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Developers propose open space neighborhood in Hastings

Molly Macleod
Editor

Hastings could soon see a new housing development on the northeast edge of town after a developer approached the city. Should the project come to fruition, the developer hopes to adopt an open space neighborhood design for the residential subdivision.

Green Development Ventures LLC and Allen Edwin Homes have proposed building 124 single-family homes on a 38.25-acre parcel at 900 Bachman Road. The development, which would be built in phases depending on market saturation, will consist of a combination of ranch-style and two-story homes. The Bachman Field development would be adjacent to the existing Woodlawn Meadows planned unit development.



Developers are proposing a 124-unit single-family home development on the northeast side of Hastings. The proposed design includes two "open spaces" for community enjoyment. **Images provided**

Initial plans proposed by the developers incorporate an open space neighborhood design, which preserves a portion of land on the parcel for wildlife habitat and enjoyment by the residents. Typically, an open space neighborhood reserves 10 percent of the parcel for such purposes. The Bachman Field developers are setting aside 5.8 acres, or 14.9 percent of the parcel, for open spaces.

Rebecca Harvey, the city's planning consultant, gave background on open space neighborhoods at Monday's planning commission meeting. The concept is fairly new in Michigan, introduced roughly 10 years ago. It is used mostly for preservation in rural areas.

"The whole premise of open space design, whether you're doing it in a rural community for preservation or whether you're doing it in an urban community to get green space in your neighborhood, it is based on one foundational premise. And that is, a community says, 'If it will help you preserve more open space, then we will relax our density standards,'" said Harvey.

Developers can create smaller lot sizes than would be typical in exchange for open space.

"It will essentially let you have more lots, which obviously to an applicant would make it more worth their while to do that," said Harvey. "But on your side (the city), you're saying, 'However, the reason we're compelled to do that is for a better neighborhood design and you will take that latitude in your density and take some space within that project site and preserve it as meaningful open space."

A representative from Allen Edwin Homes answered questions for planning commissioners at Monday's meeting. He echoed Harvey's analysis of open space neighborhoods.

"Developers look at open space not only for the ability to provide amenities throughout the community for everyone but also as a way to have cost-efficient developments. Ways of increasing density to spread the cost of the project across those lots," said Mike West of Allen Edwin Homes.

One open space, 3.7 acres in size, is proposed for the far west side of the parcel. That space would be an interactive recreational and natural bird habitat area, complete with a recreation field, a walking path, benches and interactive climbing obstacles for children.

Another open space is proposed for the center of the parcel, this one 2.1 acres. Developers propose preserving two existing forested wetland pockets there. They would enhance the natural area with deer-resistant shrubbery, native deciduous and coniferous trees and wildflowers.

Both open spaces would be made accessible to everyone in the neighborhood. However, current plans mean the western open space would see more interactive use than the central space from residents.

City planning commissioners raised concerns about the actual utility of the proposed open spaces for residents.

"I'm not wild about the central open space area because it's really not at all accessible by the public," said Hastings City Manager Sarah Moyer-Cale. "It's giving everyone in that area a larger backyard is really all that it's doing. I don't think that that meets what we're looking for."

West said he and the developers are open to tweaking the proposal to increase access to the central open space.

"If we're going to make it more of a recreational area, we have to improve access. Because you're right — right now, it has limited access. If you want that to kind of be a recreational area as well, we can look at expanding access," West said.

Though the project planning is still in very early phases, West said the homes built on Bachman Road would be priced in the upper $200,000 range.

"Development costs, land costs are what drive private sector home development. What we're trying to do, we're trying to hit homes in a price point, in a market we can actually sell. Those price points vary. Obviously, the types of houses that are going to sell in Hastings are going to be different from those in metro Grand Rapids or something where maybe certain types of development concepts work a bit better," he said.

West will return to the planning commission with an updated plan in the coming months. The new plan will increase the accessibility and utility of the proposed central open space. Board members will also share more specific suggestions for the project at a later date. It will likely take a few meetings before the plan is sent to city council for approval.

County clerk faces minimal learning curve with over a decade in the department

Jayson Bussa
Contributing Writer

Barry County Clerk Sarah VanDenburg is keenly familiar with each person's position and job description within her department.

That's because she has worked in each of those roles at some point in her career.



Sarah VanDenburg

VanDenburg, who took over as clerk to begin this year, is finding a minimal learning curve due to the fact that she has been with the department since May of 2008, serving in just about every capacity.

While she is certainly not new to the line of work, VanDenburg is one of a few new faces working in the front office of the county, which saw the departure of some very senior members this year. Over the next few weeks, The Banner intends to spotlight these individuals who have taken the helm of key roles within the county.

In November, VanDenburg ran as the lone candidate, a Republican, on the ballot for county clerk, which had seen some turnover over the last couple of years. Long-time county employee Cindy White was appointed to the position in October of 2023, replacing Pam Palmer, who announced her retirement before the end of her term. White opted not to run for the position, leaving it open for the seasoned VanDenburg.

"I'm really excited to serve the county in my new role," VanDenburg told the Banner. "As I'm looking back at my life, I have been the happiest helping and serving others. Being a public servant means committing oneself to the service of the public good, prioritizing the welfare of the community over personal interests. It involves upholding ethical standards, promoting transparency and fostering trust between the government and citizens."

"As a public servant, I dedicate myself to working with integrity,

See **CLERK** on 3

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Corewell Health Pennock celebrates opening of new MRI suite

Molly Macleod
Editor



A view of Corewell Health Pennock's new MRI suite.

Corewell Health Pennock Hospital is celebrating the completion of its new MRI suite this week, a project that hospital staff says will allow residents more opportunities for fast, quality care without driving to Grand Rapids – or further.

The suite is outfitted with a new MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) machine, comfortability improvements, enhanced lighting, an adjacent changing room and an audio system for patients' use. It is the culmination of 15 months of construction.

The suite opened to patients on Tuesday this week.

"I think the most exciting thing that this brings to our community is the next level of comfort that it provides," said Renee Erb, imaging manager at Corewell Health Pennock Hospital. "We have our changing rooms, our bathrooms, all in one space, so no more walking down the hall."

Erb said the new machine's magnet is much larger than the old one. It allows for a larger, more comfortable opening for patients. Patients can now also listen to music during their exams.

"And because we have a newer magnet, we're able to do some more exams than we were before, so we're able to keep more patients here local," she said.

"Corewell's really fixated on keeping care local," said Bernie Jore, Corewell Health Pennock and Zeeland hospitals' chief operating officer. "That's a huge thing for people of Barry County. Our ability to keep people here and not have them have to go downtown (Grand Rapids). We always hear a lot from our patrons that they appreciate so much not having to go downtown, to be able to get it in their own community and know that it's high quality, that it's safe."

Not only does the new magnet have capabilities for more complex exams, it is also up to 30 percent faster than the hospital's old MRI machine. Exams will take between 20 and 40 minutes on average with the new machine.

"One of the things with MRI is it does take a while. It's a slow process, it's very methodical. And as they work through it, the techs, as you're going through getting an MRI, they talk you through it, but it takes a bit. Thirty percent quicker is just 30 percent less time laying on a hard surface for a patient," said Jore.

The images produced by the new magnet will be clearer, too.

While construction has been underway on the new MRI suite for the past 15 months, patients and staff at Pennock made adjustments to their normal routines. Patients had their MRIs taken on a portable machine in a trailer connected to the hospital.

Erb and Jore said the techs are eager to enjoy their new, permanent space.

"I think the biggest thing is, when you do something mobile like that, it's not a solid structure. You're in and you're out. It's less convenient for our patients, it's less convenient for us. We're not as efficient," said Jore. "So there's so many improvements coming with this magnet that it will truly change how we move forward, how many patients we can see in a day."

Jore said a machine like the one in the new MRI suite would not be possible without assistance from the Corewell network. "I just can't say enough about how as a small hospital, being able to do this would have been really difficult to upgrade to this level. Corewell made that happen, and they did that as part of a platform they were upgrading downtown. They were able to help us get this magnet in place and then really refurb it — completely brand new around the magnet itself. It wouldn't have happened if we were an independent hospital."

For more on the hospital's new MRI suite, plus other improvements and opportunities underway there, look to this weekend's edition of The Reminder.



Corewell Health Pennock Hospital opened its new MRI suite this week. The new machine boasts faster scans, clearer pictures and added comfort from previous machines. **Photos provided**

DID YOU SEE?



THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS

Crews from Pella Windows in Grand Rapids were seen installing new windows at the Barry County Friend of the Court building this week. The new windows will improve energy efficiency in the historic building and replace aging glass. The Barry County Board of Commissioners approved the purchase, which was not to exceed $182,095.67, in October of last year. Money for the project came out of the county's Building Rehabilitation Fund. **Photo by Molly Macleod**

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Odessa Twp. seeks face-to-face meeting with design firm for new fire station

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

Members of the Odessa Township Board of Trustees could soon meet with architects to discuss potential plans for a new fire station that would serve the township and Village of Lake Odessa.

At its regular meeting Monday, Jan. 6, the township board accepted the recommendation of an ad-hoc committee to move forward with a proposal for designs of a new fire house by a unanimous, 4-0, vote.

Township Treasurer Sharon Rohrbacher, a member of the ad-hoc committee, said the accepted proposal by Williams Architects of Grand Rapids was one of four submitted and reviewed by committee members.

Gary Secor, Odessa Township supervisor, suggested the next step would be to meet with representatives of the Grand Rapids firm to further discuss the project and terms of a potential contract for the design of a new station. That meeting could come as early as Jan. 22, when township officials are set to meet and discuss its upcoming budget plan.

"I think it would be great to sit down and meet with them," Secor said.

Rohrbacher added, however, any plans to meet with Williams Architects should be considered tentative, pending confirmation with the company.



Members of the Odessa Township Board of Trustees could soon meet with architects to discuss potential plans for a new fire station that would serve the township and Village of Lake Odessa. **File photo**

Timothy Spitzley, a former township trustee and participant with the ad-hoc committee, said such a meeting doesn't bind the township to any agreement – at least not yet.

"It's not like we're committed to anything long-term," he said at Monday's board meeting. "I think we're in a good place."

Township officials are seeking to replace the current home of the Lake Odessa Fire Department that was built in the 1940s on First Street, just east of Fourth Avenue, in Lake Odessa.

According to officials, the pole barn-style building is nearing the end of its usable life, and its age and state of disrepair make it difficult, if not impossible in some cases, for the local fire department to meet many new state regulations.

Some of the issues at the fire station reportedly include exposed asbestos insulation, deterioration of the structure due to age and exposure to water, leaks in the roof and mold.

A lack of parking, meeting space, living quarters and training facilities are other needs previously listed by LOFD Fire Chief Chad Perkins when discussing the need for a new facility.

Currently, the township owns a 10-acre parcel located between the township offices and nearby water tower, which could serve as the site for a new station house.

Another potential location could be at the corner of Musgrove Highway and Jordan Lake Avenue. While the site offers a more central location, the property is not currently owned by the township.

Previously, Perkins reportedly estimated the construction of a new station house and training facility to cost between $3 million to $6 million.

