memphis White.

Honor roll (3.0-3.24)

Elissa Bafaro, Justine Bayabay, Zoey Bennett, Abigayl Bower, Inga Clum, Garrett Dunn, Alora Fish, Georgia Goldner, Isabella Harvath, Brett Johnson, Isabella Kensington, Rachel King, Kyle Lumbert, Preston Meece, Hayley Miller, Kyle Morgan, Heather Shakespeare, Anna Shaver, Madison Vickery, Jordyn Winters, Linda Wright.

11th grade

Highest honors (3.75 and above)

Annemarie Allerding, Reese Bernstein, Olivia Bucher, Matthew Domenico, *Charlotte Drake, *Lauren Gee, Riley Gurtowsky, *Riley Herron, *Ethan Holman, Daniel Jensen, *Carter Krzysik, Adriana Meyers, Ava Noteboom, *Josalyn Russell, Bayley Smith, Brayden Thielen, Collin Tossava, *Mazie Waterman.

High honors (3.25-3.74)

Arika Alexander, Aden Armstrong, Ashlyn Bailey, Alana Brown, Kyla Brown, Aiden Byle, Hope Carley, Nella Coipel, Ellie Cousins, Shiloh Crandall, Spencer Crozier, Kyle Echtinaw, Bronson Elliott, Anderson Forell, Olivia Friddle, Tori Gardner, Olivia Goodrich, Reese Hammond, Jaqueline Herrera Nuno, Jacquelynn Johnston, Alexander Kohmescher, Reese Lehman, Isaac Lilley, Dezarae Mathis, Jadalie Miller, Claudia Minch, Maylee Olin, Megan Ramey, Trapper Reigler, Tyce Richardson, Shealagh Rose, Carisa Rosenberger, William Shrubb IV, Matthew Shults, Natalie Snyder, Isabelle Stanton, Dixie Verbeek, Gracie Wilson, Mason Wright.

Honor roll (3.00-3.24)

Carter Bell, Cayden Cappon, Colten Denton, Madison Elzinga, Tanner Hill, Esther King, Jaden Marble, Haley Merrick, Aiden Oliver, Alexia Owen, Madilynn Peake, Kendell Shinault, Kyree Snider, Madison Weatherly, Lainey Westworth.

10th grade

Highest honors (3.75 and above)

*Meredith Ansorge, *Alexa DeCamp, Petra Foster, Sadie Hanford, Ethan Hawthorne, *Sophia Haywood, Gabryella Juskewicz, *Alexa Lilley, Caroline Randall, William Renner IV, *Mallory Rohe, Lucy Shafer, *Annika Solmes.

High honors (3.50-3.74)

Ava Arens, Ashton Brubaker, Henry Elzinga, Brissa Hernandez-Hernandez, Colt Jousma, Logan Kimmel, Cordelia Kniaz, Caleb Kramer, Tori Morgan, Ava Patterson, Zachary Patterson, Ayden Schwartz, Zikarra Warner, Raegan Wattles, Spencer Wilkins.

Honor roll (3.25-3.49)

Olivia Allen, Kyra Bishop, Jaxon Blake, Jackson Busson, Sydnie Diljak, Quintin Eberly, Bella Friddle, Lola Grego, Arika Harris, Madison Killian, Reese Loftus, Aubree Milcher, Maverik Peake, Hailee Pickford, Cassie Rosenberg, Madison Stora, Allison Tefft, Hayden Van Zanten, Kaiden Wouters.

Ninth grade

Highest honors (3.75 and above)

*Audrey Acker, Violet Bivens, Parker Castaneda, Dakota Cole, Parker Erb, Rene Espinal-Lopez, Brooke Favreau, *Carson Gole, Jonah Hamp, *Graceyn Horrmann, *Tanner Krzysik, *Nolan Lucas, Brennen Main, *Olivia Malik, Jackson McKinney, Zane Ortiz, *Lilly Randall, Kaylee Roe, Isabella Strimback, Harrison Thomas, Alexander Timmers, Weston Troyer, Kaleb Watson.

High honors (3.50-3.74)

Jace Acker, Allison Brown, Sophia Bucher, Olivia Buehler, Kimberlee Coolidge, Graden Courtright, Landon Currier, Lillian Edger, Joseph Furrow, Elijah Gilbert, Remington Jerzyk, Jason Jimenez, Evyn Kindel, Alexis King, Mya Luna, Kaden Main, Charles Mattice, Jett Nofz, Trevin Russell, Jesse Talley, Grant Tossava, Avery Walsh.

Honor roll (3.25-3.49)

Ella Allyn, Taylor Aspinall, Jax Balderson, Kylee Bosworth, Kade Case, Morgan Casselman, Ryann-Lynn Cole, Thomas Cook, Parker Engelsma, Ashlynn Goldsworthy, Ethan Hetrick, Cooper Hokanson, Annabelle Kuck, Dennon Merrick, Isabella Ozdych, Sydney Patterson, Kassidy Peake, Jazmin Porras-Griffin, Valerie Ramirez, Cora Shattuck, Shaun Strimback. — *MM*



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BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hayes Springstead, born at Corewell Health Pennock on December 6, 2024 to Alexis Walker and Austin Springstead of Eaton Rapids.

*****

Juno Adelina Perez-Wells, born at Corewell Health Pennock on December 6, 2024 to Jenna Wells and Jose Agustin Perez of Hastings.

*****

Delaney Rose Geiger, born at Corewell Health Pennock on December 6, 2024 to Monica Rose Frazier-Geiger and Andrew Mark Geiger of Freeport.

*****

Liberty Hall, born at Corewell Health Pennock on December 18, 2024 to Mersaydies Hall of Plainwell.

*****

Maxwell J. Morris, born at Corewell Health Pennock on December 20, 2024 to Madalyn Anderson and Mitchell Morris of Hastings.

*****

Janetlynn June Bethany Arlene Scott, born at Corewell Health Pennock on December 26, 2024 to Katlynn Scott and Eric Scott of Delton.

*****

Aidan Joseph Gibson, born at Corewell Health Pennock on December 24, 2024 to Abbie Gibson and Joey Gibson of Hastings.

*****

Prudence Melanie Back, born at Corewell Health Pennock on December 30, 2024 to Shelby Flores and Donald Back of Nashville.

*****

Roxanne Jean, born at Corewell Health Pennock on December 31, 2024 to Sam Burmania and Matt Burmania of Hastings.

*****

Crew Douglas, born at Corewell Health Pennock on January 8, 2025 to Karissa Kellogg of Vermontville.

*****

Brantley Owen Feldt, born at Corewell Health Pennock on January 10, 2025 to Addison Mays and Steve Feldt of Hastings.

*****

Jayden Ezra Jackson, born at Corewell Health Pennock on January 14, 2025 to Amanda Jackson and Bobby Jackson of Delton.

*****

Landyn David Lee Ulrich-Baldry, born at Corewell Health Pennock on January 17, 2025 to Hailey Ulrich of Nashville and Jacob Baldry of Delton.

*****

Rustynn Beau Allen Christianson, born at Corewell Health Pennock on January 17, 2025 to Ashley Sweet and Anthony Christianson of Nashville.

*****

Evelynn Mae Sierawski, born at Corewell Health Pennock on January 19, 29, 2025 to Rhoda Sierawski and Andrew Siedrawski of Middleville.

DO YOU **REMEMBER?**



NORTHEASTERN ELEMENTARY STUDENTS ENJOY SPECIAL FIELD TRIP

— BANNER JUNE 22, 1995 —

Each student in Larry Ricco and Susan Allen's classes at Northeastern Elementary in Hastings had the opportunity to ride and get to know a horse for more than an hour on a unique field trip recently. The trip, a reward for students for strong effort all year, was provided by the teachers. Shown riding mighty steeds at the Flying Horseshoe Ranch are (front to back) Jason Fisher, Tina Main and Tasha Woodmansee.

HASTINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY SCHEDULE

Feb. 6-11 – Friends of HPL Book Sale donations accepted.

Thursday, Feb. 6 – Movie Memories and Milestones watches a 1943 film starring Margaret O'Brien and James Craig, 5 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 7 – Friday Story Time 10:30 a.m.

Saturday, Feb. 8 – Friends of the Library luncheon, noon-2 p.m.

Feb. 10-12 – February book sale set-up.

Monday, Feb. 10 – Crafting Passions, 10 a.m.; Stories and Snacks, 4 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 11 – Baby Cafe, 10 a.m.; mahjong, 2 p.m.; Teen Button Making (grades 9-12), 3:30 p.m.; chess, 5 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 12 – Community health workers at HPL, 10 a.m.-noon; Itsy Bitsy Book Club, 10:30 a.m.

More information about these and other events is available by calling the library, 269-945-4263.



ASK **DR. UNIVERSE**

Unique as a snowflake

What makes snow sparkle?
— Hillary's first graders, Washington State

Dear first graders,

I love bright, snowy days. That's when you'll find me building snowmen, throwing snowballs and watching the sun sparkle on the freshly fallen snow.

I asked my friend Von Walden why that sparkle happens. He's an atmospheric scientist at Washington State University. Some of his research takes place near the North Pole and the South Pole.

He told me that snow sparkles because of the way snowflakes interact with the sun.

It turns out snowflakes are ice crystals. On Earth, snowflakes are hexagonal. That means they're crystals with six sides.

When a snowflake falls, it can land in lots of different positions.

"Some might fall on their edge and get jammed into the snow," Walden said. "Some will fall flat. If you really got down there and looked, you'd see how uneven the surface of the snow is. So, the sunlight is hitting this uneven surface."

That means light strikes all the parts of the fallen snowflake that stick out.

The light is also traveling from one kind of thing to another kind of thing. It's moving from the air—which is gas—to the snow—which is solid. Any time light does that, it slows down and bends. Scientists call the bending refraction.

That bent light keeps traveling through the snowflake. Some of the light will hit different parts of the snowflake and bounce off. Scientist call light bouncing off something reflection.

As the light bounces off all the different bits of ice crystals on the surface of the snow and zooms back to our eyes, we see sparkles.

But that's not all you can see if you examine snow.

"If you look carefully at a snow surface, it's not only sparkling," Walden said. "There are also different colors. The different wavelengths of sunlight—the red, the blue, the green, the yellow and the purple—all get refracted at different angles."

When we see white light, it's made of all those other colors smooshed together. If that white light enters an ice crystal and gets bent, the different colors in the light will each bend a little bit differently. That separates the colors so we can see them. It makes a rainbow in the snow.

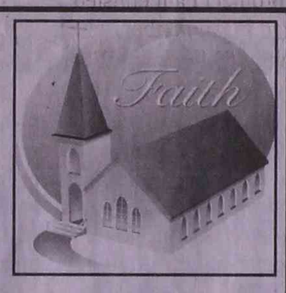
Walden told me that some snow will be extra sparkly. Old snow packs down, and the surface becomes more even. So, the sparkliest snow happens on sunny days right after a snowfall with big snowflakes. Those ice crystals will have crisp edges. They'll stick out of the surface in different ways, ready to bend and bounce lots of light.

You just need to s-know when and where to look.

— Dr. Universe

Do you have a question? Ask Dr. Universe.
Send an email to Washington State University's resident scientist and writer at Dr.Universe@wsu.edu or visit her website,askdruniverse.com.

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SOLID ROCK BIBLE CHURCH OF DELTON
7025 Milo Rd., P.O. Box 765, (corner of Milo Rd. & S. M-43), Delton, MI 49046. Pastor Roger Claypool, (517) 204-9390. Sunday Worship Service 10:30 to 11:30am, Nursery and Children's Ministry. Wednesday night Bible study and prayer time 6:30 to 7:30 pm.

COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH
502 E. Grand St., Hastings. Pastor Tod Shook Wednesdays - Bible Study - 6 to 7 p.m.; Sunday School - 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.; Sunday Service - 11 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
www.cbchastings.org.

WOODLAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
203 N. Main. Pastor: Kathy Smith. Sunday School 9:15 a.m.; Worship 10:15 a.m.

CHRIST THE KING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (PCA)
328 N. Jefferson Street. Worship 10 a.m. Nursery provided. Pastor Peter Adams, contact 616-690-8609.

ST. ROSE OF LIMA CATHOLIC CHURCH
805 S. Jefferson. 269-945-4246 Pastor Father Jeff Hanley. Mass 4:30 p.m. Saturday. Mass 8 and 11 a.m. Sunday.

LIFEGATE COMMUNITY CHURCH
301 E. State Rd., P.O. Box 273, Hastings, MI 49058. Pastor Scott Price. Phone: 269-948-0900. Website: www.lifegatecc.com. Sunday Worship 10 a.m. Wednesday Life Group 6:30 p.m.

HASTINGS BAPTIST CHURCH
309 E. Woodlawn, Hastings. Matt Moser, Lead Pastor. Sunday Services: 9:15 a.m. Sunday School for all ages; 10:30 a.m. Worship Service; Senior High Youth Group 6-8 p.m.; Young Adults 6-9 p.m. Wednesday, Family Night 6:30-8 p.m., Kids 4 Truth (Children Kindergarten-5th Grade), 6:30-8 p.m. Middle School Youth Group; 6:30 p.m. Bible Study and Prayer. Call Church Office 948-8004 for information.

PLEASANTVIEW FAMILY CHURCH
2601 Lacey Road, Dowling, MI 49050. Pastor, Steve Olmstead. (269) 758-3021 church phone. Sunday Service: 10 a.m.

