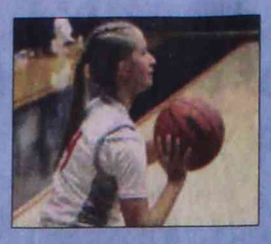


INSIDE
TODAY'S EDITION
BETTER TURNS LEAD TO BETTER TIMES FOR DK/HHS
PAGE 10



FRESHMAN LLOYD SETS TK GIRLS' THREE-POINT RECORD
PAGE 12



'AMERICAN PICKERS' FILMING IN MICHIGAN THIS SPRING
PAGE 6

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Fire destroys Nashville home; no injuries reported

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

No injuries were reported after a blaze destroyed a home in the Village of Nashville during the early morning hours of Friday, Jan. 24.

According to Wayne Gould, chief of the Castleton-Maple Grove-Nashville Fire Department, said a house fire on the 100 block of State Street, near the intersection with Church Street, was first reported shortly after 6:30 a.m. Friday, with units of the Nashville fire department arriving on scene just minutes later.

"When we pulled up to the front of the house, it was fully involved," Gould said. "When I got out of the truck, I told the driver to move it because it was so hot I was afraid it would melt the paint on the side of the fire engine."

Gould said three of the four residents – a woman and two young children – of the home were inside preparing for school, when the mother reportedly heard a "pop" from a charging bank located in the front of the house and sparks quickly igniting a fire in the area.

The fire chief added, however, that officials cannot state what might have been the exact cause of the blaze due to the heat and resulting damage to the structure.

While firefighters attempted to extinguish the blaze, Gould said there was "too much heat" and flames "would flash back up."

"It was a total loss," he added.

But, Gould also said firefighters were able to prevent flames from jumping to another home just 10-15 feet away on the north side of the residence, putting up a "water curtain" to keep the neighboring structure cooled down. At some point, an excavator was used to knock walls of the home down to keep the fire from spreading to any adjacent structures.

"There wasn't any harm to that structure," the fire chief said, referring to the neighboring home.

The Nashville fire department was assisted at the scene by units from Hastings, Vermontville and Woodland departments, as well as the Nashville Village Police, Nashville EMS and the village Department of Public Works.

"The DPW workers were extremely helpful in opening fire hydrants for us," Gould said. "We had quite a crew there."

Firefighters were on site until about 12:30 p.m. Friday, according to Gould.

Funds are being collected to support the family after losing their home. Those interested in donating can find a GoFundMe fundraiser benefitting the family at bit.ly/3WF0DCm.



A house fire destroyed a home in Nashville during the early morning hours of Friday, Jan. 24. No injuries were reported. **Photo by Jordan Snyder**



A view of flames consuming a home on State Street in Nashville on Friday. The home was a total loss. **Photo by Kandes Mellen**

Barry County man facing murder charge after fight with uncle ends in death

Molly Macleod
Editor

A Dowling-area man is facing an open murder charge after an incident last week that led to the death of his uncle.

John Branham, 26, was charged last week, Friday, Jan. 24, with one count of open murder and one count of being a second habitual offender, according to Barry County Prosecutor Julie Nakfoor Pratt. If convicted, the open murder charge could lead to a lifetime prison sentence for Branham.

The charges stem from an incident on Thursday, Jan. 23, that led to the death of Branham's uncle, Terry Lee Traister II. The prosecutor's office said Traister died on Thursday from injuries sustained in an assault Branham was allegedly involved with.

Branham's bond was set at $1,000,000 last week. As of Wednesday, Branham remained in the Barry County jail. His first probable cause hearing was scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 29, after press time, before Judge Michael Schipper in the 56B District Court.

Branham, 26, is no stranger to Barry County courts. In 2020, Branham pled guilty to a misdemeanor charge of assault with intent for great bodily harm less than murder/strangulation. He was sentenced to 365 days in jail, received two years of probation and was ordered to an outpatient treatment program.

Branham pled guilty to more misdemeanor charges in 2021 – this time for domestic violence and destruction of property. He was then sentenced to 93 days in jail, a year of probation and was again ordered to an outpatient treatment program, according to Barry County court records.

Assistant prosecutor leaving county after 18 years

Molly Macleod
Editor

Barry County Assistant Prosecutor Christopher Elsworth is hanging up his hat in Barry County this week as he prepares to take on a new challenge. The county's assistant prosecutor, who has served Barry County since 2007, leaves for a new job in Kalamazoo tomorrow, Friday, Jan. 31.

Barry County Prosecutor Julie Nakfoor Pratt praised Elsworth for his work for the county at Tuesday's Barry County Board of Commissioners meeting.

"Chris has been a senior attorney who has done everything from simple misdemeanors, civil infractions… and then has graduated and, thankfully, for this county, has (prosecuted) homicides. He's been a partner in a lot of homicide cases. His help and his dedication have been immeasurable. You can't put a price on it," said Nakfoor Pratt.

One of Elsworth's legal specialties is working on forfeitures. Nakfoor Pratt explained he works closely with the Southwest Enforcement Team (SWET).

"Chris has worked closely with SWET for many, many years, so that's a big hole. When people get busted with drugs, they can have some of their property forfeited. There's some rules and regulations that surround it, but Chris is our forfeiture attorney," she said.

Nakfoor Pratt praised Elsworth for his skills in the Court of Appeals, as well. She said his knowledge of the law is vast, making him an asset to the county.

"(He is) very learned and scholarly in his ability to understand and extrapolate the law that applies to a situation," said Nakfoor Pratt. "We will miss that terribly."

Though Nakfoor Pratt has enjoyed Elsworth as her right-hand-man for the past 12 years as county prosecutor, she knew him previously from facing him in court. She knows firsthand his sharp wit in the courtroom, but also his tact and respect.

"Chris has really, really made a mark in this county. And I'm not just saying that because he's leaving — I would tell you any day in the 12 years that I have been the prosecutor here. Before I became the prosecutor, I was in private practice here and went up against Chris in court," Nakfoor Pratt said.

She explained that how an attorney conducts themselves in the courtroom is extremely important to the outcome of the case. Elsworth consistently raised the bar. "It's a great thing to advocate and be assertive for your client or your prosecutor's office, it's a completely different thing to advocate in a mutually respectful manner, not putting each other down. And Chris has been excellent at that — and he was like that with me when I was a

See **PROSECUTOR** on 4

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PAGE 2

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Toxicology shows lethal level of meth in body of Kentwood storage fire victim

Karen Turko-Ebright
Contributing Writer

A woman whose body was found badly burned padlocked inside a storage unit that caught fire on Nov. 7 had a lethal level of methamphetamine in her system, according to the medical examiner who testified in district court on Thursday.


Morgan Lee Wingeier

Morgan Lee Wingeier, 32, who lists a Delton address on a court document, was arrested on Dec. 19 and later arraigned on the charges of manslaughter and unlawful imprisonment of 33-year-old Corinne Abosamra.

During a 34-minute video interview played in court on Thursday, Wingeier told detectives she was in a relationship with Abosamra for a few months. However, they stopped dating before the fire at the Broadmoor Self Storage facility in Kentwood.

Detectives tracked down Wingeier and interviewed her the following morning after the fire at a hotel where she was staying.

She told police she intentionally locked unit 454 with Abosamra inside because her mother, Nancy, had previously questioned why she had it unlocked. She did not want her mom to know that Abosamra was inside.

Wingeier told detectives her original plan was to go back to the storage unit a couple of hours later and unlock it, however, she never returned because "the things she was doing took longer than she expected."

She told detectives in a taped video interview that she was gathering scrap metal so she could have money to pay for the hotel where she sometimes stayed with her family.

Wingeier also told detectives that when she locked Abosamra inside the storage unit, she knew that Abosamra did not have any way out of the unit, nor did she have a working phone or any way to contact anyone in case of an emergency while she was inside of the unit.

Wingeier explained that she and Abosamra were homeless. She told detectives that her mother did not want her to hang around with Abosamra or the storage unit anymore. Wingeier said if her mother found out that Abosamra was in the unit she would've "kicked her right out."

Kent County Chief Medical Examiner Stephen Chole performed an autopsy on Abosamra. "She was severely burned and not recognizable," Chole said, adding that she was identified through dental records.

"In Abosamra's case, the manner of death was an accident. She had a high level of methamphetamine in the blood and enough that certainly could be lethal," Chole testified. "She was badly burned. I felt that certainly could have contributed to or at least hastened her death. I listed that as a contributing finding, in my opinion." He noted she had a relatively low level of carbon monoxide, which was not enough to be toxic.

Wingeier appeared before Judge Amanda Sterkenberg in District Court 62-B in Kentwood on Thursday, Jan. 23, for her preliminary exam that could determine if the case goes to Circuit Court for trial.

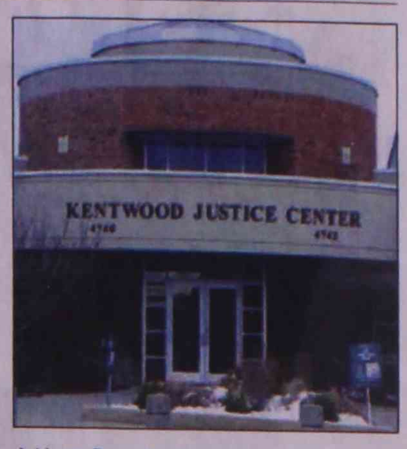
In an affidavit of probable cause for arrest obtained by the Hastings Banner, detectives detailed the following steps taken before police arrested Wingeier for the alleged crimes.

Kentwood firefighters noted that they broke off a padlock that locked the outside door of burnt storage unit 454.

After forced entry, they found Abosamra's body. Officers learned from the manager of Broadmoor Self Storage that Nancy Wingeier rented out the unit for her daughter, Morgan.

Kentwood Fire Marshall, Marc Oliver, testified that the cause of the Nov. 7 fire was undetermined.

Morgan, who was convicted last March of using meth, was in custody at the Kent County Jail on a $50,000 bond that was set by a visiting judge.



A Kent County medical examiner testified the woman whose body was found badly burned padlocked inside a Kentwood storage unit that caught fire on Nov. 7 had a lethal level of methamphetamine in her system. **Photo by Karen Turko-Ebright**

Judge Sterkenberg reduced the bond to a personal recognizance bond. But before Wingeier was released from the Kent County Jail, she had to provide a stable address to the court where she could be reached.

Before the preliminary exam ended, Judge Sterkenberg told the prosecution and defense attorneys she would take closing arguments in the form of written briefs that would be due on Monday, Feb. 3.

Organizations hold joint meeting as they look to solve major problem facing local industry

Jayson Bussa
Contributing Writer

Leadership behind two Barry County organizations discovered that it essentially was fighting the same fight and had its sights on the same general goals.

So they decided to come together and collaborate.