Editor Molly Macleod contributed to this report.

County board has continuity in chair, vice chair in 2025

Molly Macleod
Editor

The Barry County Board of Commissioners will see continuity this year as the new 2025 board voted to keep Dave Jackson as chair and Dave Hatfield as vice chair of the board at last Thursday's organizational meeting.

Board members voted unanimously, with Commissioner Mike Callton absent, to reinstate Jackson and Hatfield to their positions. Jackson and Hatfield both served as chair and vice chair, respectively, on the previous year's board.

Members of the 2025 Barry County Board of Commissioners include Jackson, who represents the county's third district; Hatfield, who represents District 8; Bob Tuenessen, District 1; Catherine Getty, District 2; Jon Smelker, District 4; Mike Callton, District 5; Bruce Campbell, District 7 and new member Marsha Bassett in District 6.

Hiking crash course set for Jan. 16

Molly Macleod
Editor

Locals are invited to learn the ins and outs of hiking at a free event at the Dowling Public Library next Friday, Jan. 16.

North Country Trail Association – Chief Noonday Chapter members Jane Norton and Cynthia Clemens will introduce attendees to the North Country Trail, which runs through Barry County. They will also teach basic hiking skills that can enlighten any interested hiker.

Organizers say the event is an opportunity to receive hints and suggestions for hiking activities.

Norton and Clemens are both experienced hikers, with over 1,000 miles under their belts.

More information about the free event, open to the public, can be found by calling the Dowling Public Library at 269-721-3743.



North Country Trail Association – Chief Noonday Chapter members Jane Norton and Cynthia Clemens will lead a free class at the Dowling Public Library on Jan. 16 on hiking basics. Here, (from left) Jane Norton, Ken Baker, Mikaela Wyatt and Dana Walker hike in the woods on the trail in Yankee Springs. **Photo provided**

CLERK

Continued from Page 1

compassion and responsibility, ensuring that every decision made and every action taken serves the people in the best way possible," she added. "I strive to create an inclusive environment where everyone's voice is heard, and I take pride in helping to improve the quality of life for all."

While VanDenburg admitted that the learning curve would indeed be minimal thanks to her years of service in the department, she said that she is settling in and familiarizing herself with the new duties of her gig, such as managing the budget for her office.

Just as she is familiar with the duties of the job, VanDenburg is aware of the challenges that the department faces. Palmer and White have both previously explained to county officials that the department was understaffed and faced a daunting and growing workload.

Some of that has been alleviated thanks to a new partnership that took effect in September of last year between the clerk's office and the county court system. Previously, the clerk's office managed court records, too, but those duties will now be the sole responsibility of the courts and its staff. As a result, the courts inherited one staff member from the clerk's office.

"That partnership is going really well," VanDenburg said. "It has lessened the burden of walk-ins and interruptions. Now, court staff can fully concentrate on court work and our clerk staff can fully concentrate on clerk work like concealed pistol licenses, vital records and elections."

Just like those before her, VanDenburg will be the chief administrator of elections in Barry County, working alongside clerks throughout the county's municipalities.

Elections have been a hot-button topic in Barry County, and throughout other areas of the state and nation, since the 2020 election ushered in a wave of voters who have questioned the accuracy and results of the election.

This fire has especially smoldered over the years in Barry County as County Sheriff Dar Leaf has become a nationally-known figure for his claims that elections in the United States have possibly been infiltrated by fraudsters, some of them foreign actors.

VanDenburg said she plans to combat any concerns over the legitimacy and accuracy of elections through transparency.

"One approach is making sure we get information out there to the constituents as far as if there is something that happens on Election Day (such as temporary equipment failure)," she said. "It would be about getting ahead of it and letting people know that it's something that does happen. With elections, there is a human component and a technology component. ...Sometimes (issues) can happen."

"People have been coming and talking to us, which is great," VanDenburg added. "I just want to be very transparent. I want them to know they can come to any accuracy test and the other ways they can come see the process."

In the front office, VanDenburg is surrounded by colleagues who are also adjusting to their positions — people like Register of Deeds Emily Reed, Treasurer Kelli Shumway and administrator Eric Zuzga, all of whom replaced people who each had decades of experience on the job.

"New faces and new ideas – that's great but having a mass exodus of institutional knowledge is a little scary," VanDenburg said. "We'll be fine, though. We have great resources. We have other cohorts in other counties and we can reach out to the state if we have questions. ...There is great communication and great collaboration and I think there are some great ideas out there."



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Time for New Year's Financial Resolutions

Now that the calendar has flipped, it's time for some New Year's resolutions. You could decide you're going to exercise more, lose weight, learn a new skill, reconnect with old friends — the possibilities are almost limitless. This year, why not add a few financial resolutions to your list?

Here are a few to consider:

• **Reduce your debts.** It may be easier said than done, but if you can cut down on your debt load, you'll increase your cash flow and have more money available to invest for your future. So, look for ways to lower your expenses and spending. You might find it helpful to use one of the budgeting apps available online.

• **Boost your retirement savings**. Try to put in as much as you can afford to your IRA and your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan. If your salary goes up this year, you've got a good opportunity to increase your contributions to these retirement accounts. And once you turn 50, you can make pre-tax catch-up contributions for your 401(k) and traditional IRA. You might also want to review the investment mix within your 401(k) or similar plan to determine whether it's still providing the growth potential you need, given your risk tolerance and time horizon.

• **Build an emergency fund**. It's generally a good idea to maintain an emergency fund containing up to six months' worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account. Without such a fund, you might be forced to dip into your long-term investments to pay for short-term needs, such as an expensive auto or home repair.

• **Keep funding your non-retirement goals**. Your traditional IRA and 401(k) are good ways to save for retirement — but you likely have other goals, too, and you'll need to save and invest for them. So, for example, if you want your children to go to college or receive some other type of post-secondary training, you might want to invest in a tax-advantaged 529 education savings plan. And if you have short-term goals, such as saving for a wedding or taking an overseas vacation, you might want to put some money away in a liquid account. For a short-term goal, you don't necessarily need to invest aggressively for growth — you just want the money to be there for you when you need it.

• **Review your estate** plans. If you haven't already created your estate plans, you may want to do so in 2025. Of course, if you're relatively young, you might not think you need to have estate plans in place just yet, but life is unpredictable, and the future is not ours to see. If you have already drawn up estate plans, you may want to review them, especially if you've recently experienced changes in your life and family situation, such as marriage, remarriage or the addition of a new child. Because estate planning can be complex, you'll want to work with a qualified legal professional.

You may not be able to tackle all these resolutions in 2025. But by addressing as many of them as you can, you may find that, by the end of the year, you have made progress toward your goals and set yourself on a positive course for all the years to come.

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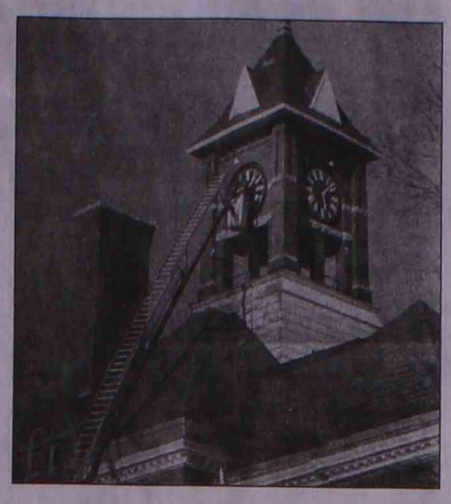
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PUTTING ON A NEW FACE

— BANNER NOV. 15, 1990 —



Painters high atop the Barry County Courthouse Wednesday applied a fresh coat of paint to the face of the courthouse clock. With the installation of a new hand to replace a broken one, the clock is expected to begin operating soon.

Odessa Twp. board starts process to fill vacancy



The winner of one of two trustee positions on the Odessa Township Board of Trustees won't take his seat after failing to take his oath of office. **File photo**

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

The winner of one of two trustee positions on the Odessa Township Board of Trustees in the recent November 2024 general election won't be taking his seat at the table after all.

After Trustee-elect Joseph Graham failed to take his oath of office by a state-mandated Dec. 31 deadline, the rest of the township board voted unanimously, 4-0, at its regular meeting Monday, Jan. 6, to seek applications from interested persons to fill the now vacant seat.

Township Supervisor Gary Secor said, by state law, the board has 45 days to fill the vacancy or a special election would then be required. However, he added his hopes would be to address the issue as quickly as possible.

"I hope to do this before our next meeting," Secor said. "(But) we can wait and see how many applications we get."

The board's decision Monday night included a deadline for applications for 14 days after the trustee's position has been posted. According to Township Clerk Lisa Williams, the official deadline is set for noon on Monday, Jan. 27.

Williams said interested persons who are residents of the township should submit a letter of interest, including a short biographical statement, a list of qualifications and reasons why they are seeking appointment to the board.

Graham beat out Patricia Caudill, a Democrat running for re-election, for one of two trustee positions up for grabs on the five-member township board by a margin of more than 2-to-1, garnering 1,470 votes to Caudill's 730 votes, according to election results posted by the Ionia County Clerk's Office.

Incumbent trustee, Republican Bradley Barrone, was the top vote-getter of the trio with 1,573 votes.

The Odessa Township board met for the first time since the election on Dec. 2, but without Graham.

And, Williams said on Wednesday that she has yet to hear from Graham on whether he intended to take his oath.

"Not at all," she added.

Now, that's a moot point.

Previous attempts by Banner staff to contact Graham via phone and email regarding his status as trustee-election were unsuccessful.

Persons submitting applications for the board vacancy should mail the letters of interest to Odessa Township, Attention Clerk Lisa Williams, P.O. Box 575, Lake Odessa, MI 48849. They may also drop off the applications at the township office prior to the Jan. 27 deadline.

For more information, contact Williams by calling 616-374-4237, extension 10, or via email at clerk@odessa-township.org.

BCCEDA names Brown as 2024 Athena Award recipient



Katelyn Brown

Katelyn Brown has been named Barry County's newest Athena Award recipient. The award honors a Barry County woman who exemplifies leadership in the community. She will be celebrated at the Barry County Chamber & Economic Development Alliance's (BCCEDA) upcoming Annual Dinner & Awards Celebrations.

Each year, the BCCEDA honors leaders who contribute to the community's success. Among the honors given is the ATHENA Leadership Award. The ATHENA Leadership Award will be presented at the BCCEDA Awards Dinner & Celebration on Saturday, Jan. 18, at Bay Pointe Woods in Shelbyville.

The Athena Leadership Model, developed through a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, identifies eight attributes reflective of women's contributions to leadership: living authentically, learning constantly, advocating fiercely, acting courageously, fostering collaboration, building relationships, giving back and celebrating.

Brown, who serves as the Fitness Specialist Coordinator at the Corewell Health Pennock Wellness Center, was selected for the honor because of her leadership and contributions to the community.

"Impactful, inspiring, thoughtful, passionate, encouraging" — these words are used to describe Brown. In addition to her role as the Fitness Specialist Coordinator at the Corewell Health Pennock Wellness Center, Brown is active in her community, supporting local 4H programs, sitting on several committees and volunteering at events such as the Summerfest Run and the Julep Gala. She lends her expertise to the wider business community, working to develop solutions that reduce workplace injuries and increase health outcomes in order to decrease overall absenteeism.

