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Barry County Chamber & EDA celebrates community strength at annual awards dinner

Molly Macleod
Editor

Several businesses and individuals around the county are sporting shiny new hardware this week after receiving awards at the Barry County Chamber & Economic Development Alliance Annual Dinner & Awards Ceremony on Saturday.

This year's dinner, hosted by Bay Pointe Woods on Gun Lake, honored nine businesses and individuals. Awards included:

- Chamber Champion Award – Greg Moore
- Barry Business Booster of the Year – Pat Doezema
- Entrepreneur of the Year – Lynch's Tire & Service
- Member Choice for Customer Service Award – Farmers Insurance-Ayers Agency
- Community Impact Award – Thornapple Credit Union
- Brick Award – Yankee Bills
- ATHENA Honoree – Katelyn Brown
- ROTH Award – David Solmes
- Lifetime Achievement Award (posthumously awarded) – James Wiswell

The awards served as an opportunity for the community to look back at all it did in 2024, looking to the new year. BCCEDA President/CEO Jennifer Heinzman used the opportunity to remind attendees of the chamber's many achievements in 2024.

Some chamber projects highlighted by Heinzman included the demolition of the former Design Wear and Baby Bliss building in Middleville, a $100,000 USDA grant and subsequent Rural Barry County Development Strategy and new housing opportunities.

"We have added over 748 houses or homes to our stock since 2020. We currently have 870 units in the pipeline — that's a total of 1,618. That's good stuff," Heinzman said.

In addition to adding a workforce development coordinator in 2024, the chamber is in the process of purchasing the old Trumble Insurance building on State Street in Hastings.

"We're moving basically across the street, kind of kitty-corner," Heinzman said. Trumble is moving to the former Bunker's building on Jefferson Street. "Our plan is to move over there April 1. We are turning our current location into the Barry County Innovation and Coworking Station. So we're going to create a business development center in the front, and coworking and business resources in the back."

The chamber is looking to grow even more in 2025, said Heinzman. BCCEDA recently kicked off a sustainability campaign and capital campaign to help support these expansions.



Barry County entrepreneurs and businesses were honored at Saturday's Barry County Chamber & Economic Development Alliance Annual Dinner & Awards Ceremony at Bay Pointe Woods. **Photos by Molly Macleod**

Todd and Christina Porritt, owners of Yankee Bill's Woodfired Saloon, received a standing ovation when accepting the Brick Award. The award honors entrepreneurs who demonstrate commitment to the community through capital improvements. Yankee Bill's completed several improvements and renovations recently. The restaurant is in the early stages of rebuilding after being destroyed in a fire late last year.

"I do want to thank everyone in the community that's been here to support us. It's been very overwhelming. We're honored to be even nominated for this award, and then to get the award is awesome. It's been a very rough month for us," Christina Porritt said. "We will be back. We're working closely with a builder in Caledonia right now, and we're hoping to be open again by the end of 2025. Thank you all."

Highpoint Community Bank President/CEO Mark Kolanowski introduced the Lifetime Achievement Award, posthumously awarded to longtime Barry County Lumber owner Jim

See **ANNUAL** on 4

Nashville woman enters guilty plea for role in fatal accident



Brinna Lavonne Cobb of Nashville stands before Judge Michael Schipper during a hearing in the 56B District Court in Hastings on Jan. 16. **Photo by Dennis Mansfield**

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

A Nashville woman could face up to 15 years in prison after entering a guilty plea regarding her involvement in a 2023 accident that left two people dead and a third hospitalized.

Brinna Lavonne Cobb of Nashville entered a guilty plea to operating a vehicle with the presence of THC before Judge Michael Schipper during a Jan. 16 hearing in the 56B District Court in Hastings.

Cobb, then 19, faced up to seven criminal charges for her alleged role in a Sept. 12, 2023, vehicular accident that claimed the lives of a 40-year-old man and his 14-year-old son, as well as seriously injuring the father's 17-year-old son. Those charges included operating while intoxicated causing death, operating while intoxicated causing serious injury and moving violation causing death.

The Barry County Prosecutor's Office reportedly charged Cobb was allegedly intoxicated when the accident occurred, though the substance involved was not initially revealed.

According to previous news reports, the 2023 accident involved two sulky carts, while Cobb was driving a Volkswagen Tiguan. The crash reportedly occurred at about 7:17 p.m. on Sept. 12, 2023, on East Cloverdale Road, east of Guy Road, in Maple Grove Township.

The charges resulted from an investigation by the Barry County Sheriff's Office which reportedly concluded that the vehicle driven by Cobb, which was headed westbound on the roadway, collided with two Amish sulky carts, killing the two family members and injuring a third.

A sentencing hearing is to be scheduled for sometime in March.

Former Hastings-based builder faces criminal charges out west

Jayson Bussa
Contributing Writer

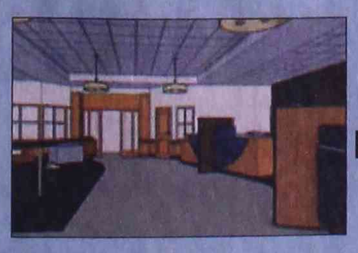
As Justina Hunter observes ongoing criminal proceedings hundreds of miles out west, she is hoping that victims in a similar situation locally, like her, also find some form of justice.

"We're rooting for them because we're not seeing justice here," said Hunter, a Hastings resident.

Hunter, and many like her around the Hastings area, can empathize with what a group of residents in the state of Wyoming are going through. A group of local residents say they were duped by a building company that formerly called Hastings home. That same company and its owner have now been accused of doing the same thing more recently out west.

See **CHARGES** on 3

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HIGHPOINT COMMUNITY BANK LOBBY RENOVATION BEGINS NEXT MONTH
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DID YOU SEE?



'HOT' SPRINGS

Temperatures on Tuesday hovered around 0 degrees Fahrenheit as the polar vortex subjected much of the Midwest to frigid temperatures. This fountain at Fish Hatchery Park in Hastings had some of the last unfrozen water in the county this week. Even the Thornapple River was largely jammed with ice following this week's icy blast. **Photo by Molly Macleod**

Barry County residents involved in pedestrian-vehicle crash in Byron Twp.



A 46-year-old Middleville man is recovering today after being struck outside his vehicle by a Hastings woman in Byron Township on Tuesday. **Photo provided**

Molly Macleod
Editor

A 46-year-old Middleville man is recovering today after being struck by a vehicle while assisting other motorists involved in a crash in Byron Township on Tuesday. The vehicle that struck the Middleville man, who was outside of his car, was driven by a 32-year-old Hastings woman, according to the Kent County Sheriff's Department.

The crash occurred around 9:50 a.m. on Tuesday morning, Jan. 21, on the 500 block of 100th Street SW in Byron Township.

The Middleville bystander had stopped to assist occupants in a grey Chevrolet Traverse who were involved in an unrelated crash. While outside his vehicle assisting the other motorists, the Middleville pedestrian was struck by a white Honda Pilot driven by the Hastings woman. She lost control due to icy conditions and struck the man.

Emergency responders attended to the scene and transported the man to a local hospital. He was alert but with serious injuries.

The Kent County Sheriff's Office Traffic Safety Unit is investigating the accident.

"We remind drivers to reduce their speeds, allow extra time for travel, and remain vigilant, especially during hazardous road conditions," wrote KCSO in a release. "Be mindful of your surroundings and take extra precautions to protect yourself and others. Remember, if one vehicle has slid off the road, it is likely that others could as well."

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Highpoint Community Bank lobby renovation begins next month



Highpoint Community Bank in Hastings will soon kick off renovations overhauling and modernizing its lobby. This rendering shows what the bank's main lobby will look like once construction is finished. **Images provided**



Instead of a traditional teller line, HCB's new lobby will host freestanding teller islands, improving the openness of the space.



HCB's new lobby will be more open than its current iteration, with updated carpet, seating and more.

Molly Macleod
Editor

After 20 years in its new building on the corner of Jefferson and Court streets, Highpoint Community Bank in Hastings will soon undergo renovations modernizing its lobby and teller area.

HCB, formerly Hastings City Bank, has served the community for over 138 years. The brick building the bank's headquarters in Hastings is currently housed in was completed in the fall of 2004. HCB retail banking vice president Ashley Van Alstine said the renovations will both modernize the lobby and give it more of an open, welcoming feel.

"The reason we're doing this is because obviously banking continues to evolve. People are still coming in, but their needs are more complex than just cashing checks. The biggest thing is taking down the teller line and creating more of an open, welcoming space, where our staff can move freely about," said Van Alstine.

Employees will also have an opportunity for cross-training during and after the renovations — something Van Alstine said will further improve the customer experience and support employee development.

"The updated layout will foster collaboration and help our team continue to grow its practice," she said.

Construction on the new lobby will begin on Feb. 3, according to Van Alstine, and is projected to take 16 weeks before completion. In the meantime, bank employees will set up a temporary teller line near the bank's Jefferson Street entrance.

Customers doing business at the bank during construction can park either in the HCB employee parking lot or in the city's 15-minute spaces next to the bank on Court Street.

Instead of having a traditional teller line, the new lobby will consist of freestanding teller desks spaced out across the floor. A greeter will be stationed near the front door.

"The new design will improve the overall banking experience by offering a more efficient layout, increased accessibility, and spaces that ensure privacy and comfort," said Van Alstine. "Our goal is to make every visit welcoming and enjoyable for our customers."

HCB staff are excited to debut their new lobby to the community, Van Alstine said. Details on a grand opening celebration will be shared closer to the project's completion date.

"We appreciate our customers' patience during the construction process and look forward to welcoming everyone to our newly remodeled space soon," she said.

Freeport man injured in wreck near Zeeland

Banner Staff

A 55-year-old Freeport man is recovering from injuries suffered in a 15-vehicle crash on Interstate 196 in Ottawa County earlier this week.

The victim, whose name was not released, was driving a pickup truck in the eastbound lanes of the expressway at mile marker 59 between Zeeland and Hudsonville shortly after 11:30 a.m. Monday when his vehicle slid underneath a semi-truck, Sgt. Matt Wildfong of the Ottawa County Sheriff's Office said in a news release.

Other vehicles were then caught up in the wreck, which led to a seven-mile stretch of I-196 being closed for nearly four hours, Wildfong said.

"The crash was caused by blowing snow and whiteout conditions with near-zero visibility," Wildfong said.

The victim was taken to a nearby hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. Two other people suffered minor injuries and were treated at the scene.

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HASS looks to streamline, improve technology and communications in 2025

Molly Macleod
Editor

Hastings Area School System is embracing new and improving technologies later this year by introducing new software that streamlines the district's web presence and communications.

The HASS Board of Education unanimously approved a contract with Apptegy to build the district's brand and enhance website management and communications.

"(Apptegy has) a lot of good benefits that our current system does not offer. One of those which I'm super excited about is a mobile app. That will be available for parents, for anyone interested, to download a mobile app that is just a great communication tool," said board treasurer Mike Nichols.

The app will serve as a hub for all relevant school information to parents, students and staff. The software agreement will include a revamping of the district's website, too.

"It really is a great program and I think something that parents will eventually come to appreciate when you can hit one button of an app and see what's for lunch at Star Elementary School on Wednesday or Thursday morning," Hastings Superintendent Dr. Nick Damico said on Monday.

In other technology business on Monday, the board approved a motion to rescind the district's technology contract with the Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency (KRESA). The district will move back to an in-house technology department, which will spell a savings for HASS over time.

"I think we moved to an independent or third-party technology service multiple years ago because it was a savings financially to the district," said board president Luke Haywood. "Since then, the charges have increased significantly and our services have deteriorated significantly. So we feel that we would do a better job in house."

Though there will be some up-front costs, said Haywood, the district will save money over time by housing its technology department on-site.

"We've been working with a couple other districts who have recently moved to independence as well and they are very happy and successful, I'd say," said Haywood.

"We're working very closely with Plainwell (Community Schools) who made this exact transition last year," said Damico. "They've already told us what went well and what didn't go well and they're going to work closely with us as we make this change over the spring into early summer."

"It's an exciting thing for the school district to bring out technology back in-house. Over the course of the next few years, you should see some savings," he continued.

Monday marked the first meeting of the 2025 Hastings Area Schools Board of Education. Brandy Nofz, the newest trustee elected to the board, took her ceremonial oath of office Monday evening to start the regular meeting.

All board officers will remain the same this year, with Luke Haywood as president, Val Slaughter as vice president, Mike Nichols as treasurer and Jennifer Eastman serving as secretary.

Eleven students from Star Elementary School led a presentation Monday night honoring the board for School Board Appreciation Month.



The 2025 Hastings Board of Education includes (from left) Brad Tolles, Brandy Nofz, Mike Nichols, Luke Haywood, Justin Peck, Valerie Slaughter and Jennifer Eastman. **Photos by Molly Macleod**



Eleven Star Elementary students attended Monday's board meeting to honor the Hastings Area School System Board of Education.

CHARGES

Continued from Page 1

Earlier this month, Wyoming news organization Cowboy State Daily released a report that drudged up a familiar name here locally as it highlighted criminal charges brought against Jerold Saeman, owner of Bay to Bay Building Concepts LLC, which had its home office in downtown Hastings but has since moved and is now listed as permanently closed.

The report states that Saeman is facing felony charges in Niobrara County District Court after authorities accused him of taking hundreds of thousands of dollars from residents without delivering on the promise of service — something that dozens of residents here locally have complained about over the last couple of years Bay to Bay was in business.

Reports stated that Saeman faces 10 counts of felony theft, each punishable by up to 10 years in prison and $10,000 fines.

The report outlined the scope of the investigation, which it says took about a year as the Niobrara County Sheriff's Office eventually handed it over to the Wyoming Division of Criminal Investigation back in July.

The report notes that, over the course of the investigation, a deputy received complaints based out of Michigan about the company after the company's personnel arrived in the county in July of 2023 following a severe hail storm that caused significant damage to homes and commercial buildings.

Several residents local to that area had grievances after working with the company, whose building license was suspended in the state of Michigan as of 2023. These residents were provided with a consumer protection form to document those complaints. The report stated that the company took down payments from 11 homeowners totaling $151,664.57, a single down payment as high as $31,284.67.

The report goes on to say that, when dissatisfied residents asked for a refund, Saeman would tell them they could cancel their project with a 30 percent fee along with additional costs.

The report also stated that a special agent spoke with Sgt. Bryan Fuller of the Michigan State Police back in August to gain information about those who had been victimized in a similar fashion in Michigan.

A Wyoming circuit court initially set Saeman's bond at $10,000 and ordered him to stay in the state, per the report, but near the end of last year, a judge modified the bond to $5,000 cash or surety and allowed him to return to Michigan while he is prosecuted.

While these are merely charges against the company, which is presumed innocent until proven otherwise, it is more progress than Hunter of Hastings has seen. She faced a similar scenario all the way back in 2022 when she turned to the company, which at the time had glowing reviews and seemed like a good choice in a local contractor, for a full exterior makeover.

Hunter said she had a contract in place with the company and put down over $17,000, or 50 percent of the project, in advance.