This information on worship services is provided by The Hastings Banner, the churchesand these local businesses:

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HHS Alumni Banquet planning underway

The Hastings High School Alumni Association is planning the 138th Annual Hastings High School Alumni Banquet to be held on Saturday, Aug. 23, during the weekend of Summerfest. The banquet will be held at the First Presbyterian Church on M-37 in Hastings and includes a catered dinner served at 5:30 p.m.

The banquet highlights the class that is celebrating its 50th class reunion. This year's honored class graduated in 1975. They are tasked with participating in the program to help make the banquet a success.

All graduates from Hastings High School are welcome to attend. The other classes that will be honored this year are from 1950, 1955, 1960.1965. 1970, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, through the present. Representatives from these classes are encouraged to attend the banquet and celebrate their graduation anniversary.

Each year, the alumni association gives out the Alumnus of the Year award. Nominations must be typed and must contain biographical information and reasons why the individual is being nominated. Reasons can include accomplishments, vocation honors or awards received, community service, organization memberships and other helpful information. The nominee does not need to be a Hastings resident but must be an alumnus of HHS.

Anyone who wishes to help with planning the banquet or joining the association is encouraged to attend the next alumni meeting on Feb. 23. Meetings are held on Sunday afternoons at 2 p.m. at the offices of J-Ad Graphics, 1351 N. M-43 Hwy in Hastings (use entrance behind building).

Anyone wishing for more information about the alumni association or nominations for Alumnus of the Year can contact board president Merry Ossenheimer at 269-948-8363. — *MM*

PIERCE CEDAR CREEK INSTITUTE EVENTS

— FEB. 7-14 —

Those interested can register for these events and find more information at cedarcreekinstitute.org/events/

Feb. 1-28 — Feb. Storybook Walk: "Winter Trees" by Carole Gerber; illustrated by Leslie Evans. A boy and his dog use their senses of sight and touch to identify seven common trees in the snow-covered forest. The Storybook Walk is free and self-guided on the Black Walnut Trail.

Feb. 1-28 — A Frosty Mystery Game. Solve the mystery! Follow clues on each sign to solve the mystery of who stole the Institute's rose hips.

Saturday, Feb. 8 — A Winter Walk on Candlelit Trails, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Take an evening to enjoy the quiet, peaceful sounds and sights of winter under the February "Snow Moon."

Friday, Feb. 14 — Valentine's Day specialty dinner. Doors: 5:30 p.m; dinner at 6 p.m. Celebrate Valentine's Day with a romantic four-course dinner for two. Seating is limited; those interested are asked to make their reservations early. Select from prime rib, chicken Parmesan or a plant-based meal when registering.

More information about these events can be found on the Institute's website at CedarCreekInstitute.org.

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

'In My Time' Part II

BANNER JULY 27, 1995

JOYCE F. WEINBRECHT

The following is a continuation of an account of the early life of the Ellis Faulkner family, written by Robert Faulkner.

"In the morning, Dad would come into the kitchen in his nightshirt, lay strips of newspaper in the firebox of the range, add some kindling, a couple of sticks of firewood, light the fire and put the teakettle on so he would have hot water for shaving. He shaved in front of a small mirror, dressed except for his shirt and with the suspenders hanging to his knees. He shaved with a straight razor that he honed on a leather strop. After each stroke of the razor, he wiped the soap and whiskers from the blade on a piece of newspaper.

"Summer vacation lasted three months and seemed much longer. We had to work some, weeding the garden, picking strawberries and vegetables and doing some chores, including the most hated of all duties, washing and wiping dishes.

"But we also had lots of time to play. Sometimes we would dig angle worms and with our long cane poles over our shoulders cut across the fields to Pleasant Lake. Here, we would roll up our knee britches as far as we could, wade out as far as possible and fish for bluegills.

"Sometimes we would go swimming. When I was 5, I learned to swim in Pleasant Lake. The lake was on the back of the Pennock's farm. In those days, it was all woods and fields around the lake. There wasn't a house in sight.

"There were two other lakes close to Delton, Crooked and Wall. My father put up ice from Wall Lake for his soda fountain. The ice was put in the ice house in blocks about a foot thick. Sawdust from the lumber mill was poured over each layer. We had ice until mid-September. Then, the soda fountain was closed for winter.

"My father liked to fish through the ice and often I would walk with him up the lane-like road to the brickyard, then cut through the woods and swampy area that was impassable in summer and onto the ice of Wall Lake. He would cut half a dozen holes in the ice, tie his fish line to a stick and set his lines. Then, in a day or two, he would go back, remove the fish, mostly bluegills, and rebait the hooks.

"If my father were disobeyed, he could be very stern and unrelenting. One morning, it was very cold and there was a strong north wind. He dressed to go to the lake to run his lines. I put on my overshoes, heavy coat and mittens, prepared to accompany him. He told me I couldn't go. However, when he set out, I tagged along behind. I was 6 or 7 at the time. Dad set out at a pace I couldn't keep up with and I kept falling further and further behind, but he never so much as glanced back.

"Beyond the brickyard was a lone house on the edge of the woods. By the time we reached there, my hands, feet and face were hurting from the cold. I was a shy child and didn't know the Sensibas who lived in this isolated house, but I knew I couldn't make it home without getting warm first. So I timidly knocked on the door. They welcomed me in and I warmed myself in front of their pot-bellied stove. After an hour or so, my father returned and I fell in behind him. He never uttered a word all the way home, nor did he ever mention the incident later. I never went with him to the lake after that. I had learned my lesson.

"March is the month sap rises in maple trees. It is a month of freezing nights and mild days. Walking to school on a cold March morning, we could see icicles hanging from some maple branches that had been fractured by the March winds. We would pick them and suck on the sweet ice. So we had our own maple popsicles before popsicles were even invented.

"A few people tapped their trees and made maple syrup, but it was not produced commercially in our areas.

"Michigan has cold winters and deep snow. Our winter play included sliding down hills, making snowmen, tunneling in snowdrifts, and, of course, snowball fights.

"If any of you are historians, you may wish to research the events leading up to the election of 1912.

"Theodore Roosevelt was trying to capture the Republican Party's presidential nomination from President Howard Taft. During his time as president, Roosevelt had used the Sherman Anti-Trust Act to break up monopolies. He was known as the 'trust buster.' The rank-and-file Republicans were for Roosevelt, but the party machinery was in the hands of President Taft.

"Taft was favored by the big corporations, including the railroads. My father was active in politics and a strong supporter of Roosevelt, as were practically all of the Western Michigan delegates to the state convention. The party machine gave the convention to Bay City on Michigan's east coast.



The Faulkner family in the family car, ca. 1916.

"A trainload of Western Michigan delegates pulled out of Grand Rapids for Bay City on time, but the train was delayed at every station and, at one place, pulled onto a siding to wait an hour for a freight to pass. When the angry delegates asked the conductor for an explanation, he would only say they had orders to wait.

"The train arrived too late in Bay City for the delegates to vote. A solid Taft delegation had been selected to go to the national convention. If similar tactics were used in other states, it would account for Taft's renomination, which resulted in Roosevelt's Bull Moose Party.

"The split in the Republican party gave the election to Democrat Woodrow Wilson.

"This brings to mind another election. Four years later, on election night in November 1916, my father went to the telegraph station in the railroad depot to get the election returns as they came in off the wire. We waited. Up late that night until he came home with the glad news that Hughes had won. It was not until the next day when the California vote had been counted that we learned that Wilson had been re-elected on a pledge to keep us out of the European war.

"I still remember where I was when I heard that the U.S. had declared war on Germany. Our teacher required the fifth-grade students to bring current events to school. Most of the accounts concerned our entry into World War I. This was, of course, in April of 1917.

"In 1918, my father and (his brother) Paul enlisted in the Army. They were stationed in Ann Arbor, where Paul was attending the University of Michigan. When the great flu epidemic of 1918 struck, there was such a shortage of doctors that my father, being a pharmacist, was put in charge of one of the makeshift hospitals. He was always so proud of the fact that not one of his patients died, although the death rates in the other hospitals were high. He attributed his record to dosing his patients with quinine and lots of liquids.

"I will never forget Nov. 11, 1918. Germany surrendered, (and) the church bell and school bells rang. Everyone was in a holiday spirit. Arnold, Earl and I posed for a photograph proudly shown of us in the Kalamazoo Gazette with the one-word banner headline: 'Peace.'

"During the war, the people were magnificent. They bought war savings stamps. People gladly observed meatless days and gasless Sundays and used corn sugar instead of cane sugar. They raised victory gardens. The ladies knitted wool socks and sweaters for the servicemen. We all supported the war effort in every way we could. We boys stood on the sidewalks and shouted 'slacker' if a car went by on a gasless Sunday.

"It must have been 1915 or 1916 that my father was named secretary of the Board of Pharmacy. In those days, there was no board office in Lansing. The office was wherever the secretary lived.

"One day, a huge safe arrived. It contained all the records of the board. It was too big and heavy to put in the house, so Dad had it put in the barn. So, for two years, the office of the State Board of Pharmacy was in a cow barn in Delton.

"I can't remember the exact year, but I believe it was 1917 that Dad had a severe attack of rheumatism. He had been bothered with the awful disease off and on for years, but this attack was so severe that he was confined to bed most of the time. He could hobble around, but to do so was very painful.

"He had a country doctor from Hickory Corners. The doctor said, 'Ellis, I can cure you if you take 14 shots of medicine I have, but the shots are very painful and get worse because (each) shot is larger than the one before. Unless you agree to take all of them, I won't even start them.'



The Delton Elevator, photographed by Ellis Faulkner.

"I think that my father would have agreed to anything at that point. Though my father lived to be 81, he never had rheumatism or arthritis again. The shots had cured him, but in 1981 (and in 1995 and 2025) we have no cure for rheumatism or arthritis.

"During this period, Earl, my older brother, who was born Jan. 30, 1906, was peddling the Kalamazoo Gazette around Delton in order to make enough money to buy a bicycle. Sometimes I would tag along.

"The last part of his route took us south by the Methodist Church to the end of the sidewalk. A path led to the few houses beyond the church. Along the path, there was a grassy bank. Here we would sit with our backs against the bank while Earl would read me the funnies. We ignored the angry remarks of the customers who objected to their papers being late.

"When Earl finally got his bicycle, he generously let Arnold and me ride it. Arnold and I both learned to ride on his bike, even though our legs could not touch the ground and we had to start and stop at the house steps. Arnold is two years younger than I. He was born March 7, 1912. He was more adventurous than me and everything I could do he would try and usually succeed in doing.

"After Dad returned from the Army, Gov. Sleeper appointed him Judge of the Probate for Berrien County to fill a vacancy. He had to stand for election in April 1919. In those years, all judicial and township offices were filled in a spring election. He won easily. The next day at school, my fellow students marched around me and pointed their fingers saying, 'Judge, judge, judge!' I never did figure out if they were celebrating or making fun of me.

"The following summer, Dad had to make what may have been the most difficult decision of his life. After being appointed judge, he entered upon his duties with characteristic dedication. He purchased a set of Blackstone, a course in common law. He carefully studied all of the material dealing with wills and probate. All his energies were directed toward becoming a competent and respected judge.

"Early that summer he told me he was in a difficult position. Being only 9, I was flattered that my father would talk to me as though I were 'grown up.'

"This is what he said: '20 years ago when I was working for John Armstrong, I said that if ever his drugstore was for sale, I wanted to buy it. You know, I was working there when I met your mother. We still know people in Middleville. I've always liked it there. Now, John is ready to retire and his store is for sale. It's what I've always wanted, but I've just been elected judge and a lot of good friends all over the county worked real hard for my election I would be letting them down.'

"Well, his dream won out, and in the autumn of 1919, we moved to Middleville.

"Before moving on to Middleville, I was to give you a little more feel of what life was like in Delton in the second decade of the 20th century.

"The ladies of Delton wore ankle-length dresses, ankle-high shoes that were fastened with a button hook, and wore their long hair in a bun on the back of the head. No girl's hair was cut from the time she was born. When my mother washed her hair, it hung to her hips. We boys wore knee britches, long black hose and ankle-high shoes.

"Once, my dad bought me some low-cut walking shoes or Oxfords. I was only 5 or 6. He took me with him when he went by train to Detroit to drive home a new Ford from the factory. We went to the factory and saw them driving the cars off the end of the assembly line. But the night before, he bought me the shoes and took me to see a play. My feet hurt from the new shoes and the play bored me. I'm sure Dad regretted ever taking me along.

"The drive home over dirt roads in an open car was very tiring. The only paved roads were in larger cities, Detroit, Ann Arbor, Jackson, Battle Creek and Kalamazoo. These roads were mostly brick."

To be continued...

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Your Community Connection

SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

Faster processing of disability claims for people with Alzheimer's disease

HILLARY HATCH
Social Security Administration

Today, more than 5 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's disease. It is a brain condition that causes problems with memory, thinking, and behavior. Since the onset of Alzheimer's can occur in younger people before they retire, it may affect their ability to work as the disease progresses.

Our benefits and services are especially vital to people with early-onset Alzheimer's who are unable to work and may have no other source of income. They may want to apply for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Our Compassionate Allowances program provides faster processing of disability claims for people with early-onset Alzheimer's disease and several other neurodegenerative (brain degenerative) disorders.

More than a decade ago, Social Security added early-onset Alzheimer's disease to our Compassionate Allowances program. You can learn more about our Compassionate Allowances program at ssa.gov/compassionateallowances.