Tina Frank, who led the nomination team for Brown, said, "Katelyn is a rising young leader in Barry County. Katelyn's courage and assertiveness to take on a new project such as presenting proposals to the Pennock Foundation and Medical Executive Committee, and collaborating with a team, resulted in new equipment for the Wellness Center. The new equipment not only expanded more offerings to the community members but was also instrumental in growing our memberships. What impresses me the most about Katelyn is that she is constantly learning and learning to grow as a leader and in her personal growth."

Brown has been vital in helping the Wellness Center reach new levels by taking the initiative to identify gaps in community services, Wellness Center activities and help proposing actionable solutions that create projects to address those needs. Her professional leadership is demonstrated through her work with the Pennock Foundation Board and Medical Executive Committee. In the past two years, she presented funding proposals to the Pennock Foundation Board and Medical Executive Committee that resulted in over $30,000 for new equipment that expanded offerings to community members to help them meet their fitness goals.

"Katelyn is energetic and cares about her community and the clients she assists with their health improvement goals to increase strength and mobility… whatever the goal is, Katelyn is an encouraging force, who compassionately recognizes others' personal limitations, inspires them to keep striving to meet their goals and celebrates wins," said Pennock Foundation Director Janine Dalman.

Brown has led many women to become their own health champions. She has achieved this through the Momentum Program, a program designed to enable women in the community to regain strength and flexibility through exercise. Brown empowers her clients with tailored programs that drive their fitness success. She forges powerful partnerships with providers such as local physicians and physical therapists enhancing the support and network available to the clients she works with.

"A few years ago, I heard about the Momentum Program where you work with a trainer and have a lot of exercises given to areas you might want to target or need…I started with another trainer, but halfway through, that trainer took another job closer to family so the new trainer, Katelyn Brown, took me on. Katelyn always challenges me but double-checks to see if I felt it too much. You see, I had heart failure at age 60 and could have sat down and done nothing, but she didn't let that happen," recounted Ann Devroy. "She always had that big smile and encouraging words that made me feel like I was amazing! She not only was helping me physically but also my mental well-being, which was a plus. After the Momentum Program was done, I've continued to work with Katelyn to push myself forward, even after having a double mastectomy in April of 2023… She's what we want in our next generation of leaders."

Brown is said to transform careers, guiding individuals from front desk duties to fitness instructors and wellness coaches. She mentors them in communication and client engagement, empowering them to pursue certifications that boost their credibility and expertise.

Brown also supports women in the community helping them navigate exercise routines, healthy living, and daily challenges. She is an active youth mentor, supporting local 4H programs from her family's beef cattle farm. From tending animals and preparing for shows, to growing and harvesting crops, BCCEDA recognized Brown's support of the local 4H program as reflective of her desire to grow and support the next generation of leaders in Barry County.

The chamber launched the Athena Leadership Program in Barry County in 2009 and has honored 26 Athena Professional Leaders and Athena Young Professionals since. Representing a variety of industries, communities and experiences, the recipients of the ATHENA Leadership Professional Award all exhibit the traits and characteristics embodied by the ATHENA tenets and leadership model.

The ATHENA International Leadership program is brought to Barry County by the BCCEDA and is supported through sponsorships from Hastings Insurance, Edward Jones: Andrew Cove & Madison Cove, Corewell Health, Greenridge Realty Hastings, Highpoint Community Bank and Bay Pointe. — *MM*

Hastings PD adopting new office hours

Molly Macleod
Editor

The Hastings Police Department has new office hours to kick off the new year.

Locals can visit the department for police office hours Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The change, which began at the start of the new year, comes in an effort to ease the burden on HPD staff.

"It's come to the point where things carry over the shift and into the next shift. We need to kind of limit what's happening there and basically manage our budget," said Hastings Police Chief Dale Boulter.

Boulter said the new hours don't mean officers will be unavailable, even after hours.

"People will still have access to myself, the deputy chief, sergeants, it won't matter. It'll just be maybe by us coming down and letting them in the door because come the sixth (of January), the doors will shut at 4:30 p.m., and they won't open until 8:30 a.m."

Previously, the department was open to the public from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"I don't want people to think their access to us has been cut short basically by an hour each day. That's not the case. I do need to allow my staff time to process what they need to process in the day," Boulter said.

Those interested in scheduling an appointment before or after office hours can call the HPD front desk at 269-945-5744.



The Hastings Police Department's new office hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. **File photo**

GUEST
VIEWPOINT



BY SEN. THOMAS ALBERT

Michigan and its Legislature need a fresh start in 2025

A new year brings new opportunities to make Michigan a better place to live, work and raise a family. Our state needs a fresh start after the devastating policies and dysfunctional leadership in the Michigan Legislature and the governor's office over the past two years.

The 2025-26 legislative session will begin in January with a new dynamic. The House of Representatives will shift to Republican control based on the results of last November's election. The Senate and the governor's office were not up for election in November, so they both remain under Democratic control in the new term. But the days of the so-called "Democratic trifecta" are over.

This new dynamic means Democrats will have to work with Republicans to approve new legislation. Bipartisan cooperation will be a necessity. I am hopeful this leads to better decisions and a better path forward for Michigan than we saw in the 2023-24 legislative term.

The Legislature's lame duck session, held in December, was one of the most dysfunctional in Michigan history. The Senate concluded with a marathon 29-hour session — the longest of the modern era — while the House barely met at all. Gov. Gretchen Whitmer appeared disengaged — a sharp contrast from the lame duck session of 2018, during which Gov. Rick Snyder was so involved he pulled me aside in the middle of the night during session in an effort to get things done.

While the Senate approved dozens of bills in its final hours this session, the silver lining is many of the harmful policies that Democrats were attempting to push through at the last minute died without the chance to be signed into law.

This includes broad changes to workers' compensation laws and public employee retirement systems that would have raised costs for businesses and taxpayers even further. Another proposal that died in the final hours would have allowed Michigan's hundreds of local governments to adopt their own patchwork of local wage and labor laws — a move that would have backfired and driven jobs away from the communities that need them most.

The bad news is some issues that need to be resolved were not addressed. The most glaring example was a lack of action on the Michigan Supreme Court ruling that will force changes in tipped wage, minimum wage and sick leave laws starting in February. No votes were taken in the Legislature, even though it appears there was enough bipartisan support to enact at least a partial solution.

We must come out of the gate in early 2025 to preserve the tipped wage system and commonsense sick leave exemptions for small businesses. I look forward to evaluating possible solutions.

Failure to act would result in lost jobs, reduced hours and higher prices — particularly in the restaurant industry.

Too much damage has already been done. Democrats spent much of the past two years returning to failed policies that hurt Michigan's economy during the early 2000s. This includes a reliance on corporate welfare without an adequate return on investment for taxpayers, the ending of Michigan's "Right to Work" status, a failure to fairly reduce taxes, and energy mandates that will make it more costly and less reliable to heat and power homes and businesses.

When Gov. Snyder left office at the end of 2018, Michigan had largely resolved its chronic state budget problems and was beginning to address its long-term debt. Our state was adding jobs and population. Much of that progress has stalled in the past few years.

The centralized government approach favored by Democrats over the past couple of years has failed. We must reverse course. A good start would be to lower taxes and take other steps to help communities create job opportunities from the ground up.

State Sen. Thomas Albert represents the 18th District, which includes Barry County and portions of Allegan, Calhoun, Kalamazoo, Kent and Ionia counties.

Free CPR, AED training taking place Jan. 19

Residents have an opportunity to learn CPR and how to use an AED at a free workshop being held later this month.

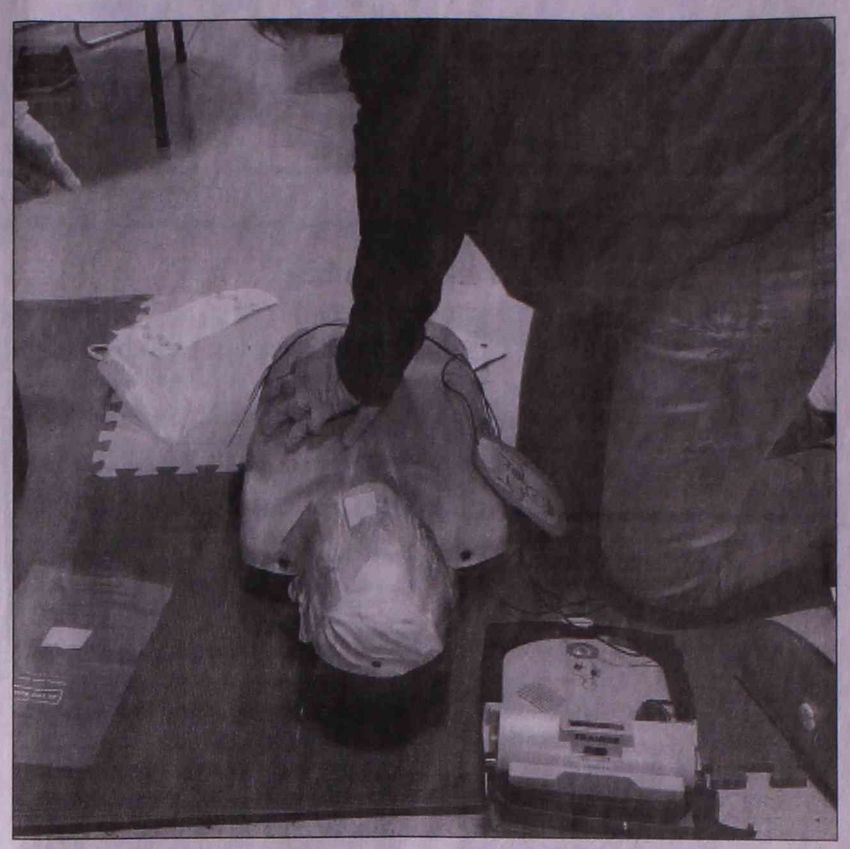
Kim Domke, an American Red Cross (ARC) instructor, will teach the 90-minute training session at Grace Lutheran Church, 239 E. North St. in Hastings, on Sunday, Jan. 19 from 3:15 to 4:45 p.m.

Domke will teach attendees how to care for conscious and unconscious choking victims, how to perform CPR and how to use an AED. Domke will also provide practice time on the infant, child and adult CPR dummies.

"I am excited to teach this program using an adult mannequin with red LED lights that illuminate from the chest to the forehead," said Domke. "Big Red provides instant feedback for learners and increases both the confidence and willingness of a responder to provide care in an emergency situation.

"Participants see that the purpose of CPR is to circulate oxygen-rich blood to the patient's brain at a consistent rate. Many people are visual learners, so seeing the red lines move up from the torso to the forehead is a very powerful reinforcement that they are performing compressions properly," she continued.