That's when the problems began, from lack of communication on behalf of Bay to Bay, shoddy initial work and a constantly shifting timeline which led to a point where the company claimed its policies had changed and it needed 100 percent of the project cost upfront before completing the work.

Hunter went back and forth with Bay to Bay into the following year before finally giving up and filing a criminal complaint with the police and with the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, where she was grouped in with the initial wave of complaints the organization would receive.

After recouping some money from a settlement between LARA and Bay to Bay, Hunter is still out over $6,000 on a project she and her husband were financing themselves.

"People don't know what to do," Hunter said of being in that situation. "When I started dealing with this, I was lost. I didn't know — am I supposed to call the police? Should I contact an attorney? You're scared, and it's all your money."

Despite complaints like Hunter's piling up, authorities in Michigan have not taken any criminal action against Saeman or Bay to Bay. The Banner reached out to the Attorney General's office multiple times for comment on the matter but did not receive an answer.

Locally, the Barry County Prosecutor's Office has not been handling the complaints. Prosecuting Attorney Julie Nakfoor Pratt said, that due to the multi-jurisdictional nature of the matter, complaints were brought to the Michigan State Police and then to the AG's office, which was better equipped to investigate such matters.

"I mean, let's be honest, if they would have pressed charges, even if it wasn't all the people, maybe we wouldn't see customers who ended up signing up for them in April (of 2023) when we had storm damage and no one knew this was going on behind the scenes," Hunter said.

"I don't know what's happening at the state level," she added. "I know it's frustrating. I'm sitting on a criminal complaint that is coming up on a two-year anniversary."

Another couple from Caledonia, who asked not to be named in the story, turned to Bay to Bay to repair storm damage, putting down nearly $20,000 initially, which they received from the insurance company as a downpayment for the work, which never came. Communication broke down and the couple started to see more and more negative reviews emerge about the company.

They eventually had to get the work done elsewhere, paying that initial down payment out of their own pockets.

"I'm fighting for the elderly," the woman said. "The younger families, I feel terribly for them, but they can work. The elderly don't have the means and usually can't work."

Steven Storrs, an attorney with Hastings-based Tripp, Tagg, Storrs Attorneys at Law has worked with several former Bay to Bay clients and, in many cases, has helped them receive judgments in civil cases.

He told the Banner that, on average, his clients have been able to recoup 20 to 25 percent of what was taken from them but that he is not optimistic that much more will be collected unless the authorities uncover funds over the course of their investigation.

"We remain very frustrated that neither the Michigan Attorney General's Office nor local prosecutors have charged him in Michigan," Storrs said in an email.



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Financial considerations when changing jobs

Are you changing jobs soon? If so, you'll obviously be interested in your new salary — but you'll also want to look at other financial considerations.

Here are some of the most important ones:

• **401(k)** — If you had a 401(k) plan through your previous employer, you'll need to decide what to do with it once you've joined a new employer. You could just cash it out, but you'd pay taxes and possible penalties. You could leave your 401(k) with your previous employer, if allowed, and if you have been happy with your plan's performance. Or you could move your 401(k) into your new employer's plan, which might be a good choice if the new plan has lower fees and attractive investment options. You'd also want to ask whether the new employer offers matching contributions. Finally, you could roll over your old 401(k) into a traditional IRA, which would give you more investment choices.

• **HSA/FSA** — If your new employer offers a health savings account (HSA) as part of a high-deductible health plan, you may want to take advantage of it. Your contributions are made with pre-tax dollars, your earnings generally grow tax deferred and your withdrawals are tax free, as long as they're used for qualified medical expenses. Plus, you can carry unused funds through retirement, when you can still use them for qualified medical expenses. Your employer might also offer a flexible spending account (FSA), which can pay for a variety of health care costs, such as deductibles, co-payments and co-insurance. Generally, if you're contributing to an HSA, you can't fund an FSA in the same year, except for a limited purpose FSA.

• **Waiting period for health benefits** — You'll want to ask your new employer if there's a waiting eligibility period to enroll in its benefits plan — health insurance, dental, vision, and so on. If so, you may need to get COBRA coverage for a few months to stay in your old plan, unless you can be added to a spouse's plan. When you go on your new employer's health care plan, make sure you know what it covers. Depending on your situation, you might want to add supplemental health insurance.

• **Life insurance** — When you leave a job, your employer-sponsored life insurance will end, unless you have the option to convert your group term life policy into an individual permanent cash value policy. So, you'll want to be sure your new employer offers at least the same insurance coverage as your old one. But you should also determine whether the group policy offered by your employer is sufficient for your needs. Depending on several factors, such as your income, spouse's income and family size, you may need to supplement your employer's policy with an individual term life insurance policy.

• **Other benefits** — Review your new employer's benefits package carefully to see what's available. Many employers offer tuition reimbursement for their employees, and some even provide college planning assistance for employees' children. For example, your employer might offer matching contributions to a tax-advantaged 529 education saving plan, which can be used for college, some K-12 expenses and some trade/vocational school programs.

Changing jobs can provide you with an opportunity to expand your career, learn new skills and broaden your social network. And it can certainly be financially rewarding, too — so make sure you know all the benefits involved.

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Hastings students excel at regional business competition

Hastings High School students got a chance to show their skills recently, and not on the basketball court or football field, but in the world of business.

Eighteen students from HHS were among those battling for top honors at the Business Professionals of America's Region 1 Leadership Conference at Davenport University in Grand Rapids on Jan. 10.

The BPA is a youth organization which provides leadership and business opportunities for high school students to assist them in making decisions on future careers. Students learn through participating in a variety of business experiences to help prepare them for careers in a world-class workforce.

At the regional conference, students competed in individual and team events ranging from administrative support concepts to website fundamentals. Students who placed top six in individual events and top two in team events are eligible to attend the BPA State Leadership Conference.

And the Hastings club is set to advance to the state conference after walking away with seven of the local students garnering eight awards.

Students who qualified to attend the state conference include: Christian Boniface (fourth place, entrepreneurship), Cayden Cappon (second, administrative support team), Parker Erb (second, business spelling; and second, fundamental word processing), Carter Favreau (fourth, computer security), Racheal Hewitt (second, administrative support team; and fourth, business law and ethics), Alan Li (sixth, fundamental accounting) and Nicklas Stehr (first, business law and ethics).

The BPA State Leadership Conference is set for March 13-16 at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids. Students will be participating in business-related events and competing for the top spots, with the eligible participants then advancing to the National Leadership Convention in Orlando, Fla., in May.

The Hastings Chapter of Business Professionals of America has competed since 1986 and is currently led by Bob Carl and Jeff Erb, HHS Career and Technical Education teachers. — *DM*



Hastings High School students – and their coaches/teachers – completing in the Business Professionals of America's Region 1 Leadership Conference at Davenport University in Grand Rapids on Jan. 10 included: (back, l-r) Fenix Davis, Owen Boge, Parker Erb, Alan Li, Brennan Reser, Carter Favreau, Jordan Clemens; (middle), teacher Jeff Erb, Christian Boniface, Richard Fritz, Dawson Lewis, Nicklas Stehr, Aiden Oliver, Carter Cappon, teacher Bob Carl; (front) Vojtech Brtnik, Annabelle Kuck, Racheal Hewitt, Shiloh Crandall and Levi Taylor Krebs. **Courtesy photo**

ANNUAL

Continued from Page 1

Wiswell. Wiswell passed away last year at the age of 87.

Wiswell's children, Tom and Laura, accepted the award on behalf of their father.

"Now most of you are familiar with what Jim may have done, but tonight I want to talk to you about how he did what he did because, to me, that was the differentiator in Jim," Kolanowski said. "Jim touched more lives than most. Make no mistake about what I'm about to say — he was a smart and shrewd businessman. He understood that to lift up his business, he needed to lift up everybody around him. And that is what he did. But for Jim, it was personal. It was innate — it was part of who he was."

Kolanowski said the best way to honor Wiswell would be to carry on his life mission — lifting others around him and giving back.

"I believe the best way that we can honor Jim tonight, and a generation of Jims, that we in this county have been so fortunate to be around, individuals that knew what you needed to do as leaders — we need to carry that torch tonight and carry that for him. They showed us commitment and dedication and determination and giving back in a community makes a huge difference. And we owe it to them to carry on," Kolanowski said.



Highpoint Community Bank President/CEO Mark Kolanowski gave a tribute to the late Jim Wiswell on Saturday. Wiswell was posthumously awarded the chamber's Lifetime Achievement Award.



This year's ATHENA Award winner, Katelyn Brown, gives her acceptance speech on Saturday.



Tom and Laura Wiswell, Jim's children, accepted their father's award on his behalf. BCCEDA President/CEO Jennifer Heinzman stands to their right.



BCCEDA President/CEO Jennifer Heinzman (left) stands with Barry Business Booster of the Year Pat Doezema.

Barry County YMCA receives accreditation from leader in risk management

The YMCA of Barry County recently received the "Praesidium Accreditation" from Praesidium, a leader in abuse risk management.

The honor signifies that the YMCA made significant efforts to meet the highest standards in abuse prevention, according to an announcement by the local organization.

To achieve accreditation, the YMCA reportedly underwent a thorough process that involved implementing Praesidium's accreditation standards. The process focused on eight key operational areas, including: policies, screening and selection, training, monitoring and supervision, consumer participation, internal feedback systems, response protocols, and administrative practices.

Praesidium then verified that the YMCA successfully implemented the standards. The YMCA will maintain its accreditation for three years, during which local officials state they are committed to upholding fundamental organizational values and strict safety practices to protect those in its care from abuse.

"The YMCA of Barry County's top priority is the safety of our staff, volunteers, and participants," said Jon Sporer, YMCA of Barry County CEO. "This is especially important for the youth in our programs and services.

"As a parent, and as a YMCA employee for more than 25 years, I understand the importance of delivering this promise and the great responsibility involved," he added. "Our team takes this responsibility very seriously. We are committed to providing the safest environment possible for our community.".

According to Sporer, the local YMCA is one of three "Ys" in Michigan and one of 70 in the country to achieve the accreditation status.

Founded in 1914, the YMCA of Barry County is a 501c3 non-profit organization and provides year-round programming. The Y's main programs include:

Camp Algonquin, a summer overnight and day camp serving more than 500 youth;

Y Sports, Recreation and Outreach programs, including the B. Bus Mobile Library and "Y on the Fly" serving more than 1,000 youth; and

Y Time Preschool and Y Time Before and After School serving the continuous needs of 50 families.

There are currently openings in all the programs and financial assistance for those in need is available through partnerships with others, including the United Way of Barry County.

Ongoing projects at Camp Algonquin this year include a hillside renovation, new cabin decks and doors, making a safer and more accessible location for campers.

There are also plans to complete the renovation of the former county building, now known as "The Y Building." Once completed, this location will be home for the Y Time Nature-based Preschool and Y Time Before and After School program, as well as the Y Outreach hub, providing Y on the Fly meals and other programs. — *DM*



The year-round staff of the YMCA of Barry County recently celebrated receiving the "Praesidium Accreditation" from Praesidium, a leader in abuse risk management. Staff members include Jon Sporer, Marci McCoy, Gina McMahon, Megan Muma, Shay Payne, Kelly Gale and Jay Logsdan. Not pictured: Melissa Fletke and Scott Allerding. **Courtesy photo**



The board of directors for the YMCA of Barry County includes: Jim James, Nichole Lyke, Lindsey Beard, Emily Quiggle, Amy Beck, Verne Robins, Jon Sporer, Troy Dalman, Justin Peck, Steven Storrs and Ron Fales. **Courtesy photo**

Barry County Transit collecting food items for United Way next month

Molly Macleod
Editor

Riders on the Barry County Transit can exchange food donations for a free ride next month as part of a food drive supporting the Barry County United Way.

The "Fill a Bus" food drive supports the Barry County United Way's food pantry. Riders are asked to bring three cans of non-perishable food items with them for donation. Passengers who donate at least three cans of food will ride for free.

The drive runs throughout February. It's not the only initiative from the Transit that is serving the community.

Barry County Transit Director Mary Bassett informed the public at Tuesday's Barry County Board of Commissioners Committee of the Whole meeting that the Transit is always willing to help those in need, especially with the frigid temperatures bearing down on the county this week.

"It's really cold out there. If you know of anybody who doesn't have a place to stay, have them call and contact Transit. Even if it's finding a shelter the next county over, we'll get them there, we'll give them a ride for free. Nobody should be cold, especially on days like this," Bassett said.



Passengers can get a free ride on the Barry County Transit next month if they donate at least three food items for the Fill a Bus food drive. Here, director Mary Bassett stands next to one of the Transit's fleet. **File photo**

DO YOU **REMEMBER?**



A VIEW FROM YESTERYEAR

— BANNER CA. 1960 —

This early 1960s Banner photo shows an eastward-looking view of State Street. Some of Hastings' past businesses in view include the J.C. Penney store, Miller Jewelers, Hoffman's Drugs, Schrader's Office Supplies, Gambles and Wayne's shoe store. At that time, the downtown section of State Street was completely made up of brick roads. Today, only a small patch of brick road remains on Church Street between Apple and State streets.

HMS announces most recent honor roll

Hastings Middle School has released its honor roll for the second quarter of the 2024-25 academic year.

Students earn placement on the honor roll for earning all A and B grades for the quarter. Those who earn all A grades are named to the Principal's List.

Middle school students who qualified at the conclusion of the most recent marking period include:

Sixth grade
All A's

Ian Ansorge, Isabella Barcroft, Patton Boomer, William Edger, Rhilan Frame, Carter Graham, Ainsley Haas, Aubrey Kingshott, Everly Lancaster, Korra Leonard, Ava Lilley, Payton Mills, Christopher Neubauer, Caleb Pollet, Sylvia Purdum, Noelle Randall, River Reed, Matthew Renner, Mason Slaughter, Ayla Solmes and Natalya Solmes.

A's & B's

Carson Anderson, Kinsley Bailey, Wyatt Bailey, Lucas Baird, Weston Barnett, Levi Bekker, Hunter Bierens, Audra Bolt, Annabelle Brand, Autumn Bruce, Avery Butler, Madison Carley, Myla Courtright, Emma Cranmore, Olive Day, Sophie Donnini, Kaiden Dykstra, Makenna Gentis, Iley George, Liam Goggins, Jessica Gonzalez-Perez, Elizabeth Griffin, Ailyanna Hamp, Aubrey Hays, Brenden Haywood, Britton Heuss, Aubree Huver, Jacee Jacinto, Ainsley Jacob, Meekah Johnson, Olivia Jorgensen, Konnor Kent, Ryan Klein, Colt Lewis, Ava Lucas, Eva McCracken, Alexander Minogue, Lucas Monday, Baylee Nelson, Oakley Reigler, Nathan Shoup, Shawn Sibley, Claire Slee, Kaitlynn Snyder, Aiden Speer, Olivia Steeby, Olivia Terpstra, Angela Vidal, Achilles Wondergem and Isaac Wymer.