Hillary Hatch is the Public Affairs Specialist for West Michigan. You can write her c/o Social Security Administration, 3045 Knapp NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525, or via email at hillary.hatch@ssa.gov.

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Barry County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM on 2/20/2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Names of Mortgagor(s): Jerry L. Plank III. Original mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Guaranteed Rate, Inc. Date of mortgage: 6/4/2019. Mortgage recorded on 6/14/2019 as Document No. 2019-005699. Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Guaranteed Rate, Inc. Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: $105,658.25 Mortgaged premises: Situated in Barry County, and described as: PROPERTY SITUATED IN THE VILLAGE OF FREEPORT, COUNTY OF BARRY, AND STATE OF MICHIGAN DESCRIBED AS: PARCEL 1: LOT 4, BLOCK 10, VILLAGE OF FREEPORT, BEING PART OF SECTION 1, TOWN 4 NORTH, RANGE 9 WEST, IRVING TOWNSHIP, BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN. PARCEL 2: PART OF LOTS 5 AND 6, BLOCK 10, VILLAGE OF FREEPORT, IRVING TOWNSHIP, BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN, DESCRIBED AS: COMMENCING AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF LOT 6, BLOCK 10, VILLAGE OF FREEPORT AS LAID OUT AND REPLATTED BY SAMUEL ROUSH'S ADDITION; THENCE NORTH ON THE WEST LOT LINE OF SAID LOT 6, 75.0 FEET, TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE EAST, 66.28 FEET, PARALLEL WITH THE SOUTH LINE OF LOT 6, TO A POINT 75.0 FEET NORTH OF THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID LOT 6 AND THE EAST LOT LINE OF LOT 6; THENCE NORTH 51.80 FEET, ALONG SAID EAST LOT LINE, TO THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID LOT 6 AND THE SOUTH LINE OF PLATTED 10 FOOT WIDE ALLEY; THENCE WEST, 66.19 FEET, ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID LOT 6 AND THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID ALLEY; THENCE CONTINUING WEST ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID ALLEY AND THE NORTH LINE OF SAID LOT 5, 66.18 FEET, TO THE WEST LINE OF LOT 5, BLOCK 10; THENCE SOUTH ON SAID WEST LINE 15.0 FEET; THENCE EAST, 66.18 FEET; PARALLEL WITH THE NORTH LINE OF SAID LOT 5, TO THE WEST LINE OF LOT 6; THENCE SOUTH 36.93 FEET, ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID LOT 6, TO A POINT 75.0 FEET NORTH OF THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID LOT 6 AND THE POINT OF BEGINNING. Commonly known as 106 Cherry St, Freeport, MI 49325. The redemption period will be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless the property is abandoned or used for agricultural purposes. If the property is determined abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days after the statutory notice, whichever is later. If the property is determined abandoned under MCL 600.3241, the redemption period will be 1 month from the date of such sale. If the property is presumed to be used for agricultural purposes pursuant to MCL 600.3240(16), the redemption period is 1 year from the date of such sale. The redemption period may be extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Date of Notice: 01/16/2025. Codilis & Moody, P.C. 15W030 North Frontage Road, Suite 100 Burr Ridge, IL 60527 (313) 536-2500. This law firm is a debt collector. C&M File 23-24-00403
(01-16)(02-06)

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SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - BARRY COUNTY

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Barry County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on February 27, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Jordan Jones, a single man and Stephanie Kelley, a single woman Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender`s successors and assigns Date of mortgage: March 27, 2018 Recorded on March 30, 2018, in Document No. 2018-003356, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Seventeen Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty-Eight and 35/100 Dollars ($117,988.35) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Barry County, and described as: Parcel 1: COMMENCING AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SECTION 10, TOWN 1 NORTH, RANGE 8 WEST; THENCE NORTH 1 DEGREES 0 MINUTES EAST ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID SECTION 10 A DISTANCE OF 50 FEET TO THE NORTHERLY LINE OF BRISTOL ROAD; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 40 MINUTES EAST ALONG THE NORTHERLY ROAD LINE OF BRISTOL ROAD-126.5 FEET FOR THE PLACE OF BEGINNING; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 40 MINUTES EAST 120 FEET; THENCE NORTH 01 DEGREES 00 MINUTES EAST 120 FEET; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 40 MINUTES. WEST 120 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 01 DEGREES 00 MINUTES WEST 120 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING. ALSO, INCLUDING ALL LAND BETWEEN THE DESCRIBED PARCEL AND THE CENTERLINE OF A CHANNEL ON NORTH SIDE OF THE DESCRIBED PARCEL. PARCEL 2: COMMENCING AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SECTION 10, TOWN 1 NORTH, RANGE 8 WEST; THENCE NORTH 1 DEGREES 0 MINUTES EAST ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID SECTION 10 A DISTANCE OF 50 FEET TO THE NORTHERLY LINE OF BRISTOL ROAD, WHICH IS THE PLACE OF BEGINNING, THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 40 MINUTES EAST ALONG SAID NORTHERLY ROAD LINE 126.50 FEET, THENCE NORTH 1 DEGREE 0 MINUTES EAST PARALLEL WITH SAID WEST SECTION LINE 135 FEET TO THE CENTERLINE OF A CHANNEL, THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 40 MINUTES WEST 126.50 FEET TO SAID WEST SECTION LINE, THENCE SOUTH 1 DEGREE 0 MINUTES WEST ALONG SAID WEST LINE 135 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING. ALSO INCLUDING THE RIGHT OF INGRESS AND EGRESS ON SAID CHANNEL FROM THE ABOVE DESCRIBED PARCEL TO BRISTOL LAKE. Commonly known as 2021 E Bristol Rd, Dowling, MI 49050 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400
1551592 (01-30)(02-20)

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mmacleod@mihomepaper.com
THE HASTINGS BANNER
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Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the Circuit Court in Barry County, starting promptly at 01:00 PM, on March 6, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Garth R. Jarman and Mary A. Peck-Jarman AKA Mary A. Peck, Husband and Wife Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Quicken Loans, LLC, its successors and assigns Foreclosing Assignee: Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC Date of Mortgage: July 30, 2021 Date of Mortgage Recording: August 4, 2021 Amount claimed due on mortgage on the date of notice: $169,383.07 Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in the Township of Johnstown, Barry County, Michigan, and are described as: Part of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 27, Town 1 North, Range 8 West, commencing South 88 degrees 21 minutes 25 seconds West, 268.50 feet and South 01 degrees 01 minutes 30 seconds East, 275.47 feet from the Northeast corner thereof; thence South 01 degrees 01 minutes 30 seconds West, 226.21 feet; thence South 88 degrees 21 minutes 25 seconds West, 580.12 feet; thence Northwesterly 202 feet along the centerline of M-37 highway; thence North 88 degrees 21 minutes 25 seconds East, 316.5 feet; thence North 01 degrees 39 minutes 00 seconds West, 24 feet; thence North 88 degrees 21 minutes 00 seconds East, 290.77 feet to the beginning. Commonly Known as: 14083 S M 37 Hwy., Battle Creek, MI 49017 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or upon the expiration of the notice required by MCL 600.3241a(c), whichever is later; or unless MCL 600.3240(16) applies. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention Purchaser: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee for any reason. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest, and the purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee, or the Mortgagee's attorney. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. This notice is from a debt collector. Date of notice: 02/06/2025 Potestivo & Associates, P.C. 251 Diversion Street, Rochester, MI 48307 248-853-4400 319771

(02-06)(02-27)

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NOTICE

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Barry County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM on MARCH 6, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.

Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Jason Fuller, married man, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Neighborhood Loans, Inc., its successors and assigns, Mortgagee, dated April 1, 2020 and recorded April 17, 2020 in Instrument Number 2020-004093 Barry County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by Fifth Third Bank N.A., by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Fifty-Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Sixteen and 39/100 Dollars ($158,816.39).

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Barry County, Michigan at 1:00 PM on MARCH 6, 2025.

Said premises are located in the Township of Assyria, Barry County Michigan, and are described as:

A parcel of land in the Northwest 1/4 of Section 22, Town 1 North, Range 7 West, described as: Commencing 10 rods 8 1/10 links West of the Northeast corner of the West 1/2 of the Northwest 1/4 of said Section 22, thence West 10 rods 8 1/10 links, thence South 12 rods 16 2/10 links, thence East 10 rods 8 1/10 links, thence North to the Place of Beginning.

8150 Tasker Rd, Bellevue, Michigan 49021

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.

Dated: February 6, 2025
File No. 24-009935
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400
(02-06)(02-27)

NOTICE

TO ALL CREDITORS:

The Settlor, Jean M. Swanson, date of birth June 22, 1935, who was a resident of Kent County, Michigan, died December 22, 2024. There is no personal representative of the Settlor's estate to whom Letters of Authority have been issued. Sharon Davis is serving as Trustee as a result of the Settlor's death.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the Jean M. Swanson Living Trust dated December 3, 2018, as amended, will be forever barred unless presented to Sharon Davis, Trustee within four months after the date of publication.

Notice is further given that the Trust will thereafter be assigned and distributed to the persons entitlted to it.

Attorney:
Thomas S. Flickinger P61173
SUMMIT LAW, PLLC
2944 Fuller Avenue, Suite 205
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49525
(616) 600-6370
Trustee:
Sharon Davis
5292 Swanwood
Caledonia, Michigan 49316

TOWNSHIP OF PRAIRIEVILLE
2025 NOTICE OF BOARD OF REVIEW

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Board of Review will meet at the Township Hall, 10115 S. Norris Rd. Delton, Michigan 49046, to examine and review the 2025 assessment roll. The board will convene on the following dates for the hearing of appeals of assessments or taxable values, poverty exemptions, parcel classification appeals and/or current year qualified agricultural denials:

Tuesday, March 4, 2025, 10:00 am Organizational Meeting
Monday, March 10, 2025, 1:00 to 4:00 pm and 6:00 to 9:00 pm
Tuesday, March 11, 2025, 9:00 am to noon and 1:00 to 4:00 pm

And on such additional days as required to hear all persons who have given notice of the desire to be heard until assessment rolls have been revised, corrected and approved.

APPOINTMENTS ARE SUGGESTED; letter appeals will be accepted and must be received no later than 5:00 pm the Friday before the first appeal hearing.

Tentative ratios and estimated multipliers for 2025 are as follows:

Agricultural	44.95%	1.1123
Commercial	50.05%	0.9990
Industrial	40.11%	1.2466
Residential	44.16%	1.1322
Personal Property	50.00%	1.0000

Tentative equalization factor of 1.0000 for all classes is expected after completion of Board of Review.

Jim Stoneburner, Supervisor Prairieville Township
Kevin Harris, Assessor Prairieville Township

Prairieville Township Board Meetings are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, sex or disability.

American with Disabilities (ADA) Notice

The township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon seven (7) days' notice to Prairieville Township. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact Prairieville Township by writing or calling.

Prairieville Township Clerk
10115 S. Norris Rd.
Delton, MI 49046
269-623-2726

TOWNSIDP OF PRAIRIEVILLE
BARRY COUNTY, MICIDGAN
NOTICE OF ORDINANCE ADOPTION

TO: THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PRAIRIEVILLE, BARRY COUNTY, MICIDGAN, AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the following is a summary of Ordinance No. 180, which was adopted by the Prairieville Township Board at a special meeting held on January 29, 2025.

SECTION I REZONING PROPERTY IN LAND SECTION 7. The Zoning Map as incorporated by reference in the Prairieville Township Zoning Ordinance is hereby amended by conditionally rezoning property comprising 2.01 acres on Merlau Avenue in Land Section 7 from "A, Agricultural District" zoning classification to "R-2 Single & Two Family Medium Density Residential District" zoning classification with conditions, which property is further described as 12705 Merlau Avenue tax parcel 12-007-006-50. A conditional zoning agreement containing the applicant's offered conditions of rezoning shall be recorded at the Register of Deeds.

SECTION II SEVERABILITY. The provisions of this ordinance are severable.

SECTION III. REPEAL/EFFECTIVE DATE. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed. This Ordinance shall take eight days after publication after adoption.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the full text of this Ordinance has been posted in the Office of the Prairieville Township Clerk at the address set forth below and that a copy of the Ordinance may be purchased or inspected at the office of the Prairieville Township Clerk during regular business hours of regular working days following the date of this publication.

PRAIRIEVILLE TOWNSHIP
Rod Goebel, Clerk
10115 S. Norris Road
Delton, Michigan 49046
(269) 623-2664

Vikes shout their way to win at CAAC White Final

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Extra weight room time has been a big part of the Vikings' ramp up to the postseason in 2025.

Racks and dumbbells and weight plates working out the glutes and triceps haven't been the focus for the Vikings though. They've been up there to take advantage of the mirrors while working out the zygomaticus major and the muscles in the face and body responsible for smiles, shouts and the like.

"We have to be loud. We have to use facials. A lot of the struggle this year has been getting girls to use their voices and their faces. We know we can physically do the skills, but a lot of it is making it look cool to the audience, so using a lot of facial, using a lot of precision and big voices is huge," Lakewood junior all-state cheerleader Taylor Carpenter said.

The Viking coaching staff has pointed out fixes throughout the season, but wanted the cheerleaders to really see the changes that needed to be made.

"They say, we can tell you these things, but until you see what you're doing wrong it is kind of hard to fix it, so I think it has been helpful just to see, to see yourself doing it, and I think that made a big change for us," Carpenter said.