Though the free class is not a full course, participants can contact Domke if they desire to achieve ARC certification in BLS or any basic level CPR, AED or First Aid training. Those interested in the class can register by contacting Domke at 269-908-0024 or via email at kdomke08@gmail.com. — *MM*



Participants will practice CPR and learn to use an AED during a free awareness class next Sunday, Jan. 19, at Grace Lutheran Church. **Photo provided**

Legal advice offered at no cost to Barry County seniors

The Legal Services of South Central Michigan-Battle Creek office will conduct telephone interviews for legal advice and possible representation, without charge, to interested Barry County seniors this month.

Those who wish to speak with an attorney should call 269-224-5040 between 9 a.m. and noon on Wednesday, Jan. 22.

Legal Services of South Central Michigan-Battle Creek office is a non-profit organization that provides legal assistance, representation and education to low-income people in Calhoun and Branch counties and seniors in Barry, Branch, Calhoun and St. Joseph counties. The advice and counsel is funded primarily by the Area Agency on Aging Region 3B through the Michigan Aging and Adult Services Agency under the Older Americans Act of 1965. — *MM*

Health department provides free test kits during 'Radon Action Month'

New Year's Day was not only the start of 2025, but also was the start of "Radon Action Month," a time to raise awareness about the dangers of radon gas, according to a statement by Barry-Eaton District Health Department officials.

Radon, which can't be seen, smelled or tasted, is a naturally occurring radioactive gas released in the air from rocks and soil. It can be found in the air outside and can get inside homes through cracks and other holes in the foundation, where it can build up.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, radon is the leading cause of lung cancer deaths among non-smokers.

In Michigan, 1 in every 4 homes is expected to have radon levels higher than the recommended action level. The only way to determine if a home has high radon levels is to test it.

Testing is recommended every two years because homes settle, new cracks form in the foundation and radon levels can change.

Free, do-it-yourself radon test kits are available to residents of Barry and Eaton counties during January. Kits are available on a first-come, first-served basis, and supplies are limited. There is a limit of one kit per address.

After using it at home, residents should send it to the lab for testing using the pre-paid packaging. Residents can pick up a kit at one of the following locations:

Hastings – BEDHD Office, 330 W. Woodlawn Ave., 269-945-9516;

Charlotte – BEDHD Office, 1033 Healthcare Dr., 517-543-2430; and

Delton – Delton District Library, 330 N. Grove St., 269-623-8040.

For more information about radon or radon testing, visit epa.gov/radon. — *DM*

MSP seeking volunteers to participate in trooper recruit training exercises

The Michigan State Police (MSP) is seeking members of the public to volunteer as role players in scenario-based training for its upcoming Trooper Recruit School. The goal is to create a diverse pool of volunteers, reflective of Michigan's population, to best prepare recruits to serve in communities across the state.

"We have had great success with our Civilian Actor Program in previous trooper recruit schools," said Col. James F. Grady II, director of the MSP. "Involving members of the public in recruit training allows the recruits, in a controlled setting, to experience more realistic interactions with the public they will serve. It is a meaningful learning experience for everyone involved."

The exercises will be held at the MSP Training Academy in Lansing on various dates between Feb. 12 to May 8, and at the Fort Custer Training Center in Battle Creek on May 21 and 22.

Individuals are needed for the following scenarios:

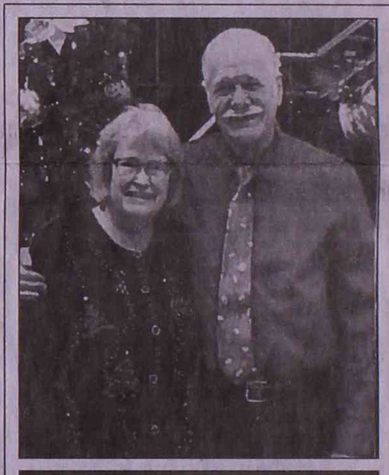
Traffic stops and/or arrests
Domestic violence
Civil disputes
Larceny
Retail fraud

Volunteers must be at least 18 years old, have a valid driver's license, complete all sections of the application and agree to a criminal background check. Approved applicants will be required to complete a class prior to assisting, consisting of legal instruction, role player responsibilities, role player safety, scenario introduction and scenario practice.

Applications can be completed online through Jan 15. If previously accepted into the program, you do not need to reapply. Those selected will receive a confirmation email with additional instructions for the Civilian Actor Program class registration, to be held in February, and recruit training exercise registration. — *MM*

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TO PLACE A CLASSIFIED AD, CALL 269-945-9554

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BUYING ALL HARDWOODS: Walnut, Oak, Hard Maple, Cherry. Paying top dollar. Call for pricing and Free Estimates. Will buy single walnut trees. Insured, liability & workman's comp. Fetterley Logging, (269)818-7793.





Jameses to celebrate 50th wedding anniversary

Howard and Joyce James, of Hastings, celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on January 4, 2025.

They were married in DeKalb, IL at St. Paul's Episcopal Church by Rev. Charles H. Brieant on January 4, 1975.

Howard and Joyce were blessed with three children: Daniel and Melissa James of Leawood, KS, Joseph James and Jessalyn Jarest of Bristol, RI and Benjamin and Bethany James of Hamel, IL and four grandchildren: Lily and Iris James of Leawood, KS and Nathan and Hazel James of Bristol, RI.

A trip to Aruba to celebrate their 50 years together is being planned.

Cards and well wishes may be sent to them at 313 Meadow Lane, Hastings, MI 49058.

American Red Cross CPR/AED/FA

Fri. Jan. 17 4:30pm-9pm CPR/AED $60
Sat. Jan 18 8:30am-1:00pm First Aid $60
Both classes $90 Recertification $50
FREE non cert. AED & CPR awareness on Sun Jan 19 3:15 to 4:45pm
This class is subsidized by Thrivent Financial Action Team
Grace Lutheran Church- instructor: Kim Domke
239 E. North Street in Hastings
(269) 908-0024 to register

This Adult, Child, and Infant **CPR/AED & Standard First Aid** course meets State of Michigan requirements for childcare providers and workplace OSHA requirements.

OBITUARIES

VIEW OBITUARIES ONLINE. HASTINGSBANNER.COM

Larry Lee Bailey



Larry Lee Bailey, age 76, of Hastings, MI, passed away peacefully on January 7, 2025. He was born on October 28, 1948, in Battle Creek, MI.

Larry was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and a proud U.S. Army veteran who served in Vietnam. Larry was employed for many years by Consumers Energy in Hastings.

Larry lived a life full of passion, particularly for sports. Whether it was hunting, fishing, or watching his favorite teams—the Detroit Lions and Detroit Tigers—he was always enthusiastic and loyal. Larry was an avid softball player in his younger years and continued to enjoy the sport for as long as he could. But above all, his greatest joy came from watching his children, and grandchildren in their various sports, where he was a constant and proud supporter at every game.

Larry is survived by his loving wife of 50 years, Joann Bailey. He is also survived by his sons, Larry (Amy) Bailey; Jim Uptgraft and daughter, Kimberly (Kevin) Matthews. He leaves behind his mother, Betty Newberry; sister, Shirley (Rick) August; and many nieces and nephews. Larry was also a proud grandfather and great-grandfather, whose legacy will continue through his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his father, Delbert Bailey, and his brother, Barry Bailey.

A celebration of Larry's life will be held at Thornapple Valley Church on January 18, 2025 from 1 to 4 p.m.

Larry will be deeply missed, but his memory and love will live on in the hearts of all who knew him and loved him.

John Robert Shumway



John Robert Shumway passed away peacefully in Grand Rapids , MI on January 1, 2025, at the age of 49. John was born October 31, 1975, in Hastings and lived at home until the age of 23, after which he lived in a number of residential care homes. He most recently lived at Silver Maple Specialized Care in Caledonia for seven years.

John attended the Barry Intermediate School District and finished his education at Lincoln School in Grand Rapids. He spent several years attending adult day services at the Barry County Community Mental Health Authority. He was a member of Curtenius Guard Camp #17 of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War along with his father and Uncle Mike.

John had a flair for the dramatic and loved getting a chuckle out of friends and family. He also had a passion for entertainment, including the WWE, action films and rap music. He enjoyed attending sports events and big celebrations, including wedding receptions and holiday parties.

John was a Believer and knew that he had a direct line to God. He managed his disabilities with grace and good humor, even as they worsened with age. As an organ donor, he will go on to impact even more lives in his death.

John will be welcomed into heaven by his grandparents, Betty and Robert Shumway and Regina and Adolph Guntermann; his godmother and aunt Marianne; and his uncle Mike, with whom he shared a special bond.

He is survived by his parents, Brian and Annegret Shumway; his sisters, Regina Sirois and Emilie Frame; his brother-in-law, Dave Frame; his niece, Quinn; his uncles Georg, Bob, Thomas, Hubert, and Darryl; his aunt, Jan, Connie, Melissa, Kym, and Ulrike; many cousins; and a wide circle of friends. Most especially John favored special friends Madeleine and Robert Ellsworth and their family and Rex and Pam Mallekoote and their family.

Visitation will be on Friday, Jan. 17, 2025, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Girrbach Funeral Home 328 South Broadway Street, Hastings, Michigan 49058. Funeral Mass will be at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Jan.18, 2025, at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church 805 South Jefferson Street, Hastings, MI 49058.

Memorial donations may be made to the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan at https://epilepsymichigan.org/ways-to-give/ or to the charity of one's choice. Services provided by Girrbach Funeral Home, Hastings Michigan. To leave online condolences visit www.girrbachfuneralhome.net.

HASTINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY SCHEDULE

Thursday, Jan. 9 – Movie Memories and Milestones watches a 1947 film starring Frank Sinatra, 5 p.m. Soldier Danny Miller returns home to Brooklyn after the war. Aiming for singing success, he helps friends chase their dreams.

Friday, Jan. 10 – Friday Story Time, 10:30 a.m.

Saturday, Jan. 11 – No Knead Bread Making: Cheesy Boule, 9 a.m.

Monday, Jan. 13 – Crafting Passions, 10 a.m.; PAWS for Reading, 3:30 p.m.; Stories & Snacks, 4 p.m.; Beginning Beekeeping, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 14 – Baby Cafe, 10 a.m.; mahjong, 2 p.m.; chess, 5 p.m.; Lift Every Voice discussion: "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks" by Rebecca Skloot, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 15 – Itsy Bitsy Book Club, 10:30 a.m.

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

PIERCE CEDAR CREEK INSTITUTE EVENTS

– JAN. 10-16 –

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

Jan. 1-31 — Jan. Storybook Walk: "Bird Count" by Susan Edwards Richmond; illustrated by Stephanie Fizer Coleman. Join a mother and daughter as they participate in the Christmas Bird Count. What kinds of birds will they find? After your storybook adventure, stop by the south side of the Visitor Center to pick up your own bird count activity. The Storybook Walk is free and self-guided on the Black Walnut Trail.

Jan. 1-31 — Backyard Bird Walk. What kinds of birds might live in your backyard? Follow the self-guided trail to find out. Afterward, visit the south side of the Visitor Center for a bird count activity and additional information on the Great Backyard Bird Count. This activity is free and self-guided on the Lupine Trail.