Seventh grade
All A's

Ava Anderson, Ashlynn Auten, Brooklynn Auten, Kinley Beadle, Eden Bivens, Gracelynn Burke, Kylie Curtis, Ainslie Dygert, Chloe Endres, Claire Gergen, Gabriella Gole, Sophia Gordon-Rodriguez, Bentley Justice, Malcolm Kniaz, Carter Kramer, Harliequinn Krebs, Julian Kretz, Maren Marlatt, Abigail Mix, Aubrey Mix, Zachary Neubauer, Lucy Nickelson, Winter Pirtle, Emily Rhoades, Garrett, Rhoades, Marley Seeber, Abella Smith, Ayla VanBelkum, Kaelyn Walsh and Fiona Watkins.

A's & B's

Owen Acker, Annelise Armstrong, Laney Awrey, Charlotte Bagley, Briar Ballard, Alexander Bertrand, Allison Bosworth, Bo Bourassa, Lilly Bronsink, Arianna Brubaker, Easton Carley, Karter Case, Ryan Coller, Jazlynn Crawford, Reuben Day, Landon DeGoa-Appel, Brennan Denton, Blake DeWyse, Isabella Duits, Evalyn Elzinga, Elliana Erb, Gage Gruesbeck, Logan Guernsey, Nevaeh Haman, Avery Hetrick, Preston Heuss, Karter Hill, Khloe Jablonski, Jaelyn Jimenez, Ava Lundstrum, Emmalia Mansager, Ainslee Mattice, Adyson Mayack, Ava Mead, Austin Milcher, Shawn Olin, Milo Oliver, Kerigan Peake, Ericka Peck, Sophie Pohja, Isabelle Ricketts, Ava Roath, Libelle Shafer, Alex Smith, Owen Smith, Zoey Storm, Jackson Storrs, Robert Tompsett, Kylee Troyer, Audrey VanHouten, Brooke VanSyckle, Davis Wattles, Luke Webb, Lenna Wendt, Olive Wescott, Keirsten Windes and Kylah Wise.

Eighth grade
All A's

Zoey Armour, Payton Arnie, Ariana Benjamin, Mavie Bernstein, Ashtyn Denton, Riley Furrow, London Hammond, Ryan Harris, Sebastian Hernandez-Hernandez, Lexi Heydenberk, Emerson Leary, Isabella Perez, Wyatt Sanders, Katherine Stevens and Riley Vaughn.

A's & B's

Layla Armour, Khloe Baker, Porter Blessing, Lainah Brasher, Leigha Brown, Lorien Byle, Eleanor Clark, Elodie Clore, Ronald Coller, Carson Cooley, Sage DeCamp, Greyson Delcotto, Myles Drake, Christopher Espinal-Lopez, Lucy Furrow, April Gates, Jacelyn Goodroe, Hadley Grove, Makenzie Harris, Alexis Hendershot, Landon Holman, Temperance Jiles, Jeralynn Lancaster, Rylee Long, Alyssa MacLeod, Colten Melchert, Haley Miles, Alyssa Olin, Natalie Olmstead, Luke Pollet, Micah Randall, Izabella Rathbun, Lilyana Redmond, Joseph Renner, Kaydin Rice, Joshua Roberts Jr., Gabrielle Robertson, Kelcee Rosenberger, Brielle Salazar, Ella SanInocencio, Sophia Schantz, Lucas Scott, Abigail Shafer, Lucy Sporer, Andrew Tait, Malillany Trejo-Maldonado, Brynn VanderMale, Haley Vaughn, David Verbeek, Claire Walters, Drake Wierckz, Karrigan Wiliams, Haley Williamson and Abram Winebrenner.

GR Symphony, Ballet perform for young Hastings students



Young elementary students throughout the Hastings school district got a taste of the fine arts last week with a performance from the Grand Rapids Symphony and Grand Rapids Ballet. **Photos provided**

Young elementary students throughout the Hastings school district got a taste of the fine arts last week thanks to the Grand Rapids Symphony and Grand Rapids Ballet.

Members of both world-class organizations visited the Hastings Performing Arts Center to perform the Grand Rapids Symphony Lollipop Concert, which caters to young children, giving many of them their first experience with a live performance from a symphony.

Instead of wearing formal attire and playing classics from the world's most iconic composers, members of the symphony wore color-coded T-shirts to highlight which group of instruments they belonged to.

Grand Rapids Symphony Assistant Director Duo Shen introduced all the groups of instruments and explained how to tell them apart.

For their performance, the symphony collaborated with dancers from the Grand Rapids Ballet to depict the story of Little Red Riding Hood. A narrator read through the story as ballerinas danced and the symphony provided the soundtrack.

The organizations put on two performances last Wednesday morning so that students from all four elementary schools could attend and enjoy a great performance. — *Hastings Area School System*

LETTERS FROM OUR **READERS**

Brown's leadership and service will be missed

Dear Editor,
This weekend I was saddened to read of the passing of Jim Brown. I got to know Jim during my time on the BIRCH Board as Irving Township Treasurer. Jim had a passion for the fire service and specifically the BIRCH/ Hastings Department. Jim served as Chairman of the BIRCH Board where he did a stellar job. Throughout my life I have seldom met an individual that demanded respect just by being it the room. I know I am a better person for having him in my life.

Doug Sokolowski
Irving Township

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

View Newspaper Group publications accept letters to the editor. Letters should refer to an article that has appeared within this publication or ary sister View Newspaper Grcup publication in the last 14 days or refer to a local event that has taken place in the last 30 days.

All writers must provide their full name, home address and phone number. All letters must be original and are subject to editing for clarity and liability. Letters may not exceed 250 words and writers may not submit more than one letter per 30-day period. View Newspaper Group reserves the right to withhold publication of any letter.

Election-related letters are limited to 150 words and endorsements are limited to no more than three per candidate, per election cycle. View Newspaper Group will not publish letters from candidates for elective office or their campaigns, form letters or letters sent to other publications. Election-related letters will not be published in the final two weeks before Election Day.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

TREE SERVICE

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.

SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

Submit your continuing disability review report online

HILLARY HATCH
Social Security Administration

Do you receive Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI)? If so, you should know that we are required by law to review your case to verify that you still have a disabling condition that prevents you from doing substantial work. We call this process a Continuing Disability Review.

We will send you a notice telling you when it is time to review your medical condition and keep you informed about your benefit status. How often we review your medical condition depends on whether your condition is likely to improve.

We'll normally review your case:

Within 6 to 18 months after our decision on your disability application if your medical condition is expected to improve.

Every 3 years if medical improvement is possible.

Every 7 years if medical improvement is not expected.

If you get disability benefits you can complete and submit the Medical Continuing Disability Review Report (SSA-454) online. The online option is available to adults who receive SSDI, SSI, or both, and do not have a representative payee. To complete the form online, sign in to your personal my Social Security account and select "Complete Your Continuing Disability Review." If you do not have an account, visit ssa.gov/myaccount to get started.

If you do not have a personal my Social Security account, you can fill out and print the SSA-454 at ssa.gov/forms/ssa-454-bk.pdf. You can mail or make an appointment to take your completed form to your local Social Security office.

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.

HASTINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY SCHEDULE

Thursday, Jan. 23 – January Series – Philanthropies' Impact on our Daily Communities, 12:30 p.m.; Movie Memories and Milestones watches a 1945 film starring Fred Astaire and Lucille Bremer, 5 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 24 – Friday Science Story Time: Snow Science, 10:30 a.m.; January Series – Kristjan Prikk: Estonian & European Perspective on Changing World, 12:30 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 25 – PAWS for Reading, 9 a.m.; Rockin' Tots: Music & Movement, 10:30 a.m.

Monday, Jan. 27 – Crafting Passions, 10 a.m.; January Series – Peter Sagal – Front Seat at the Sideshow: What I've Learned after 25 Years of Making Fun of Everything, 12:30 p.m.; STEAM at the Library, 4 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 28 – Baby Cafe, 10 a.m.; mahjong, 2 p.m.; chess, 5 p.m.; January Series – Alastair Humphreys: Adventures Across the World and Around the Neighborhood, 12:30 p.m.; teen hot cocoa bar, 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 29 – Itsy Bitsy Book Club, 10:30 a.m.; January Series – Reshma Saujani: Conversation on Pay Up and Brave, Not Perfect, 12:30 p.m.; tech help, 2 p.m.; PAWS for Reading, 3:30 p.m.; Speed Jigsaw Puzzle Contest (registration required), 6 p.m.

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

Worship Together



...at the church of your choice ~ Weekly schedules of Hastings area churches available for your convenience...

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

DNR urges safety on, around the ice

With cold temperatures becoming more consistent throughout the state, more people are enjoying ice fishing, skating, hockey and other outdoor adventures. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources urges everyone to have fun but always use caution when venturing onto or near ice.

"Even during consistent cold stretches, pressure cracks in the ice can develop within hours," said Lt. Skip Hagy, DNR law enforcement supervisor in Newberry. "There is no such thing as 'safe' ice. Always check conditions for yourself; don't rely on what you see others doing or what they tell you."

River mouths and other places where river or lake currents may be located are often places of unstable ice. Reservoirs with changing water levels also require great caution.

Frozen bodies of water should be checked very carefully before braving the ice. While there is no perfectly reliable method to determine if ice is safe, you can use a spud, needle bar or auger to test the thickness and quality of ice.

"Keep in mind that warm spells as brief as one day may weaken the ice," Hagy said. "Melting ice during the day only partially refreezes at night, creating a thin layer of unstable ice."

The DNR suggests wearing a buoyant fishing jacket or snowmobile suit. Additionally, wear a U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket as the outermost layer of clothing, and have a pair of ice picks and a whistle clipped to your chest.

"Nobody plans to fall through the ice, but you should be prepared in case it happens," Hagy said. "If you fall through the ice, the most important thing is to remain calm and return in the direction you came from. Return to the ice where you broke through, and pull yourself out of the water, rolling onto the ice. Don't try to stand. Instead, crawl to help distribute your weight until you feel you're safely away from the weak spot. Seek help immediately to prevent hypothermia."

Additional ice safety tips include:

If there's ice on the lake but water around the shoreline, use extra caution.

If you are visiting a new area, ask locals at bait shops, restaurants or stores about ice conditions, but always check conditions for yourself before going onto the ice.

If you're walking on the ice, wear a pair of ice-cleats to help with traction.

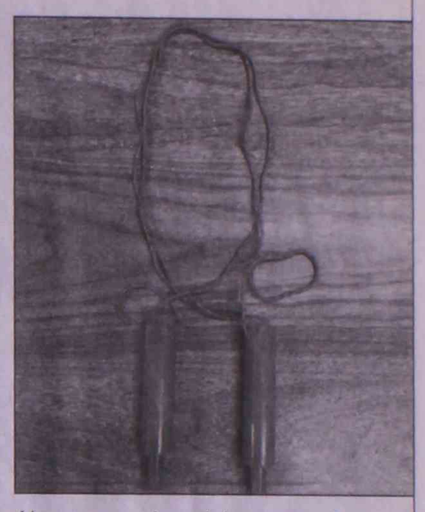
Wear bright colors to increase your visibility. White clothing and gear are difficult to see.

Use the buddy system and tell someone who is staying on shore where you will be and when you plan to return.

If you're operating a snowmobile or off-road vehicle, ride in a staggered line. This makes it easier to maneuver in case a rider ahead of you breaks through the ice.

"Ice picks are inexpensive insurance, a great purchase or gift for anyone who ventures onto ice-covered bodies of water," Hagy added.

For more information, visit Michigan.gov/IceSafety. For snowmobile safety tips, go to Michigan.gov/RideRight. — *Michigan Department of Natural Resources*



Always wear ice picks secured to your chest so they are within easy reach in case you break through the ice. **Photo provided**



Frozen bodies of water should be checked carefully before braving the ice. While there is no perfectly reliable method to determine if ice is safe, you can use a spud, needle bar or auger to test the thickness and quality of ice. **Photo provided**

PIERCE CEDAR CREEK INSTITUTE EVENTS

— JAN. 25-30 —

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.

MSU Extension, Corewell Health team up to present diabetes series

Corewell Health and the Michigan State University-Extension are partnering to offer a six-week educational series to help teach those with Type 2 diabetes or prediabetes to best manage their condition.

According to a recent announcement, the no cost program is designed to help persons learn more about diabetes and how to be their best self-manager.

Diabetes PATH, a Self-Management Resource Center Program, is a six-week self-management workshop where individuals will have the chance to learn tools to manage diabetes.

Over the course of six weeks, which are slated for 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. from Jan. 24 through March 7, persons will learn strategies to:

Deal with difficult emotions;

Develop a healthy eating and exercise plan;

Set goals;

Problem solve; and

Learn about a variety of other tools to manage diabetes.

The program will be hosted at Corewell Health Pennock Hospital, Care Center B entrance, in Hastings.

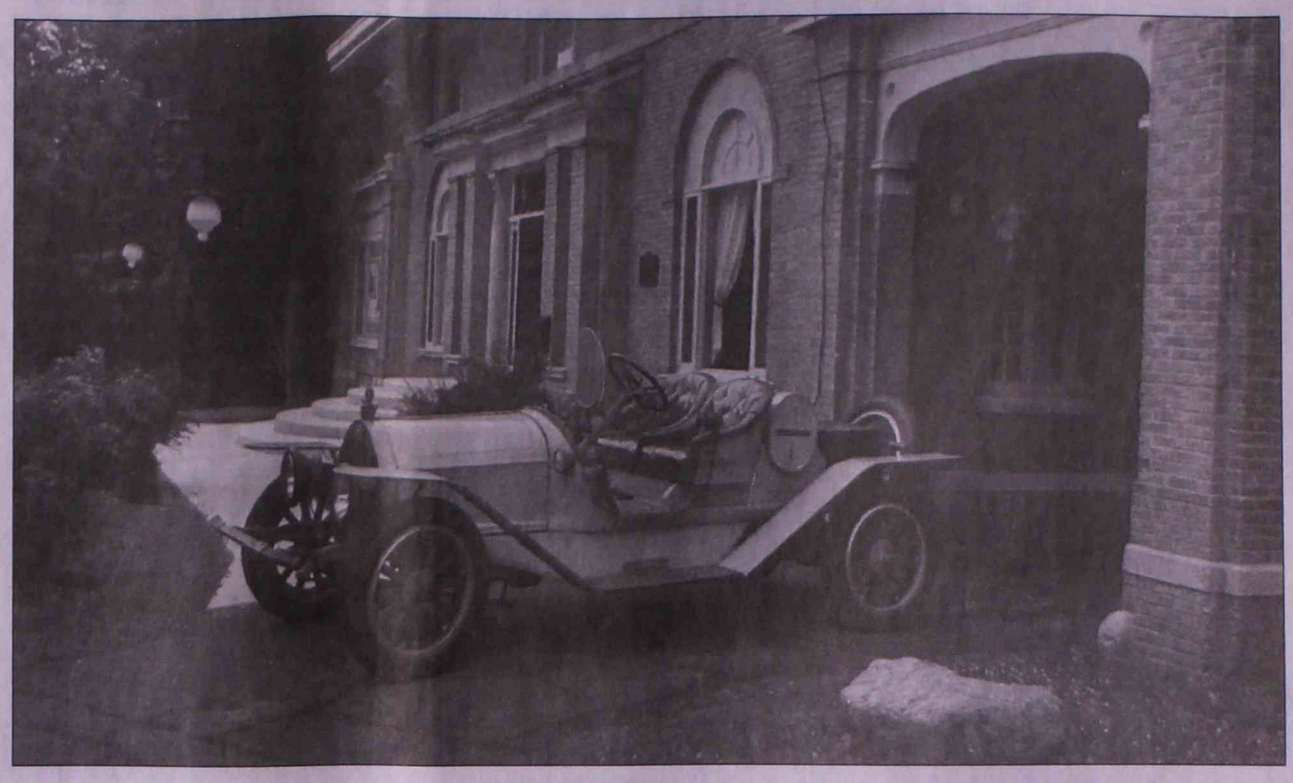
Michigan adults of all ages interested in diabetes may attend, including adults with prediabetes, Type 2 diabetes, their family members and caregivers.