The Vikings have done some of that in past seasons, and they've reached the MHSAA Division 3 Competitive Cheer Finals in each of the past three seasons, but it is taking a little more work this year with a young squad.

"The previous teams I've been on were veteran teams. We had a lot of girls that kind of knew what was going on," Carpenter said. "For these new girls just to see that and learn that has been a big learning curve, but we're getting there."

It can feel silly the first time or two a cheerleader is staring in the mirror in the weight room focusing so intently on what is going on with the muscles in their face.

"They always tell us, it doesn't look silly when you all are doing it. The sillier you feel, the better you're doing," Carpenter said.

Facials and energy helped the Lakewood varsity competitive cheer team take a victory at the Capital Area Activities Conference White Division Final Wednesday, Jan. 29, at Portland High School.

The win last week wasn't quite enough to get the Lakewood ladies another conference championship as Charlotte clinched the 2025 CAAC White title by beating out third-place Portland by a a few tenths of a point for second on the day. The Orioles won each of the first two conference jamborees and the runner-up finish was enough to give them the championship

Lakewood won Wednesday with an overall score of 749.74 ahead of Charlotte 731.02, Portland 730.28, Lansing Catholic 690.5, Fowlerville 664.88 and Eaton Rapids 573.

"Our whole thing that whole week was we have to be bigger," Carpenter said. "Like, we know we can hit the stuff, but we have to perform. The first two round weren't perfectly how we hoped, but we did our job, and then in round three they just said 'be big. You have to be big or go home.'

"We went big, everything hit, we were exciting and it was enough to beat Charlotte finally. That's good."



The Lakewood varsity competitive cheer team celebrates its victory in the Capital Area Activities Conference White Division Final at Portland High School Wednesday, Jan. 29. The Vikings finish the season second in the conference's overall standings behind Charlotte. **Photo provided**

Lakewood trailed Charlotte by almost seven points heading into round three, but outscored the Orioles 309.2 to 293.5 in that final round. Portland nearly bumped the Vikings into a tie with the Orioles for the top spot overall conference standings with a score of 300.3 points in round three.

The Viking team put together scores of 230.5 in round one and 210.04 in round two.

"Everybody just kind of did their job and all the pieces fell together finally," Carpenter said.

The Raiders had the top round one score of the competition at 230.7, but fell behind the Vikings and Orioles with a 199.28 tally in round two. Charlotte scored 226.3 points in round one to sit in third place at that point, but pulled into the lead with a 221.22 in round two.

The Vikings and Orioles could meet again in the regional round of the MHSAA Division 3 state tournament. Lakewood would have to earn a top four finish at a fairly tough district, which also includes Portland, Feb. 15 at Alma to reach regionals this season.

Lakewood has one final competition on the regular season slate at St. Johns Saturday, Feb. 8.

TK cheer finishes off trio of OK Gold victories

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

There wasn't a fall.

There wasn't a wobble.

There wasn't a doubt.

There was only an explosion of joy when the Trojans raced off the mat at the end of round three in the Thornapple Kellogg High School gymnasium in Middleville Jan. 23. The Trojans fired off a nearly flawless round three performance to earn a score of 312.9 in the round and an overall final score of 748.86 that bested runner-up Northview by more than 21 points at the second OK Gold Conference jamboree of the season.

The Trojans won both of the conference jamborees this winter and finished off an outright conference championship when they won the OK Gold Conference Championship Meet at West Catholic High School Wednesday, Jan. 29, in Grand Rapids. The two jamborees count for the half of the conference overall standings and the other half came from Wednesday's finale.

"It felt electric," Thornapple Kellogg senior Lilly McKeown said of the round three performance on the home mats at the second conference jamboree.

"When I look at coach and she is jumping up and down, and being nine months pregnant that is not easy for her to do, it just feels good."

Trojan head coach Madelynn Lula was just as pleased as her senior back spot McKeown.

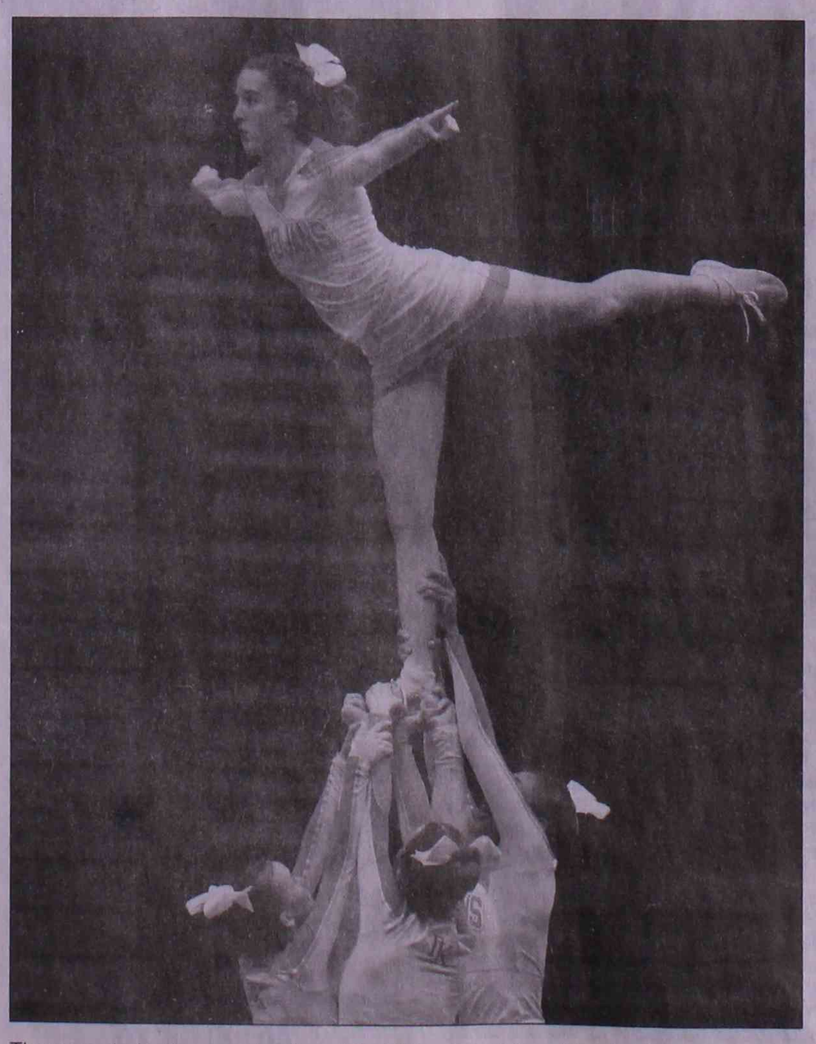
"In that round, yes the performance was fantastic, it was confident, the little things we have been working on like timing of motions and stuff," Lula said. "When it comes down to it, when you're scoring over 300, to get from 300 to 312 is really hard. It's the little tiny things. And it is that much harder when you're competing with 15 instead of 16 because your maximum is so much lower. To go out there with 15 and score that high, that is just that much closer to perfect. The fact that we're getting there already is so exciting. We're able to make the round more, bigger and better and build off of it because we haver the confidence we can do it already.

"I don't think we've gone out there yet and hit that feeling when we came off the mat of like, 'we did it.' Up until now there has always been a stunt fall, or a mistake, or something where they came off and were like that could have been better coach. I know that could have been better. There is nothing like that feeling of running off and being like I gave it 150 percent, and I think they finally felt that feeling today. We hadn't felt it yet."

The Trojans had 15 girls on the mat in round three, because the Trojan senior duo that was honored at the end of the competition is a bit of a MASH unit at the moment. McKeown had a walking boot on during the senior night ceremony despite competing in all three rounds. Fellow senior back spot Olivia Bouchard has spent time in a sling with an injured shoulder for the second season in a row, and is hoping to be able to be back healthy in time for districts.



The Thornapple Kellogg varsity competitive cheer team celebrates its 2025 OK Gold Conference Championship after winning the conference championship meet at West Catholic High School Wednesday, Jan. 30. **Photo provided**



Thornapple Kellogg junior flyer Mia Hilton is held up high by her stunt group during round three of the OK Gold Conference jamboree hosted by TKHS Jan. 23. TK swept the three OK Gold Conference competitions this winter to claim the outright conference championship. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

"It is really tough," Bouchard said of being sidelined just getting to watch her team cheer to a conference championship. "It is really tough. But I am just trying to keep the positive vibes up for my team, because I know I can do it. I show up to practice every day and I'm the number one hype woman. I make sure that they know that they're needed and what they do is important. If they need ice, I get them ice. If they need water I get them water. Just be there for them, that's all I can do."

"What they have contributed makes me kind of emotional to think about," Lula said. "They're my first group that I have coached all four years. I have that much more of an emotional attachment to them, but they're more lead by example kids … The fact that they still go out there and they want it for their team and they're working hard and putting in the effort just shows their leadership more than it is vocalized."

TK also tallied solid scores of 226.6 in round one and 209.18 in round two last Thursday, finishing with the top score in each of the three rounds.

"The parts that we drill in the other rounds are continuing to grow and blossom," Lula said. "I think we just haven't gotten that lightning bolt feeling yet, that sparkle feeling in the other two rounds and they're harder to do because the crowd doesn't get as excited and doesn't get as engaged. I think we're just working on chasing that sparkle at this point. The technique is there. I think the kids, now that they've felt it in a different round I am hoping that then translates into the other two rounds."

Beyond the senior group, Lula said juniors Kaylee Clarke and Mia Hilton both really had a great performance.

"Both of them stood out, both leadership-wise and performance-wise, they both are kids that were the mold, the glue that held today's performances together," Lula said.

Northview was second at the jamboree at TK with a score of 727.22 points ahead of West Catholic 701.12, Wayland 627.4 and Wyoming 540.2.

At the conference championship meet at West Catholic Jan. 29, the TK ladies finished off the three-meet sweep of the conference with a score of 731.18 ahead of West Catholic 729.68, Northview 702.62, Wayland 641 and Wyoming 548.9.

The TK ladies were tops in the first two rounds there with scores of 224.5 and 213.78, then tallied a score of 292.9 in round three which included an eight-point deduction.

West Catholic was in the second-place spot in round three and then capped its conference season on its home mat by flying to a score of 301.9 in round three which was the highest of the competition.

TK shared the 2024 OK Gold Conference championship with Cedar Springs.

Burpee and Nowak win titles for Lions at Big 8 finale

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Exchange student Filip Nowak and junior Jackson Burpee won Big 8 Conference titles for the Maple Valley varsity wrestling team Saturday as Springport played host to the Big 8 Conference Championships.

It is the first conference championship for both.

Burpee stuck Quincy's Lucas Dixon early in the third period of their 190-pound championship match to win the title.

In the 144-pound championship match Nowak outscored Bronson's Brycen Fincham 3-1. Fincham had pinned Nowak in the third period of their match-up in their teams' conference earlier this season.

Bronson still took the day's team championship by beating out Union City by 2.5 points 147-144.5 at the top of the standings. Springport was third with 108 points ahead of Reading 68, Quincy 66, Maple Valley 65.5, Stockbridge 16.5 and Concord 0.

The Maple Valley team also had Joe Long place third and Jeremiah Penny, Roman Schilz and Robert Schilz each placed fourth.

Burpee, the Lions' lone state finalist a year ago, improved his season record to 27-6 with his two wins. He opened his day in the 190-pound weight class by pinning Stockbridge's Klara Hays one minute into their semifinal match.

Nowak scored a technical fall over Quincy's Coy Wood in a quarterfinal bout and then beat out Union City's Andrew Tundevold 4-1 in the 144-pound semifinals. Those three wins upped Nowak's season record to 28-8.

All three of Long's matches in the 285-pound weight class ended with a pin. He closed out his day by sticking Reading's Cayleb Wright in the match for third place earning his 20th victory of the season.

Union City had more individual champions than anyone else at the tournament with Blayne Crance at 106 pounds, Kaden Russell at 120, Logan Mears at 138, Alex Boyer at 150 and Montana Connell of Union City winning championships.

The winning team from Bronson got championships from Layne Knisley at 165 pounds, Mason Lindsey at 175 and Sam Tappenden at 285 pounds.

The Maple Valley Lions were set to start the state postseason Wednesday, Feb. 5, with their MHSAA Division 4 Team District Tournament at Saranac. The Lions take on a Fulton team in one district semifinal contest beginning at 6 p.m. with Saranac and Carson City-Crystal meeting in the district's other semifinal contest. The district final will follow at about 7:30 p.m.

The Lions head to Bellevue Saturday, Feb. 8, for their MHSAA Division 4 Individual District Tournament.

Maple Valley closed the season of Big 8 Conference duals with contests against Quincy and Reading at Maple Valley High School last Wednesday. Quincy took a 40-27 win over the Lions, and Reading outscored the hosts 48-36.

Tyrese Robinson, Burpee and Nowak had pins for the Lions in the dual with Quincy, Joe Long took a forfeit win and Roman Schilz outscored the Orioles' Ryan Rose 10-3 in their 113-pound bout.

In the dual with Reading, Long, Robert Schilz and Nowak had pins and the Lion team got forfeit victories from Jeremiah Penny, Burpee and Roman Schilz.

Vikes double Portland's points to clinch league title

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Lakewood varsity wrestling team capped off an undefeated run to a Capital Area Activities Conference White Division championship by doubling up rival Portland 46-23 on the mat at Mason High School during a CAAC Quad Wednesday, Jan. 29.