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

Worship Together



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HASTINGS FREE METHODIST CHURCH
"We Exist To Be An Expression Of Who Jesus Is To The World Around Us". 2635 N. M-43 Hwy., P.O. Box 8, Hastings. Telephone 269-945-9121. Email hastfmc@gmail.com. Website: www.hastingsfreemethodist.com. Pastor Brian Teed, Assistant Pastor Emma Miller, Worship Director, Martha Stoetzel. **Sunday Morning Worship:** 9:45 a.m. with Kids Church and Nursery. Aftermath Student Ministries: Sundays 6 p.m.

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:

Flexfab®
1699 W. M43 Highway,
Hastings, MI 49058.
945-4700

HASTINGS
Fiberglass Products
A WORLDWIDE SUPPLIER OF Hot Line Tools & Equipment
1301 W. Green St.
Hastings, MI 49058
945-9541

SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

Happy holidays from Social Security

HILLARY HATCH
Social Security Administration

We at the Social Security Administration hope your holidays are filled with joy and warmth. During this and every season, we want you to know that we are here to serve you. Did you know that our online services are available to help you do business with us in an easy, convenient and secure way?

You can create a personal my Social Security account online to:

Apply for retirement, spouse or disability benefits.

Request a replacement Social Security card.

Check your application or appeal status.

Request a name change (in some cases you may have to visit your local office).

If you receive benefits, you can use your personal my Social Security account to:

Change your address. (Social Security benefits only)

Change your direct deposit information. (Social Security benefits only)

Instantly get proof of benefits. Print your SSA-1099.

If you do not receive Social Security benefits, you can use a personal my Social Security account to:

Get personalized retirement, spouse, or disability benefit estimates.

Get your Social Security Statement.

Get instant proof that you do not receive benefits.

You can use these services on the go or from the comfort of your home. Visit ssa.gov/myaccount to view the services available to you.

If you cannot use our online services, you may be able to use our automated telephone services by calling 1-800-772-1213. Automated services are always available.

Have a safe, happy holiday season and know that we are here for you.

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.

The buck stays here!
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TURNING BACK THE PAGES

Early recollections of pioneer life

BANNER JUNE 29, 1995

JOYCE F. WEINBRECHT

Mary M. Lewis Hoyt writes about her experiences while growing up in Yankee Springs in the 1830s and 1840s, and about her family, "Yankee Bill" and Mary Goodwin Lewis, and the famous inn known as the Mansion House, which they operated in the wilderness. Her essay continues:

"There was a period when the Yankee Springs property was considered very valuable, and the Rathbones in Grand Rapids wished to exchange their hotel property for our one, we to retain farmlands. This Grand Rapids property in 1906 was worth several hundred thousand dollars and is the present location of the Widdicomb building on the corner of Monroe and Market streets. The other, deserted and forsaken, requires a stretch of the imagination to believe that it was ever of great importance.

"Wheat and potatoes at this early date brought fabulous prices, but the table was always well-supplied with the essentials and with many delicacies. Great care and attention were given to the large garden grown there. The light soil, highly enriched by muck taken from the mash, was calculated to quickly bring them forward to perfection.

"The most luscious of fruits, melons and vegetables were grown in abundance, all luxuriating in the new, warm soil of the valley. Arbors were filled with choice grapes, peaches ripened in the sun and flowers, the good, old-fashioned flowers of that day, grew in abundance. Celery, the first grown in Barry County and perhaps in the state, was raised there and tomatoes also. They were first called 'love apples' and we grew them for their beauty, but soon learned to eat them.

"Men were constantly employed in caring for the ground. Water was supplied for use by wells dug on the grounds.

"My father was a skillful caterer. Each guest who came was made to feel at home under the hospitable roof.

"The first Thanksgiving celebrated at the Yankee Springs tavern was in the fall of 1838. My father sent out invitations to all the new settlers for miles around and later sent men and teams to gather them in.

"My mother meanwhile was superintending the first Thanksgiving dinner in the new country which consisted of wild turkeys wrought by the Indians from Gun Lake woods, two immense spare ribs cooked to a turn before the great open fireplace, as were the turkeys. Mince pies, such as only mother would make, also pumpkin pies and puddings were baked in a large brick oven by the side of the kitchen fireplace. Cook stoves there were none.

"They turkeys and ribs were suspended by stout tow strings and slowly turned before an open fire. Someone had to burn their faces while continually bastings the meats with their rich gravies, brought out by the heat of the fire. Cranberries were brought by the Indians and were about the only fall berry. Not a fruit tree or berry bush had yet been planted.

"The tables were spread and the guest came from their homes in the woods to enjoy this banquet prepared for them in so hospitable a manner and while all must have remembered the parents and homes so recently left by them, it was not their way to mourn for what they had not, but to enjoy fully what they had, which they did in a way that would astonish the dyspeptic of today.

"It began to snow, the first of the season, but the harder it snowed the livelier it grew the party. An old violin was pulled out of some corner and all began dancing and kept it up until morning, when breakfast was prepared for them, after which they were conveyed back to their homes and so passed our first Thanksgiving in the Mansion House at Yankee Springs.

"The political campaign of 1840 made a hot time in the old house, as I well remember. Pole and flag raising and stump speaking were the order of the day, but the doings on the Fourth of July, 1846, beat everything on record before or since, so far as I can remember. A tamarack pole was spliced until it was of the desired length and a flag was flung from it to the breeze with much hurrahing from the crowd that had collected from everywhere and filled the road front before the old house from hill to hill.

"Twenty-six girls all in white, representing the states, then 26 in number and a Goddess of Liberty in red, white and blue, were loaded into a monster wagon drawn by 26 yoke of oxen. A girl for each state and a yoke of oxen for each girl! We went above the hill to form the procession and came down into the crowd in fine style.

"We were 10 years in advance of the Michigan Central Railway. We heard rumors of its approach, but so slow was it in coming that the old stagecoach kept right along its undisputed way for many years. The road started from Detroit in 1836 when Michigan was a territory. It reached Kalamazoo Feb. 21, 1846, and six years later, May 1852, the road reached Chicago.

"It has been said that, 'there is no good Indian but a dead Indian,' but in our experience, we did not find in them the treachery and deceit they are usually credited with. They had great respect for my father and we lived in peace and harmony. The woods were full of them, but we did not fear them and I believe they were our friends. They were strict in their deals and if they made a promise they kept it. They brought us berries of all kinds from the woods and constantly supplied us with fresh venison, never bringing any part of the carcass but the hams, which were always 25 cents, no more, nor less. They brought us fresh fish from the lakes, and muskellunge from Gun Lake were enormous. They made a great deal of maple sugar. In 1840, these Potawatomies were removed by the United States government beyond the Mississippi, and very



"Yankee" Bill Lewis and Mary Goodwin Lewis.

reluctantly they left their homes among the lakes and oak openings and the silvers streams of Michigan.

"Noonday, the chief of the Potawatomies, greatly impressed me by his dignified bearing. Six feet tall and well proportioned, he was at that time nearly 100 years old. His face was painted and a great circle of eagle feathers was around his head. He looked kind and he laid his hand on my head. He died soon after and was buried in the Richland cemetery by his wife. He, Noonday, assisted in the War of 1812 and witnessing the burning of the city of Buffalo.

"There were poets in those days and frequently the old place sounded in story and song and occasionally one was found whose 'feelings' overflowed to the extent that he published his production. Such a one was George Torrey Sr., who, coming from Boston at an early day, settled in Kalamazoo County and was associated with the Kalamazoo Telegraph at its birth in 1844. He traveled through Barry County and published a poem in the Telegraph soon after about the Mansion and Yankee Springs. It finished by enumerating the bill of fare, (at the Mansion) which seems to afford him great satisfaction.

"Personally, I knew little of the hardships of pioneer life, for I was protected and sheltered by my parents. There was so much of life and activity about us that it was akin to life in the city, and we had no time for loneliness. Being the almost constant companion of my father and visiting with him all the towns within a large radius, I saw life in all its forms in the new country, traveling in stagecoach, wagon or on horseback.

"There was no underbrush in those days, the annual fires consumed it, leaving the forest free from obstruction, and one could walk, ride or drive anywhere as freely as in a beautiful park. Nature was liberal in the diffusion of fruits, nuts and flowers, and from the little violet in the early spring, there was a successive graduation of flowers of all kinds and colors until the frost came in the fall.

"We lived only two-and-a-half miles from Gun Lake, that inland gem of Barry County. My first view of it will never be forgotten. Scouring through the woods one day on my little pony, born of the gray mare ridden by my mother when we came into the country, we came suddenly out on the shore of this lake and I gazed in silent wonder on the broad sheet of water, flashing and dimpling in the sunlight where no white man's boat had ever been, and only the Indian's canoe had disturbed the calm serenity of its water. Not a tree had been disturbed and the dark forest clear around was reflected on the glistening surface of the water. As I silently gazed, a feeling of awe stole over me. The solemn stillness of the lake and forest frightened me. I turned my pony and fled and never drew rein until my home was reached.

"In the new country, you sometimes looked around for your neighbors and they were not there, and so it was that some of the birds we had known, the robin, the wren and the swallows were not there but bluejays and whippoorwills were not lacking. The crows had not come, neither the flies, but fleas and mosquitoes were plenty.

"We heard of a neighbor who opened her Bible one day and found a fly pressed between its leaves. 'Now, children,' she said, 'don't touch that fly, let it remain right there in this book, just as is, because that fly once lived in our old home in York State.'

"There were no rats or mice, neither were there any house cats. The country had no need for the latter but I had and so pleaded that one day a box came from Grand Rapids. Upon opening it out jumped two lovely Maltese kittens. The prettiest, irrespective of sex, was immediately christened Tommy and nursed and petted to a great extent.

"One day, Tommy was missing and there was a great outcry. Finally, when found, he was nursing a lot of little kittens of his own. From this small beginning, many came and no doubt the descendants of this same cat are racing around on the sand hills of Barry County today.

"My father represented the counties of Allegan and Barry in the State Legislature in Detroit in 1846. He came home for a short time during the winter and when he returned was accompanied by his two youngest daughters, who took their first ride on the new railroad and indulged in the gayeties of the Capital City.

"The ride to Battle Creek was duly performed by stagecoach and four horses and from there we took our first and never-to-be-forgotten ride on that new railroad we had heard so much about. We were nearly frightened to death when the almost constant scream of the whistle and clanking of the cars over the rough road, which was about equal to that of cattle cars at the present time. We wished ourselves back in the old stagecoach many times before the journey ended.

"The Wales Hotel on Jefferson Avenue, East, just thrown open to the public Jan. 1, 1846, we thought was very fine. It was kept by Austin Wales and his two sons. It was very crowded, as many members of the legislature and their wives were staying there. The dining room was large and nearly square and was frequently used for entertainments in the evening, balls, fancy dress parties and concerts, all of which we attended.

"About Jan. 24 a Scottish ball was given. Perhaps it was a Burns' reunion and seemed to us a grand affair. There was fine music, with bagpipes included (the first I ever heard), the gay costumes were with kilted skirts, plaid hose and scarves and jaunty caps quite charmed us, and the Scottish dances and hornpipes altogether made a veritable fairyland entertainment, the impression of which I have never forgotten.