Space is limited and registration is required. For more information, contact Laura Anderson by calling 269-908-9803 or via email at ander359@msu.edu. — *DM*

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

More on autos in Hastings' past

BANNER APRIL 19, 1990



This 1914 Apperson Jackrabbit once owned by Larry Baum is similar in style to M.L. Cook's 1912 Chalmers Master Six. Both cars boasted powerful engines and electric starters and headlights – new and convenient commodities during that time. **File photo**

ESTHER WALTON

Editor's Note: The following is a continuation of last week's column on the history of the automobile in Hastings, written by Hubert Cook.

Another trip that I recall vividly was when your mother was visiting relatives at Selkirk Lake near Shelbyville, and I promised to come after her with the car. At that time, the most passable road was by way of Middleville, Wayland and then south through Bradley, on what is now US-131.

I got within sight of the house where Maude was staying when a horse and buggy were coming toward us from the lake. I could see that the horse was quite nervous, so I pulled off to the side of the road and shut off the engine.

It looked as if there would be no trouble when all at once the horse gave a jump to the other side of the road, and pulled the buggy between a tree and the fence. It smashed the buggy, broke one girl's ankle and scared the other almost to death — and I never did find out what became of the horse.

I loaded them both (not the horse and buggy) into the car and drove them to their home near Plainwell, nearly 10 miles away, and delivered them to their father. I offered to pay for the doctor bill and for the buggy, but her father wouldn't hear of it. He said it was his fault for letting the girls drive the colt all alone. I didn't argue with him on this point as, like the Crown Point trip and, as usual, I didn't have the money with me.

When I got back to pick up Maude, the folks were all excited about an accident that had happened down the road from their place. They told me how a horse became frightened at a car, ran away and nearly killed two girls that were in the buggy.

I listened to all the gory details for a while and then told them what had really happened. However, this little incident with the runaway horse isn't the end of this tale.

In taking Maude home, I had three punctures before we got to Middleville, used all the spare tubes and patching material, and drove into that town on the rim. Several people called my attention to the fact that one of the tires was missing and others suggested that I get a horse.

Through necessity, I accepted this last suggestion, drove to the Middleville livery barn and rented a team and buggy. I had to leave the car as security because I didn't have money enough to pay the bill.

At about this point, if the car had been my own, I would gladly have traded even for the livery rig. Going the 12 miles from Middleville to Hastings, we met a threshing machine and nearly had another runaway and wreck.

However, we finally got home, boarded the team in Maynard's livery barn overnight, patched up the tubes, borrowed enough money to pay both livery barns, drove the team back to Middleville, fixed up the tires and drove back home.

And some people say that motoring isn't lots of fun.

All of these experiences occurred before Maude and I were married but I believe this was the most expensive pleasure trip I ever took her on, until our first Western trip in 1936.

We had a great many other similar experiences with the old Buick, but I will bore you with only one which I thought was quite amusing.

In my younger days, I played clarinet in Troxel's Band and sometimes in his orchestra. I got in on many of his out-of-town jobs, not entirely because of my musical ability, but because I could furnish transportation for four people besides myself.

I was happy to do this as I not only got paid for playing, but also for transporting the others, and at times made up to $30 a day for playing in the band by day, and in the orchestra at night. For this kind of money in those days, I was quite easily persuaded to be absent from my $1.25-a-day job at the factory.

One lovely autumn evening, Mr. and Mrs. Troxel were to play for a wedding near Freeport and they hired me and the old Buick to take them there and back. We started out just at dusk and going up the hill just north of the Broadway bridge, a fitting on the acetylene generator broke, so we had no headlights. I couldn't fix it, so I walked about a mile out to Ben Matthews' house, and after explaining the circumstances to him, he loaned me his Model F Buick. I drove it back to our car, picked up the Troxels and again were on our way.

We were almost an hour late for the wedding, but owning to the fact that the groom forgot to get a license and had gone to Hastings for it, he didn't get there for an hour after we did, so all was OK.

Before abandoning the old Buick, I might mention that father changed his mind about automobiles being impractical and for a few months he drove the car about as much as Robert and I did.

However, one Saturday after he had finished washing the car out in the backyard, he intended to back it into the garage but got his foot on the wrong pedal, and instead of backing up, the car leaped forward into one of the big maple trees. He shut off the engine, got out and never tried to drive a car again. He said that if he did not know any more than to make the car go ahead when he wanted it to back up, he had no business driving on a public highway.

If a lot of people today had Father's good judgment, there would be a lot fewer accidents on our highways.

It really was quite confusing to know when and how to operate three foot pedals, two push buttons, a handbrake lever, a hand clutch lever, a spark advance lever, a throttle lever and a squeeze bulb horn. Spike Jones could probably do it easily, and so could a pipe organist who was real proficient with the foot pedals.

I won't go into any details about the 25 cars I have owned except to say that they have all been Fords, with one or two exceptions, and that the last one cost just about 10 times as much as the first. But the last car father bought does deserve at least an honorable mention.

Chalmers Master Six – 1912 Model

In 1910, '11 and '12, I worked in the Tool Design Department of the old Chalmers-Detroit Motor Co., now the Chrysler Corporation. At that time, the automobile business was growing so fast, and the different companies competing so hard with each other for help, that the labor turnover was terrific, and the average length of employment per person was less than two weeks.

Probably that is the reason that within the first three months, I was promoted to chief draftsman of this department with 16 others working under and beside me. This promotion carried a handsome raise from my former 35 to the new 45 cents per hour.

Some months, when I was able to get in a few evenings a week overtime, I would pull down as much as $85 and $90 a month, and paid in gold, too. During my tenure, we designed all the jigs, fixtures and special machines for making interchangeable parts for the 1912 Master Six.

In early 1912, the Consolidated Press & Tool Company, now the E.W. Bliss Company, offered me a drafting job in Hastings with an increase in pay that made it worthwhile. Another reason we were glad to move to Hastings was that later in the year we were expecting Leslie to be born, and we didn't want him to be any city slicker.

But even in Hastings, I couldn't get my mind off the car that I had become so familiar with, and I did such a good job of selling with Father that he sold the old Buick and bought the Chalmers.

This car was a radical departure from the old four-cylinder line that became famous as a racing car. It was a powerful seven-passenger car, weighed two-and-a-half tons empty, had a 148-inch wheelbase, 37-by-5-inch tires which carried 100 pounds of pressure, and was one of the very first to have electric lights and starters.

This starter was unique, its winding making it both an 18-volt motor and generator. It was impossible to stall this car, as above a speed of 2 miles per hour, the battery would be charged and below this speed, the motor took hold and was powerful enough to pull the car. In fact, one time the timer slipped and we drove the car from the Michigan Central Depot to the Car Seal factory, about a half mile, with just the starting motor.

This car wound up in Kalamazoo where it was converted into a hearse.

I hope some of you will get a fraction of pleasure in reading this historical effort of mine that I have experienced in remembering and writing it.



ASK DR. UNIVERSE

Oversaturation

What happens if we drink too much water?

Joseph, 7, United Kingdom

Dear Joseph,

As an early-rising science cat, I always lap up a bowl of coffee in the morning. After that, I drink fresh water from a cat fountain I keep near my desk.

But what if I drink too much of that thirst-quenching liquid?

I asked my friend Karen Anders if that can happen. She teaches nursing at Washington State University.

She told me that drinking too much water can cause a rare condition called water intoxication.

It's rare because it doesn't happen very often. Even if you guzzle lots of water, your kidneys can probably process it. You might feel sloshy and waterlogged. You might throw up, but then you'd just pee the excess water out of your body.

Water intoxication is a serious problem when it happens, though. It mostly happens after drinking an extreme amount of water in a short time—especially if your kidneys aren't working optimally.

Anders says that it sometimes happens to babies for that reason.

"A baby's kidneys aren't quite fully functional yet," she said. "And they don't have good signals about thirst. So babies are a little bit more prone to water intoxication."

That's one reason grownups watch babies carefully when they're in the pool or bath. It's why they must mix the correct amount of water into their formula.

Water intoxication happens because of sodium. You might know it as an element that's part of the salt you sprinkle on your food. Sodium is an electrolyte. That means it has a charge when it's dissolved in water.

Your body is mostly water. You can picture your cells floating in electrolyte soup. That soup is water and electrolytes, especially sodium. Your cells use that positively charged sodium to make your muscles move and your nerves work.

If you drink way too much water—too much for your kidneys to remove—that soup will become too watery. There will be much more water than sodium.

To fix that, some of the water will rush into your cells. The soup outside your cells will become less watery. All that extra water will make your cells swell up.

Most of your cells can stretch a little bit with no problem. But your brain cells are stuck inside your hard, bony skull.

"It's a problem because your brain is in a closed space without a lot of room to adapt to swelling," Anders said. "So people end up with seizures and neurologic symptoms."

Those symptoms include having a headache or being confused, dizzy or tired. You might feel sick to your stomach and have muscle cramps.

Water intoxication is a medical emergency. While it's super rare, it's good to know what it is, so you can get to a hospital for help.

It's not something to worry about too much. For the most part, your kidneys know "wet" they're doing. So you can lap up all the water you want when you're thirsty.

Dr. Universe

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

STATE OF MICHIGAN
BARRY COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Trust

In the matter of: The Lois J. Cook Revocable Trust, dated October 28, 2009.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Lois J. Cook, who lived at 185 West Brown Road, Freeport, Michigan 49325, died on November 16, 2024, leaving a certain trust under the name of The Lois J. Cook Revocable Living Trust, dated October 28, 2009, wherein the decedent was the Settlor and Connie L. Cook was named as Successor Trustee serving at the time of or as a result of the decedent's death.

Creditors of the decedent and of the trust are notified that all claims against the decedent or against the trust will be forever barred unless presented to Connie L. Cook, the named Successor Trustee, at Tripp, Tagg & Storrs, Attorneys at Law, 202 South Broadway, Hastings, Michigan 49058 within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: January 15, 2025
Nathan E. Tagg (P68994)
202 South Broadway, Hastings, MI 49058
(269) 948-2900
Connie L. Cook
185 West Brown Road, Freeport, MI 49325
616-210-5750

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VIEWnewspaper Group
Your Community Connection

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

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

NOTICE

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

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

Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Jonathon D. Groeneveld and Ashleigh Groenveld, husband and wife, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Ark-La-Tex Financial Services, LLC dba Benchmark Mortgage, Mortgagee, dated April 22, 2022 and recorded April 29, 2022 in Instrument Number 2022-004926 Barry County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Seventy-Six Thousand Four Hundred Eighty-Two and 75/100 Dollars ($176,482.75).

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

Said premises are located in the City of Hastings, Barry County Michigan, and are described as:

The South 128 feet of Lot 6, Block 8, of Kenfield's 2nd Addition Subdivision to the City of Hastings, Barry County, Michigan, as recorded in Liber 1, Page 37 of Plats, Barry County Records.

937 S Hayes Street, Hastings, Michigan 49058

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

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

Dated: January 9, 2025
File No. 24-016579
Firm Name: Orlans PC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400
(01-09)(01-30)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Barry County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on January 30, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Carmen Pirok and Jason Pirok, husband and wife

Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Freedom Mortgage Corporation

Date of Mortgage: April 14, 2021

Date of Mortgage Recording: April 23, 2021

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $221,951.70

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Charter Township of Rutland, Barry County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 111 in Pine Haven Estates No. 4, according to the Plat thereof recorded in Liber 6 of Plats, Page 55, Barry County Records.

Common street address (if any): 1879 Pine Blf, Hastings, MI 49058-8128

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

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

This notice is from a debt collector.

Date of notice: January 2, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515

1549128
(01-02)(01-23)

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT.

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Barry County, starting promptly at 1pm, on Thursday, February 13, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. The foreclosure sale is pursuant to the terms and conditions of a Mortgage made by ANDREA MICHELLE JONES, Mortgagor, to First National Bank of America, Mortgagee, dated February 11, 2022, and recorded February 17, 2022, in Instrument No. 2022-001998, of Barry County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due as of the date of this notice $379,296.17, including interest at 7.125% per annum. Said premises are situated in Barry Township, Barry County, Michigan, and are described as: The NE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 and the NW 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 35, T1N, R9W, except for the East 824.18 feet thereof, c/k/a 15145 Mann Rd, Hickory Corners, MI 49060. The redemption period shall be six months from the date of the sale, unless the premises are determined to be abandoned pursuant to MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be one month, or until the time to provide the notice required by MCL 600.3241a(c) expires, whichever is later. The redemption period further may be shortened pursuant to MCL 600.3238(10) if the property is not adequately maintained, or if the purchaser is denied the opportunity to inspect the property. Please be advised that if the mortgaged property is sold at a foreclosure sale by advertisement, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale, or to the mortgage holder, for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Dated: January 16, 2025
Randall T. LeVasseur P41712
LeVasseur Dyer & Associates, PC
Attorneys for Mortgagee
3233 Coolidge Hwy Berkley, MI 48072
(248) 236-1765
(01-16)(02-06)

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Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Barry County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on January 30, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Jesse Carver, SP and Stacey Nowack, single person

Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its Individual Capacity but Solely as Owner

Trustee for RCAF Acquisition Trust

Date of Mortgage: July 24, 2007

Date of Mortgage Recording: August 6, 2007

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $149,240.81

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Yankee Springs, Barry County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 8, Pleasant Valley Plat according to the Plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 4 of Plats, Page 13 of Barry County Records.

Common street address (if any): 1733 S Patterson Rd, Wayland, MI 49348-9329

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

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

This notice is from a debt collector.