One of the results of that partnership was the event that played out in Middleville last Thursday.

Held at Bradford White's International Technical Excellence Center (iTEC) facility, the Barry County Chamber and Economic Development Alliance's Manufacturers Council held its second joint event with Barry County Career Connections. The first event of its kind was held back in October.

The work in front of both organizations is lofty, too: Addressing the urgent need for workers from local manufacturers.

"We're trying to have these joint meetings to increase the enrollment to the Manufacturers Council and try to get more manufacturers in front of educators to say 'Hey, we need the workforce coming out of high school with these certain skill sets,'" said Chris Stafford, who retired from Bradford White after a decades-long career and has since focused on helping usher the new generation through the industry.

"That's something we're trying to coordinate to help bridge the gap between business and industry, talking to educators and educators listening to business and industry."

That's why both organizations strive to bring a hodgepodge of attendees to the table for these types of events — educators, manufacturers and organizations that directly support the industry.

Last Thursday's event was no different with representatives from organizations like Bradford White, the Michigan Manufacturing Association, West Michigan Works, Junior Achievement, Kellogg Community College and the local school districts all in attendance.

The event featured short presentations by a list of featured organizations, many of which highlighted the many crimps in the manufacturing workforce pipeline and how they might be alleviated through a variety of programs or other resources.

Brian Gruber, director of operations for Bradford White, was one of those attendees. He spoke briefly about various ways to cultivate the new crop of talent, leaning heavily into the concept of mentorship to help high school students learn both the soft and technical skills needed in today's manufacturing industry.

Following the speakers, Bradford White provided a guided tour of its state-of-the-art iTEC building, a facility equipped to provide hands-on, technical training for contractors, engineers, distributors and sales representatives. The company's wide range of products are all set up to provide real world simulation. The facility also houses Bradford White's technical support department.


Attendees of last week's joint meeting of the Barry County Chamber and Economic Development's Manufacturing Council and Barry County Career Connections tours through the Bradford White International Technical Excellence Center (iTEC). Here, the group is pictured in the facility's mechanical room. The iTEC center is designed to provide hands-on skills training. **Photos by Jayson Bussa**

"The chamber has a monthly or every other month meeting for its manufacturing council to discuss manufacturing issues and what's going on," Stafford explained about the origins of the event. "...We decided to put our meetings together."

Stafford has positioned himself on the front lines of manufacturing here locally. As a Hastings High School graduate and someone who remains active on the education front, he serves as a conduit between both sides.

The message is quite clear, too: Manufacturers are in dire need of talent and high school and college graduates are coming out of school with opportunities immediately in front of them.

But does Barry County have the infrastructure needed to prepare the next generation of workers? That's a central question that has driven Stafford's work at Barry County Career Connections.

While each local school may have an offering of CTE classes, Stafford and his organization's push is to eventually create a formal career technical center, pointing out that surrounding counties like Kent, Allegan, Calhoun, Eaton and Ionia all have one.

"With Barry County having very limited CTE programs within the community, and not having a specific career center, we're kind of behind the eight-ball with all the surrounding counties," Stafford said. "All our surrounding counties have career centers that are publicly funded and have multi-million-dollar facilities."

See **INDUSTRY** on 4

NEW RECRUITS: Sheriff swears in new deputies


Barry County Sheriff Dar Leaf (left) swore in two new deputies to the Barry County Sheriff's Office at Tuesday's Barry County Board of Commissioners meeting. Deputies Ryan Balkema (middle) and Macy Rundell (right) have officially joined the force after taking their oaths on Tuesday. **Photo by Molly Macleod**

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Sheriff writes letter to president seeking executive order

Molly Macleod
Editor

Barry County Sheriff Dar Leaf is asking President Trump to issue an executive order that would prevent the use of parts made outside of the United States in election equipment.

In a letter to Trump posted on Leaf's X (formerly Twitter) account last week, the sheriff calls for an executive order that "prevents the use of foreign participation in the supply chain of US election equipment."

"Not one part or component should be manufactured or used in US election equipment for federal elections," the letter continues.

Leaf wrote that preventing foreign participation in the United States' federal election equipment supply chain is a move that would improve election transparency and increase Americans' confidence in the election process.

"The American People deserve transparency in US elections, and removing foreign participation is the first step towards establishing confidence that US elections are fair, accurate, and reflect the will of the AMERICAN people," Leaf wrote.

Leaf said while he has not yet heard back from President Trump regarding his request for an executive order, his attorney has ties with the president's administration.

Leaf's office has led a years-long investigation into election fraud in the 2020 presidential election. He avoided criminal charges in 2023 stemming from an incident in which a voting tabulator was seized from the Irving Township Hall and brought to Oakland County.



Barry County Sheriff Dar Leaf wrote a letter to President Trump last week urging him to enact an executive order that would prevent election equipment manufacturers from using any parts made in foreign countries. **File photo**

Hastings City Council appoints Devroy to Third Ward seat

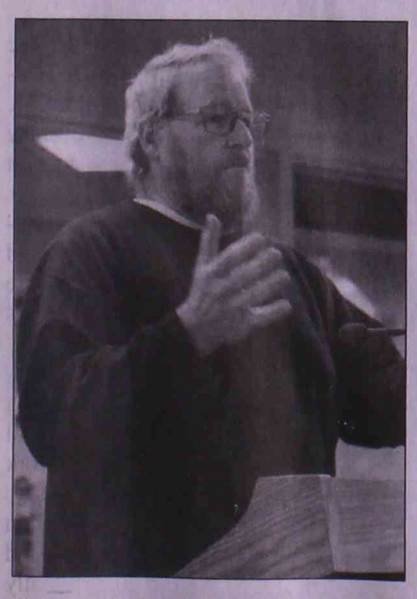
Molly Macleod
Editor

The Hastings City Council's seats are full once again after council members voted on Monday to appoint Ann Devroy to the vacant Third Ward seat.

Despite Abby Taylor being elected to the seat in November, she was unable to take office because of a recent residency change, moving outside of the Third Ward. The seat was previously held by Don Bowers.



Ann Devroy will join the Hastings City Council next month as a Third Ward trustee, filling the council's empty seat. **Photo by Molly Macleod**



Charles Hertzler vied for the open Third Ward council seat this week. He ran for the seat in November, losing to Abby Taylor. Taylor moved out of the district before assuming office, creating a vacancy in the seat at the start of this year. **Photo by Molly Macleod**

Taylor beat fellow challenger Charles Hertzler for the seat in November. Hertzler threw his hat in the ring for the open seat, along with Devroy, on Monday.

The two candidates, Hertzler and Devroy, answered an identical set of 11 questions from council members. The questions were selected to reveal each candidate's background, motivation for serving, leadership style, dedication to the position and more.

Devroy, a lifelong Hastings resident, is a retired special education teacher. Before starting her teaching career at Caledonia Community Schools, Devroy was a respiratory therapist for 20 years. She has been involved with several boards and commissions throughout the area, including the Thornapple Arts Council. She has also served as an election inspector.

Devroy said she was inspired to try for the council position as a way of giving back to her community.

"I've always been proud of the community I live in, and I have family that lives here, grandkids growing up here, and I've always believed that you can't complain about conditions if you aren't willing to get in there and fight for them and work on it yourself," said Devroy. "So that's what I'm trying to do — give back to my community."

Being thoughtful and informed when making decisions on the council is paramount, said Devroy.

"I think the biggest responsibility is to be thoughtful about the concerns put before me, to weigh out pros and cons about those specific concerns and make fair decisions. And to stay on top of the material presented in the packets for each meeting," Devroy said.

Maintaining and improving public safety and the umbrella surrounding it are Devroy's top priorities as a council member, she said.

"It's almost like an umbrella, because I think public safety is probably one of the top priorities. Going through everything and all of the departments, I think public safety includes the roads, the sidewalks, the water, the fire department, the police department — it's a pretty big umbrella over public safety," she said.

Devroy said important qualities for a council member are being informed, being fair and being a good listener.

Hertzler retired from a long career in manufacturing, where managed maintenance departments and received multiple certifications. He said he learned a little bit of everything in his time in the workforce, managing budgets and being involved with business decisions as a part of his managerial duties.

Hertzler's motivations for joining the council were similar to that of Devroy's — a desire to be more involved in the city's decision-making and giving back to community.

"I want to know the inner workings of this city council… I want to do this to see if I can do anything to help make this city, and the people of this city, (have) a better life and a better city," Hertzler said.

Financial responsibility is important to the duties of a council member, Hertzler said.

"Also, (it is the council member's responsibility) to offer a good service to the citizens of the city, whether it's safety or whatever it takes to keep the city running and functioning… You have to be open-minded, but you have to be intelligent and smart about it," said Hertzler. "That's where I think I have the capabilities of coming in and learning this stuff and do it and make a difference. I did it in all my jobs all my life."

Council members ranked their choices for the Third Ward appointee on a paper ballot, read by Hastings City Clerk/Treasurer Linda Perin. Devroy received six votes from council members Jacquie McLean, John Resseguie, Jordan Brehm, Terry Stenzelbarton, Bill Nesbitt and Mayor Dave Tossava. Hertzler received two from Jon Rocha and Norm Barlow.

The council voted unanimously to appoint Devroy at the regular meeting following the interview workshop on Monday.

According to the city charter, the council had 45 days from the start of the new term to appoint a qualified person to the office or call for a special election. That appointee, Devroy, will serve on the seat until the next general election in 2026. Should she wish to complete the full term, Devroy must be elected at that general election.

Devroy said on Monday that she plans to run for the spot in 2026.



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When is a good time for Roth conversion?

In life, you often get second chances — and the same is true with investing. To illustrate: You might not have been able to contribute to a Roth IRA during your working years due to your income level, but you may get that opportunity as you near retirement, or even when you are retired — through a Roth conversion.

Why is a Roth IRA desirable for some people? Here are the key benefits:

• *Tax-free withdrawals* — You put in after-tax dollars to a Roth IRA, so you can withdraw your contributions at any time, free of taxes and penalties. And if you've had your account for at least five years and you're at least 59½, you can also withdraw your earnings free of taxes.

• *No RMDs* — With a traditional IRA, you'll have to start taking withdrawals — called required minimum distributions, or RMDs — when you turn 73, or 75 if you were born in 1960 or later. But there's no RMD requirement with a Roth IRA — you can essentially leave the money intact as long as you like.

• *Tax-free legacy for your heirs* — When your heirs inherit your Roth IRA, they can withdraw the contributions without paying taxes or penalties, and if the account has been open at least five years, they can also withdraw earnings tax free.

But even if you were aware of these advantages, you might not have been able to invest in a Roth IRA for much of your life. For one thing, you might have earned too much money — a Roth IRA, unlike a traditional IRA, has income limits. Also, a Roth IRA has only been around since 1998, so, in the previous years, you were limited to a traditional IRA.