The Vikings and Raiders will square off again Thursday, Feb. 6, in the MHSAA Division 3 District Semifinals at Central Montcalm High School at 5:30 p.m. Central Montcalm and Belding meet up in the district's other semifinal match with the district final to follow.

Lakewood wrestlers will also head to Montrose for their MHSAA Division 2 Individual District Tournament Saturday, Feb. 8.

The Vikings and Raiders are familiar postseason foes, and have made battling for a district championship a yearly occurrence. The Vikings beat out the Raiders a year ago and went on to the state quarterfinals in Division 3.

"The more you wrestle them, the harder it is to beat them," Lakewood head coach Tony Harmer said. "It is like a chess match. Where are they going to make moves for next week Wednesday and where are we going to make moves.

"Not sure the score is going to be the same."

The Vikings won nine of the 14 bouts in their dual with the Raiders Wednesday. Oliver Johnson at 120 pounds, Vincent Stamm at 126, Bryce Goodemoot at 144, Bryson Boucher and Owen Prowdley at 175 pounds all scored pins for the Vikings, and Joel Simon finished off the dual with a forfeit win in the 215-pound match.

Prowdley's pin, 1:54 into the 175-pound match against Chase Fullet, clinched the dual for the Vikings.

Lakewood opened the night with Bryan Aguilera outscoring the Raiders' Barrett Spitzley 12-6 in the 285-pound match. Harmer was happy to have Aguilera back in the line-up after a long absence.

Portland led 9-3 after three bouts thanks to a major decision by Branlun Simon over the Vikings' Dakota Harmer at 106 pounds and a 16-1 technical fall for Landon Lanz over the Vikings' Stephen Aldrich at 113 pounds.

Johnson and Stamm got the Vikings rolling with back-to-back pins at 120 and 126 pounds.

The roll slowed just a bit as Portland's Issac Kramer tallied an 11-10 decision over Lakewood's Kade Boucher in the 132-pound bout. A reversal and four near fall points for Kramer in the first period put Boucher in a hole, and then a late take down in the third period clinched the win for the Raider's 132-pounder.

Lydon Rodgers improved the Vikings 15-12 lead to 19-12 with a 13-2 major decision over George Burgoyne at 144 pounds, and then the Vikings' Bryson Boucher followed with a pin of Griffin Opperman late in the third period of their 150-pound bout.

Mason McGregor kept Portland alive with an 18-2 technical fall over Lakewood's Gage LaRoche at 157 pounds, but then the back-to-back pins by Risk at 165 and Prowdley at 175 clinched the Vikings' conference championship.

Bradley Meyers managed to pin Lakewood's Jacob Everett in the 190-pound match to score his team's final points of the evening.

Lakewood was 2-0 on the night also scoring a 44-28 win over Mason in a CAAC crossover. Coach Harmer was really pleased with the effort against the Bulldogs and the teamwork his team showed in getting a race win over the Mason squad. He said Simon came to him midway through the dual and encouraged the Viking head coach to throw his best at the Bulldogs. Coach Harmer has used the crossover matches at the CAAC quads oftentimes to build program depth.

The Viking head coach sent his captain, Simon, off to be the one to announce to teammates that it would be the plan to put the regular top starters on the mat to push for a win, and coach Harmer liked the attitude of his guys all around both ones who would unexpectedly be taking the mat and those who wouldn't.

The dual with Portland ended with the Viking senior state medalist Simon getting an arm raised for a forfeit win. Lakewood took some time to celebrate Simon's 150th varsity victory the Saturday before at the eight-team Lakewood Invitational.

The Vikings followed up the conference championship by sending a few wrestlers to take part in the All CAAC Championship hosted by Holt Feb. 1.

The Lakewood team had Bryan Aguilera at 285 pounds place third, Lydon Rogers at 144 place fifth and Dakota Harmer at 106 place sixth.

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Pair of Panthers take titles at SAC Championship

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Mitchell Swift and Mason Ferris won championships and the Delton Kellogg varsity wrestling team placed fourth at the Southwestern Athletic Conference Championship at Coloma High School Saturday.

A total of five Panthers placed in the top four in their weight class.

Climax-Scotts/Martin beat out Allegan by three points to win the conference tournament, 215-212, after the Tigers upended the conference powerhouse in a dual earlier this season.

Delton Kellogg's Gauge Stampfler was the runner-up at 138 pounds and teammates Evan Stampfler at 120 pounds and Alec Sinkler at 132 pounds both placed third.

Swift ran his record to 31-5 on the season by pinning Climax-Scotts/Martin's Cooper Dinse in the semifinals of the 285-pound weight class and then he took the flight championship when Ayden Oisten from Allegan defaulted due to injury.

Ferris had a little more work to do to get his 190-pound championship for the Panthers. He beat out Climax-Scotts/Martin's Malcolm Smith 6-2 in their championship round match. Ferris pinned Schoolcraft's Hayden Crouch in the quarterfinal round and then took a medical forfeit in his semifinal bout with Gobles' Brody Marshall. Ferris is now 25-9 on the season

Gauge Stampfler pushed his senior season record to 32-4 with his run to second at 138 pounds. He scored a technical fall over Schoolcraft's Nyko Winebaugh and then outscored Climax-Scotts/Martin's Jayce Ritchie 7-1 in the semifinals. In the championship match at 138 pounds, Constantine's Bear Geibe scored a 5-4 win over Stampfler.

Constantine was third on the day with a score of 183.5 ahead of Delton Kellogg 112, Coloma 88.5, South Haven 87.5, Gobles 73.5, Schoolcraft 32, Watervliet 25.5 and Lawton 24 in the top ten.

Evan Stampfler was bested by Climax-Scotts/Martin's Logan Gilbert in the semifinal round at 120 pounds, but eventually rallied to score an 11-3 major decision over Allegan's Cooper Prentice in the match for third place.

Sinkler also reached the semifinals at 132 pounds where he was downed 10-7 by Constantine's Preston Like and then eventually pinned Schoolcraft's Lucas Noora in the match for third.

Lane Steele, Austyn Lipscomb, Mendon Phillips, Isaac Ferris and David Menck all also won matches for the Delton Kellogg team on the day.

Climax-Scotts/Martin had 12 top four medalists on its way to the victory. Gilbert at 120, Cole Reitz at 132 and Haylen Buell all placed first for the CSM team.

Allegan had 11 medalists and a tournament high four champs. Jacob Collier won the 113-pound weight class, Landon Fance-Coulson won at 150, Ryan Sparks took 165 and Rysten Williams won at 175 for the Tigers.

The Panthers were set to head to Martin Wednesday, Feb. 5, for their MHSAA Division 4 Team District Tournament. They were going to face Bloomingdale in one district semifinal while Climax-Scotts/Martin was set to face Gobles in the other. The teams from the district will all be a part of the MHSAA Division 4 Individual District Tournament at Lawton Saturday, Feb. 8.

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NOTICE

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Barry County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM on FEBRUARY 13, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.

Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Darren Fisher, married man, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for First Guaranty Mortgage Corporation dba goodmortgage.com, Mortgagee, dated February 24, 2020 and recorded March 3, 2020 in Instrument Number 2020-002153 Barry County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by Nationstar Mortgage LLC, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Fifty-Six Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty-Seven and 99/100 Dollars ($156,987.99).

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Barry County, Michigan at 1:00 PM on FEBRUARY 13, 2025.

Said premises are located in the Township of Maple Grove, Barry County Michigan, and are described as:

A PARCEL OF LAND IN THE SOUTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 21, T2N, R7W, MAPLE GROVE TOWNSHIP, BARRY COUNTY MICHIGAN, THE SURVEYED BOUNDARY OF SAID PARCEL DESCRIBED AS: COMMENCING AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 21; THENCE N00°11'15"W ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID SECTION 614.00 FEET, THENCE S89°07'59"W PARALLEL WITH THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID SECTION 400.00 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THIS DESCRIPTION; THENCE CONTINUING S89°07'59"W PARALLEL WITH SAID SOUTH LINE 863.00 FEET; THENCE N00°11'15"W PARALLEL WITH SAID EAST LINE 356.50 FEET; THENCE N89°07'59"E PARALLEL WITH SAID SOUTH LINE 863.00 FEET; THENCE S00°11'15"E PARALLEL WITH SAID EAST LINE 356.50 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.TOGETHER WITH AND SUBJECT TO AN EASEMENT FOR INGRESS AND EGRESS AS DESCRIBED HEREON. A 66 FOOT WIDE EASEMENT FOR INGRESS AND EGRESS DESCRIBED AS: A PART 'OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 21, T2N, R7W, MAPLE GROVE TOWNSHIP, BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THE BOUNDARY OF SAID EASEMENT DESCRIBED AS: COMMENCING AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 21; THENCE N00°11'15"W ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID SECTION 614.00 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THIS EASEMENT DESCRIPTION; THENCE S89°07'15"W PARALLEL WITH THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID SECTION 400.00 FEET; THENCE N00°11'51"W PARALLEL WITH SAID EAST LINE 66.00 FEET; THENCE N'89°07'59"E PARALLEL WITH SAID SOUTH LINE 400.00 FEET TO THE SAID EAST LINE; THENCE S 00°11'15"E ALONG SAID EAST LINE 66.00 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

7876 S M 66 Hwy, Nashville, Michigan 49073

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.

Dated: January 16, 2025
File No. 23-012495
Firm Name: Orlans PC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400

(01-16)(02-06)

NOTICE TO THE RESIDENTS OF BARRY COUNTY

Notice is hereby given that the Barry County Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing for the following:

Case Number: SP-02-2025 - Cherish VanderVoord (Applicant); Craig & Cherish VanderVoord (Property Owner)

Location: 7841 Marsh Rd, Plainwell MI in Section 20 of Orangeville Township.

Purpose: Request to operate a dog kennel per section 2343, of the Barry County Zoning Ordinance, that will train rescue dogs to be service dogs.

MEETING DATE: February 24, 2025. TIME: 7:00 PM. PLACE: Tyden Center Community Room, 121 South Church Street, Hastings, Michigan 49058

Site inspections of the above described properties will be completed by the Planning Commission members before the hearing. Interested persons desiring to present their views upon an appeal, either verbally or in writing, will be given the opportunity to be heard at the above mentioned place and time.

Any written response may be mailed to the address listed below, faxed to (269) 948-4820, or emailed to Barry County Planning Director Jeff Keesler at jkeesler@barrycounty.org.

The special use applications are available for public inspection at the Barry County Planning Department, 220 West State Street, Hastings, Michigan 49058, during the hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday - Friday. Please call the Barry County Planning Department at (269) 945-1290 for further information.

The County of Barry will provide necessary auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon ten (10) days notice to the County of Barry. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the County of Barry by writing or call the following: Eric Zuzga, County Administrator, 220 West State Street, Hastings, Michigan 49058, (269) 945-1284

Sarah VanDenburg, Barry County Clerk

Matteson hits nine threes as DK gets Winterfest win

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

As calmly as he could Gobles head coach John Curtis shouted out slowly to give his team a reminder as it came back down to the defensive end late in the first half Friday at Delton Kellogg.

"2, 5 has made six threes. 2. 5."

Before the end, Delton Kellogg's number 25, junior Grady Matteson, hit threes number seven, eight and nine as the Delton Kellogg varsity boys' basketball team scored a 56-33 win over the visiting Tigers in Southwestern Athletic Conference Central Division play.

The Tigers beat the Panthers by 11 the first time the two teams met back in December and were tied atop the SAC Central standings with Galesburg-Augusta coming into the Winterfest ballgame at DKHS.

Matteson said he felt good from his first shot of the night, even after a warm-up where he wasn't really feeling it.

"I came out, and I think I went 4-for-4 to start and then I thought, yeah it's going to be a good night," Matteson said.

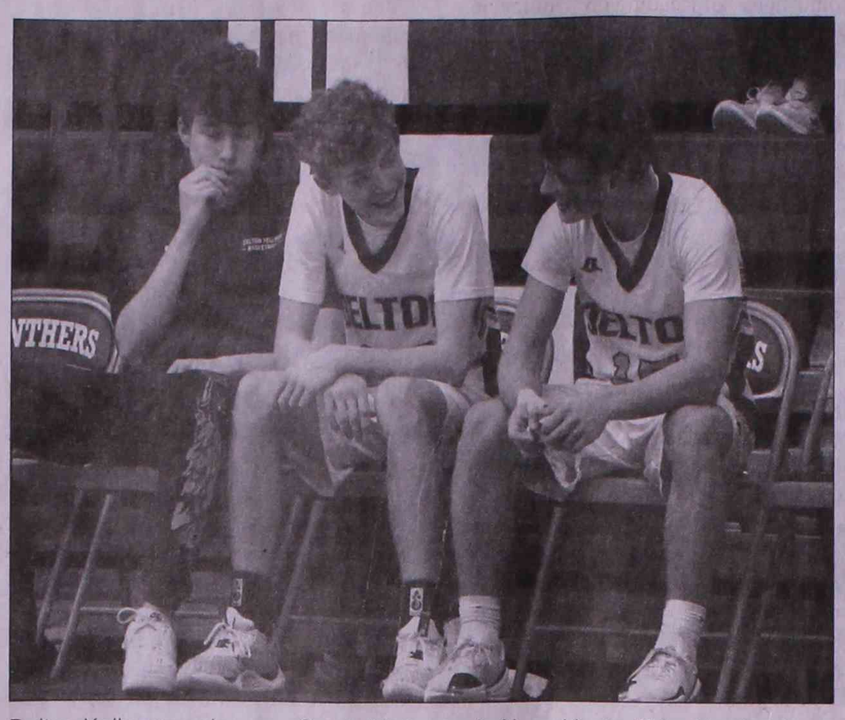
"We had really good ball movement," he added. "We did a good job, we work on it a lot, getting it inside to our big man and then kicking it back out so we can get open threes. We had movement along the baseline, just kind of making them switch their screens and just causing a little bit of confusion. That was really how I got most of my shots, coming off screens or just some defensive miscommunication."