Date of notice: January 2, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515

1549018
(01-02)(01-23)

FORECLOSURE NOTICE

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Barry County, starting promptly at 01:00 PM, February 6, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Aaron Lambert, A Married Man and Tera Lambert, His Wife to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as Mortgagee, as Nominee for Amerifirst Financial Corporation, its successors, and assigns, Mortgagee, dated September 26, 2014, and recorded on October 1, 2014, as Document Number: 2014-009218, Barry County Records, said mortgage was assigned to Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC by an Assignment of Mortgage dated February 08, 2023 and recorded February 15, 2023 by Document Number: 2023-001075, , on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Seventy-Six Thousand Five Hundred Sixty-One and 32/100 ($76,561.32) including interest at the rate of 4.50000% per annum. Said premises are situated in the City of Hastings, Barry County, Michigan, and are described as: That part of Blocks 30 and 31, Eastern Addition to the City, formerly Village of Hastings, according to the recorded Plat thereof, described as: Commencing at the Southeast Corner of Lot 6, Block 31, Eastern Addition; Thence North 4 Rods; Thence West to the East Boundary of Hanover Street; Thence Southerly along the East Boundary of Hanover Street to the intersection of Hanover Street and South Street; Thence East to the place of beginning. Commonly known as: 1025 S HANOVER ST, HASTINGS, MI 49058 If the property is eventually sold at foreclosure sale, the redemption period will be 6.00 months from the date of sale unless the property is abandoned or used for agricultural purposes. If the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241 and/or 600.3241a, the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of sale, or 15 days after statutory notice, whichever is later. If the property is presumed to be used for agricultural purposes prior to the date of the foreclosure sale pursuant to MCL 600.3240, the redemption period is 1 year. Pursuant to MCL 600.3278, if the property is sold at a foreclosure sale, the borrower(s) will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages are, if any, limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Dated: January 9, 2025 Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C. Attorneys for Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC 43252 Woodward Avenue, Suite 180, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302, (248) 335-9200 Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Case No. 24MI00884-1
(01-09)(01-30)

NOTICE

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

Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Barry County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM on JANUARY 30, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.

Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Matthew Rocco and Johanna Rocco, husband and wife, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Van Dyk Mortgage Corporation, Mortgagee, dated April 14, 2017 and recorded April 18, 2017 in Instrument Number 2017-004196 Barry County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by Freedom Mortgage Corporation, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Two Hundred Twenty-Six Thousand Two Hundred Forty-Three and 99/100 Dollars ($226,243.99).

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Barry County, Michigan at 1:00 PM on JANUARY 30, 2025.

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

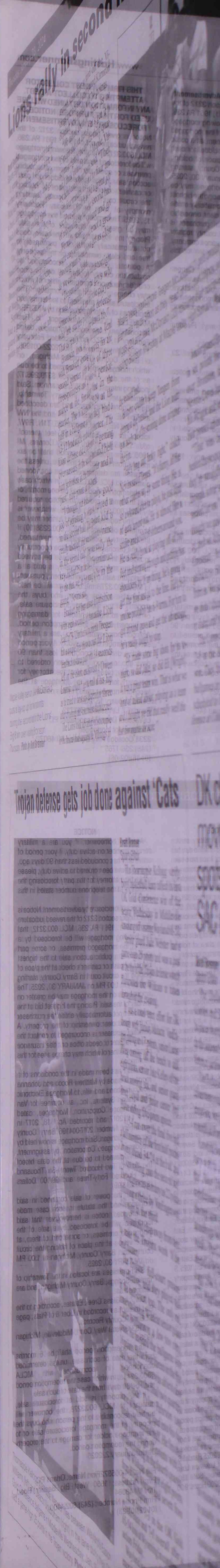
Lot 7, of Glass Creek Estates, according to the Plat thereof as recorded in Liber 6 of Plats, page 57, Barry County Records.

1163 Crystal Way Court, Middleville, Michigan 49333

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

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.
Dated: January 2, 2025

File No. 24-005572Firm Name: Orlans PC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400
(01-02)(01-23)



Lions rally in second half to beat Bronson

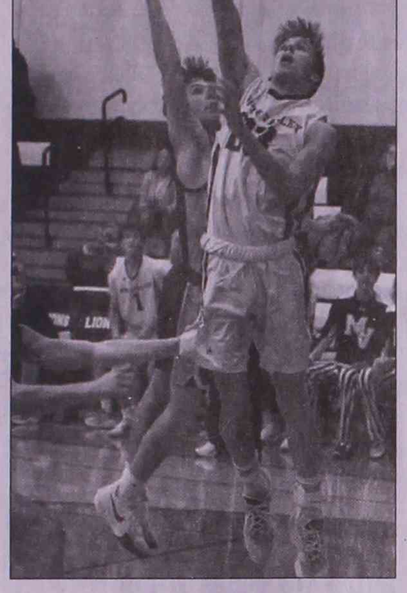
Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

It seems to be a script the Lions have written for themselves. A decent start; a little lull before the half where they fall in a hole; and fight like mad to try and get back in the ballgame in the third quarter.

They finally got the ending right.

The Maple Valley varsity boys' basketball team dug out of a 16-point halftime deficit to score a 75-72 win over Bronson in a Big 8 Conference ballgame at Maple Valley High School Thursday.

Sophomore guard Teegen McDonald had a game-high 36 points and senior guard Jake McDonald finished with 19 points for the Lions, but it took an all around team effort to fend off the Vikings and their star senior guard Kamron Brackett who finished with 34 points.



Maple Valley senior Jake McDonald puts a lay-up up for two points during the second half of the Lions' Big 8 win over visiting Bronson Thursday. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

"We talked about how there is no 15-point shot out there, so let's get it to seven or eight by the end of the third quarter, I think we had it to nine," Maple Valley head coach Ryan Nevins said. "Then, with four minutes let's get it to four and see if we can finish it. We did a great job of rebounding the ball in the second half . We really pushed the ball hard and got some easy looks, which we're not a great shooting team so we have to get as close as we can to the basket.

"Teegen and Jake really led us tonight. It was awesome. I think the guys who come off the bench and the role players who are starters played great defense. That is really what it came down to."

Bronson took its big halftime lead with Brackett scoring 19 points in the second quarter with the help of three three-pointers and a 6-for-6 performance at the free throw line in the quarter. The Vikings led 45-29 at the half in a ballgame in which they had a 13-12 lead at the end of one quarter. The Lion defense did a better job of getting over screens in the second half and held him scoreless in the third quarter and to "just" nine points in the fourth.

"I thought our kids did a really good job of adjusting to what we wanted to in the second half. The Brackett kid is really talented and we held him to (nine) in the second half. That was really the key. He had 25 in the first. If he continues to do that, we're not going to be in the game," Nevins said.

Brackett did bury a three in transition with eight seconds left that cut the Lion lead to 73-72 in the final moments. Teegen hit a couple free throws to push the Lion lead back to three points with 3.4 seconds left on the clock, and Bronson's Owen Losinski couldn't get the ball off his hip as he tried to hoist up a desperation three after crossing half-court before the buzzer.

The Lions took advantage of a couple of technical fouls against the Vikings in the second half.



Maple Valley sophomore Teegen McDonald (2) gets praise from junior teammate Hayze Sifton as they head off the court happy with teammates Jimmy Wiggs (22) and Jake McDonald (23) following their come-from-behind win over visiting Bronson Thursday at Maple Valley High School. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

Bronson couldn't keep Teegen from getting to the basket, and the Lion team got nearly all of its scoring done around the rim.

"He's long and lanky right," coach Nevins said of Teegen. "It's funny, all the other coaches say the same thing. He is so awkward when he plays, he just kind of gets around you. He is almost like a snake and he kind of slithers around you. He is really good at playing off of two feet and stepping through and getting his shoulders by. If anything, he's going to get the foul and go to the line. He's 6-3 and he probably has 6-9 arms. For him to get around guys and get the advantage, he's really tough to stop.

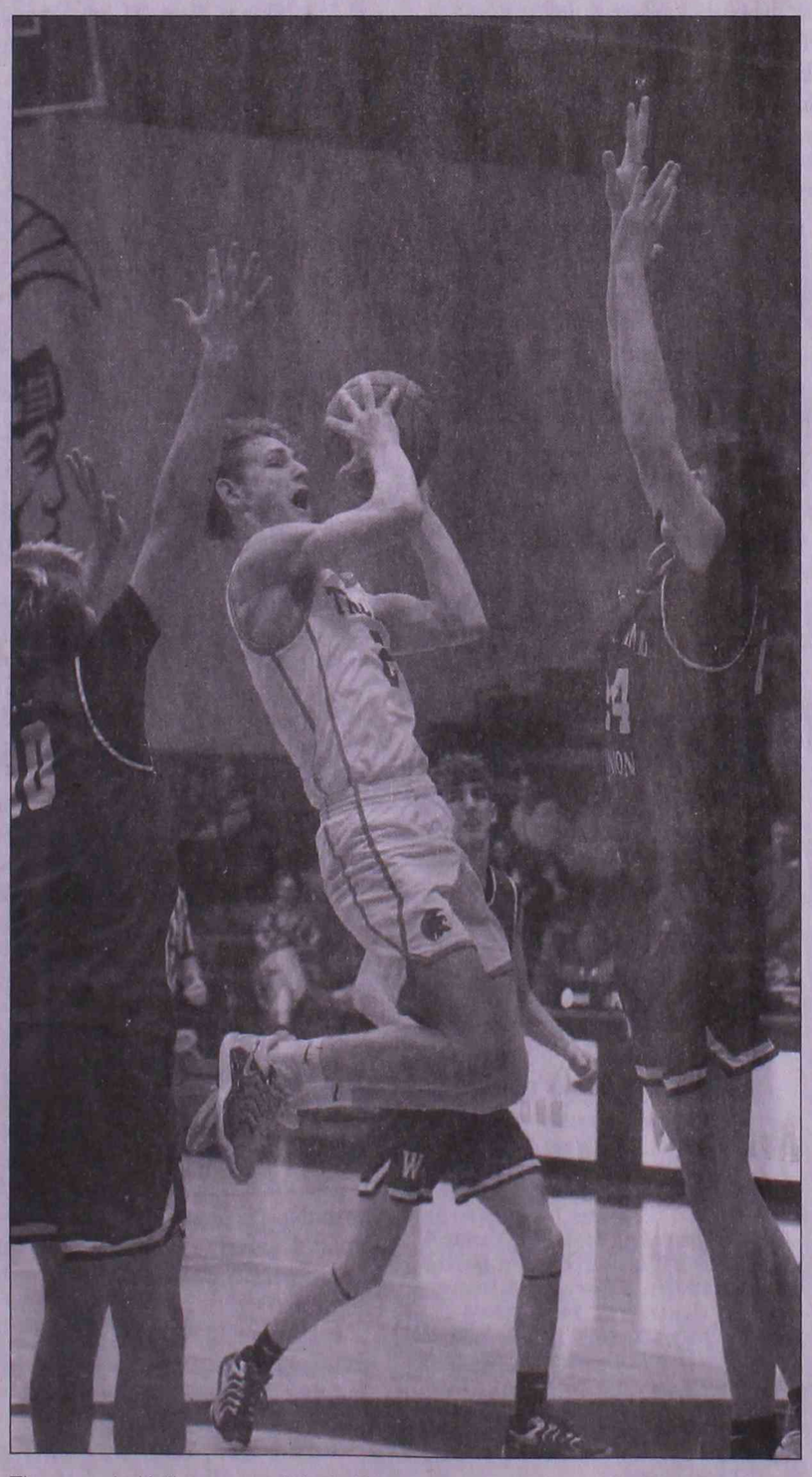
"He made some big shots for us tonight, so did Jake, so did Eli [Wright]. It was a great team win. That is what we kind of talked about, playing as a team and I thought we did that really well the last few nights for sure."

Junior guard Bradley Cushing chipped in six points for the Lions in the win over Bronson, freshman guard Kelvin Nevins-Davis had five points and junior Eli Wright and senior Jimmy Wiggs had four points apiece.

"That was big for us. We haven't beaten those guys in a long time. I know they're struggling right now and going through some injuries, but it was much needed for us," coach Nevins said. "We thought we gave one away against Quincy, and we kind of talked about it after Christmas – let's see how quickly we can get back to .500 and we let two get away from us. We just got one back that maybe we didn't think we might have. We hung in there and finished in the end."

The Lions improve to 4-8 overall and 2-5 in the Big 8 Conference with the win. They have now won back-to-back ballgames in conference play. They are scheduled to be on the road in the conference at Concord Friday.

Trojan defense gets job done against 'Cats



Thornapple Kellogg guard Jude Webster flies between Wayland's Easton Williams (left) and Deacon Sidebotham (right) in the lane during their OK Gold Conference ballgame in Middleville Wednesday, Jan. 15. Webster had a game-high 25 points in the Trojan victory. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Thornapple Kellogg varsity boys' basketball team tallied its first OK Gold Conference win of the season Wednesday in Middleville knocking off visiting Wayland 68-58.

Senior guard Jude Webster had a game-high 25 points and was a pest at the top of the Trojan defense which flummoxed the Wildcats at times throughout the evening.

It was a total team effort for TK though with junior Malachi VanEngen putting in 17 points, junior Lucas Ploeg coming off the bench to add eight points, senior Jake Kelley off the bench scoring six, and senior guard Brice Lloyd and junior center Trey Hilton adding five points apiece.

A 15-4 run over the final five and a half minutes of the first half put the Trojans ahead 34-24 at the half, and TK kept rolling into the second half. The lead grew to as many as 22 points following a three by VanEngen with 3:31 to go in the third.

Wayland did chip away from there to make the Trojans work 'til the final buzzer.

The Trojans' full-court pressure was effective, and they played well in the half-court too. The only real issue was losing Wildcat senior guard Carter Williamson a few too many times. He finished the ballgame with 16 points. He hit four threes in the first half, but the TK team was able to slow him down over the final two quarters.

Waylands' Tyler Pehrson took some of the scoring load into his own hands in the second half. He finished with a team-high 18 points with 13 of those coming in the fourth quarter.

The Wildcats also got eight points from Elijah Warsen and seven from Easton Williams.

TK is now 1-3 in the OK Gold Conference and 7-5 overall after a 65-54 loss at Wyoming in conference action Friday.

Wayland is now 2-3 in the conference and 6-6 overall.

The Trojans had a road contest at West Catholic Tuesday postponed, and they are slated to visit Grand Rapids Union Friday.

DK cheer moves up two spots at second SAC meet

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Delton Kellogg girls jumped Gobles and Schoolcraft in the standings to place fourth in the Division 4 standings at the second Southwestern Athletic Conference jamboree Thursday.

The Delton Kellogg varsity competitive cheer team was sixth at the first conference meet-up, but saw huge gains in all three rounds at Parchment Thursday, Jan. 16.

Lawton took the day's Division 4 victory with an overall score of 692.22 after the Blue Devils were third at the first conference jamboree. Coloma held onto the top spot in the overall D4 conference standings with its second place finish last week. The Comets put up a score of 682.7 ahead of White Pigeon 662.3, Delton Kellogg 594.5, Schoolcraft 578.94, Gobles 577, Hartford 461.6, Constantine 460.62, Bloomingdale 437, Fennville 321.3 and Comstock 309.6.

The Delton Kellogg girls finished fourth while scoring the fourth best score in every round. The Panthers had a tally of 195.1 points in round one, 168.1 in round two and 231.3 in round three.

Lawton won despite not having the top score in any of the three rounds. The Blue Devils were outscored 213.7 to 212.9 by Coloma in round one and 201.5 to 195.32 in round two by the Comets. Coloma had a nearly seven-point lead over the Blue Devils going in to round three. Lawton outscored the Coloma girls 284-267.5 in that final round to take a 9.5 point win in the end.