"We visited a Daguerrean gallery and had our pictures taken. This room had just been opened in Detroit and art was considered something wonderful and had but recently come into practice on this side of the water. We thought it very tiresome as we had to sit still five minutes to get a picture. My father had a number taken and presented one to each of his seven brothers, then all living. Four of the eight Lewis brothers were represented in Lansing at the pioneer convention held there on June 1 and 2, 1904. Stanton Lewis, the oldest, was represented by a granddaughter, Mrs. Florence Babbitt of Ypsilanti; William Lewis by a daughter, Mrs. Mary M. Hoty of Kalamazoo; Hiram Lewis by a daughter, Mrs. Geo B. Davis of Kalamazoo, and George Lewis by his daughter, Mrs. Marion Gear of Detroit.

"That was the last winter that the legislature convened in Detroit. Some feared that the frivolities of the gay city might affect the manners and morals of the members of that day, and so voted that Lansing, 40 miles from any railroad, in the heart of the forest of Ingham County, should henceforth witness the assembling together of that August body.

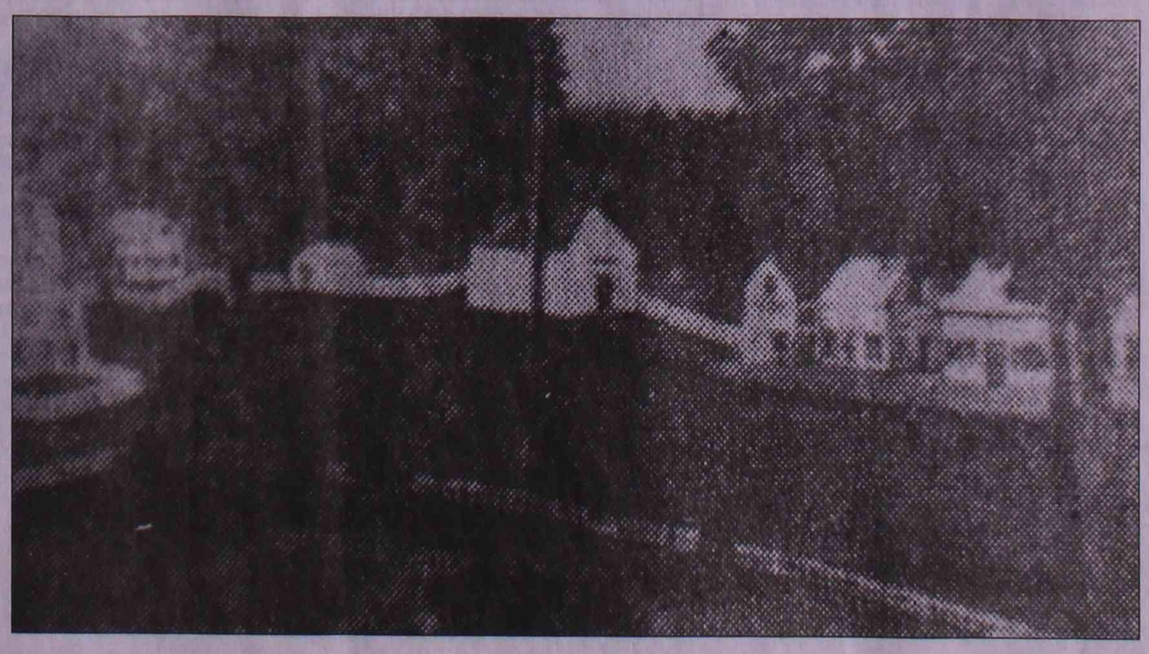
"My father lived for six years after the event, dying in September 1853, at the age of 51. His last request was that he might be buried on the hill overlooking the old place. I have twice removed his remains, once, after the old place passed from our hands, to the nearby cemetery, and again to lay them by the side of my mother in Kent County. She outlived him by 35 years, dying March 1, 1888, in Alaska, Kent County, at the age of 83 years.

"My mother descended from old revolutionary stock on the Norton-Goodwin side and will be ever remembered as the faithful friend and worthy type of womanhood. In the afflictions of life, from which she was far from being exempt, she displayed the true Christian fortitude, which commends her example to us.

"The solid forests have vanished and we sometimes feel that the solid man has vanished, too. The type of character they represented may not be needed now, but they are worth remembering for their courage in opening up this country and reclaiming it from brush and bramble trees and stone and placing Michigan in the front rank she holds today among the state of the Union.

"The men have done much to make this a grand and noble state, but the women have not been idle. If 'the hand that rocks the cradles rules the world,' ours have certainly been kept busy. In all ways, pioneer women gladly did their share in bearing the heavy burdens of that period, and today can pride themselves upon being 'the first ladies of the land,' and by right because we got here first."

Sources: Historical Collections, Michigan Pioneer and Historical Society, Vol. XXX, Lansing, Michigan, Wynkoop Hallenbeck Crawford Company, State Printers, 1906; Hastings Banner Archives.



The Mansion House in Yankee Springs.

Ionia fends off Saxons late at Hastings High

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

A nifty up and under, reverse lay-up by Saxon point guard Deondre Mathis in transition gave Hastings a one-point lead with seven minutes to play in the fourth quarter Friday against Ionia.

But the Bulldogs answered with a triple from Spencer Tooker to go in front and Hastings didn't lead again.

Ionia went on to a 55-49 non-conference win at Hastings High School. Tooker closed the night with 17 points and Colton Piercefield had a team-high 18 points for the Bulldogs.

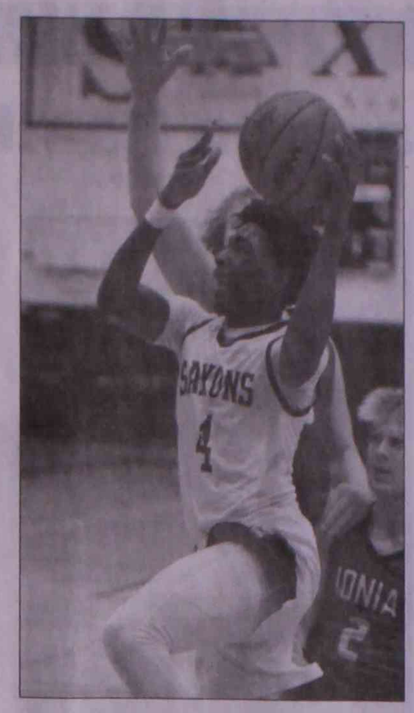
Saxon guard Porter Shaw was 5-for-12 from behind the three-point line and led Hastings with 16 points. Mathis closed the ballgame with 14 points as well as five assists, two steals and four rebounds.

Piercefield had a solid all-around game too with three rebounds, five assists and four steals for Ionia. Teammate Henry Castle added 12 points to go with a game-high seven rebounds.

The Saxons just couldn't put anything together on the offensive end down the stretch. A few open shots didn't fall, the Bulldogs drew an offensive foul and a couple turnovers held Hastings back in the end. It was still a two-point game with 2:10 to go.



Saxon senior Jett Barnum (24) goes up in the post through Ionia's Henry Castle(22) and gets called for the charge in the first quarter Friday.
Photo by Perry Hardin



Hastings' Quincy Brown (4) takes the ball strong to the rack past Ionia's Tristan Ciganick (2) Friday night at Hastings High School.
Photo by Perry Hardin

The Bulldogs grew their lead to six and then the Saxons battled back to get within 52-49 with half a minute to play in the game. Ionia was 3-of-4 at the free throw line in the final crucial moments and a few hurried threes for the Saxons wouldn't fall at the other end.

The win was the fourth straight for the Bulldogs at the time. They are now 6-4 overall this season after a 60-52 loss at Charlotte in Capita. Area Activities Conference White Division play Tuesday.

Hastings is 1-6 overall after falling 61-44 at Parma Western in Interstate-8 Athletic Conference play Tuesday night.

The Panthers pulled away with a 13-1 run in the third quarter that had them in front 29-10 at the half.

DJ VanRiper had 15 points for Western and Justin Jones finished with ten points.

Jett Barnum, who was held to four points in the loss to Ionia, had 19 against the Panthers as well as eight rebounds, two assists and two steals. Jack Webb added nine points, five assists and five steals for the Saxons. Mathis had seven points and Shaw six.

HHS bowlers earn hardware at Portage tourney

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Hastings varsity boys' bowling team took the championship Saturday at the Portage Northern Invitational at Continental Lanes in Kalamazoo.

The Saxon team of Dakota Cole, Andrew Barton, Deagan Wilkins, Brody Mix, Hunter Pennington and Miles Lipsey combined for the championship after sitting in third place heading into match play.

The Saxon girls' team finished as the runner-up in its competition, and Hastings girls' coach Deanna Rhodes said both teams bowled "phenomenally well."

In the individual games, Barton led the Hastings boys with an overall score of 410 that put him in fourth place. Lipsey was seventh with a 385.

The Saxon girls' team had three in the top ten individually led by Kass Harton's fifth-place total of 322. Heaven Simmet was sixth with a score of 318 and Jen Stoline placed tenth with a 295 in her two games.

Kaylin Shild and Megan Ramey also contributed to the Saxon girls' runner-up finish as a team.



The Hastings varsity girls' bowling team celebrates its runner-up finish at the Portage Northern Invitational at Continental Lanes in Kalamazoo Sunday.
Photo provided



The Hastings varsity boys' bowling team celebrates its championship at the Portage Northern Invitational Sunday at Continental Lanes in Kalamazoo.
Photo provided.

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Constantine doubles up Delton Kellogg girls

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Constantine took a 42-20 Southwestern Athletic Conference crossover win over the visiting Delton Kellogg girls' basketball team Tuesday night.

Jalin Lyons had five rebounds and seven deflections for the Panthers and DK head coach Kevin Lillibridge said Lucy Lester also played tough defense in the paint for his team.

The loss drops the DK girls to 1-6 overall this season.

They will be back in action on the road in a SAC Central ballgame at Martin Friday night, Jan. 10. Both Martin and Delton Kellogg are chasing their first conference victory. The Clippers are 2-5 overall.

Constantine improved to 3-6 on the season with its win over the Delton girls.

Lion ladies have best round three performance yet

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Maple Valley had the number two Division 4 score and the third best score overall at its own Maple Valley New Year Invite Saturday.

The Lion varsity competitive cheer team had its top round three performance of the season and earned its highest overall score of the season at 637.08 points.

"Overall, I was pleased by our performance," Maple Valley head coach Sarah Huissen said. "We have some areas we need to clean up in each round and work clean up the small details in each round."

Stockbridge won the Division 4 competition with a score of 646.8 points and Perry was third behind the Lions with a score of 596.46.

Sturgis, a D2 squad, had the day's top overall score at 652.94. Hastings had a total score of 608.58 and Pennfield, a D3 team, put up a final score of 596.5.

Maple Valley's round three score of 273.8 was the second best of the day overall behind the Stockbridge girls who had a score of 280.4.

The Lion team also had scores of 197.8 in round one and 165.48 in round two.

The Hastings girls, competing for the first time this season, had a score of 199.8 in round one, 180.18 in round two and 228.6 in round three.