As you approach retirement, though, you might start thinking of just how much you'd like to benefit from a Roth IRA.

And you can do so by converting your traditional IRA to a Roth. While this sounds simple, there's a major caveat: taxes. You'll be taxed on the amount in pre-tax dollars you contributed to a traditional IRA and then converted to a Roth IRA. (If you have both pre- and after-tax dollars in your traditional IRA, the taxable amount is based on the percentage of pre-tax dollars.)

If you have large amounts in a traditional IRA, the tax bill on conversion can be significant. The key to potentially lowering this tax bill is timing. Generally speaking, the lower your income in a given year, the more favorable it is for you to convert to a Roth IRA. So, for example, if you have already retired, but have not started collecting RMDs, your income may be down.

Timing also comes into play with the financial markets. When the market is going through a decline, and the value of your traditional IRA drops, you could convert the same number of shares of the underlying investments and receive a lower tax bill or convert more shares of these investments for what would have been the same tax bill.

Finally, you could lower your tax bill in any given year by stretching out your Roth IRA conversions over several years, rather than doing it all at once.

You'll want to consult with your tax advisor before embarking on this conversion — but if it's appropriate for your situation, you could find that owning a Roth IRA can benefit you and your family for years to come.

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Barry County citizens turn out to remember MLK Jr.

A group of about 20 Barry County citizens and other supporters banded together to hold a march honoring the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and non-violent activism on Saturday, Jan. 25, in Hastings.

The marchers took to the sidewalk surrounding the Barry County Courthouse in Hastings around midday, carrying handmade signs with quotes from Dr. King's civil rights speeches and other inspirational sayings, according to a statement provided by organizers of the event.

Christina Bush of Nashville, who coordinated the march, stated she was pleased with the turnout.

"I appreciate the guidance I received from county and city leadership as I planned the event," Bush said. "Unfortunately, the weather prevented us from gathering on Monday (Jan. 20), MLK Day itself, but I was very pleased with the turnout we had on Saturday, especially since I think this may have been the first march in Hastings commemorating Dr. King."

The group reportedly made several stops at the corner of Broadway and State Street, giving motorists and passersby the chance to read their signs. Organizers stated drivers honked and waved in support, with some rolling down their windows and calling out their thanks for remembering King's legacy.

"There was such a positive response from the participants and people in town that day that I think it would be great to have this event every year, perhaps bringing in speakers and musicians," Bush added. "It would be a great educational event about the nation's history and another positive for Hastings and Barry County."



A group of about 20 Barry County citizens and other supporters banded together to hold a march honoring the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and non-violent activism on Saturday, Jan. 25, in Hastings. **Photo provided**

According to organizers, those who participated in the march were asked what motivated them to take part in the event, especially when they could have been keeping warm and comfortable indoors.

One marcher reportedly answered Barry County residents need to recognize social justice issues affect everyone, adding the civil rights movement may have started decades ago but is still meaningful today.

Another hoped that the march would help those who feel powerless or at-risk realize they are not alone and have support in the community. And, a third participant stated that King was an inspiration to them, willing to speak truth to power.

MLK began his civil rights work in 1955 and was active in it until his assassination in 1968 at the age of 39. One of his most famous speeches was "I Have a Dream," which was delivered to a quarter of a million protesters gathered at the National Mall in Washington D.C.



Marchers took to the sidewalk surrounding the Barry County Courthouse in Hastings around midday on Jan. 25, carrying handmade signs with quotes from Dr. King's civil rights speeches and other inspirational sayings. **Photo provided**

in 1963.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day became a federal holiday in 1983 when President Ronald Reagan signed it into law. It is observed on the third Monday in January each year. — *DM*

Biden Administration awards $5 million for Barry County broadband network expansion

Molly Macleod
Editor

Some rural Barry County residents will soon see faster, more reliable internet after the Biden Administration announced late last month it awarded $5,076,932 to the Barry County Services Company for expanding and deploying a fiber-to-premises network to provide high-speed internet. The award is part of the ReConnect Program.

The money, split equally into $2.5 million chunks – one half a grant, the other half a loan – will be used to expand high-speed fiber internet access to 685 people, three businesses and 23 farms, said Barry County Chamber & Economic Development Alliance President/CEO Jennifer Heinzman. Though it won't connect every citizen in Barry County, the money makes a significant dent in the county's goal to connect every resident with high-speed internet.

Heinzman said the chamber has been applying for rural connectivity grants left and right since 2020.

"We've been working on this for years, and then we got to the point where it was like, 'How can we fill in this gap, this gap.' Everything's just been piecemeal. Any piece that can be filled is just really good news," said Heinzman.

She added funding from the Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (BEAD), once it comes through, will help fill in the rest of the gaps in connectivity throughout the county.

Major strides have already been made to increase the county's connectivity, Heinzman said. "We've already seen quite a bit. Algonquin Lake was connected last year, and Thornapple Township got a chunk connected last year. There are already big chunks that are already moving, but we're just continuously trying to fill the gaps."

"We're hoping the BEAD funding and all of this stuff will be in the works by the end of 2026," she said.

Heinzman said she is looking forward to seeing the gaps in connectivity filled around the county.

"It's really, really exciting and something we've been working on for years," said Heinzman. "So, glad to see some movement."

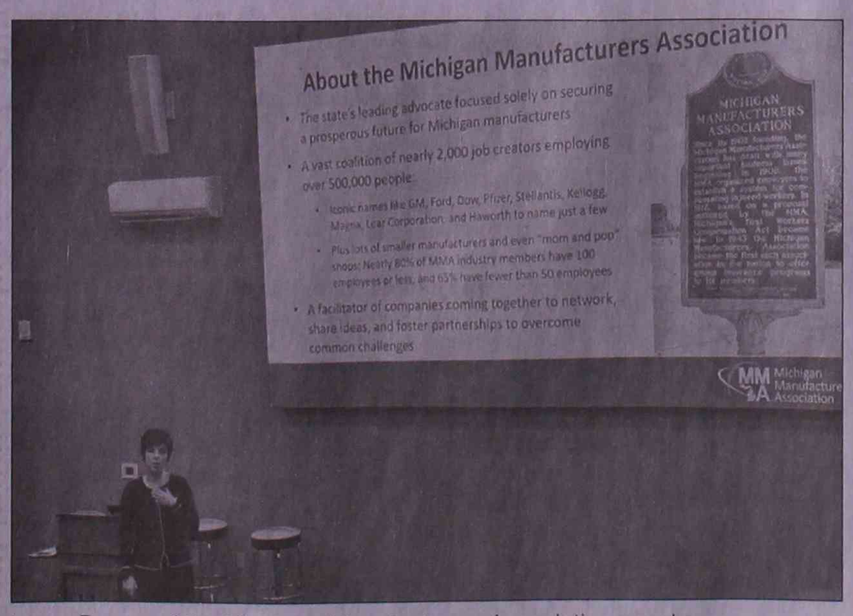
DID YOU SEE?



CONSTRUCTION COMMENCES

Frequenters of the Hastings Riverwalk trail may have noticed that the pedestrian bridge spanning the Thornapple River near Thornapple Plaza has been blocked off to walkers. The barricades are temporary as construction begins on the Hastings Riverwalk Lofts. CopperRock, the project's developer, plans to build three residential buildings on the property, making up roughly 135 units. Thirty-six units will be one-bedroom apartments, 91 will be two-bedroom units and eight will be three-bedroom units. The project has been a long time in the making. It is located at the site of the now-burned Royal Coach building, 420 E. Mill St. and 328 E. Mill St.

Photo by Molly Macleod



Laura Preuss of the Michigan Manufacturers Association speaks at the Bradford White iTEC center last week in front of a group of local manufacturers and educational administrators.

INDUSTRY

Continued from Page 2

Stafford dipped a toe in the water when he established The HUB of Barry County, which provided hands-on training for students for about a year. But, he knew that even his 8,000 square foot facility fell short of what the county needed to make a legitimate push to adequately train a whole new wave of skilled workers.

By looping in administrators from all the school districts that touch Barry County, and bringing industry to the table, Stafford that what might appear like a lofty goal could be a reality in the county's future.

"As far as optimism, it's there," Stafford said.



Barry County Assistant Prosecutor Christopher Elsworth's last day with Barry County is tomorrow, Friday, Jan. 31. He leaves the county after 18 years for a new job in Kalamazoo County. **File photo**

PROSECUTOR

Continued from Page 1

defense attorney and he was a prosecutor," Nakfoor Pratt said.

Commissioners praised Elsworth on Tuesday for his contributions to the county over the past two decades.

"Chris, we cannot tell you how much we appreciate your 18 years of service to the county," said County Board of Commissioners Chair Dave Jackson on Tuesday. "I know that we go through all kinds of things, you guys go through all kinds of things that aren't always in the public eye. So a lot of things happen behind closed doors that you guys have to figure out. We know with Julie's leadership and your leadership in that office, that our reputation in this county has been outstanding, so we will certainly miss you with all your contributions and expertise in that field."

Barry County Board of Commissioners Vice Chair Dave Hatfield said he received several calls from attorneys he knew last weekend lamenting the county's loss of Elsworth.

"I had three criminal attorneys that I greatly respect call me last week and said, 'Do you know what you're losing?' And I really didn't know what we were losing — but they quickly educated me."

Hatfield said the calls he received demonstrate the respect Elsworth earned amongst his peers.

"It tells me a lot when people that are sitting across the aisle from you call and want to commend you on the work that you've done and the relationships that they've had with you," Hatfield said.

Elsworth thanked Nakfoor Pratt and others for their kind words on Tuesday.

"Thank you very much. Thank you, Julie, everybody, I appreciate it. I'm going to miss my boss, I'm going to miss working for Barry County, I'm going to miss the law enforcement in Barry County," said Elsworth. "…Thank you for giving me the privilege of working here for 18 years. It's been an honor, and I will miss everybody.

HHS Winterfest activities kick off Sunday

Hastings Area Schools is aiming to kick cabin fever to the curb with another installment of Winterfest, which starts on Sunday, Feb. 2.

Winterfest is presented by Hastings High School and designed not only to introduce fun activities to a seemingly endless winter, but the activities also raise money for a worthy cause inside of the school community.

Proceeds from this year's event go to benefit the Howell family. Jason Howell, a teacher at Hastings High School, unexpectedly lost his wife, Sunshine, in November of 2024, leaving him as the sole caretaker of her three children. The money will go to help cover the many unexpected costs that come with such an abrupt transition and tragedy.

This year's events include a volleyball tournament (Feb. 2), the First Responders vs. Teachers Basketball Game (Feb. 3), a bake sale (Feb. 3) and trivia night, which will be held from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Feb. 5 at Venue 1230.

Sunshine's favorite color was pink; attendees should plan to dress in pink for Feb. 3's basketball game.