White Pigeon trailed Lawton and Coloma by about 30 points going in to round three, but put up a 284.1 for the top score of the final round.

Delton Kellogg is slated to host the SAC Jamboree tonight, Jan. 23, weather-permitting. The Panthers go to Otsego for an invitational Saturday and Fennville hosts the conference Jan. 30.

Hokanson set to join a top D2 soccer program

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

It was quite a varsity soccer journey for Saxon senior Troy Hokanson, and now soccer is taking him to the outskirts of Boston.

Hokanson celebrated signing his National Letter of Intent to join the Franklin Pierce University Men's Soccer program inside the Hastings High School library Friday. He was surrounded by friends and family at the event, kid of like he always was on Pierce Field or on the turf inside Baum Stadium at Johnson Field.

Hokanson had 14 goals and a team-leading 11 assists as a senior playing in the midfield for the Saxons alongside his cousin Mikey Jiles and his brother Cooper Hokanson, all under the guidance of Troy and Cooper's dad Matt Hokanson.

Troy made his mark early on the Saxon soccer program. On the varsity as a freshman, he scored the winning goal in a 3-2 victory over Battle Creek Central on Pierce Field in the opening round of the MHSAA Division 2 state tournament.

It was one of just two victories for the Saxons in the fall of 2021. The next season the Saxon program had a 9-7-1 mark. Hastings had five wins during Troy's junior season, but the Hastings boys upped that number to ten wins last fall.

Playing with Jiles for four varsity season was definitely a highlight for Troy.

"He's my best friend. We grew up playing soccer together. There for a while we weren't on the same [club] team," Troy said. "We haven't been on the same team since eighth grade year, now this year we're going to be, for the first time in a while, on a team together … we've been through it all together."

Jiles had 14 goals this fall and may yet choose a spot to play soccer collegiately himself.

Franklin Pierce, located in Rindge, N.H., just northwest of Boston, competes on the NCAA Division II level. The Ravens are a part of the Northeast 10 Conference and they won back-to-back NCAA Division II National Championships in 2022 and 2023. They qualified for the NCAA Tournament again last fall.



Hastings senior Troy Hokanson is surrounded by friends and family as he celebrates signing his National Letter of Intent in the Hastings High School library Friday to join the Franklin Pierce University Men's Soccer program next year. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

Troy made an official visit to Franklin Pierce at the end of his senior high school campaign last fall, and said it was soon after his time there with the Ravens that he was offered a spot in the program.

"I went to the west coast over the summer with the wrestling team and I didn't really love it. There is too much wilderness. There aren't streets. There is nothing, just a bunch of deserts out there," Troy said. "When I was a little kid, I used to race cars out on the east coast and it is just kind of where I fell in love with it. I grew up on the east coast."

Hokanson surpassed the 100-win mark with the Hastings varsity wrestling team last season and is currently competing with the highly ranked Saxon squad again this winter. There was a time where he thought he might be a collegiate wrestler rather than a collegiate soccer player.

He played soccer as a youngster in YMCA programs, but took a bit of a hiatus to try football for a few years. Troy said he really had a big focus on wrestling as a junior, but started to feel like it was just too hard on his body to keep it up past high school. He was offered a spot on a Midwest United Football Club national soccer team as a senior and that began opening up collegiate soccer opportunities.

Through club play he knows he still has a lot of growing to do on the soccer field.

"Just gotta keep practicing. It's getting harder. These guys aren't going to be the normal guys I am used to playing in high school. It's pretty elite, top level guys I'm going to be playing with over there," Troy said. "I am excited about it."

Saxon senior Peterson among Scholar-Athlete Award finalists in Class B

The 120 finalists for the Michigan High School Athletic Association's Scholar-Athlete Awards for the 2024-25 school year have been announced and the list includes Hastings senior Jayse Peterson.

The program, in its 36th year, has recognized student-athletes since the 1989-90 school year and again this winter will honor 32 individuals from MHSAA member schools who participate in at least one sport in which the Association sponsors a postseason tournament.

Farm Bureau Insurance underwrites the Scholar-Athlete Awards and will present a $2,000 scholarship to each recipient. Since the beginning of the program, 960 scholarships have been awarded.

Peterson, a member of the Saxon varsity football team and varsity boys' track and field team, is one of 16 Boys Class B finalists this year.

To be eligible for the award, students must have a cumulative grade-point average of 3.50 (on a 4.0 scale) and previously have won a varsity letter in at least one sport in which the MHSAA sponsors a postseason tournament. Students also were asked to respond to a series of short essay questions and submit two letters of recommendation and a 500-word essay on the importance of sportsmanship in educational athletics.

Scholarships will be presented proportionately by school classification, with 12 scholarships to be awarded to Class A student-athletes, six female and six male; eight scholarships awarded to Class B student-athletes, four female and four male; six scholarships awarded to Class C student-athletes, three female and three male; and four scholarships awarded to Class D student-athletes, two female and two male. In addition, two scholarships will be awarded at-large to minority recipients, regardless of school size.

Every MHSAA member high school could submit as many applications as there are scholarships available in its classification and could have more than one finalist.

Multiple-sport participation remains the norm among applicants. The average sport participation rate of the finalists is 2.88. There are 75 three-plus sport participants in the finalists in which the MHSAA sponsors postseason tournaments are represented.

Of 431 schools which submitted applicants, 25 submitted the maximum allowed. This year, 1,513 applications were received. All applicants will be presented with certificates commemorating their achievement. Additional Scholar-Athlete Award information, including a complete list of scholarship nominees, can be found on the Scholar-Athlete page of the MHSAA website.

The applications were judged by a 65-member committee of school coaches, counselors, faculty members, administrators and board members from MHSAA member schools. Selection of the 32 scholarship recipients will take place in early February. Class C and D scholarship recipients will be announced Feb. 4, Class B scholarship recipients will be announced Feb. 11 and Class A scholarship recipients will be announced Feb. 18. All announcements will be made on the MHSAA Website.

-BB

Vikings take care of business against Greyhounds

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Lakewood varsity wrestling team improved to 5-0 in Capital Area Activities Conference White Division duals with a 42-24 win over Eaton Rapids at Williamston High School Wednesday, Jan. 15.

The Vikings were 2-0 on the night also scoring a 54-23 win over the host Hornets.

The Vikings got off to a solid start in the dual with Eaton Rapids. Jacob Everett scored a 6-0 win over Ean Anderson in the 215-pound bout and then Joel Simon pinned the Greyhounds' Jamison Brown late in the first period of the 285-pound match.

Those two wins had Lakewood in front 9-0 and the Vikings led the whole way.

Lakewood added pins from Alexander Risk at 175 pounds and Owen Prowdley at 190 at the end of the dual. Bryson Boucher also scored a pin in the 150-pound bout for the Vikings. Kade Boucher scored a forfeit win at 132 pounds.

Lakewood took three other decisions in the dual. Stephen Aldrich outscored JJ Hackworth 12-8 at 113 pounds. Vincent Stamm topped Brayden Thorn 11-5 at 126 pounds. Lydon Rogers took a 5-2 win over Eaton Rapids' Logan Adleman at 144 pounds.

Eaton Rapids got a pin from Drew Blom at 138 pounds and one from Alijah Krauss at 165. The Greyhounds also had Nick Wade score a technical fall at 120, Drew Holevac a major decision at 106 and Matthew Wright a 15-9 decision over the Vikings' Gage LaRoche at 157 pounds.

In the dual with Williamston Lakewood got pins from Simon, Dakota Harmer, Aldrich, Stamm, Kade Boucher, Bryson Boucher, LaRoche, Carter Stewart and Everett.

The Vikings finished fifth with a 3-2 record on the day Saturday at the Fowlerville Duals. They knocked off Belding 58-21 at the end of the day in the match for fifth.

Lakewood took a 61-14 win over Petoskey, a 41-29 win over OA Carlson, but then fell 34-32 to Lake Orion and 44-28 to the host Gladiators.

Stamm, Kade Boucher, Rogers and Simon were all a perfect 5-0 for the Vikings. Harmer and Bryson Boucher went 4-1. Aldrich and Prowdley had three wins each.

NOTICE TO THE RESIDENTS OF BARRY COUNTY

Notice is hereby given that the Barry County Zoning Board of Appeals will conduct a public hearing for the following:

Case Number V-03-2025 - Stacy Bender (Applicant); Eric & Stacy Bender (Property Owner)

Location: 5728 W Crane Rd, Middleville in Section 17 of Irving Township.

Purpose: Request a dimensional variance of 1'6" to construct a covered porch that will encroach 1'6" closer to the centerline of the road than the RR (Rural Residential) district allows.

MEETING DATE: February 10, 2025

TIME: 7:00 PM. PLACE: Tyden Center Community Room 121 South Church Street, Hastings, Michigan 49058

Site inspections of the above described property will be completed by the Zoning Board of Appeals 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 time and place. 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 variance application is 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 audio tapes 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 calling the following: Eric Zuzga, County Administrator, 220 West State Street, Hastings, Michigan 49058, (269) 945-1284.

Sarah VanDenburg, Barry County Clerk

Visit us online at mihomepaper.com

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
BARRY COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. and JUDGE
23-29519-DE

Court address: 206 W. Court Street, #302 Hastings, MI 49058
Court telephone no.: (269) 945-1390

Estate of Jennifer Walter-Knight. Date of birth: 11-13-63.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Jennifer Walker-Knight, died 03-23-13.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Michael Knight, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 206 W. Court Street, #302, Hastings, MI 49058 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: 1/17/2025
James R.Wierenga P48949
99 Monroe Avenue NW, Suite 1210
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
616-454-3883
Michael Knight
13558 South M-66 Highway
Bellevue, MI 49021
517-231-9140

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF BARRY
PUBLICATION OF NOTICE
FILE NO. 23-29519-DE

In the matter of Jennifer Walker-Knight.

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Lloyd Jay Bird and Cory Daniel Bird whose address(es) are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:

TAKE NOTICE: I, Michael Knight, intend to request my informal appointment as personal representative of the estate. This notice is being served upon each person whose right to an appointment is prior or equal to my own. The court will not act upon my application until 14 days of publication of this notice. The actions you may take include: Upon paying a filing fee, filing a petition for formal proceedings to appoint a personal representative. Upon paying a filing fee, filling an application for informal appointment of yourself as personal representative provided you have a higher priority to be appointed. Contacting an attorney for assistance in representing you in any proceeding you wish to file in the court. The Court will not be able to provide you with any legal advice in completing or filing the forms.

Date: 1-17-25
James R. Wierenga P48946
99 Monroe Ave. NW, Suite 1210, Grand Rapids, MI 49503
616-454-3883
Michael Knight
13558 South M-66 Highway, Bellevue, MI 49021
517-231-9140

John Glenn and Grand Haven first to top Saxons

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Hastings varsity wrestling team managed to run its record to 28-0 before suffering its first dual meet defeats of the 2024-25 season.

Westland John Glenn upended the Saxons at the Holt Duals Saturday and then the Saxons were downed by Grand Haven in the match for third to close the day with a record of 28-2 as a team.

Saxon senior Keegan Sutfin recorded his 150th varsity victory by pinning John Glenn's Franklin Hernandez late in the second period of their 157-pound bout during the dual.

The Hastings team also got pins from Aden Armstrong at 150 pounds, Matthew Shults at 175 and Isaac Friddle at 215 pounds in the dual. Tate Warner scored a 17-8 win over John Glenn's Diego Zambrano in the 190-pound bout and the Saxon team's other points came thanks to a 15-8 decision by Reyd Zoerman over Trice Neilson at 120 pounds.

Hastings opened the day in Holt with a 53-16 win over the host Rams and then defeated Roseville 72-5 and West Ottawa 68-12.

In the match for third, the Saxon team was outscored by Grand Haven 48-25.

Friddle was 5-0 for the day for the Saxon team with four quick pins and a 12-9 victory over Holt's Seth Holtry to open the day. The Saxons' Hunter Sutfin, Troy Hokanson, Zoerman, Renner, Aden Armstrong, Keegan Sutfin, Shults and Warner were all 4-1 on the day.

Hastings also had a 'B' team competing at the tournament that was 0-5 in its duals. Ethan McCormick was 3-0 wrestling for the 'B' team and Kyle Echtinaw was 2-0.

Last Wednesday, the Saxons improved their Interstate-8 Athletic Conference record to 4-0 with a 64-18 win over Coldwater and a 67-12 win over Marshall in duals at Jackson Northwest High School.

Hunter Sutfin, Hokanson, Zoerman, Maverik Peake, Jax Balderson, Isaac Lilley, Renner, Armstrong, Keegan Sutfin, Jace Acker, Shults, Warner and Friddle all picked up wins for Hastings.



Hastings senior Keegan Sutfin works to pin Westland John Glenn's Franklin Hernandez during their 157-pound bout at the Holt Duals Saturday. **Photo by Dan Goggins**

The Saxons had a big conference dual with Parma Western Wednesday and last Friday's special under the spotlight dual with Three Rivers postponed due to weather. The Saxons will make up that Friday night showdown with Three Rivers this week, Jan. 24, beginning at 6 p.m. and then go to the Forest Hills Northern Duals Saturday.

The Saxons are slated to host Jackson Northwest in I-8 action next Wednesday, Jan. 29.

Scots bounce back with late surge against W.O.

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Caledonia varsity hockey team moved its record to 14-3-1 with a split over the weekend in non-conference contests.

The Fighting Scots were bested for just the third time this season as they were beat out 2-1 by Jenison at Griff's Georgetown Ice Arena Friday night. The co-op with Caledonia, Thornapple Kellogg and Lowell bounced back for a 5-1 win over West Ottawa on its home ice at Kentwood Ice Arena Saturday.

The Panthers had a 1-0 lead after one period in the match in Kentwood Saturday, but the Fighting Scots found the back of the net twice in the second period and then ran away with three third-period goals.

Ty Lewandowski had two goals and an assist in the win for Caledonia and Tony Kauffman scored twice as well. Landen Moore had one goal. Logan Himes and Gabe Supuk added assists.

Sam Hoag stopped 27 of 28 West Ottawa shots.

Will Nagelvoort saw 45 shots on his goal at the other end in net for the Panthers and made 41 saves.

Krue Anderson scored the one West Ottawa goal.

Rylan Bultema scored the lone goal in the loss to Jenison last Friday for the Scots. Sova and Kauffman had assists.

Caledonia is slated to visit Reeths-Puffer Saturday afternoon, Jan. 25.

Hamilton and Wayland teams down Trojan wrestling squad

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Thornapple Kellogg varsity wrestling team was bested in a pair of duals at theOK Gold/Black Quad hosted by Hamilton Wednesday.

The host Hawkeyes took a 54-18 win over the TK team and the Trojans fell in their OK Gold dual with the Wayland Wildcats 47-23.

Abram Dutcher at 285 pounds and Jayce Curtis at 175 pounds took pins for TK in the conference dual with the Wildcats.