The Saxons were set to open the Interstate-8 Athletic Conference season at Pennfield Wednesday, Jan. 8, and then will be back in action Saturday at the Paw Paw Invitational.

The Maple Valley girls return to action tonight, Jan. 9, at the Caledonia Purple and Gold Invite and then start the Big 8 Conference season at Stockbridge Monday, Jan. 13.

The Lions went into the holiday break winning the Dec. 21 Gobles Holiday Bash, finishing strong after having a stunt come down in round three. Huissen said a great start in rounds one and two was key to the first-place finish at the five-team meet.

STATE OF MICHIGAN
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE
COUNTY OF BARRY
FILE NO: 24-06-CH
ORDER TO ANSWER
HON. VICKY L. ALSPAUGH

JODI VAN GUILDER
Plaintiff,
vs.
JOHN A. LEE, JR., HON. VICKY L. ALSPAUGH MARIAN LEE, EL VIN LEROY LUCAS, DEBORAH MONTEITH
JOYCE STILES, THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF SYDNEY LEE ROOTS, THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF ROBIN WAREY, THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF RICHARD DONALD MOORE, THE UNKNOWI HEIRS OF RONALD EUGENE MOORE, GERALC JOSEPH MONTEITH III,
Or THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF GERALD JOSEPH MONTEITH III,
Defendants.

David H. Tripp (P29290)
Tripp, Tagg & Storrs, Attorneys at Law
202 South Broadway
Hastings, Michigan 49058
(269) 948-2900
Attorney for Plaintiff

TO: EL VIN LEROY LUCAS,
THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF SYDNEY LEE ROOTS
THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF ROBIN WAREY
THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF RICHARD DONALD MOORE
THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF RONALD EUGENE MOORE
GERALD JOSEPH MONTEITH III
THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF GERALD JOSEPI MONTEITH III,

Based on the pleadings filed in the above entitled case, it is ordered that Defendants,
EL VIN LEROY LUCAS,
THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF SYDNEY LEE ROOT
THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF ROBIN WAREY
THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF RICHARD DONALD MOORE
THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF RONALD EUGENE MOORE
GERALD JOSEPH MONTEITH III
THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF GERALD JOSEPH MONTEITH III,

Shall file a Notice of Interest in the real property located in the Township of Hope, County of Barry, State of Michigan, described as follows:

A parcel of land in the Northeast one-quarter of Section 24, Town 1 North, Range 9 West, described as commencing at the Southwest comer of the West one-half of said Northeast one-quarter; thence North 54 rods for place of beginning; thence North 10 rods; thence East 16 rods; thence South 10 rods; thence West 16 rods to the place of beginning; subject to easements of record.

at least 3 days prior to the hearing date noted below to assert any interest in the above describec property. If the Defendants,
EL VIN LEROY LUCAS,
THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF SYDNEY LEE ROOT
THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF ROBIN JUAREY
THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF RICHARD DONALD MOORE
THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF RONALD EUGENE MOORE
GERALD JOSEPH MONTEITH III
THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF GERALD JOSEPH MONTEITH III,
fail to do so that shall constitute a default in the above entitled matter, and on the 19th day of February 2025 at 8:30 o'clock in the forenoon, this Court shall take proofs and shall
termrnate w atever mterest
EL VIN LEROY LUCAS,
THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF SYDNEY LEE ROOT
THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF ROBIN JUAREY
THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF RICHARD DONALD MOORE
THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF RONALD EUGENE MOORE
GERALD JOSEPH MONTEITH III
THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF GERALD JOSEPH MONTEITH III,
may have in and to the above described property unless a Notice of Interest in the Real Property is filed or unless Defendants or their representatives appear on that date and time.

Hon. Vicky L. Alspaugh P42572
DRAFTED BY:
DAVID H. TRIPP (P29290)
Tripp, Tagg & Storrs, Attorneys at Law
202 South Broadway
Hastings, Michigan 49058
269/945-9585
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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-01-2025 - Ernest Jones (Applicant); Ernest and Margaret Jones (Property Owner)
Location: 5091 Walnut Ridge, Battle Creek MI in Section 29 of Johnstown Township.
Purpose: Request to erect a 32' x 40' accessory building (pole barn) that would equal a combined footprint that is more than 150% of the size of the home. Section 501.F of the Barry County Zoning Ordinance prohibits combined accessory building footprints that are larger than 150% of the principal residence in RL (Recreational Lake) zoning district.
MEETING DATE: January 27, 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 James McManus at jmcmanus@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

Improvements continue for DK/HHS swimmers

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Delton Kellogg/Hastings freshman Richard Fritz had to come up and give head coach Andrea Jackson a high five at the end of the meet.

He cut four seconds off his previous best time in the 100-yard freestyle during the DK/Hastings varsity boys' swimming and diving team's Southwestern and Central Michigan Conference dual against South Having in the Community Education and Recreation Center pool in Hastings.

Fritz, one of four new swimmers on the nine-member team this winter, also raced in the 100-yard backstroke for the first time Tuesday. Jackson, the program's first-year head coach, said Fritz was a little apprehensive about making it four lengths of the pool in the race, but in the end there was a trio of Rams in his wake and he earned the third-place points for the DK/Hastings team.

South Haven did get the victory Tuesday night, outscoring the DK/Hastings boys 108-54.

The DK/Hastings team has five returning athletes this season, a group that includes senior DJ Kuck, juniors Colton Baker, Gavin Bagley and Reese Hammond and sophomore Caleb Kramer.

Kuck led a 1-2-3 finish for the DK/Hastings team in that 100-yard backstroke with a time of 1 minute 5.65 seconds. Bagley was the runner-up in 1:23.58 and Fritz clocked in at 1:38.12.

Kuck also won the 100-yard butterfly beating out South Haven junior Carson Dissette by a little over half a second with a time of 1:03.98.

Baker had the DK/Hastings team's only other win on the evening with a score of 159.65 points in the diving competition. Coach Jackson was also excited to have sophomore Cruize Rathburn roll through a full six-dive program for the first time in an exhibition performance.

"We're hitting PR's almost every meet," Jackson said. "We're definitely hitting distance in practice now. We hit the fundamentals first, so working on starts, and turns, and stroke development primarily. Now we're getting that distance in so we're starting to see a lot more of those PR's each meet and a lot more confidence built in the boys in what they can do."



Delton Kellogg/Hastings senior DJ Kuck races to a victory in the 100-yard butterfly during his team's SCC dual against visiting South Haven at Hastings High School Tuesday. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

She said she thought the team had at least one new personal record in every event Tuesday.

"The culture of the boys has been incredible," Jackson said. "They have really helped each other along through all of it. Even in practice, if I step away for a minute, I don't have to worry about them at all. They're usually working on something. They're not messing around. They're working on something, tweaking something and helping each other out which is great.

South Haven sophomore Zander Duncan was the only guy other than Kuck to win two individual events. Duncan took the 50-yard freestyle in 23.81 seconds and the 100-yard freestyle in 54.15. Kramer was third in that 50-yard freestyle to lead DK/Hastings with a time of 27.41.

Duncan was also a part of Ram wins in the 200-yard medley relay and the 200-yard freestyle relay. The DK/Hastings team of Bagley, Baker, Kuck and Kramer placed second in the 200-yard medley relay in 2:04.85, a little less than two seconds behind the winning South Haven foursome. Kramer, Bagley, Rathburn and Baker placed second in the 200-yard freestyle relay in 1:57.22.

DK/Hastings also had the 400-yard freestyle relay team of Fritz, Bagley, Hammond and Kuck second in 5:06.59.

Hammond placed third in his first 500-yard freestyle race this season. He added a fourth-place time in the 100-yard breaststroke too right behind freshman teammate Eli Li who was third.

Jackson said for the most part all of her guys have been open to trying new things. There is definitely some strength and technique yet to gain in the butterfly and the breaststroke in the group overall.

"I actually had some of them surprise me that they were willing to try more than I expected," Jackson said. "I told them all whether or not they're good at it or they like it, they will all know all four strokes before the end of the season. They know that is kind of that end goal."

The DK/Hastings team is set to host Wayland Union in a non-conference dual tonight, Jan. 9, and will be back in action in the SCC Tuesday, Jan. 14, at Sturgis. Next Saturday, Jan. 18, the team hosts its DK/Hastings Invitational.

Otsego takes tiebreaker to down TK at Three Rivers

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Otsego took a one-point win on a tiebreaker to win the fifth-place match against the Thornapple Kellogg varsity wrestling team Saturday at the Three Rivers Super Duals.

Thornapple Kellogg senior Jayce Curtis celebrated his 100th varsity win at the tournament on a day that he went 3-2.

The TK team was 2-3 overall for the day. The Trojans outscored Coldwater 44-30 and Dowagiac 47-34. They were bested 35-21 by Portage Northern and 67-9 by Three Rivers. That 2-2 result to start the day put TK in the match for fifth with Otsego.

The two teams were tied 35-35 after the 14 weight classes. Both teams forfeited the 113-pound weight class to start the dual and then the Bulldogs won seven of the 13 other weight classes which was the criteria that broke the tie for a 36-35 win.

Christien Miller at 120 pounds, Diego Rodas at 132, Camden Peter at 157, Blake Bossenberger at 165 and Jackson Smith at 175 pounds had pins in the dual with the Bulldogs for TK and Tanner Buxton tallied a 16-0 technical fall at 215 pounds.

TK led 35-26 following Buxton's win, but the Bulldogs' Ethan Wilson outscored Jimmy Mane 4-1 in the 285-pound bout and then the Trojan team forfeited the 106-pound weight class to Otsego's Connor Mitchell.

Miller was 5-0 for the day for TK with four pins and a 9-8 victory.

Brody Morrill from Three Rivers. Bossenberger, Rodas and Peter all went 4-1.

The host Wildcats won the tournament championship with a 62-14 win over Niles in the championship match. Constantine defeated Portage Northern 38-34 in the match for third place.

Teachworth girls place second for Vikes at DeWitt

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Lakewood's Lillian Teachworth and Alliona Teachworth scored runner-up finishes Friday, Jan. 3, as the Vikings took part in the DeWitt Girls' Invitational.

The Viking varsity girls' wrestling team was eighth overall on the day at the tournament with 29 schools represented.

Lillian was the runner-up at 105 pounds. She pinned DeWitt's Corra Byars in the second period of their semifinal round match, but then fell to Dansville's Aubrey Mayr in the third period of their championship bout.

Alliona took a runner-up finish at 130 pounds and had a little more work to do. She was 3-1 overall on the day with pins of Harper Creek's Kayla Miller, Portland's Kyla Fuller and St. Johns' Lori Morris. Her lone loss was to DeWitt's Isabella Yuhasz by technical fall.

The Lakewood team also had Juliana Taylor place third at 235 pounds and Korin Mitchell fifth at 125 pounds. Teammates Allison Frizzell, Caroline Brown, Emery Graham and Julianna Taylor all had at least one win at the tournament.