Students will also participate in some in-school activities, such as a pep rally, a class coin drive, and a dance. — *Hastings Area School System*



Hastings High School Winterfest activities kick off on Sunday. Pictured here is a past year's First Responders vs. Teachers Basketball Game. This year, the game is scheduled for Feb. 3. **Photo provided**

CLASSIFIEDS

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Peters announces he will not seek reelection in 2026

Molly Macleod
Editor

Michigan Senator Gary Peters announced on Tuesday he will not be seeking reelection in 2026.

The announcement comes as Peters rounds his 10th year serving as one of Michigan's United States senators. The Democrat will end his term at the end of 2026, having served 12 years as senator.

"I have always believed that American democracy can only remain healthy and vibrant when every citizen takes an active role in strengthening their community. There are many ways people can choose to serve their community and all are important. The how and when we serve is different for everyone and what we do becomes part of a unique individual life story having many chapters," Peters said this week.

"At this point in my life, I have been able to write many different chapters, and I look forward to the new ones with both anticipation and excitement."

Peters assumed longtime Michigan Senator Carl Levin's seat after defeating Terri Lynn Land in 2014. Peters successfully defended his seat against challenger John James in the 2020 election.

Before serving as one of Michigan's two senators, Peters began his state political career in 1995, representing Michigan's 14th District in the Michigan Senate. He served in the state senate until 2002. He served in the U.S. House of Representatives, representing Michigan's 14th and 9th districts from 2009 to 2015.



Michigan Senator Gary Peters announced this week he will not be seeking reelection when his term expires in 2026. **Photo provided**

Peters also boasts a long career in the United States Navy Reserve, where he served from 1993 to 2008. He also spent 20 years working in the private sector as a financial advisor.

"When I was first elected to Congress in 2008, I always knew there would come a time to pass the torch to the next generation of public servants and allow them the opportunity to bring fresh energy and ideas to our nation's capital. Our founding fathers envisioned members of Congress as citizens serving their country for a few terms and then returning to private life. I agree. After three terms in the House and two terms in the Senate, I believe now is time for me to write a few more paragraphs in my current chapter and turn over the reins. I will therefore not seek reelection in 2026," Peters said.

Though Peters announced his intentions to retire at the end of his term, he says there is still more to do before then.

"I have two more years remaining in my current term and there is more work to do. I intend to continue my work on issues important to all Michiganders by working to lower costs, make sure everyone has the opportunity to succeed, feel safe in their community, and protect core American democratic values.

"My service in the Congress has been the honor of my life. It has been a humbling responsibility given to me by the voters of the state I love. I will be forever grateful for the opportunity to serve, and I believe my work has left our country a better place."

Governor Gretchen Whitmer lauded Peters for his service this week.

"Senator Gary Peters has been a steadfast champion for Michigan," Whitmer said. "As a member of the House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, he has fought tirelessly to create good-paying jobs, bring manufacturing back to our state, strengthen our auto industry, lower Michiganders' health care costs and protect reproductive freedom.

"As a veteran of the U.S. Navy Reserve, Senator Peters recognizes the importance of a strong national defense and helped secure Michigan as a defense leader through his advocacy for Michigan's Selfridge Air National Guard Base.

"I am deeply grateful to Senator Peters for his service, both as a Michigander and friend," Whitmer said.

As Peters prepares to wrap up his decades-long career in politics, he is looking forward to riding off into the sunset.

"I am leaving Congress, but I am not retiring. I look forward to writing many more chapters when my term ends. I do not know what those chapters will be, but I expect one of them will be me finding endless twisting back roads where I can experience the joy of total freedom riding my Harley Davidson motorcycle on a warm sunny day," he said.

Foster receives promotion at HCB

Mark Kolanowski, president & CEO at Highpoint Community Bank, recently announced the promotion of Chelsey Foster to executive vice president, chief operating officer.

Foster joined HCB in 2023 as senior vice president, business development officer. He has a bachelor's degree in business from Alma College, is a graduate of the Perry School of Banking through the Michigan Banker's Association, and is currently entering his third year of the Graduate School of Banking program through the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

"Since joining HCB two years ago, Chelsey's leadership, innovative thinking, and strong business development results have been instrumental to our success," Kolanowski said. "I'm confident he will continue to excel in this new role."

Foster is also involved in numerous community activities, including serving as chairman of the Barry County Economic Development Alliance Advisory Board, vice chairman of the Barry County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, vice chairman of the Barry County Land Bank Authority, chairman of the Barry Community Foundation Impact Investment Committee, a current member and past president of Hastings Rotary Club, and recently joined the Corewell Health Pennock Hospital Community Advisory Board.

Highpoint Community Bank was founded in 1886 and currently has offices in Hastings, Middleville, Nashville, Caledonia, Wayland, Marshall, and a loan production office in Kalamazoo.

For more information, visit online at highpointcommunitybank.com.



Chelsey Foster

YOU'RE NOT JUST OUR READERS.

You're our friends, our family, our neighbors... and our future.

VIEW Newspaper Group Your Community Connection

BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Prepared and published in accordance with Act 165 of 1971, being Section 211.34a of Michigan General Property Tax Law.

2025 TENTATIVE EQUALIZATION RATIOS AND MULTIPLIERS BY CLASSIFICATION

January 17, 2025

ASSESSING UNIT	REAL PROPERTY BY CLASSIFICATION												PERSONAL PROPERTY	
	AGRICULTURAL		COMMERCIAL		INDUSTRIAL		RESIDENTIAL		TIMBER-CUTOVER		DEVELOPMENTAL			
TOWNSHIPS	Ratio	Multiplier	Ratio	Multiplier	Ratio	Multiplier	Ratio	Multiplier	Ratio	Multiplier	Ratio	Multiplier	Ratio	Multiplier
ASSYRIA	47.57	1.05108	55.51	0.90074	47.31	1.05686	46.64	1.07204	N/C		N/C		50.00	1.00000
BALTIMORE	49.46	1.01092	49.37	1.01276	38.48	1.29938	41.92	1.19275	N/C		N/C		50.00	1.00000
BARRY	47.25	1.05820	46.31	1.07968	40.22	1.24316	47.51	1.05241	N/C		N/C		50.00	1.00000
CARLTON	47.92	1.04341	49.70	1.00604	49.83	1.00341	44.39	1.12638	N/C		N/C		50.00	1.00000
CASTLETON	47.85	1.04493	48.51	1.03072	53.40	0.93633	47.37	1.05552	N/C		N/C		50.00	1.00000
HASTINGS	44.96	1.11210	53.61	0.93266	53.33	0.93756	45.31	1.10351	N/C		N/C		50.00	1.00000
HOPE	47.78	1.04646	45.18	1.10668	49.22	1.01585	43.81	1.14129	N/C		N/C		50.00	1.00000
IRVING	48.10	1.03950	49.63	1.00746	49.33	1.01358	45.37	1.10205	N/C		N/C		50.00	1.00000
JOHNSTOWN	45.32	1.10327	43.25	1.15607	50.09	0.99820	45.45	1.10011	N/C		N/C		50.00	1.00000
MAPLE GROVE	48.75	1.02564	50.09	0.99820	42.78	1.16877	48.48	1.03135	N/C		N/C		50.00	1.00000
ORANGEVILLE	44.84	1.11508	49.11	1.01812	38.54	1.29735	45.85	1.09051	N/C		N/C		50.00	1.00000
PRAIRIEVILLE	44.95	1.11235	50.05	0.99900	40.11	1.24657	44.16	1.13225	N/C		N/C		50.00	1.00000
RUTLAND	50.23	0.99542	49.17	1.01688	47.27	1.05775	45.24	1.10522	N/C		N/C		50.00	1.00000
THORNAPPLE	47.16	1.06022	49.97	1.00060	47.68	1.04866	45.14	1.10767	N/C		N/C		50.00	1.00000
WOODLAND	46.25	1.08108	43.06	1.16117	44.74	1.11757	48.83	1.02396	N/C		N/C		50.00	1.00000
YANKEE SPRINGS	49.59	1.00827	44.51	1.12334	49.62	1.00766	45.56	1.09745	N/C		N/C		50.00	1.00000
CITIES														
HASTINGS	45.47	1.09963	44.36	1.12714	43.60	1.14679	47.13	1.06090	N/C		N/C		50.00	1.00000

Ratio: Average ratio of assessed value to market value

Multiplier: Equalization factor necessary to equate assessed value to equalized value

N/C: No parcels in classification

All assessment changes made at the local level will be considered prior to adoption of the final Equalization Report in April.

Meshia Rose, Equalization Director

OBITUARIES

VIEW OBITUARIES ONLINE. **HASTINGSBANNER.COM**

Gerald Lee Cook



Gerald Lee Cook passed away peacefully at his home surrounded by family in Delton, MI, on January 24, 2025, at the age of 86. Born on May 15, 1938 to Harold Millard and Marian (Beattie) Cook, in the same close-knit community, Lee's life was a testament to dedication, hard work, and the importance of family.

A proud 1956 graduate of Delton Kellogg High School, Lee's commitment to his country was evident through his service in the United States Army Reserves 415th Civil Affairs Battalion. Over his six-year tenure, he achieved the rank of Sergeant, a role he carried out with honor and distinction.

Following his military service, Lee dedicated himself to his community, serving as an Orangeville Township Board Trustee for two years, Treasurer for 28 years, and Supervisor for two years. His professional life was marked by a successful career as a Journeyman Millwright with Hackett Construction, from which he retired in 1998. Lee was also a proud member of Millwrights Local #1102 for 32 years, where he was well-respected by his peers.

Lee's heart was always closest to home. On May 15, 1964, he married Marian (Carpenter) Calkins in a beautiful ceremony at the Orangeville Baptist Church, officiated by Rev. Glen Campbell. Together they raised a loving family, with five children: Mark (Su) Calkins, Mike Calkins, David Cook, Gordon (Lisa) Cook, and Kenny Cook. Lee was also a cherished grandfather to 10 grandchildren: Chris (Chastidy) Calkins, Karl Calkins, Katie Calkins, Adam Calkins, Thad (Jenny) Calkins, Jacob (Kate) Calkins, Lauryn Cook, Sarah Cook, Mary Cook, and the late Wyatt Cook. His joy was further multiplied by six great-grandchildren.

Lee's interests were as diverse as his skills. A talented woodworker and craftsman, he created animals from scrap metal and meticulously restored antique "hit and miss" gas engines. His hands-on knowledge was generously shared as he helped his sons build their homes and garages. An avid NASCAR fan, Lee even participated in the Petty Driving School at MIS. He cherished attending his grandchildren's sports games, reading, and simply enjoying time with his family.

Lee's good sense of humor and knack for tinkering around the house will be fondly remembered by all who knew him.