Matteson hit four of his nine threes in the first quarter as Delton shot out to a 20-13 lead in the first eight minutes and then extended that to 33-18 at the half. He finished the night 9-of-11, as best he could remember, behind the arc and had 33 points total.

"We kind of did what I have wanted to do all season long," Delton Kellogg head coach Jason Howland said, "get the lead and just maintain it and build on it. That is by far our best complete game all season long. I can't say enough about the man of the hour – Grady Matteson. "Holy cow, nine threes."

"That's good to see. He works hard at it," Howland added.

Senior guard/Winterfest duke Grant McArthur and junior guard Keegan Hill had eight points apiece for the Panthers. They scored most of their points on transition lay-ups, and Hill was especially bothersome to the Gobles' guards at the top of the Panthers' zone defense.



Delton Kellogg sophomore Grady Matteson (left) and junior Tyler Howland (right) share a laugh on the bench near the end of the Panthers' Winterfest win over visiting Gobles Friday in Delton. Matteson hit nine three-pointers and finished with a game-high 33 points. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

"Our defense has gotten 1,000 percent better," coach Howland said. "That is what won it. Keegan Hill, his defense has gotten so much better, and on both ends of the court to be honest with you. Keegan's D is amazing. That kid, he is frustrating a lot of guards right now and that is what we need."

Gobles was led by 14 points from junior Aiden Beam.

"We talked about it. This is the number one team in our division," coach Howland said. "We feel like we should be up there, but we just let games slip away from us, the last three games before this we lost in overtime against Maple Valley. We never should have done that. We had that lead disappear. K-Christian, we had a nice big lead on them too and we let that slip away on us. Tonight we had that lead and there was this talk, all right let's not let this slip away."

Delton Kellogg evens its overall record at 7-7 with the win and improves to 4-3 in the SAC Central, one game behind the 5-2 Tigers and two behind the now 6-1 Galesburg-Augusta Rams.

"The last time I played this team, I had five points. I was really looking forward to playing them and I know everyone else was too," Matteson added. "Getting beat and then getting a chance to play them again is what you want."

The Panthers have already upped their record to 9-7. They took a 62-49 non-conference win over visiting Climax-Scotts on Monday night and then beat visiting Calhoun Christian 68-35 Tuesday.

The Panthers dealt with some illness and injury Monday, but pulled out the win against Climax-Scotts after a slow start.

"After the first we concentrated on our defense going into the second quarter and were able to regain the led outscoring climax 21-3," coach Howland said. "I was pleased with the effort, and that quarter turned out to be a big one for us we needed those extra points going forward because Climax kept on fighting and playing tuff throughout the rest of the game."

Tucker Tack, Carter Brickley and Triston McNutt up from the JV played some good minutes for the Panthers. Matteson noted that he was excited to see his cousin, Tack, get his first varsity points Friday in the win over Gobles.

Matteson had three more threes Monday and finished with 19 points. Tyler Howland got hot and finished with a team-high 24 points in the win. Hill had 13 points.

Delton Kellogg goes on the road int eh SAC Central to face Saugatuck Friday, Feb. 7.



Delton Kellogg junior Keegan Hills (right) and senior Grant McArthur (back) team up to harass Gobles guard Carter Crippin during their SAC Central ballgame at Delton Kellogg High School Friday. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

Panthers avenge earlier loss against Cougars

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The goal this season was growth.

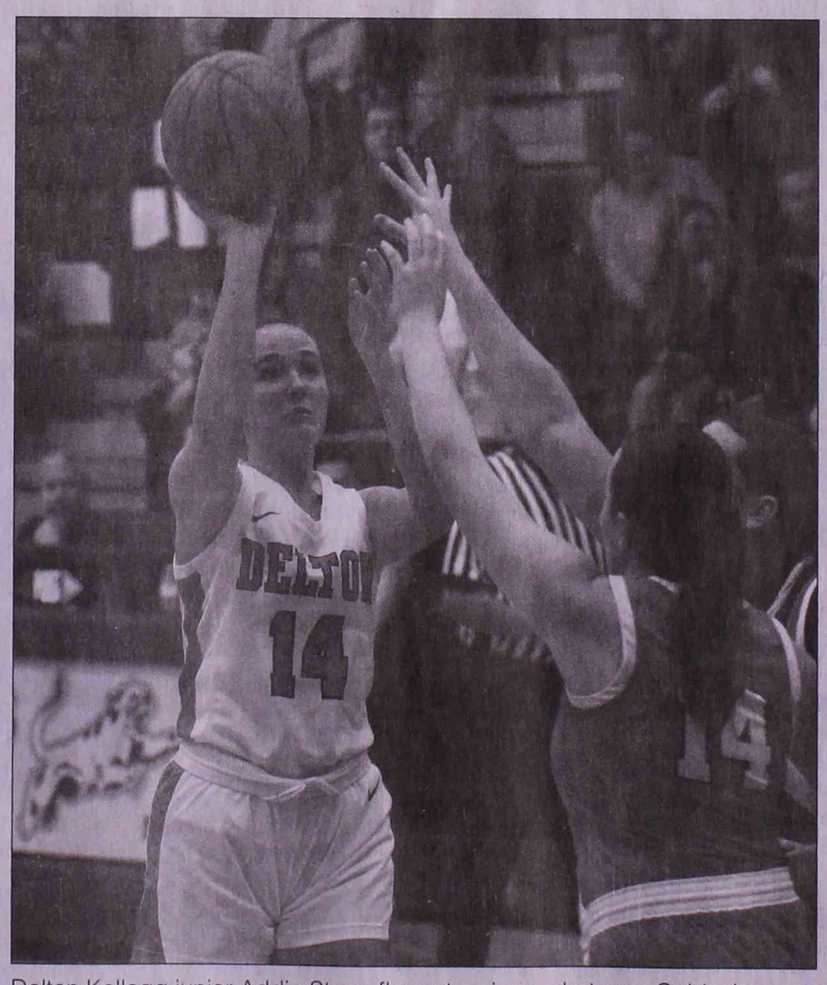
That's what Delton Kellogg head coach Kevin Lillibridge told his girls following a tough 74-45 loss to visiting Gobles in a Southwestern Athletic Conference Central Division ballgame on Winterfest night at DKHS Friday.

The Panthers were much better in the second half rebounding and closing out on shooters in the second half against the Tigers and carried that momentum into Tuesday night with Calhoun Christian. The DK girls won for the second time in four games by outscoring Calhoun Christian 36-34 Tuesday.

Calhoun Christian took a 13-point win when the two teams met in Battle Creek last month, and the Cougars led throughout Tuesday's ballgame too until the very end.

Addie Stampfler banked in a runner at the end to clinch the victory for the Panthers and finished with a team-high 17 points. The Panthers were able to put a 10-0 run together in the fourth quarter to steal the victory.

"Just like they have done all year, they had every reason to quit, and they did the opposite," Lillibridge said of his girls.



Delton Kellogg junior Addie Stampfler puts a jump shot over Gobles' Elianna Wood during their SAC Central ballgame at Delton Kellogg High School Friday night. **Photo by Brett Bremer**



Panther freshman Rachelle Arms pushes the pace for her team during its SAC Central ballgame with visiting Gobles Friday at Delton Kellogg High School. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

With one out injured, the DK team just had four regular varsity players available and three of them had four fouls much of the second half.

"They played smart, worked hard for good shots, and even with shooting 4-of-20 from the free throw line they found a way," Lillibridge said.

"This team is unbelievably resilient, and I can't say enough good things about what they have done this year," he added.

Josie Williams added ten points for the Panthers and sophomore Mallory Momenee tallied her first varsity points for DK.

DK is now 3-12 following the victory and set to return to SAC Central action Friday at Saugatuck.

In the conference loss to Gobles last week, DK got 20 points from Stampfler and ten from Williams. Izzie Wendland buried three threes and finished with 11 points.

Gobles shot out to a 23-11 lead and upped the advantage to 50-19 at the half.

"They had 31 offensive rebounds on us last time and I bet they had at least half that in the first half," Lillibridge said. "When you're playing against a good team that can shoot and there is no consequence if they miss, then you're in trouble. We saw it in Parchment the other night and then again tonight. We had those closeouts with hands down."

The Panthers cleaned up much of that in the second half and outscored the Tigers 26-24 over the final two quarters. During that second half run, coach Lillibridge was happy to see his girls communicating and working together to try and solve the Tigers' revolving defenses.

Gobles' Kylee Killeen finished with a game-high 27 points and Ellie Wood had 22. Daisy Jackson chipped in 18 points for the Tigers.

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(01-30)(02-20)

Big Baker win clinches Saxons' 6-0 start in I-8

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

It is a mix of young and old for the Saxon varsity boys' bowling team this winter that has Hastings pushing for an Interstate-8 Athletic Conference championship.

The Saxons improved to 6-0 in conference duals with a 22-8 victory over the Marshall varsity boys' bowling team at Hastings Bowl Tuesday afternoon. The RedHawks came into the dual in second place in the conference standings, and it is the second time the Saxons have come out on top against them this season.

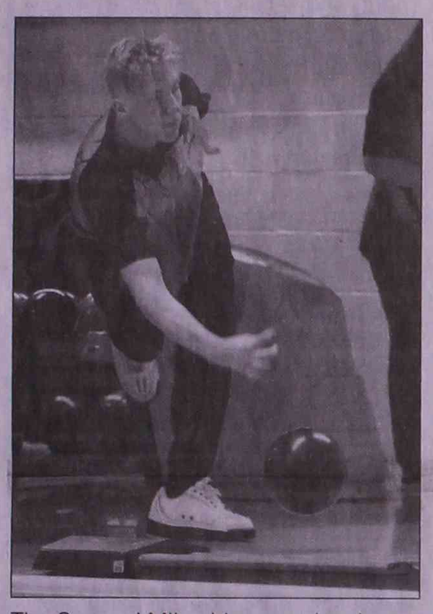
"They're coming together as a team really and starting to bond," Hastings varsity boys' coach Verne Robins said. "We have two freshmen on the team that are starting to pull it out, we had two of them bowling tonight – Andrew Barton and Dakota Cole are both freshmen. They have really picked it up.

"Right now, we're struggling a little bit. We've had some illness come through the team, but we've held it. We had a senior out tonight, Deagan Wilkins, not feeling well, but we've got Miles Lipsey and Hunter Pennington and they're both seniors. They're holding their own and we've got those two young freshmen it is really coming together nicely as a team. They're getting more involved, getting more fired up and making each other better and pushing right now."

Lipsey and Pennington were both state singles qualifiers as juniors last winter. Pushing for a conference title has made this season a little bit different though.

"It's a little nerve-wracking," Pennington said. "You've got to perform for that."

He said his cure for that is just a good, deep breath in the first frame of a dual.



The Saxons' Miles Lipsey unleashes a shot during his team's win over Marshall Tuesday at Hastings Bowl. **Photo by Brett Bremer**



Saxon freshman Andrew Barton fires a two-handed shot down the lane during his team's Interstate-8 Athletic Conference win over visiting Marshall at Hastings Bowl Tuesday. **Photo by Brett Bremer**



The Saxons' Megan Ramey shoots her ball down the alley during her team's Interstate-8 Athletic Conference dual with Marshall at Hastings Bowl Tuesday. **Photo by Brett Bremer**



Hastings' Jen Stoline fires off a shot during her team's I-8 contest with visiting Marshall Tuesday afternoon at Hastings Bowl. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

"Then I get over it."

Pennington and Brody Mix won two points apiece in the individual games for the Saxons Tuesday. Mix, Barton and Lipsey each rolled a 200 in the first regular game for the Saxons to pick up points for the team and Pennington earned one with a 173. Pennington and Mix were the only two Saxons to pick up a point in the second regular game, Mix with a 169 and Pennington with a 224.

Pennington said he feels better with the mental part of his game this year than he has in the past, something that really started to improve for him midway through his junior season.

"Basically, not getting down on yourself for missing something as much as I was a while ago. There was a lot more competition on the team freshman, sophomore and junior year. Once you get over that, you still have to care about it, but it is easier to come back from those misses," Pennington said.

On Tuesday, Pennington said he felt especially strong in the middle of that second regular game as he worked to get over the 200 mark and was really pleased to close out that first Baker win for the Saxons by starting the tenth frame with a couple of strikes.

Marshall's Easton Collier was the only guy to better Pennington's 224 on the day with a 238 in the second game that earned a point for his team.

Hastings had a 12-8 lead following the two regular games and went into the two Baker games knowing they needed to win just one of them. They took care of that right away with a team total of 209 in that first Baker game that far exceeded Marshall's 127.

"We had to have that Baker to win," Robins said. "That is one of our better Bakers this year for sure. We have struggled a little bit with Bakers, but usually we don't make it to Bakers. Usually we beat them in the first two. We beat them in individuals and this time we didn't beat them in individuals."

The Saxon boys finished off the dual with a 171-129 win in the second Baker game.