DeWitt won the day's championship on its home mats with 196 points ahead of Bellevue 102, Lowell 82, Waverly 71.5, Owosso 68, Portland 64, Romeo 62, Lakewood 61, Forest Hills Eastern 57 and Mt. Pleasant 50.5 in the top ten of the team standings.

Isabella Yuhasz was one of three individual champions for the DeWitt team. Lillian Yuhasz was the 140-pound champ for the Panthers and teammate Jamie Cook won the 125-pound weight class.

Portland got a championship from 235-pounder Rylan Johns and Sexton's Ayan Kelley won the 155-pound weight class. Lowell had two champions with Veronica Tapia winning at 100 pounds and Tatianna Castillo taking the title at 110 pounds.

The Lakewood girls head to Lakeview for a tournament Friday, Jan. 10.

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STATE OF MICHIGAN
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE
COUNTY OF BARRY
FILE NO: 24-791-CH
ORDER TO ANSWER
HON. VICKY L. ALSPAUGH

HEATHER RITCHIE,
Plaintiff,
vs.
ESTATE OF SADIE L. PIKE, and the Unknown Heirs of Sadie L. Pike, SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.3 and ARMINA PIKE
Defendants.

Nathan E. Tagg (P68994)
Tripp, Tagg & Storrs, Attorneys at Law
202 South Broadway
Hastings, Michigan 49058
(269) 948-2900
Attorney for Plaintiff

TO: ESTATE OF SADIE L. PIKE, SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.3 and ARMINA PIKE,
Based on the pleadings filed in the above-entitled case, it is ordered that Defendants, ESTATE OF SADIE L. PIKE, SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.3 and ARMINA PIKE,
Shall file a Notice of Interest in the real property located in the Township of Orangeville, County of Barry, State of Michigan, described as follows:

LAND SITUATED IN THE TOWNSHIP OF ORANGEVILLE, COUNTY OF BARRY, STATE OF MICHIGAN: COMMENCING AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF LOT 22 IN THE VILLAGE OF ORANGEVILLE, ACCORDING TO PLAT ON FILE IN THE REGISTER OF DEEDS OFFICE FOR COUNTY OF BARRY, AND RUNNING THENCE SOUTH PAST THE WESTERN BOUNDARIES OF LOT 22 AND 21 TO THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF LOT 18, THENCE WEST PAST THE NORTHERN BOUNDARY OF LOTS 18, 17, 16, 15, TO THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF LOT 14, THENCE NORTH TO A LINE DUE WEST TO THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF LOT 14, THENCE NORTH TO ALINE DUE WEST OF THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF LOT 22, THENCE EAST TO PLACE OF BEGINNING.

PARCEL 08-11-017-247-00
at least 3 days prior to the hearing date noted below to assert any interest in the above-described property. If the Defendants, ESTATE OF SADIE L. PIKE, SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.3 and ARMINA PIKE,
fail to do so that shall constitute a default in the above-entitled matter, and on the 5th day of February, 2024 at 11 :30 A.M., this Court shall take proofs and shall terminate whatever interest ESTATE OF SADIE L. PIKE, SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.3 and ARMIN A PIKE,
may have in and to the above-described property unless a Notice of Interest in the Real Property is filed or unless Defendants or their representatives appear on that date and time.
Hon. Vicky L. Alspaugh P42572
Date: Dec. 16, 2024
Drafted by:
Nathan E. Tagg (P68994)
Tripp, Tagg & Storrs, Attorneys at Law
202 South Broadway
Hastings, MI 49058
(269) 948-2900
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STATE OF MICHIGAN
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE
COUNTY OF BARRY
FILE NO.24- 790 -CH
ORDER TO ANSWER
HON. VICKYL. ALSPAUGH

WILLIAM AND CHRISTINE MOSHER,
Plaintiffs,
vs.
LINDA R SIMMONS, THOMAS J. MARRIOT, BETTY G. MARRIOT, MICHAEL T. MARRIOT, DAWN J. MARRIOT, JOSEPH E. MARRIOT, CONSUELO A. MARRIOT, ROBERT J. WIRSING, MARGARET A. WIRSING
Defendants.

Nathan E. Tagg (P68994)
Tripp & Tagg, Attorneys at Law
202 South Broadway
Hastings, Michigan 49058
(269) 948-2900
Attorney for Plaintiff

Based on the pleadings filed in the above-entitled case, it is ordered that Defendants,
LINDA R SIMMONS
THOMAS J. MARRIOT
BETTY G. MARRIOT
MICHAEL T. MARRIOT
DAWN J. MARRIOT
JOSEPH E. MARRIOT
CONSUELO A. MARRIOT
ROBERT J. WIRSING
MARGARET A. WIRSING
Shall file a Notice of Interest in the real property located in the Township of Assyria, County of Barry, State of Michigan, described as follows:
BEGINNING AT A POINT ON THE EAST AND WEST ¼ LINE OF SECTION 32, TOWN 1 NORTH, RANGE 7 WEST, DISTANT SOUTH 89°04'32" EAST
2246.22 FEET FROM THE WEST ¼ POST OF SAID SECTION 32; THENCE CONTINUING SOUTH 89°04'32" EAST ALONG SAID¼ LINE 175.00 FEET;
THENCE SOUTH 00°07'02" WEST, 350.00 FEET;
THENCE NORTH 89°04'32" WEST, 175.00 FEET;
THENCE NORTH 00°07'02" EAST, 350.00 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING.
PARCEL #08-01-032-003-00
at least 3 days prior to the hearing date noted below to assert any interest in the above-described property. If the Defendants,
LINDA R SIMMONS
THOMAS J. MARRIOT
BETTY G. MARRIOT
MICHAEL T. MARRIOT
DAWN J. MARRIOT
JOSEPH E. MARRIOT
CONSUELO A. MARRIOT
ROBERT J. WIRSING
MARGARET A. WIRSING,
fail to do so that shall constitute a default in the above-entitled matter, and on the 5th day of February, 2024 at 11 :00 A.M., this Court shall take proofs and shall terminate whatever interest
LINDA R SIMMONS
THOMAS J. MARRIOT
BETTY G. MARRIOT
MICHAEL T. MARRIOT
DAWN J. MARRIOT
JOSEPH E. MARRIOT
CONSUELO A. MARRIOT
ROBERT J. WIRSING
MARGARET A. WIRSING,
may have in and to the above-described property unless a Notice of Interest in the Real Property is filed or unless Defendants or their representatives appear on that date and time.
Hon. Vicky L. Alspaugh P42572
Drafted by:
Nathan E. Tagg (P68994)
Tripp, Tagg & Storrs, Attorneys at Law
202 South Broadway
Hastings, MI 49058
(269) 948-2900
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Lamb champs: Saxons win home invite

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Caledonia was the only team within 100 points of the Saxons as Hastings varsity wrestling team won its 63rd Annual LH Lamb Tournament at Hastings High School Saturday.

Hunter Sutfin, Reyd Zoerman, Liam Renner, Keegan Sutfin, Tate Warner and Isaac Friddle won flight championships for the Saxon 'Gold' team that took the championship, and teammates Jordan Humphrey and Matthew Shults were second at their weight class.

The Saxons' Keegan Sutfin, a state medalist last season, ran his record to 19-0 with three wins in the 157-pound weight class. He stuck Caledonia's Ian DeHaan and then Oscoda's Brett Travis in his first two matches and then pulled out a 5-4 win over New Lothrop's Dalton Birchmeier in the 157-pound championship match. A take down midway through the first period and an early reversal in the second period proved all the points Sutfin needed. Birchmeier is a three-time state qualifier and a two-time state medalist.

"Keegan probably had one of the best finals match ups," Hastings head coach Jason Slaughter said. "The score of the match was close in the end but Keegan was in control of the match the whole time, he won and controlled every position. He is doing a great job this year. He is the real deal right now and beating a lot of great competition."

Hastings also had Maverik Peake, Isaac Lilley and Jace Acker place fourth. A Hastings 'Blue' team that placed ninth at the ten-team tournament had Jax Balderson and Reese Hammond place third Ethan McCormick finish fourth.

The Hastings 'Gold' team won the tournament title with 257 points ahead of Caledonia 'Gold' 199, New Lothrop 126.5, Saranac 118.5, Montabella 94, Oscoda 92, Maple Valley 86, Ionia 83.5, Bellevue 79 and Clio 78.5.

Maple Valley got a championship from Jackson Burpee in the 170-pound weight class. He pinned the Saxons' Shults midway through the second period of their championship round bout improving his record to 13-3 overall this season. The Lion state qualifier from a year ago pinned all three of his opponents on the day.

The Maple Valley team also had Joe Long the runner-up at 285 pounds and Filiip Nowak the runner-up at 144 pounds.

Hunter Stufin and Zoerman are a pair of freshmen who earned their first Lamb titles Saturday.

"Both Hunter and Reyd have been really impressive so far in their debut season," coach Slaughter said. "Hunter is one of the best technicians we have seen in while. Reyd is a brawler who just wrestles hard for six minutes."

Hunter Sutfin ran his record to 17-1 with his 106-pound championship. He pinned Oscoda's Preston Nash in the semifinals and then rolled to an 18-2 win over Caledonia's Max Schnurstein in the championship round.

Zoerman at 120 moved his record to 17-2 with his 120-pound championship for the Saxons. He pinned Caledonia's Josh Grace and then Ionia's Chad Campbell in the third period of his first two matches, and then met up with 2024 state medalist Blake Wendling from New Lothrop in the championship match and scored a 7-5 win. Zoerman scored two take downs in the first period against Wendling and then held on for the two-point victory.

Friddle spent only 137 seconds wrestling to win the 215-pound championship. He is now a four-time champion at the Lamb for the Saxons.. His longest match of the day was his 215-pound championship bout against Caledonia's Thomas Hodgson in which he scored a pin 65 seconds in. The Saxons' three-time state medalist is now 19-1 overall this season.

Renner pinned all three of his opponents including New Lothrop's Kyler Campbell in the 150-pound championship match. Warner stuck Clio's Bryan O'Kelly in the 190-pound championship match.

"[Renner] has had a lot of growth since last year and really becoming a guy we can count on to wrestle hard and win matches," Slaughter said.

The runner-up team from Caledonia had nine top-four medalists and got its lone championship from James Carrow V who stuck the Saxons' Jordan Humphrey in the 132-pound championship match. Carrow V won all three of his bouts by pin in less than a minute.



The Saxons' Liam Renner works to pin Montabella's Keith Miller during the first period of their quarterfinal match in the 150-pound weight class at Saturday's LH Lamb Tournament at Hastings High School. **Photo by Brett Bremer**



Hastings 175-pounder Matthew Shults closes in on a pin of Caledonia's Muhammed Turk during their quarterfinal match Saturday at the annual LH Lamb Tournament at Hastings High School. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

The Saxons were scheduled or an Interstate-8 Athletic Conference dual at Harper Creek Wednesday, Jan. 8, and will be home for a Friday evening dual Jan. 10 against Three Rivers. It's tournament time again Saturday as the Saxons take part in the Alma Duals.

Next week, the Saxons visit Coldwater for an I-8 Quad Wednesday, Jan. 15.

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