Lee's family would like to give a special thanks to Dr. Jason Ladwig, Dr. Joseph Roth, and the caring staff at Centrica Care Navigators for their care throughout the years.

Lee's funeral service was conducted on Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2025 at Williams-Gores Funeral Home. Pastor Jerald Jones officiating. Burial took place in Prairieville Township Cemetery.

Memorial contributions to Wyatt M. Cook Memorial Scholarship will be appreciated.

Please visit www.williamsgoresfuneral.com to share a memory or leave a condolence message for Lee's family.

Garden workshop discusses winter sowing Feb. 2

Area gardeners can learn the why and how of winter sowing and seed stratification at a garden workshop on Sunday, Feb. 2, 2025. Master Gardener Robbin Glass is leading the free workshop, which will run from 3 to 5 p.m.

Attendees of the class will learn how to sow seeds during the winter and why that skill is still important today. Most native plants, medicinal herbs and several perennials require this treatment. Winter sowing is an easy, hassle-free way to start seeds that require cold moist stratification that keeps critters from ravaging them.

Students will learn which seeds to winter sow or not and when to winter sow. Glass will perform demonstrations.

The workshop will be held at the Hastings SDA Church Community Hall & Grounds at 888 Terry Lane in Hastings.

All are welcome to attend the class; there is no need to register. For more information, contact Glass at 517-652-3056. — *MM*

Moolenaar staff available to discuss constituent assistance

Staff members from the office of Congressman John Moolenaar are hosting meeting times across the district next month where constituents can sit down to discuss personal casework issues they are experiencing with a federal agency.

Moolenaar's office is offering help to constituents who need assistance with a federal agency, including the VA and the IRS.

Staff members will be available

See **MOOLENAAR** on 8

'American Pickers' filming in Michigan this spring

The "American Pickers" are returning to Michigan this spring. They plan to film episodes of The History Channel television series throughout the area this March.

"American Pickers" is a long-running documentary series that airs on The History Channel, which explores the fascinating world of antique "picking." The show follows skilled pickers in the business, as they hunt for America's most valuable antiques.

As they hit the back roads from coast to coast, the pickers are on a mission to recycle and rescue forgotten relics. Along the way, they meet characters with interesting stories and fun items. They hope to give historically significant objects a new lease on life while learning a thing or two about America's past along the way.

The show's team is looking for leads and would love to explore locals' hidden treasures. Anyone who has a unique item, a story to tell and is ready to sell is invited to reach out to the show. The pickers do not pick stores, flea markets, malls, auction businesses, museums or anything open to the public.

Those interested in having their collections featured on the show are asked to submit a name, phone number, location and description of the collection with photos to americanpickers@cineflix.com or by calling 646-493-2184. Those interested can also submit info on Facebook to @GotAPick. — *MM*



Producers for the television show "American Pickers" will be filming in Michigan this summer. **Photo provided**

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:

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Hastings, MI 49058
945-9541

HASTINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY SCHEDULE

Thursday, Jan. 30 – January Series – Michaela O'Donnell: Life in Flux, 12:30 p.m.; Movie Memories and Milestones watches an Oscar-nominated 1940 film starring Raymond Massey and Gene Lockhart, 5 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 31 – Friday Story Time 10:30 a.m.; January Series – Hunter Woodall: They Told me I Couldn't Walk, so I Decided to Run, 12:30 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 1 – Take Your Child to the Library Day (calendar of activities), 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 3 – Crafting Passions, 10 a.m.; Lift Every Voice: Life Stories, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 4 – Baby Cafe, 10 a.m.; mahjong, 2 p.m.; chess, 5 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 5 – Itsy Bitsy Book Club, 10:30 a.m.

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

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

PIERCE CEDAR CREEK INSTITUTE EVENTS

— JAN. 31-FEB. 6 —

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.

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

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

Saturday, Feb. 1 — Barry County Water Quality Monitoring Program informational session, 1-2 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 6 — Nature Playdates in the Play Space, 10-11 a.m. February theme: Snow Science. Every season is outdoor season! Bring your little ones to explore nature through free play, activities, books and more. This program is designed for children and their accompanying caregivers. Please plan to attend and be engaged with your child for this program.

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

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

'In My Time' by Robert Faulkner

BANNER JULY 20, 1995



The Faulkner Family in 1918: (back row, from left) Harriett Faulkner, mother of Ellis S. Faulkner; Grace Faulkner, wife of Ellis Faulkner; his sisters, Bessie and Goldie; (center row, in uniform) Ellis S. Faulkner and son Paul; (front row) Arnold, Robert and Earl, sons of Ellis and Grace

JOYCE F. WEINBRECHT

Some time back the Hastings Banner received a copy of an account of the early life of the Ellis Faulkner family, written by Robert Faulkner.

It seemed appropriate to share it with our "From Time to Time" readers.

I called Mr. Faulkner and he has given permission to publish it here.

The foreword in the book states: "In 'My Time,' I have tried to portray for the reader, particularly my heirs, what it was like to live through radical changes in American life from 1910 to 1955. When you consider that this short period produced two world wars, a worldwide 10-year depression and communications unheard of when I was born, perhaps no other 45-year period in history has seen so much change."

Chapter 1: 1910-1930

"The August sun had made the sidewalk very hot, but going barefoot for two months had toughened my feet. My main concern was not to step on the cracks between concrete slabs. 'Step on a crack and you'll break your grandmother's back,' the girl next door had told me. Since she was in the ninth grade and I was only 4 years old, I believed anything she said.

"I made my way past the apple tree and the job on the sidewalk at Brandstedders, across the 'high place' and turned the corner at Heltsels. From here, I could walk under the maple trees to the C.K.&S. railroad tracks and depot. Across the tracks, it was only a few steps to the big box elder tree at the corner of the lot upon which my father's drug store stood.

"As I came to the drug store, the walk became wooden boards. The store was on a slight rise and the walk inclined, then it widened out in front of the old frame building. Then it dropped gently and narrowed again.

"The boardwalk continued to the post office on Delton's main corner. The whole business district consisted of one block of stores served by boardwalks.

"I entered the drug store and, seeing that my father was busy, made my way back to the open wooden stairway that went up to the wallpaper room. I sat on the steps and watched my father, whom I called 'Papa,' (who) was talking to a farmer whose horses and wagon were hitched outside.

"The farmer said, 'Ellis, I see that they are at it in Europe again.' This was the beginning of the First World War in August 1914. These words are the first clear memory of my life that I can recall with certainty as to place and time.

"Our house, built in 1910, in the year I was born, was the newest and one of the nicest in Delton, a hamlet of less than 200 people. We had a coal-fired hot water furnace with radiators in each room. The large living room, with fireplace, stretched across the front of the house. The feeling of spaciousness was enhanced by the absence of a wall between the living room and dining room. Both rooms had varnished hardwood floors. There was a swinging door between the dining room and kitchen. The woodfired kitchen stove had a warming oven, baking oven and a hot water reservoir. The sink and cistern pump were on the south wall.

"The door to the cellar was on the north wall between the doors to the dining room and Papa's and Mama's bedroom. Between the cellar door and the dining room door was a shelf that held a granite water pail and dipper.

"On the wall above the water pail was our telephone, an oak box containing two batteries and a magnet that was activated by a crank on the side. The mouthpiece protruded from the front. Our phone was on a party line with the drug store.

"If we wanted to call the drug store, we made two short rings with the crank on the side. If we wanted to place a call, other than to the store, we cranked once. When the girl at the central office answered, we gave her the name of the party we were calling. There were no telephone numbers.

"I still miss the personal service the central girls gave us. If we were calling Mrs. Jones, the operator might say, 'The Joneses are in Kalamazoo, visiting relatives, they won't be home until tomorrow afternoon.'

"Papa and Mama's bedroom opened off both the kitchen and the living room. The upper floor, with its four bedrooms and one unfinished room we called the attic, was reached by a stairway from the dining room.

"Off the kitchen was a screened porch. The screens were replaced by storm windows in the winter. The back steps from the porch led to the path through the grape arbor to the outhouse.

"In the summer, the outhouse was a torrid, smelly place. In winter, when it might be 10 below zero, you sat on your hands so your bare bottom wouldn't freeze to the seat. Our toilet paper was sheets from a Butler Brothers Catalog or a newspaper.

"Just outside the porch was our well. All water for cooking, drinking and for the chickens and cows was pumped by hand. In winter, pumping without gloves could result in the hands freezing to the pump handle.

"On Saturday nights, we all bathed. Water was pumped from the cistern, heated on the wood stove and a No. 3 round galvanized tub was set on the kitchen floor. We sat in the tub and washed in about three or four inches of hot water.

"Sunday mornings, my three brothers and I went to Sunday School. In the churchyard, there was a shed for the rigs and horses. People from town all walked to church, but people from the country came in wagons and carriages in the summer and sleighs and cutters in the winter.

"In those years, there were few snowmobiles, and most of these were on blocks in the winter. The cars had to be cranked by hand to start. Those early cars had no batteries and no starters. The tail light was a kerosene lamp. The front lights were sometimes carbide, although I believe a few at this time had dim electric headlights that ran off the magneto. The carbide lamps were on each side of the windshield.

"Gasoline was sold at the grocery store. The gasoline was pumped by hand from a storage tank into a glass tank five or six feet above the ground. The gallons were marked on the glass. When the grocer had pumped the desired amount of gasoline into the glass, he drained it through the hose into the car.

"The car's choke wire stuck out front so you could choke while you cranked. Sometimes the engine would 'kick,' causing the crank to spin backward. Broken arms as a result of this were not uncommon.

"The gas and spark were regulated by levers on the steering wheel. Three pedals on the floor controlled the car. One was the brake, one was low gear when pushed in, high gear when let out and neutral halfway in. The other was pushed in for reverse.

'Most homes in Delton before the 1920s were lighted with kerosene lamps, but our house had gasoline lamps. There was a gasoline tank in the basement, which Papa kept pressurized with a pump that looked like a bicycle pump. The lights were connected to the tank with small copper tubing. The light fixtures were on the ceiling with two chains hanging from the valve, one to turn on the gasoline and one to turn it off.

"The lamp was equipped with a fragile mantle. To light it, a torch was dipped in alcohol and lighted, then hung under the mantle. If one carelessly let the torch hit the mantle, the mantle disintegrated. Anyone familiar with a Coleman lantern will understand.

"On Monday, my mother did the washing for six people. With dad working and the boys at school or too young to help, she had to pump and heat the water. A wringer was set up in the middle of the kitchen. On each side of the wringer was a place for round galvanized tubs, the ones that served as bathtubs on Saturday night. One tub held hot suds and a galvanized washboard, the other clear hot water. After scrubbing the clothes on the board, Mother cranked them through the wringer into the rinse sub. Then, the wash tub had to be emptied into the sink and the rinsed clothes cranked back through the wringer, then carried outside and pinned to the clothesline.