While the Saxons were up four on the scoreboard as a team heading into the Bakers, they had only outscored the Marshall boys by five total pins across the two regular games. The Saxons took the first one 932-849 and the the RedHawks took the second 932-854.

Hastings still has duals ahead with Coldwater, Northwest and two with Pennfield. The Saxons will be home for the next two against Coldwater Feb. 11 and Pennfield Feb. 12. The I-8 Singles Championship is set for Feb. 15 at M-66 Bowl in Battle Creek, and then the Saxons will follow that up by hosting Northwest Feb. 17 and going back to M-66 for a final dual with Pennfield Feb. 18.

The Marshall girls clinched a win over their Hastings counterparts in the two regular games by taking eight of the ten individual points and winning the two games by the scores of 857-710 and 754-638.

"The girls are getting better," Saxon girls' coach Deanna Rhodes said. "It's just, they have better practices than they do matches."

Megan Ramey, returning from an illness, won two points for the Hastings team with games of 157 and 118. Heaven Simmet had the top two individual scores of the day for the Saxon girls with a 167 and a 158, just off her average. Jen Stoline had a top score of 149, Kaylin Shild was in the 130s a couple times and Kass Harton had a top score of 117 in her two games for Hastings.

The Hastings girls closed out their afternoon by winning the two Baker games by scores of 189-133 and 173-172.

The Hastings girls are now 1-5 in the Interstate-8 this season.

Young TK bowling teams staying positive, improving

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Unity Christian girls kept their hold on the OK Gold Conference lead with a 17-13 win over the Thornapple Kellogg varsity girls' bowling team at Hastings Bowl Monday afternoon.

The Unity Christian girls improved to 11-1 in OK Gold Conference duals with the win, but the Thornapple Kellogg girls made them work for their points.

The Trojan teams are in a bit of a growth period at the moment without a single senior on the roster. A handful of returnees are leading the way for the TK girls' and boys' teams while some youngsters new to the sport work on honing their skills and gaining experience here and there.

"Things have been going pretty good," Thornapple Kellogg head coach Cheryl Cooper said. "We have a lot of new kids out this year. I think I have five new boys and four new girls, so that is really good. I love that we have that interest coming back again for it. The kids are improving. We have a lot of first time bowlers coming out. Some of the kids that have come back from last year are getting a lot better. They put in some practice time over the summer and you can see that."

She said a number of her varsity bowlers, and some competitors from area schools got together for a youth/adult league at Hastings Bowl in the fall, which took a pause during the high school season and will start back up again in the spring.

The group of returning girls leading the way for the Trojan team includes Jenna Robinett, Casey Phillips, Aubrie Hooten and Kenzie Hoogterp.

Coach Cooper said Phillips had a good start to the afternoon Monday in the Baker games, lost her mark a bit in the first individual game but then recalibrated to throw a really good second game.

The Trojan team won both Baker games on the day with scores of 163 and 134 beating out the Crusaders' 86 and 111.

Hoogterp and Robinett were pretty consistent Monday, and Robinett stood out with a couple of games in the 160s, a 167 and a 163. She earned a team point with the 163 in the second individual game. TK also got team points from a 131 by Hoogterp in game two and a 115 from Hooten in game one.

Phillips didn't pick up a team point but had solid games of 118 and 147.

The Crusaders outscored the TK ladies 727-634 and 655-632 in the two regular games. Unity was powered by Jaydan Blouw's two games of 191 and 133 and Emily Dertien's 146 and 148 games that won their team four of the individual game points. Emery Burdick had a 128 and a 139 to win two points for the Crusader team too.

The TK girls are now 6-6 in conference duals this season after outscoring Wyoming 28-2 in another conference match at Hastings Bowl Tuesday afternoon.

Robinett had a big day Tuesday with individual games of 179 and 153 to pick up two team points. Kayla Chapin-Dyer and Addison Petersen won two team points each too, and Hoogterp and Hooten won one team point apiece. Hoogterp rolled a 147 and a 115 and Hooten had a top game of 113.

The TK ladies took the two Baker games with scores of 176 and 112 against the Wolves.

The Unity Christian boys took a 26.5 to 3.5 win over the TK boys Monday, improving to 8-4 in the conference.

TK got individual points from Travis Sholty with a 171 in the second regular game, Colten Wiest with a 202 in the second regular game and Myles Chambers with a 125 in the first regular game. Sholty also split a point in the first regular game thanks to a 123 that matched his Crusader foe. That was the second game over 200 for Wiest in recent weeks.

The Crusader boys won both baker games and the two regular games those 20 points.

The TK boys are now 1-11 in conference duals. They were bested in a close one with Wyoming Tuesday 16-14.

TK had the early lead thanks to taking the overall total in the Baker games. Wyoming took the opener 156-129, but TK rallied for a 144-112 win in the second Baker game to give the Trojans a 6-2 lead going into the regular games.

Things started well in the regular games too with the TK boys taking a 624-608 win in the first one and winning three of the five individual points. TK got points thanks to a 130 from Sholty, a 158 from Wiest and a 128 from Chase Buter.



Thornapple Kellogg's Myles Chambers fires the ball down the lane during the Trojans' OK Gold Conference dual with Unity Christian at Hastings Bowl Monday afternoon. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

That first regular game bumped the TK lead to 13-4, but the Wolves rallied to outscore TK 10-1 in the second regular game and take the overall total in those two games for two more points that pushed them to the victory.

Sholty scored the TK team's lone individual point in that second regular game with a 112, but the TK boys actually rolled better in that second game. They won the first regular game 634-606 and then were outscored 701-635 in the second.

Buter won a point in that opener with his 128 and then rolled a 149 that didn't score for his team in the second game. That was because Wyoming's Carmelo Berry rolled a 103 in the opening game and then surged to a 166 in the second game which was the top individual score of the day.

Despite the TK girls' being around .500 and the boys having just one conference win so far, coach Cooper said, "they have a pretty positive attitude. [Coach] Ray [Guild] and I pretty much we're always telling them as long as you're improving yourself and getting better that is what you have to look at. Sure sometimes when they have a bad game they struggle a little, but overall their attitudes are pretty good."

The Trojans close out the OK Gold Conference duals playing host to Wayland Feb. 10 at Hastings Bowl and then heading to Northfield Lanes to take on Northview Feb. 12. The OK Gold Conference Championship Meet is set for Feb. 14 at Spectrum Lanes.

Buter had a strong day at Spectrum lanes Sunday as the TK boys participated in a regional tune-up where they each got to roll six games. He averaged 165 for the day. The TK girls get their turn at a regional tune-up this Sunday, Feb. 9.

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Simple plan works for Saxons against Vikings

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Hastings senior Jett Barnum scored the game's first six points, finished with a game-high 24 points even with a rough night at the free throw line, and the Saxons have their first winning streak of the season.

The Hastings varsity boys' basketball team led from start to finish in what was a 53-41 win over non-conference rival Lakewood Tuesday at Hastings High School.

Against the Vikings' zone defense, the Saxon coaching staff put together a straight forward plan.

"We got him the ball on the block. It is as simple as that. Let him go to work," Hastings head coach Jess Webb said.

"Today, that was the game plan. It was to get Jett the ball in the block and have him do work down there and see where it took us, and play from the inside out," Webb added.

With time on the block to share with teammates Eli Randall and Dan Jensen and the differing strategies from opposing defenses, things aren't always that simple, but it certainly worked well Tuesday.

The win moves the Saxons to 3-11 overall this season. They beat Ottawa Hills at the Loy Norrix Love and Basketball Showcase Saturday in Kalamazoo on the heels of a tough 63-37 loss to Harper Creek in Interstate-8 Athletic Conference action in Hastings last Friday.

Porter Shaw hit three three-pointers and finished with nine points for Hastings Tuesday. Jack Webb had eight points and Jensen contributed six.

Lakewood was led by 11 points from senior guard Seth Willette. Freshman center Bryer Poll added nine points and sophomore center Jameson Tichvon had nine.

The defensive effort was at least as important as Barnum's success around the rim offensively.

"We're starting to understand rotations and rebounding," coach Webb said. "It is all about rebounding, active hands and creating pressure on the ball. Definitely rotations, you just have to move on the flight of the ball and be locked in on the rotations."



Saxon senior McKinney Jiles (2) double clutches and scoops off the glass over Harper Creek's Brayden Bess (11) during their I-8 ballgame at Hastings High School Friday. **Photo by Perry Hardin**

The Saxons didn't let the Vikings get anything going around the three-point line with their 1-3-1 defense, despite the Vikings knowing what was in store for them and spending time Monday prepping for the Saxon set-up.

"Coach [Jason] Copelin, he was grinding yesterday in practice for not allowing threes for today making sure we were running them off the line or we were reading eyes and reading shoulders and making sure we're getting out there before they get the ball," coach Webb said.

"We weren't disciplined. They came with a plan," Lakewood head coach Jason Solgat said. "[Coach Webb] told me after the game, he came with plan: get it to 24 and 24 did what he needed to do.



The Saxons Dan Jensen keeps a watch on Lakewood guard Ethan Matthews at the top of the Saxons' 1-3-1 zone defense during Tuesday night's ballgame at Hastings High School. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

Turnovers, 22, if not more. That is what we got from someone touching a button, and we'll miss a few of those, so I would say upwards of 25, and you're not going to win a game with 25 turnovers and if you do it still wasn't good.

"Give it to them, they shot the ball pretty well from all over the court and it was more than one guy who was shooting. We have to figure out how to turn this car around."

Hastings goes on the road in the I-8 to take on Marshall Friday, Feb. 7. The Vikings have a tough one on the road in the Capital Area Activities Conference White Division against Portland. The Raiders are currently 14-1 overall and tied atop of the conference at 8-1 with Lansing Sexton.

Lakewood falls to 4-12 with the loss to the Saxons.

"We wanted to attack and not hold the ball and float the ball," Lakewood assistant coach Chad Pleiness said. "You have to be quick and have decisive movements and get to the open areas, and we just didn't execute that."

The one real bright spot for the Vikings was Willette who did a good job of penetrating and either getting to the rim or dishing off the basketball. He also had some strong moments working into the high post for the Viking offense – a spot on the court the Viking coaching staff was hoping to take advantage of an opening in the Hastings defense.

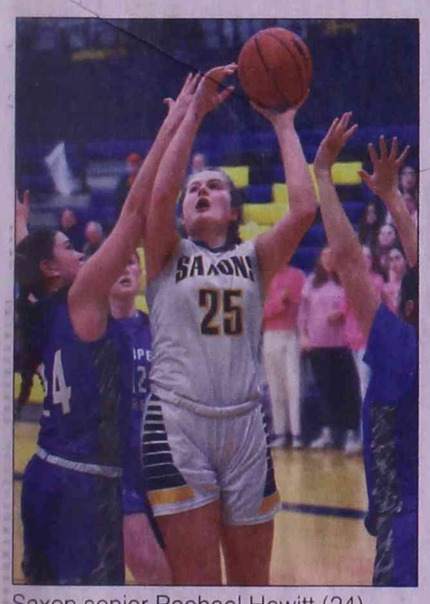
"He didn't care who he was facing. He was going at the rim, and that was the first thing I said going into the locker room, 'hey, thanks for you bringing effort," Solgat said. "I need ten other guys bringing the kind of effort this guy is bringing right now. Seth didn't start at the beginning of the season. He wasn't really in the gym a lot with us in the preseason. Football is his focus … It is nice to see towards the second half or a quarter of the way through the season that he is all in. He just wants to be competitive. He wants to go down swinging. He'll be Rocky in the fight and he doesn't care, and every coach wants that kid. You want ten of them."

Along with his competitiveness, coach Solgat also likes the leadership Willette has been beginning to show.



Hastings senior Jett Barnum drives around Lakewood's Jameson Tichvon as his Viking teammates Seth Willette (left) and Troy Acker (back right) look on during their Tuesday night ballgame at Hastings High School. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

Lakewood pulls away from Saxons in second half



Saxon senior Rachael Hewitt (24) elevates in the paint between Harper Creek's Taegen Anderson (24) and Remi Zirkel (30) during their I-8 ballgame at Hastings High School Friday. **Photo by Perry Hardin**



The Saxons' Maddie Peake(33) slashes to the rim over Harper Creek junior Kennedy Halverson (22) Friday night at Hastings High School. **Photo by Perry Hardin**

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Vikings made the adjustments they needed to and turned a a three-point halftime lead into a 16-point victory against visiting Hastings in a non-conference ballgame at Lakewood High School Tuesday.

The Lakewood varsity girls' basketball team improved to 5-8 overall this season and made it three wins in their past four tries by outscoring the Saxons 42-26.

Hastings led 7-5 at the end of one quarter and had a 13-8 lead in the second before the Vikings turned things around to lead 17-14 at the half.

"We struggled in the first half to see the gaps and open players in their defense," Lakewood head coach Luke Farrell said. "We talked at halftime about how they were covering us in their zone defense and where we needed to get the ball. The girls executed well and played a tough third quarter. We also worked to push the ball up the court in working to get more fast break points."

Liz Markwart had 15 points to lead the Vikings and coach Farrell noted her continued tough play for the squad. Ana Grant had ten points and Avery Farrell chipped in seven for the Vikings.

Rachael Hewitt led all scorers with 19 points for Hastings, but the Saxons continue to try and add scoring threats around her. Kali Koning added three points.