The Trojan team got five points in the dual thanks to a 17-2 technical fall by Camden Peter in the 157-pound bout.

TK's Christien Miller took a 5-3 2in in the 113-pound bout with Jody Bitner, and teammate Griffin Grummet outscored Malachi Rodriguez of Wayland 7-0 in the 150-pound match.

Jackson Smith at 190 pounds and Miller at 113 had pins for TK in the dual with Hamilton, and Blake Bossenberger and Tanner Buxton won close decisions for the Trojan team. Buxton pulled out a 4-2 win over Hamilton's Isaac Nevins in the 215-pound bout. Bossenberger scored a 4-3 win over the Hawkeyes Tyler Block at 165 pounds.

The TK co-ed varsity team was scheduled to return to in action at an OK Gold/Black Quad by Spring Lake Wednesday, Jan. 22, and will be at the Leslie Individual Invite Saturday, Jan. 25.

Saxon boys knock off Marshall on I-8 lanes

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Hastings boys kept rolling in the Interstate-8 Athletic Conference last week scoring a 26-7 win over on the road Thursday.

Andrew Barton, Miles Lipsey and Hunter Pennington won two individual games each for the Saxons. Lipsey fired a top series with scores of 183 and 241. Pennington had the top score of the day with a 247 in game two after a 162 in the opener. Barton rolled a 144 and a 188.

The Hastings girls were edged out by the RedHawks 16-14 in their dual. Megan Ramey picked up a point with a 177, Kaylin Schild with a 166 and Jen Stoline in one. Heaven Simmet had a high game of 192 for the Saxons.

The Saxons are scheduled to travel to face Coldwater today, Jan. 23, and then go on the road to take on Jackson Northwest next Thursday. They had a dual at Pennfield Tuesday postponed due to the weather.

The Saxons' last action came last Sunday at the Mason College-Prep Tournament at City Limits.

The Hastings boys rolled their way to a runner-up team finish and Pennington was the individual champion on the boys' side with scores of 220, 221 and 185. The Saxon girls' team placed fifth at the tournament.

TK ladies get their first dual meet victories

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Thornapple Kellogg varsity girls' wrestling team picked up its first two dual meet victories ever Wednesday at the Olivet tri.

The Trojans knocked off the host Eagles 42-36 and outscored East Lansing 54-12.

In the dual with Olivet the TK team got pins from Briella Dykstra at 115 pounds, Raini Braska at 120 pounds and Taylor Pena at 170 pounds. Emma Gibson, Shaylynn Myers, Jaycee Teunessen and Adelaide Holderman had forfeit wins for TK.

Gibson, Holderman, Braska and Dykstra had pins for TK in the win over East Lansing and the TK team got forfeit wins from Aubrey Sines, Myers, Teunessen, Pena and Avery Rausch.

The TK girls are set to be a part of the girls' tournament at Kalamazoo Central today, Jan. 18.

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STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
BARRY COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. and JUDGE:25-30007-DE

Court address: 206 West Court Street, Hastings, MI 49058
Court telephone no.: 269-945-1390

Estate of Peggy Lieberman. Date of birth: 1-12-1954.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Peggy Lieberman, died 12-13-2024.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to David Pasche at 2986 W. Gresham Hwy., Charlotte, MI 48813, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 206 West Court Street, Hastings, MI 49058 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: 1-13-2025
Michael J. McPhillips P33715
121 West Apple Street, Suite 101
Hastings, Michigan 49058
269-945-3512
David Pasche
2986 W. Gresham Hwy.
Charlotte, MI 48813
517-714-7901

SYNOPSIS
Hastings Charter Township
Regular Meeting
January 14, 2025

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m.

All board members present

Approved consent agenda items

Approved Library Board Trustee

Replacement & Road Commission report

Approved payment of bills

Dept. reports received and put on file

Motion to adjourn 8:37 pm

Respectfully submitted,
David J. Olson – Clerk
Attested to by
Jim Partridge – Supervisor

Hastings Charter Township

Schedule of Regular Board Meetings for 2025

- January 14
- February 11
- March 11
- April 8
- May 13
- June 10
- July 8
- August 12
- September 9 @CP
- October 14
- November 11
- December 9

TIME: **6:30 PM** PLACE: Hastings Charter Township Hall
885 River Road, Hastings, MI 49058 Ph. 269-948-9690

@ CP this meeting will be held in the historic Township Hall at Charlton Park

Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the township clerk at least seven (7) days in advance of the meeting.

This notice posted in compliance with PA 267 of 1976 as amended (Open Meetings Act) MCLA41.72a (2)(3) and with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Panther team wins three titles at Hopkins Invite

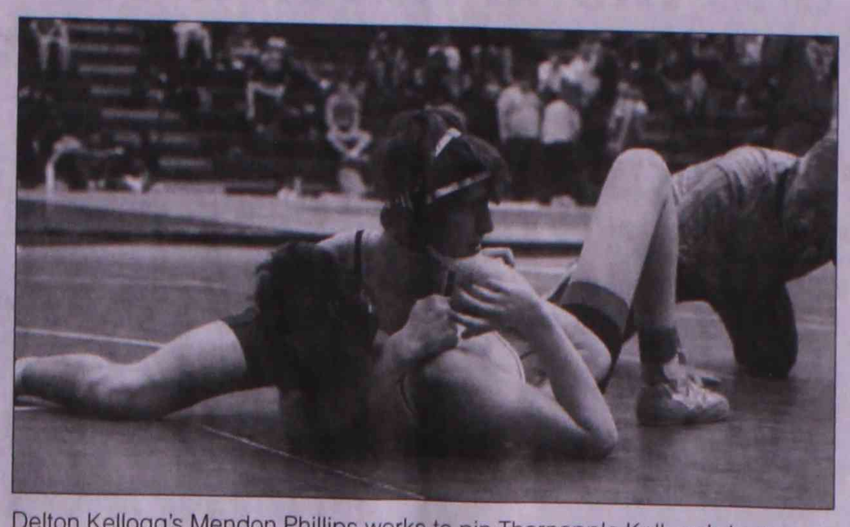
Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Gauge Stampfler, Mitchell Swift and Austyn Lipscomb earned championships for the Delton Kellogg varsity wrestling team Saturday at the Hopkins Invitational.

Delton Kellogg had six wrestlers competing on the day and all six won at least once and five finished among the top four at their weight class at the 11-team tournament.

Stampfler ran his record to 26-2 for the season with a 5-0 day in the 138-pound weight class. He took a 14-6 major decision against Hopkins' Caden Brown in the championship match at their flight in what was his closest match of the day.

Swift improved to 29-3 this winter with a 5-0 mark. He had three pins a technical fall and a forfeit victory in his five bouts.



Delton Kellogg's Mendon Phillips works to pin Thornapple Kellogg's Logan Goggins during their 157-pound bout at the Hopkins Invitational Saturday. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

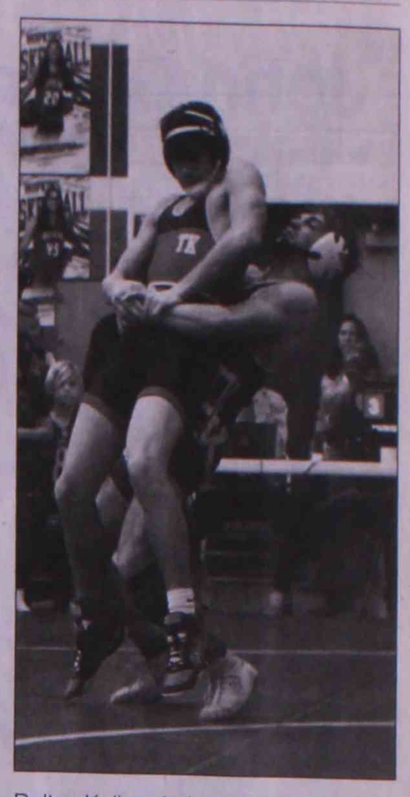
Lipscomb is now 28-10 after going 5-0 too. He pinned South Haven's Issac Alcaraz 1:16 into their 144-pound championship match making it five pins in five bouts for Lipscomb. Comstock Park's Calin McNabb-Olson was the only competitor to make it into the second period against Lipscomb all day.

Hopkins handily won the team championship for the day with 251.5 total points. Comstock Park was second with a score of 171 ahead of Shelby 170.5, Thornapple Kellogg 141, Mason County Central 136, Mendon 124.5, Delton Kellogg 122, South Haven 119, Bloomingdale 30, Grant 0 and Hamilton 0.

The Thornapple Kellogg 'B' squad competing at the meet got a 190-pound championship from Joey Krystyniak and Jimmy Manne was the runner-up to Swift at 285 pounds.

Lane Steele was 3-2 in five matches at 126 pounds for the Delton Kellogg team, Johanna Houtkooper went 1-3 in a girls' 135/140-pound weight class and teammate Mendon Phillips went 3-2 at 157 pounds. Phillips was third at this weight class.

The Delton Kellogg was supposed to head to Allegan for a SAC Quad Wednesday, Jan. 22, and the team is set to return to action Saturday at Portage Central.



Delton Kellogg's Austyn Lipscomb lifts Thornapple Kellogg's Jack Longstreet off the mat during their 144-pound bout at the Hopkins Invitational Saturday. **Photo by Brett Bremer**



Delton Kellogg's Johanna Houtkooper (right) goes head to head with South Haven's Amber Knight during their bout in the 135/140-pound weight class Saturday at the Hopkins Invitational. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

Short-handed Panther squad finds some positives in loss to Rams

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Panthers have had to call in some reinforcements.

Down to five varsity ballplayers, Delton Kellogg varsity girls' basketball coach had to get some JV girls to step up and help out in a tough Southwestern Athletic Conference road contest at Galesburg-Augusta Friday. The Rams moved to 7-2 overall and 3-1 in the SAC Central Division with a 63-31 win over the DK girls.

Jaidyn Klimp led the Rams to the win with 28 points, a total boosted thanks to a number of offensive rebounds. DK head coach Kevin Lillibridge said his girls had trouble slowing her down all night.

With the basketball, things started out well for the DK girls. They were down just 15-13 at the end of the first quarter and coach Lillibridge said his girls' handled the Rams' pressure really well. It was tough to consistently beat that Ram defense as the game wore on though.

"With foul trouble and their pressure they made too many runs we couldn't answer, but the girls kept working hard," coach Lillibridge said.

The Panther team had five girls score led by ten points from Izzie Wendland and nine from Addie Stampfler. Lillibridge said Wendland really hustled all over the court all evening.

Dani Fields and Jalin Lyons chipped in four points apiece, "and did so many good things for us with our offense, diving for loose basketballs, and playing hard all 32 minutes," coach Lillibridge said.

The DK girls fell to 0-6 in the SAC Central and 1-9 overall this season with the loss.

The Panthers are scheduled to host Holland Black River Friday, Jan. 24, and then play host to Maple Valley Monday for a non-conference ballgame. The DK girls go to Parchment Tuesday, Jan. 28.

HHS girls go 4-1 in duals at Holt tournament

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Hastings varsity girls' wrestling team placed third at the Holt Duals Saturday with a 48-36 win over the host Rams in the match for third place.

The Saxons were 3-1 in the lead-up to that match with wins over Portland, DeWitt and West Ottawa. The team's lone loss was by a 48-36 score in a dual with Eaton Rapids.

In the third-place match against Holt the Saxons got pins from Dezarae Mathis at 120 pounds, Sara Baker at 135 and Naomi Grummet at 170, and forfeit wins from Sydney Lindsey, Morgan Casselman and Petra Foster.

Milanowski was 5-0 for the day with four pins and a forfeit victory. Eaton Rapids' Annaliese Davis, in a 140-pound bout, was the only one to last into the second period against Milanowski.

Grummet earned a 5-0 record too with three pins and two forfeit victories.

The Saxon team got a 4-0 performance from Mathis on the day, and Chloe Aicken, Sydney Patterson, Casselman, Lindsey and Bella Strimbeck had three wins each for the Saxon team.

Grand Haven took the day's championship with a 48-36 win over the Eaton Rapids girls in the first-place match.

The Hastings girls outscored Ottawa Hills 60-17 in their opener getting pins from Aryonnah Farrell and Aicken.

Eaton Rapids outscored the Saxons 48-36 in the second round of the day. The Saxon team got pins from Mathis, Milanowski and Grummet in that contest.

The Saxons bounced back from that defeat to outscore Portland 66-18. That dual included pins from Mathis, Milanowski and Grummet for Hastings.

The Saxons' closed out the pool duals with a 48-36 win over the DeWitt girls. That dual featured Saxon pins by Mathis, Baker, Milanowski and Aicken.

The Saxons are set to host their own Saxon Girls' Invitational Saturday.

Nowak wins title for Lions at Quincy tourney

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Filip Nowak won the 144-pound weight class and six of seven Lions placed in the top four in their weight class Saturday at Quincy's Shawn Cockrell Memorial tournament.

Nowak racked up points in a pair of technical falls to start his day and then outscored Hanover-Horton's Gavin Berkeypile 16-4 in the championship match at 144 pounds.

The Lion team also had Jackson Burpee in the championship round at 190 pounds. He had a pin and a technical fall to start his day, but then fell to Austyn Hocter of Hanover-Horton 80 seconds into their championship match.

Maple Valley had Joe Long at 285 pounds and Roman Schilz at 113 both place third and Robert Schilz at 138 pounds and Skyler Cook at 215 both placed fourth.

Addison won the team championship on the day with 145 points. Quincy was second with 115.5 points ahead of Hanover-Horton 111.5, Centreville 106, Monroe 90.5, Maple Valley 89.5, Pinckney 79, Coldwater 76, Niles Brandywine 54, Homer 54, Lumen Christi 51.5, Camden-Frontier 0 and Concord 0.

Roman Schilz closed out his day with a 7-1 win over Hanover-Horton's AJ Lusby in the 113-pound third-place match. Long pinned two foes in consolation matches to get to the third-place match at 285 pounds where he pulled out a 7-5 win over Coldwater's Fletcher Barr.

Cook was stuck by Addison's Lincoln McFate in his match for third at 215 pounds and Robert Schilz had his day end by fall against Coldwater's Robert Torres in the match for third at 138 pounds.

All the placers had at least two wins on the day for the Lion team and Kade Wright took one victory competing in the 157-pound weight class.

Hanover-Horton took the team title with three champions. That list included 132-pounder AJ Fielder, Reed Matthews at 285 pounds and Hocter at 190.

The Lions were scheduled for a Wednesday night trip to Union City for a Big 8 Conference Quad this week. They will be back in action Fennville Blackhawk Invite Saturday, Jan. 25, and then play host to a Big 8 Quad Jan. 29.

NOTICE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dated: January 16, 2025
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Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400

(01-16)(02-06)

Gars see progress in Loy Norrix performance

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

A year and a half into the new co-op program and the Gars notched their first state cut Saturday at the Loy Norrix Invitational.

Gabriel Van swam to a runner-up time of 54.43 seconds in the 100-yard butterfly at the invitational in Kalamazoo meeting the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 1 Swimming and Diving Finals qualifying time.