"Imagine, if you can, a typical winter Monday. Mother had to wash six pairs of heavy long underwear, heavy flannel sheets from all the beds, pillowcases, our long black stockings, shirts, dresses, tablecloths, dish towels, bath towels, etc. They had to be hung outdoors in freezing weather and when frozen dry, brought back in. Besides this, she got three meals for six people on a wood range. On Tuesday, the laundry had to be ironed with flat irons on the wood range.

"Mother baked all our bread, cakes and pies, and canned all our fruit and vegetables. We didn't buy any baked goods or canned goods. Most of the time, we had our own eggs, chickens and milk.

"When the cow was dry, we did get milk from the milkman. He came after dark carrying a can of milk in one hand and a lantern in the other. Over the spout of the milk can was a quart measure. Mother would put out a granite pan with a plate over it. On the plate, she would place an 8-cent ticket for each quart of milk that she wanted.

"I know the milkman carried his lantern in his left hand because many a time, lying in bed, I could look out the window and see the giant shadow of his legs on the house next door as he came up the walk to our back porch. The swinging lantern made the shadowy legs walk back and forth across the neighbor's house. They reached from the basement to the roof.

"My father's sister, Aunt Bessie, was a registered pharmacist, but none of us thought it strange for a woman to have a career. She had never heard of the women's rights movement and didn't know that she was oppressed. She lived with Grandma and Grandpa Faulkner in Delton.

"I have only a vague memory of Grandpa Herbert Earl Faulkner, as he died when I was 5 or 6. He had spent most of his life working in a furniture factory in Lowell for $1 a day. He coughed a lot and Mama said he had consumption. I presume it was from inhaling wood dust for all those years.

"Grandma was born Harriet Gibson in Lowell March 28, 1858. When my father, Ellis Earl Faulkner was born Oct. 2, 1877, they lived in a small house on the outskirts of Lowell. They supplemented my grandfather's meager wages by raising a garden, chickens and pigs.

"My grandmother used to tell about bears raiding the pig pen while my grandfather was at work. She would pick up a club and drive the bears back into the woods. She was a large woman with spirit and determination.

"I presume her schooling was meager by today's standards, but she spoke and wrote better than many of today's college graduates. She set high standards for her children, Ellis, Goldie and Bessie. Her children carried these standards with them all their lives.

"My grandmother may have been the inspiration for the Faulkner code of honor: A Faulkner's word is his bond. A Faulkner never lies, cheats or steals. I hope this proud tradition, nurtured in the modest cabin in the woods near Lowell, and exemplified by father's and mother's lives will be the common bond between their descendants for all the generations to come.

"My mother was born Anna Grace Matter in Grand Rapids Oct. 23, 1874. Her childhood circumstances were in sharp contrast to my father's. Her father was a wealthy furniture manufacturer by the name of Elias Matter. Her mother was Anna Toot, daughter of Adam Toot, who settled in Irving, Mich., in the 1850s.

"John Toot of New York has written an interesting history of the Toot family. Pictures still exist of the Elias Matter home at 112 Fountain St., built in 1871. It was one of Grand Rapids' finest homes.

"The Matters had servants, horses, carriages, and were patrons of the opera. They spent their summers on the shores of Lake Michigan in Petoskey. But the panic of 1893 drove the Nelson Matter Company into bankruptcy. They had nearly completed a large order from the English royal family for one of their palaces when it was canceled.

"My mother was 19. She became a school teacher in Saginaw and later in Middleville. It was here that she met and fell in love with an assistant pharmacist at the Armstrong Drug Store. They married in Aug. 1899 and moved to Hastings.

"In June 1900, my brother Paul was born. In 1903 with the backing of his boss, my father bought the drug store in Delton. For several years, they lived upstairs over the drug store. It is a tribute to my mother that she was able to happily adjust the gas lights, the paved streets, the theater and other luxuries she had known in Grand Rapids, to the culturally deprived frontier-type hamlet of Delton with its dirt streets and rough people.

"The only commercial entertainment in Delton from 1900 to the 1920s was the Hunt Stock Company, a traveling tent show that played in Delton four days a year.

"Oh, there was a Whist Club and sandlot baseball. My father loved baseball and pitched for the Delton team. The Delton team played Hickory Corners, Prairieville, Dowling and other nearby towns, all of which were smaller than Delton.

"When I was 5, I started in the first grade at the Delton School. The school had 10 grades in two rooms. The 'little room' housed the first five grades and was taught by a girl who had just graduated from a one-year course at County Normal School in Hastings. The sixth through the 10th grades were taught by a man in the 'big room.'

"Those who continued school after the 10th grade rode the C.K.&S. to Hastings and back each school day. This old steam train was their school bus.

"No one who ever rode the C.K.&S. will ever forget that quaint train or the amiable conductor, Charlie McCall. He coped with his sometimes-boisterous teenage passengers with just the right mixture of firmness and understanding.

"After school, we had a few chores to do, such as feeding and watering the chickens, gathering the eggs or maybe taking our turn churning butter from rich Jersey cream from 'Carrie,' our cow. Paul, being the oldest, got the milking job. Sometimes we had to split kindling. Most of the merchandise for the drug store came in wooden boxes. From time to time, Dad would dump a load of boxes in the backyard. We broke them into stove-sized pieces with an axe. We also had a neat pile of seasoned stove wood back of the house."

To be continued...

SYNOPSIS
RUTLAND CHARTER TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
January 8, 2025 – 7:00 p.m.

Regular meeting called to order and Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Hall, Hawthorne, Greenfield, Watson, Bellmore, James, Mayack

Absent: None

Approved the Agenda

Approved the Consent Agenda

Monthly Treasurer's Report

Monthly Clerk's Voucher/Payroll Report

Motion to appoint Board of Review members, Carl Lickley, Marty Hawthorne, Les Raymond and Andy

Thomas Roll Call Vote – All Ayes, motion passes

Motion to not add a prayer to monthly agenda Roll Call Vote – 2-5, motion fails

Motion to take a moment of silence before the pledge Roll Call Vote – 5-2, motion passes

Motion to accept Ordinance #2025-196 Roll Call Vote – All ayes, Motion passes

Adjournment 7:43 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Hawthorne, Clerk
Attested to by,
Marti Mayack, Supervisor

NOTICE

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

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

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

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

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

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

7876 S M 66 Hwy, Nashville, Michigan 49073

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

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

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

(01-16)(02-06)

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)

GO ONLINE TO HASTINGSBANNER.COM

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)

MOOLENAAR

Continued from Page 6

locally in the coming weeks in Hastings and Sunfield. On Tuesday, Feb. 25, staff will be available at the Sunfield Township Hall, 145 Main Street, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Later that day, Moolenaar staff will be available at the Hastings Public Library, 227 East State Street, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

Constituents who cannot attend one of the meetings can call Moolenaar's office at 616-528-7100, or visit Moolenaar.House.gov to receive assistance with their issue. — *MM*

Barry County Prosecuting Attorney - Legal Secretary Position Opening

The Barry County Prosecutor's Office is accepting applications for a full time Legal Secretary. The position requires computer and internet skills, writing and grammar skills, an ability to meet deadlines, and good interpersonal skills. This position is the primary assistant for the Family Court/Juvenile Assistant Prosecuting Attorney. The salary range is $37,427.73 – $44,711.89 and includes additional benefits.

A job description is available at www.barrycounty.org. For more information or to email your cover letter and resume, you may contact the Barry County Prosecutor's Office, at 269-945-1297, jpratt@barrycounty.org, or nmitchell@barrycounty.org. You may also send a cover letter and resume to: Julie Nakfoor-Pratt, Prosecutor, Barry County Prosecutor's Office, 206 West Court Street, Hastings, MI 49058.

Deadline for applying: Open until filled.

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)

Barry County Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Position Opening

The Barry County Prosecutor's Office is accepting applications for a full time Assistant Prosecuting Attorney. The position requires a Juris doctor from an accredited law school and a license to practice law in the State of Michigan, computer and internet skills, writing, research and grammar skills, an ability to meet deadlines, and good interpersonal skills. The pay range for an Assistant Prosecutor, I is $61,101.25 - $73,055.84 and for an Assistant Prosecutor, II is $65,707.41 – $78,540.38 along with additional benefits. Pay rate will depend on experience.

A job description is available at www.barrycounty.org. For more information or to email your cover letter and resume, you may contact the Barry County Prosecutor's Office, at 269-945-1297, jpratt@barrycounty.org, or nmitchell@barrycounty.org. You may also send a cover letter and resume to: Julie Nakfoor-Pratt, Prosecutor, Barry County Prosecutor's Office, 206 West Court Street, Hastings, MI 49058.

Deadline for applying: Open until filled.

SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - BARRY COUNTY

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

SPORTS

Throw-back D helps Vikes beat Cougars

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Lansing Catholic ended a 24-game Capital Area Activities Conference White Division winning streak by Lansing Sexton Friday night.

Lakewood made sure the Lansing Catholic varsity boys' basketball team wasn't at the start of a long conference winning streak of its own Monday as the Vikings scored a 40-36 overtime victory over the visiting Cougars.

Lakewood assist coach Chad Pleiness said only one word went on the white board before the game: effort.