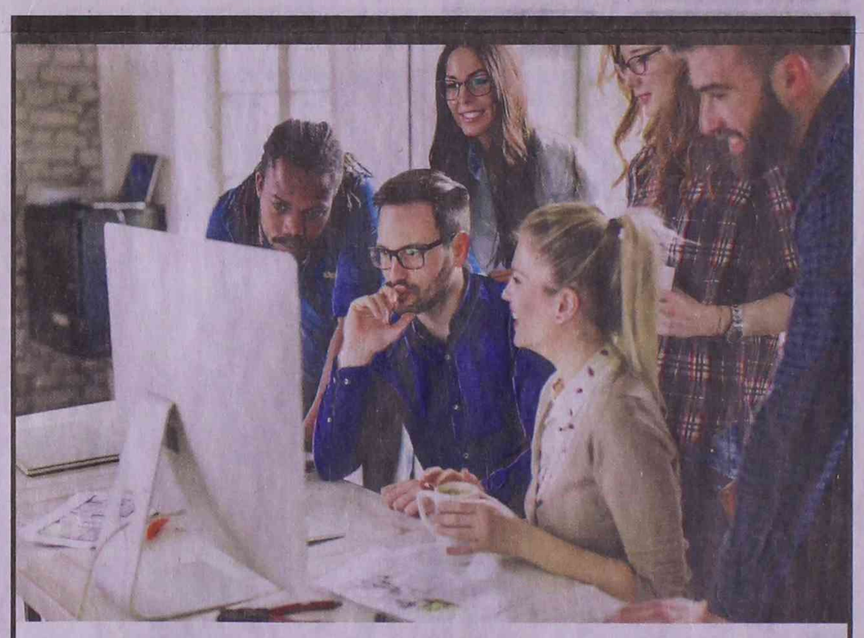
Hastings head coach Ben Wilson was pleased to see his girls fight back to within eight points in the fourth quarter, but it wasn't enough.

The Saxons go on the road Friday in the Interstate-8 Athletic Conference to face Marshall. Hastings falls to 4-10 overall with the loss.

Lakewood has a tough Capital Area Activities Conference White Division match-up on the road Friday.

Last Friday in the Interstate-8, the Hastings girls were bested 45-36 at against visiting Harper Creek.

The ballgame Tuesday was the third in five days for the Vikings who bested Lansing Everett 49-6 Monday evening after a 45-34 loss at Eaton Rapids in the CAAC White last Friday.



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All-time winningest Saxon helps team to I-8 title

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Saxons are back in the top position.

Hastings closed out the 2024-25 Interstate-8 Athletic Conference varsity wrestling season by beating the defending conference champions from Jackson Northwest 52-24 in a dual under the spotlight at Hastings High School Wednesday and then rolling to a 35-point win over runner-up Harper Creek at the Interstate-8 Athletic Conference Championship Tournament Saturday at Northwest High School.

The Saxons were 6-0 in conference duals this season and put 12 wrestlers in the finals at the conference tournament Saturday with Hunter Sutfin, Troy Hokanson, Tate Warner and Isaac Friddle all winning individual conference titles.

For Hokanson, it is his fourth year earning first team all-conference in the Interstate-8.

Friddle joined his head coach Jason Slaughter, a 2015 Hastings High School graduate, and 2010 grad Gage Pederson on top of the Saxons' all-time wins list with his pin of Jaeden Brewer early in the second period of their. The trio were tied with 177 wins until Friddle moved to the front Saturday.

"He gets better all the time," coach Slaughter said of Friddle after he tied the record Wednesday. "We saw tonight a little bit, he mixed it up a little bit. You saw a couple double leg take downs there. He definitely has more, not that he always uses it."

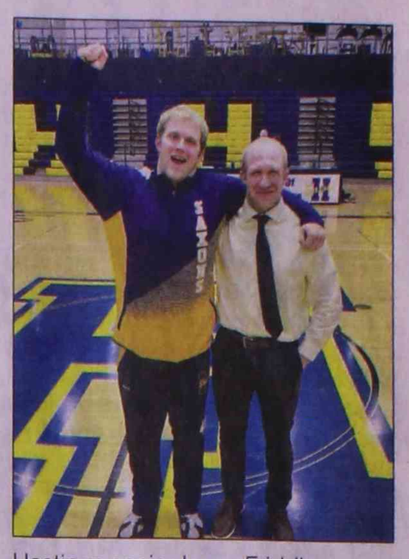
"He is one who does his thing. He finds a way to win every time," Slaughter said with a smile. "He is a Hastings wrestler, that's for sure, using his throws and stuff."

This senior class, including Friddle, Hokanson, Warner and others, was the freshman class during Slaughter's first season leading the program. And the Saxons celebrated all theirs seniors before the dual with Northwest Wednesday.

Friddle, a three-time state medalist, now has a Saxon record 180 victories thanks to a pair of pins and then a 9-6 win over Coldwater's Raul Cecilio in the 215-pound championship match at the I-8 Championship. Friddle is now 41-3 this season



The Saxons' Hunter Sutfin works to put Harper Creek's Cohen Renner on his shoulders during the first period of their 106-pound championship match at the Interstate-8 Athletic Conference Championship Saturday at Northwest High School in Jackson. **Photo by Dan Goggins**



Hastings senior Isaac Friddle celebrates tying the school record for varsity wrestling wins at 177 with head coach Jason Slaughter. Slaughter, a 2015 Hastings High School graduate, and 2010 grad Gage Pederson both reached 177 varsity victories. Friddle surpassed that duo Saturday with three wins at the I-8 Championship to put his career total at 180. **Photo provided**

Hastings had runner-up finishes from Reyd Zoerman (120 pounds), Jax Balderson (126), Isaac Lilley (138), Aden Armstrong (144), Liam Renner (150), Jace Acker (157), Kyle Echtinaw (165) and Matthew Shults (175) Saturday at Northwest and a third-place finish from Jordan Humphrey (132 pounds).

Hokanson capped off his four seasons in the I-8 by pinning Pennfield's Reese Correnti 26 seconds into their 113-pound championship match Saturday to run his record to 34-6 overall this season.

Hunter Sutfin is 40-2 after pinning Harper Creek's Cohen Renner about a minute into their 106-pound championship match.

In the 190-pound weight class, Warner took the championship with a 12-8 decision over Marshall's Cayden Hardwick in the final. He ran his record to 37-6 this season with his three wins on the day.

Shults, Acker, Zoerman and Renner all have more than 30 wins on the season.

The Saxons closed Saturday's tournament with 235.5 points. Harper Creek was second with 200.5 ahead of Northwest 134.5, Parma Western 110, Coldwater 55, Marshall 49 and Pennfield 44.5.

Hastings had a comfortable lead at the end of the dual with Northwest last Wednesday thanks in part to a couple big wins by Liam Renner and Armstrong in the middleweights. Northwest had Blaine Anspaugh beat Armstrong in the 144-pound final at the conference tournament, Jack Edwards pin Renner in the 150-pound championship match and Juan Asta score a 7-5 win over Acker in the 157-pound final.

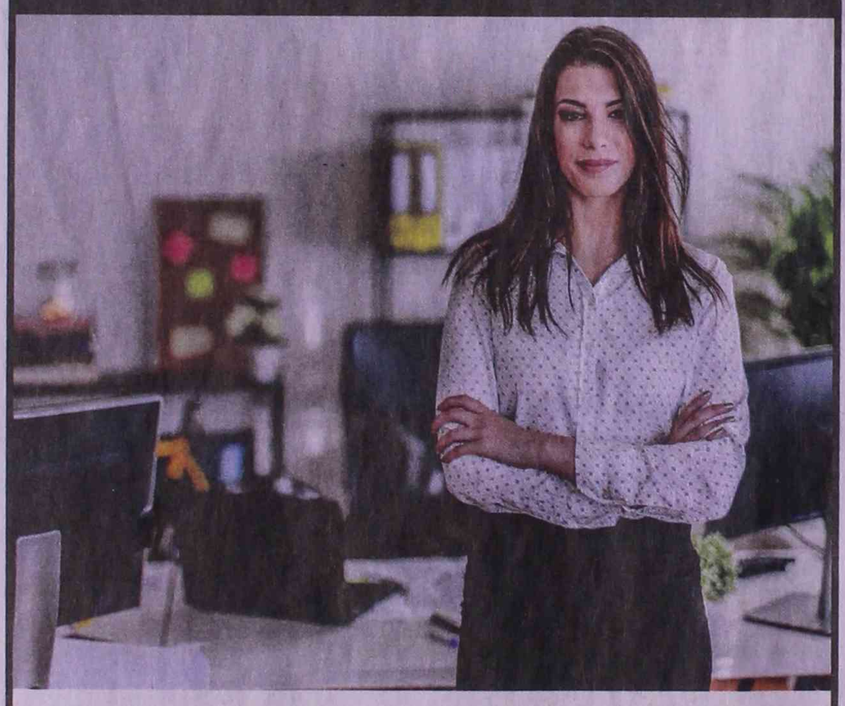
On Wednesday, with the dual tied 18-18 six bouts in, Renner rallied for a late take down and four nearfall points to pull out a 22-21 decision over Edwards in the 150-pound bout. Armstrong followed that win up for the Saxons by pinning Asta 4:52 into their 157-pound match. Asta put Armstrong on his back in the first period of that bout and had a 12-2 lead before Armstrong got the throw he was looking for.

"We'll take it," coach Slaughter said.

The Saxons took over that dual from there with Matthew Shults outscoring Aiden Sawyer 13-6 in the 175-pound match and Warner at 190 and Friddle at 215 scoring pins.

Hastings got its first 18 points in the dual with Hunter Sutfin winning by forfeit at 113 pounds, Hokanson scoring a pin at 120 and Humphrey earning a pin at 132 pounds. Bella Strimbeck closed out the dual for Hastings with a forfeit win at 106 pounds.

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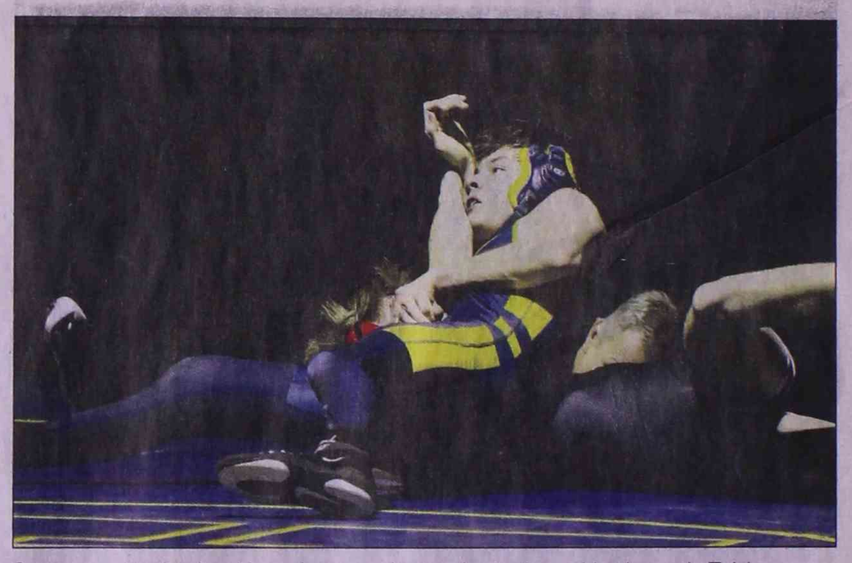
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Saxon senior Jordan Humphrey works to pin Jackson Northwest's Tobin Sheley during the second period of their 132-pound bout in the I-8 dual between the Saxons and Mounties at Hastings High School Wednesday, Jan. 29. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

Post takes 125-pound title for DK at SAC meet

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Delton Kellogg varsity girls' wrestling coach Clint Post beams when talking about the support his team has gotten from the school administration and Delton community as it works to get off the ground this winter.

The wrestling program at the high school grew enough over the past couple years that the Delton Kellogg "co-ed" team had to jump from the wrestling room on the eastern side of the high school gymnasium to the larger space behind the bleachers on the western side of the building.

Post saw the opening and worked to claim that vacated space for the new Delton Kellogg varsity girls' wrestling team, a rarity among girls' wrestling programs around the state he believes.

There is still some regular crossover with the DK boys on the other side of the gym, but the DK coach is happy his girls get to have a place of their own. A closet at one end has been turned into a quiet place for changing and storage, and girls' team takes care of their own cleaning and upkeep.

And maybe one day there will be a girls' name on the board that still hangs on the wall honoring the Panthers winningest wrestlers of all-time and its state medalists. Olivia Post was the first Delton Kellogg girl to qualify for the MHSAA Individual State Finals, last season, and Olivia took a conference championship at the Southwestern Athletic Conference Championship hosted by Coloma Saturday.

Olivia won the 125-pound weight class with a 3-1 day. She put her first two foes on their back in less than a minute and also pinned Allegan's Miya Carter 2:23 into their bout.

South Haven's Emily Thomas managed to pin Olivia late in the second period of their match, but Thomas placed third at the weight class having fallen to Carter, the flight runner-up.

Delton Kellogg had two girls competing Saturday. Johannah Houtkooper was fifth at 140 pounds with a 1-4 record on the day.

Olivia and Houtkooper combined to earn 23 points which put the Delton Kellogg team in fifth place overall at the 13-team tournament.

South Haven won the SAC Championship with a score of 52.5 points ahead of Watervliet, 48, Allegan 42, Gobles 42 and Delton Kellogg 23 in the top five.

The DK girls will be at Hastings Saturday for their first ever MHSAA Girls' Individual District Tournament.