It was a great day all around for the Gars who were fourth in the day's overall standings. Loy Norrix took the day's championship with 420 points ahead of DeWitt 354, East Kentwood 230, the Gars 201, Mason 160 and Harper Creek 22.

A year ago, the first edition of the Gars co-op finished the Loy Norrix Invitational with just 19 points. The Gars team is a co-op between Thornapple Kellogg, Unity Christian, Hopkins, West Catholic and West Michigan Aviation Academy.

The Gars had a handful of MISCA Meet qualifying performances throughout the day Saturday along with Van's performance in the 100-yard butterfly. Those included Van in the 200-yard freestyle, Ethan Klopfenstein in that 100-yard butterfly race and the 100-yard backstroke and Hunter Tietz in the 100-yard backstroke. The team also met MITCA marks in the 200-yard freestyle relay and the 400-yard freestyle relay.

There were two top six finishes for the Gars in the 200-yard freestyle relay. The team of Nolan Send, Tietz, Ty Denney and Van combined for a time of 1 minute 35.75 seconds. They were just less than a quarter of a second behind the winning team from DeWitt in the race. The Gar 'B' team of Caden Bliek, Dominic Jakubowski, Luke Hemker and Haiden Vruggink placed sixth in 1:50.40.

Gar teams were fifth and sixth in the 400-yard freestyle relay. Send, Tietz, Denney and Van were fifth with a time of 3:34.22 in that race.

East Kentwood's Teague Westra won that 100-yard butterfly race in 54.20, a little less than a quarter of a second ahead of Van. Klopfenstein swam to a sixth-place finish in that race with a time of 57.65.

In the 100-yard backstroke it was a Falcon in front again as James Langosch won in 57.03. Klopfenstein was the runner-up in 58.49 and Tietz third in that race in 59.31.

Tietz also had an outstanding 50-yard freestyle turning in a time of 23.61 that put him in fourth place.

Van added a runner-up time of 1:52.78 in the 200-yard freestyle.

Last Thursday, the Gars were bested 109.5 to 69.5 in a non-conference dual at Hamilton High School.

Van won the 200-yard freestyle in 1:54.25 and the 100-yard freestyle in 51.75, and Klopfenstein won the 100-yard butterfly in 59.11.

The Gar team also had the foursome of Send, Tietz, Denney and Van earn the first place points in the 400-yard freestyle relay with a time of 3:44.63.



The Gars' Nolan Send (clockwise from left), Hunter Tietz, Ty Denney and Gabriel Van celebrate their runner-up finish and MISCA qualifying time in the 200-yard freestyle relay during the Loy Norrix Invitational in Kalamazoo Saturday. **Photo provided**

Gielincki leads Trojan boys at another SWMSC race

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Plainwell/Thornapple Kellogg boys were sixth and girls seventh to place at Timber Ridge Wednesday, Jan. 15, during the second Southwest Michigan Ski Conference race of the seasons.

Mark Gielincki had the top finish for the Trojan Ski co-op racing to an 11th-place finish in the boys' slalom. He had runs of 25.99 seconds and 25.79 seconds. Gielincki also led the Trojan team in the giant slalom with an 18th-place finish.

Lillian Warnez led the Trojan girls in both events too with an 18th-place finish in the slalom and a 22nd-place finish in the GS.

Mattawan/Paw Paw won both the boys' and girls' meets. The Mattawan/Paw Paw boys finished with 55 points followed by Portage 63, Kalamazoo United 87.5, Hackett/Vicksburg 146.5, Hudsonville 174, Trojan Ski 176 and South Haven 203.

Mattawan/Paw Paw had four racers finish in the top ten in the boy's slalom led by Canyon Keller who was third. Sam Oberlee from Kalamazoo United won the boys' slalom with runs of 20.49 and 21.36 and Portage's Olin Rorhstaff was the runner-up with times of 21.43 and 21.89.

With the second-best time in each GS run Bryce Johnson won that event on the boys' side. He had times of 17.03 and 16.65. Keller was the runner-up and Oberlee third. Keller had the fastest time of run two at 16.64. Oberlee had the top time of run one at 16.97.

The Trojan Ski team had Claudio Costa 21st overall in the GS, Robby Jones 29th and Loehn Luckett 32nd. In the slalom, the Trojan Ski boys had Costa 16th, Jones 23rd and Luckett 26th.

Mattawan/Paw Paw won the girls' meet with 54 points followed by, Kalamazoo United 97, Portage 87, Hackett/Vicksburg 87, Hudsonville 158, South Haven 238 and Trojan Ski 241.

The Trojan girls standings included Lilian Lyon 28th in the slalom, Oriente Chiara 34th and Moline Marta 37th. In the GS Lyon was 24th and Chiara and Marta tied for 39th.

Mattawan/Paw Paw's Addison Bell had the four fastest runs of the day and flew to a more than two second win in the slalom. She had runs of 22.08 and 21.95 in the slalom, and she turned in times of 17.46 and 17.41 in the GS.

Bell's Teammate Ann Hoogerheide was the runner-up in the GS with runs of 17.68 and 17.51. Amelia Todd from Kalamazoo United took the runner-up spot in the girls' slalom with times of 23.07 and 23.28 with Hoogerheide third.

The conference was set to get back together at Bittersweet Jan. 22 and has another race set for Jan. 29 at Bittersweet.

Wildcats win by one over Thornapple Kellogg girls

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Harmony Laker sank a free throw with 11 seconds left on the clock to snap a 55-55 tie and the Wildcats held off the Thornapple Kellogg varsity girls' basketball team for a 56-55 win in OK Gold Conference action Thursday.

Taylor Lloyd had 17 points, Lydia Schilthroat 16 and Reece Ritsema continued her streak of a double-double in every game of the season finishing with ten points and 11 rebounds for the Trojans.

"We played really, really good defense," Thornapple Kellogg head coach Brandi James said. "I told them before the game we're a tough team to score on and we just have to do our job on the offensive end. They really played lights out defense for most of the game. We had a few turnovers there in the middle of the game that hurt us."

The Trojan team had s seven-point lead at the half and led by one going into a fourth quarter that was back and forth through those final eight minutes.

James said her girls really had to focus on teamwork to attack the Wildcats' 2-3 zone that's tough on ball-handlers and trapping all along the edges of the court. The Trojans did their best to get the ball into Ritsema into the high post and let her distribute the basketball to cutters like Lloyd and Schilthroat. There was also a focus on reversing the basketball and dribbling less.

Emma Geukes, Tealy Cross, Schilthroat and Lloyd all hit threes for TK in the ballgame as it worked its inside-out game.

Coach James was also pretty pleased with junior McKenna Hoebeke's performance in leading the efforts to try and slow down the Wildcats' star Laker. Laker did finish with 21 points. She knocked down four three-pointers herself.

Laker was the only Wildcat in double figures, but there were four other Wayland girls with at least six points. Addie Sikorsky added nine and Izzy Johnson eight.

"I think that was A: the best team we played this season, and B: the best game we have played as a team this season," James said.

The two teams will meet again in Middleville, Feb. 11.

Wayland is now 9-3 overall this season and 3-1 in the OK Gold Conference having followed up the win over TK with a victory over visiting Northview last Thursday.

The TK girls are now 4-6 overall and 1-3 in the OK Gold. They were bested again Friday at Wyoming 56-34 in conference play.

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Saxons improve press break to get by Defenders

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Hastings worked to figure out how to break through the Defenders' full-court zone pressure in the second half.

Saxon senior Rachael Hewitt put in 20 points.

There was an 11-of-14 performance at the free throw line in the fourth quarter by the Saxons.

And the Saxons' Bella Friddle and Kaylee Dahms swatted away three-point attempts by Tri-Unity Christian shooters down the stretch.

It all added up to a much needed victory for the Hastings varsity girls' basketball team on its home court Friday night. Hastings scored a 37-30 win over the visiting Defenders in a non-conference ball game.



Hastings guard Kalli Koning advances the ball ahead for the Saxon varsity girls' basketball team during its non-conference win over visiting Tri-Unity Christian Friday at Hastings High School. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

"It's actually very exciting Saxon forward Maddie Peake said. "We were on a little streak of losing, so it was nice to get a win out there. We're now 4-6 so that is pretty good. It was good for the team too, because I feel like as a team we have been down recently. It kind of brought up all of our spirits."

It was the first win in a month for the Saxons who had dropped four in a row since a Dec. 17 win over Springport.

Peake had five points for Hastings and Ava Noteboom, who was injured with a knee injury midway through the contest, put in four. Peake said her teammates have done a good job of keeping their spirits up during the tough stretch.

"We all work together and talk together really well, especially at practice. We make sure that happens in practice and on the court. We don't put each other down. That is one of the biggest things we can do to keep each other's confidence up."

Tri-Unity Christian had aa lead of as many as five points in the first quarter, but the Saxons closed out the quarter on a 5-0 run to tie things at 9-9 with Noteboom getting back-to-back buckets to close out that run off a nice assist from Hewitt and an offensive putback.

The Saxons kept rolling to a 17-12 halftime lead and had an advantage throughout most of the second half. The Defenders closed to within 23-20 by the end of the third with the help of a few Saxon turnovers against their full-court pressure and had a momentary 26-25 lead thanks to a 6-0 run in the early stages of the fourth quarter.

Hewitt hit three free throws to put the Saxons back in front and then a triple by Peake boosted the Saxon lead to 31-26 with 3:12 to go in the ballgame. The lead jumped to seven points with a steal by Hewitt and offensive rebounds from Friddle and Hewitt leading to two more Hewitt free throws with two and a half minutes to play.



The Saxons' Ava Noteboom bursts through a crowd of Tri-Unity Christian defenders in the lane including Harper Holbrook, Natalie Bruinsma and Beka Schmitz during their non-conference ballgame at Hastings High School Friday. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

"I think the first half we got pretty comfortable with their man (press)," Hastings head coach Ben Wilson said. "They switched to the zone press. We knew it was coming. We worked on it a little bit over the week, but they did a nice job with it. We had to adjust and had to do some things out of timeouts that we haven't done so far this year. Making the adjustments and having five seniors on the team, kids who have played a lot of basketball over the years, was helpful. At times we were able to slow down and not get in a big hurry, but it definitely affected us. I feel like that was the difference in the third and fourth quarter, that zone press and how we adjusted to it.

"We were trying to get the ball to the middle," Wilson added, "and at times we get sped up and those passes are a lot harder to go across the floor than they are looking to the middle and then going middle out as opposed to try and push it up the sideline and get trapped in the corners. Get the ball to the middle and then let's pivot and look side to side and see if we can find some open areas."

Tri-Unity Christian got 13 points from junior Izzy Mojica and 12 from senior Natalie Bruinsma. Bruinsma hit a three behind a screen at the top of the key that pulled the Defenders within 33-30 before Hastings closed out the game at the free throw line.

"At first it was as little rocky, but once we got with the rhythm, and with the timeouts coach was calling and writing up stuff, it just changed the whole scenario," Peake said.

It was another night with Hewitt leading the Saxons in the scorebook. It was a tough night shooting the basketball behind the three-point arc for her, but she got work done in the paint and at then at the free throw line.

The Saxon team had games postponed with Jackson Northwest and Wellspring Prep the past few days. They are now slated to return to Interstate-8 Athletic Conference play at Coldwater Friday, Jan. 24. The Cardinals are 5-1 in the conference and 8-4 overall. Hastings is still hunting its first conference win of the season at 0-5.

"We're trying to get better," Wilson said. "We've had some tough ones with some really good teams in our league, we have had some good non-conference opponents as well. Our goal is to get better as we approach March and get into districts … getting better in situations like this is going to help where we have to make adjustments, where we're playing close games and we have to finish at the free throw line, and defending without fouling late in games is big for us. That is hopefully going to carry over and it was nice to get one. It has been a little bit since we've gotten one."



The Saxons' Maddie Peake cheers on her teammates from the sideline during the second half of their win over Tri-Unity Christian at Hastings High School Friday. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

Pennfield puts in 14 threes in win over Hastings boys

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Hastings varsity boys' basketball team fell to 0-5 in the Interstate-8 Athletic Conference with a 73-55 loss at Pennfield last Wednesday, Jan. 15.

Hastings took a 30-22 lead into the half, but the Panthers went on a 50-25 run in the second half including scoring 29 points in the third quarter.

Pennfield got 35 points from Calvin Paesens as well as 16 from Zach Walling and 13 from Johnathan Lake.

Pennfield was 14-of-30 from behind the three-point line as a team. Paesens knocked down ten threes and Walling hit four.

The Saxons got 17 points from Porter Shaw, 11 from Jack Webb and ten from Jett Barnum. Barnum had seven rebounds, five assists and four steals on the night. Point guard Dre Mathis had three points to go with five rebounds, seven assists and two steals.

The Saxons fall to 1-8 overall with the loss.

Pennfield followed up with a two-point win at Parma Western in I-8 action Friday and is now 4-2 in the conference and 10-3 overall.

The Saxons are are scheduled to visit Coldwater Friday, Jan. 24. Hastings had ballgames with Jackson Northwest Monday and Wellspring Prep Tuesday postponed due to the weather.

Divers second for DK/HHS team at home invite

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Delton Kellogg/Hastings varsity boys' swimming and diving team had a couple foursomes finish as high as fourth in a race and a pair of divers score a runner-up total at the team's annual DK/Hastings Relays Invitational Saturday.

The DK/Hastings team of Colton Baker and Cruize Rathburn put up a second-place score of 128.80 points in the 1-meter Diving "Shootout" Saturday, finishing behind only the score of 166.40 put up by the Ottawa Hills team in the event.

That was just one highlight for the Bengals, who the DK/Hastings team used to regularly compete with when it was a part of the OK Conference. Ottawa Hills took the invitational championship with an overall team score of 346 points ahead of Wayland 288, Fremont 224, Ionia 150 and Delton Kellogg/Hastings 128.

The sophomore Rathburn teamed with sophomore Caleb Kramer, junior Gavin Bagley and senior DJ Kuck for a fourth-place time of 5:32.72 in the 500-yard freestyle relay progressive. The DK/Hastings team also had the team of Bagley, Kramer, freshman Richard Fritz and Kuck place fourth in the 200-yard backstroke relay with a time of 2:219.97.

The DK/Hastings team had the team of senior Justine Bayabay, freshman Eli Li, junior Reese Hammond and the junior Baker fifth in the 200-yard breaststroke relay with a time of 2:50.23 and the team of Kramer, Bagley, Rathburn and Kuck fifth in the 200-yard freestyle relay in 1:52.23.

Bagley, Baker, Kuck and Kramer also teamed up for a fifth-place time of 2:05.31 in the 200-yard medley relay to open the meet.

The runner-up team from Wayland had the most victories on the day winning the 400-yard individual medley relay, the 800-yard freestyle relay, the 200-yard butterfly relay, the 500-yard progressive freestyle relay and the 200-yard breaststroke relay.

Fremont won three events and Ottawa Hills two.

The DK Hastings team had a dual at Allegan Tuesday postponed. The team is set to be back in action at Sturgis Thursday and then home at the CERC to take on Harper Creek Tuesday, Jan. 28.

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