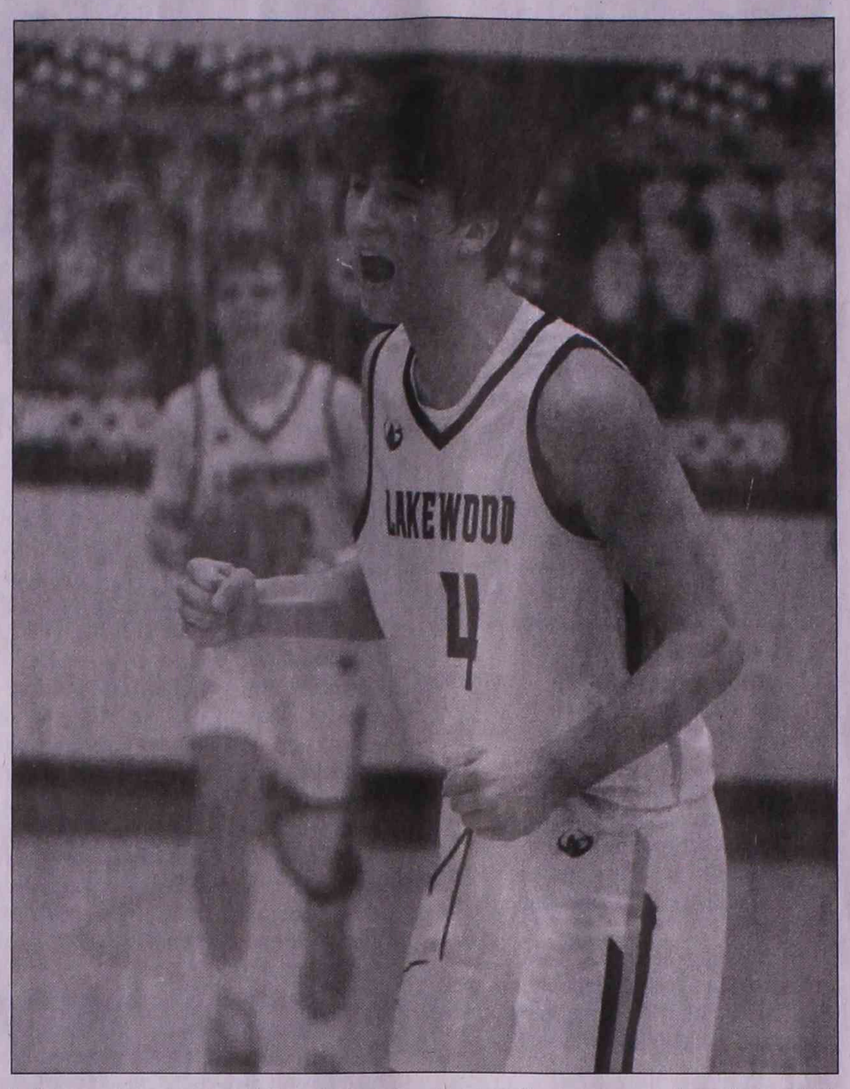
"Usually there is a bullet list," Viking head coach Jason Solgat said. "Me and him go through and add things, and today in big letters was the word EFFORT. We flipped and said we're done playing man. We're going to go back to the basics. What we're good at."

Before the Vikings' return to the CAAC White last winter, the Vikings and Cougars hadn't met on the basketball court since the 2013-14 season. Lansing Catholic dominated the series in the those final few years before Lakewood moved into the Greater Lansing Activities Conference, but now back in the CAAC White the Vikings have won two straight on their home court over the Cougars.

The Vikings looked into their past to pull out the win over the Cougars. Lakewood threw a 3-2 match-up zone at the Cougars which held them to their lowest point total of the season. Holt and Portland were the only two teams to keep the Cougars under 50 points before Monday, and they allowed 48 and 49 points respectively. Solgat said assistant coach, and former varsity head coach, Chris Duits helped spark the change to the defense that was the bedrock of the highly successful early 2000's Viking squads that battled the Cougars for conference titles season after season.

Solgat said after some conversation, the Vikings started including the 3-2 match-up in what turned into a 55-36 loss at Charlotte last Friday, Jan. 24.

"It allows for guys to get back to spots and not be chasing guys around the court, and then you know where you're at," Solgat said of the defensive adjustment. "There was effort by the team, the bench was loud. Our students, I haven't seen students stand up in a long time in this gym."



Lakewood senior guard Troy Acker shouts at as the horn sounds at the end of the Vikings' overtime victory over CAAC White foe Lansing Catholic Monday at Lakewood High School. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

Lakewood never trailed in the ballgame and led for nearly the entire night after shooting out to a 5-0 lead. The Viking advantage was 18-12 at the half and doubled to as many as 12 points late in the third quarter.

A flurry of threes by the Cougars got them back in the ballgame and they evened the score for the first time at 33-33 with 1:50 to go in regulation.

Senior guard Troy Acker attacked the lane and scooped a shot up to score the initial points in overtime and the Vikings were 5-of-6 as a team at the free throw line in the extra four minutes.

Junior forward Hollis Poll had a team-high 14 points for the Vikings and senior guard Logan Faulkner finished with 11 points. Faulkner drilled three three-pointers and sank two free throws with 6.5 seconds left that sealed the win.

The Vikings tried to go back to some basics on the offensive end of the floor too.

"We introduced some basic offense that we used to do in third and fourth grade with the kids, just to get them all moving especially when you're tired," Solgat said. "And the basics seem to be where we're at. Back to the basics is where we really went to. We also talked about fighting as a team, loose balls, tipping balls, not even just rebounding but how about the volleyball swats. Pick each other up. Control the stuff we can control."

Sophomore center Seth Hahnenberg led the Cougars with 17 points mostly in the paint, but he stepped out behind the three-point line to bury a triple at the close of the third quarter and a second at the start of the fourth.

Senior guard Drew Tolfree chipped in nine points for the Cougars.

The Viking bench was hit with a technical foul with 3:04 to go in the fourth quarter after a Viking foul, and the Cougars hit three of four free throws to inch with 33-31 at that moment. Lakewood wasn't thrilled that the Cougars went through the whole fourth quarter and the first half of the overtime session without being called for a single foul.

The Lakewood coaches though felt like they used that time well refocusing, and the bench and the crowd came out of the situation with a little more fire – even if the members of the bench had to deliver their cheers from a seated position the rest of the way.

"We still made some mistakes here and there, and we will have to clean that up," Pleiness said, "but at the end of the day effort can overcome a lot. That is what we really wanted to see, and the the energy, and the collective belief in one another really makes a difference."

The Vikings are now 2-6 in the CAAC White this winter and 4-10 overall after a win over visiting Lansing Eastern Tuesday. Lansing Catholic falls to 4-4 in the conference and is now 6-9 overall after falling to .

Lakewood is back in action in the CAAC White Friday at Eaton Rapids.

The Vikings beat visiting Lansing Eastern 54-50 Tuesday night. Hollis Poll and Faulkner had 14 points apiece for the Vikings and Ethan Matthews and Acker had eight apiece.

Myles Edmond led the Quakers with 21 points.

Skiers challenged by two GS runs at SWMSC meet

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

It has been a couple of years since high school skiers had decent conditions, but winter has arrived.

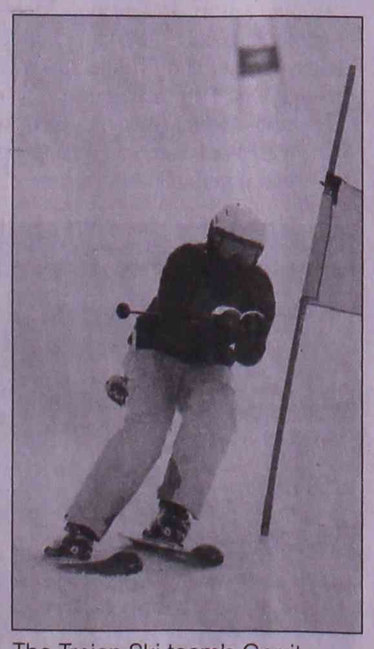
The skiers were actually pleased it warmed up a smidge Wednesday for the third Southwest Michigan Ski Conference (SWMSC) meet of the season Wednesday at Bittersweet.

The Plainwell/Thornapple Kellogg Trojan ski boys were fifth and the girls' sixth in the conference contest which featured two separate giant slalom (GS) runs.

The Mattawan/Paw Paw boys' and girls' teams both took victories on the day with the top scores on each of the GS runs on the Hawthorne slope.



Plainwell/TK's Loehn Luckett makes his way down the boys' first GS course during the SWMSC Jamboree at Bittersweet Wednesday, Jan. 23. **Photo by Brett Bremer**



The Trojan Ski team's Gerrit Taber races down the Hawthorne slope at Bittersweet during a GS race at the SWMSC Jamboree Wednesday, Jan. 23. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

Claudio Costa led the Trojan ski team on the southern GS run with a 12th-place finish thanks to times of 33.84 seconds and 33.90 seconds. Mark Gielincki was 15th on that run, Robby Jones 24th and Loehn Luckett 28th.

Kalamazoo United's Sam Oberlee had the top two times of 30.40 and 30.66 and Hackett/Vicksburg's Bryce Johnson was second with runs of 30.97 and 30.99. They were the only two guys to clock in with a time under 30 seconds on either run.

The boys closed their evening on the northern side of the slope with Costa again leading the way for the Trojans with runs of 37.04 and 36.96 that had him 15th individually. Gielincki had a stand-out second run of 36.44 seconds which helped him finish 16th overall in the second GS competition.

The Trojan team also had Jones place 27th and Ben White 34th in that second GS.

Mattawan/Paw Paw won the boys' meet with 50 total points. Hackett/Vicksburg was second with 75 ahead of Portage 83, Kalamazoo United 134, Hudsonville 158, Plainwell/TK 171 and South Haven 251.

Hackett/Vicksburg's Johnson was the champ on the second GS run with times of 33.47 and 33.08. Oberlee was the only other guy to finish a run on that course in less than 34 seconds with a time of 33.52 his second time down, but he didn't earn a score on his first run on that side of the hill.

The Plainwell/TK girls opened the meet on the north side of the slope with Lillian Warnez placing 19th with runs of 41.04 and 41.66 and teammate Lillian Lyon clocked in with a 27th-place overall performance. They closed the night out on the south side of the slope where Warnez was 21st overall with runs of 38.78 and 38.46 and Lyon placed 27th.

Mattawan/Paw Pas had the two fastest girls of the first competition with Addison Bell turning in times of 34.40 and 34.79 and Anna Hoogerheide running to times of 35.00 and 35.18. Hackett/Vicksburg's Abby Ulbrich was less than half a second behind Hoogerheide with runs of 35.62 and 34.97 as the sun set.

On the other side of the slope under the lights, Ulbrich took the win with runs of 32.80 and 32.32. Bell was second with runs of 32.77 and 32.45 and Hoogerheide third with times of 33.33 and 32.68.

The Mattawan/Paw Paw girls' team closed the night with 39 points. Hackett/Vicksburg was second with 55 points ahead of Portage 106, Kalamazoo United 108, Hudsonville 169, Plainwell/TK 250 and South Haven 276.

Portage beat out the Mattawan/Paw Paw boys at the second conference jamboree of the season in the slalom, but the two Mattawan/Paw Paw teams have won every other race so far this season in the SWMSC.

The SWMSC was set to get together again Wednesday, Jan. 29, back at Bittersweet. The Trojan Ski club will be at an invitational hosted by Clare at Schuss Mountain Monday and then at Timber Ridge for a SWMSC race Wednesday, Feb. 5.

Better turns lead to better times for DK/HHS

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

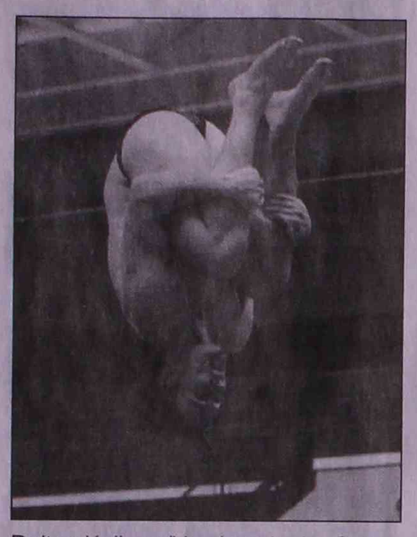
From the observation area above, the fans of the Delton Kellogg/Hastings varsity boys' swimming and diving team noticed something. And it was on video for the coaches and guys to see too.

From end to end, some of the DK/Hastings boys were moving just about as fast as their competitors. Deficits appeared at either end of the pool.

DK/Hastings' Caleb Kramer only gets the chance to get one turn in during a 50-yard freestyle, but one good turn was enough to get him the win in the race Tuesday during his team's Southwestern and Central Conference dual with visiting Harper Creek at the CERC in Hastings.

Kramer touched the wall in the end with a personal best time of 27.27 seconds, beating out Harper Creek's Tristan Pifer by a little over half a second.

"With quite a few of the boys this last week, week and a half, we have been working on turns," Delton Kellogg/Hastings head coach Andrea Jackson said. "We noticed that our turns have been a little bit slower. Some of the parents have been recording the boys' swim, and that is kind of a universal thing that we have noticed is that our turns are a little bit slower so we're working on those a little bit more."



Delton Kellogg/Hastings junior Colton Baker holds his tuck high above the water in the diving competition during his team's SCC dual with Harper Creek Tuesday at the CERC in Hastings. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

Jackson said that the biggest thing the swimmers are working on is keeping their turns tight and pushing off as soon as possible.

"We have been doing a lot of tight turns, but then waiting for our feet to hit the wall and then pushing off, so it is just trying to get that flow a little bit quicker and a little bit smoother so they can turn and push all at the same time so there is not a stutter there," she said.

Going the length of the pool 20 times gives DK/Hastings' Reese Hammond a lot of opportunities to cut time with a better turn and he shaved more than 41 seconds off his previous best time in the race Tuesday with a runner-up time of 7 minutes 27.95 seconds.

Hammond also dropped more than nine seconds off his previous best 200-yard freestyle time to place second in that race in 2:41.38. Hammond has made more improvements than just his turns lately.

"We're picking up the pace on his arms on his stroke," coach Jackson said. "I have noticed in practice and meets that we're swimming the 50 like we are the 500, so we had that conversation about trying to change the pace depending on what we're swimming. So, we have been pushing his 50 a little bit more which in turn is picking up his arm stroke, which is pushing him in his 500."

Harper Creek had Jacob Robertson win the 500-yard freestyle in 6:31.04 and his teammate Chance Lake took the 200-yard freestyle in 2:18.07.

The Beavers won nine of the evening's 12 events. Junior Sam Cook was the only Beaver to win two individual events. He took the 200-yard individual medley in 2:24.60 and the 100-yard butterfly in 1:00.94.

DK/Hastings senior DJ Kuck was the runner-up to Cook in that butterfly race with a time of 1:04.97 and he won the 100-yard backstroke in 1:06.81 – just off a PR.

The DK/Hastings team of Cruize Rathburn, Kramer, Gavin Bagley and Colton Baker won the 200-yard freestyle relay in 1:54.61 beating out the Beaver squad in the race by a little over a second.

Harper Creek's Sean Murray won the diving competition with a score of 171.00 points, but it was an event the DK/Hastings team outscored the Beavers in thanks to a second-place score of 138.95 by Baker and a score of 111.00 from Rathburn.



Delton Kellogg/Hastings sophomore Caleb Kramer and parents Justine and Rob Kramer strike a pose for their photo-op during the team's Parents/Senior Night at the CERC Tuesday. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

Vance Fraley took the 100-yard freestyle for Harper Creek in 59.78 and he was second to teammate Nikolay Ilyin in the 100-yard breaststroke. Ilyin won the breaststroke in 1:18.77.

Harper Creek had the team of Pifer, Ilyin, Fraley and Cook win the 400-yard freestyle relay in 4:01.14 at the end of the meet. Robertson, Fraley, Ilyin and Cook opened the meet by winning the 200-yard medley relay in 1:59.41.

DK/Hastings had its fastest medley relay of the season with Bagley, Baker, Kuck and Kramer finishing second in 2:02.77 and especially good legs from Kuck and Kramer at the end.

The DK/Hastings team honored its parents before the meet as well as the program's two seniors Kuck and Justine Bayabay, who had his best 100-yard freestyle time yet (1:11.51) to place fourth in that race behind his teammate Kramer who was third and the Harper Creek duo of Fraley and Pifer that went 1-2.

The DK/Hastings team is set to go on the road Tuesday, Feb. 4, to take on Marshall in another SCC dual and then will make up a conference dual at Allegan Feb. 6 and go on the road again in the conference Feb. 11 to take on Otsego.

Those are the final three conference duals. The SCC Championships are still a little over four weeks away.

"We're kind of hitting that interesting in between," Jackson said. "It's hitting that long point of the season where they're starting to get tired. We're just trying to keep that pace moving and keep those PRs going. The more we keep hitting PRs the higher the morale has been. That has definitely been helpful, regardless if it is one of our kids or several of them that PR it is still keeping that morale up. We're just trying to keep pushing that little bit … and celebrating those little victories is huge for them."

DK cheer girls the top D4 team at Otsego Bulldog Classic

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Delton Kellogg varsity competitive cheer team hd the top Division 1 score and the eighth best score overall Saturday at the Otsego Bulldog Classic.

The Delton girls beat out Comstock in the D4 contest 598.1 to 529.4, outscoring the Colts in all three rounds. DK had scores of 196.2 in round one, 168.8 in round tow and 233.1 in round three.

Comstock had scores of 185.5 in round one, 131.7 in round two and 212.2 in round three.

Parchment took the day's four-team Division 3 competition and Wayland won the four-team Division 3 contest at the tournament. Parchment had the day's top overall score at 662.9. Wayland had the top D2 score of 639.7.

Hastings was third overall on the day at the 10-team meet with a score of 637.8 that put the Saxons second to Wayland in the D2 contest. Hastings had scores of 202.1 in round one, 166.6 in round two and 269.1 in round three to beat out Hamilton and Stevensville Lakeshore in D2.

The Delton Kellogg girls were set to get together with the rest of the Southwest Athletic Conference at Allegan tonight, Jan. 30, and will host a SAC jamboree next Thursday, Feb. 6.

Saxon grapplers roll to 5-0 day at Buchanan Duals

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Saxon varsity wrestling team added five wins to its dual meet record Saturday while taking the championship at the Buchanan Duals.

Hastings senior Troy Hokanson secured his 150th varsity victory during Saturday's tournament making him the 11th Saxon wrestler to reach the milestone.

Hokanson had a 3-0 record for the day. Hunter Sutfin, Reyd Zoerman, Liam Renner, Aden Armstrong and Isaac Friddle were all 5-0 in their bouts for Hastings. Jordan Humphrey, Jace Acker, Matthew Shults, Tate Warner and Angel Mejia all went 4-1.

The closest dual of the day was with a White Pigeon team that the Saxons bested 47-33. Hastings outscored Buchanan 78-3, Gobles 52-23, Kenowa Hills 68-12 and Mendon 70-11.

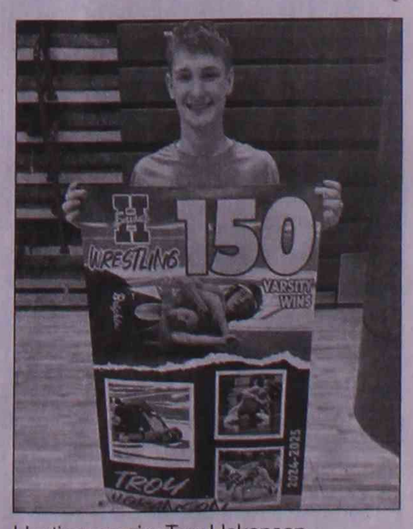
For the Saxons, it was a nice rebound from a tough Friday night dual in which they were bested 59-18 by Three Rivers under the spotlight at Hastings High School.

Zoerman at 120 pounds, Warner at 190 and Hunter Sutfin at 106 has pins for the Saxons in the dual.

The Saxons were also in action last Wednesday, Jan. 22, scoring a 51-25 Interstate-8 Athletic Conference win over Parma Western which upped the Saxon record to 5-0 in the conference. Hastings was slated to host Jackson Northwest for a final conference dual Wednesday, Jan. 29, and will head to Northwest for the conference championship tournament Saturday.

Hunter Sutfin, Hokanson, Zoerman, Humphrey, Isaac Lilley, Quin Schnerre, Acker, Warner and Friddle had wins in the dual with Parma Western.

Hastings went into the dual with Northwest Wednesday night sporting a 34-3 record in duals this season.



Hastings senior Troy Hokanson celebrates his 150th varsity wrestling victory during a 3-0 day at the Buchanan Duals Saturday. **Photo provided.**

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)

HOPE TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING TO CONSIDER A SPECIAL EXCEPTION USE APPLICATION FOR THE EXPANSION OF A CHURCH LOCATED AT 9213 CEDAR CREEK ROAD, DELTON, MI 49046.

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

Notice is hereby given that the Hope Township Planning Commission will hold a meeting and Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 18 th , 2025 at 6:30pm at the Hope Township Hall located at 5463 S. M-43 Hwy Hastings, Michigan 49058 within the Township.

The purpose of the meeting is to receive comments from the public regarding an application by Cedar Creek Bible Church for an addition to the existing building on the parcel located at 9213 Cedar Creek Road, Delton, MI 49046 (parcel number: 08-07-036-020-00). The property is split zoned and located within both the C-2, Medium Commercial zoning district and AR, Agricultural/Residential zoning district. Churches are permitted in the C-2 and AR districts subject to Special Exception Use approval by the Planning Commission, and as permitted by Article IV of the Hope Township Zoning Ordinance.

A copy of the Hope Township Zoning Ordinance and the application is available for review at the Hope Township Hall, 5463 S. M-43 Hwy, Hastings, Michigan 49058, during regular business hours of 9:00 a.m. through noon and 1:15 p.m. through 3:00 p.m. on Wednesdays. The Hope Township Zoning Ordinance is also accessible online at www.hopetwp.com. Written comments will be received from any interested persons by the Hope Township Clerk at the Hope Township Hall during regular business hours or via email at clerk@hopetwp.com up to the time of the hearing. Oral and written comments will be further received by the Planning Commission at the meeting.

All interested persons are invited to be present at the aforesaid time and place.

This notice is posted in compliance with PA 267 of 1976 as amended (Open Meetings Act) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Hope Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed material being considered at the hearing, to individuals with disabilities at the hearing upon seven (7) days' notice to the Hope Township Clerk. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Hope Township Clerk at the address or telephone number listed below

HOPE TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Hope Township Hall
5463 S. M-43 Hwy
Hastings, Michigan 49058
(269) 948-2464

Delton Kellogg girls get second win over Maple Valley

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

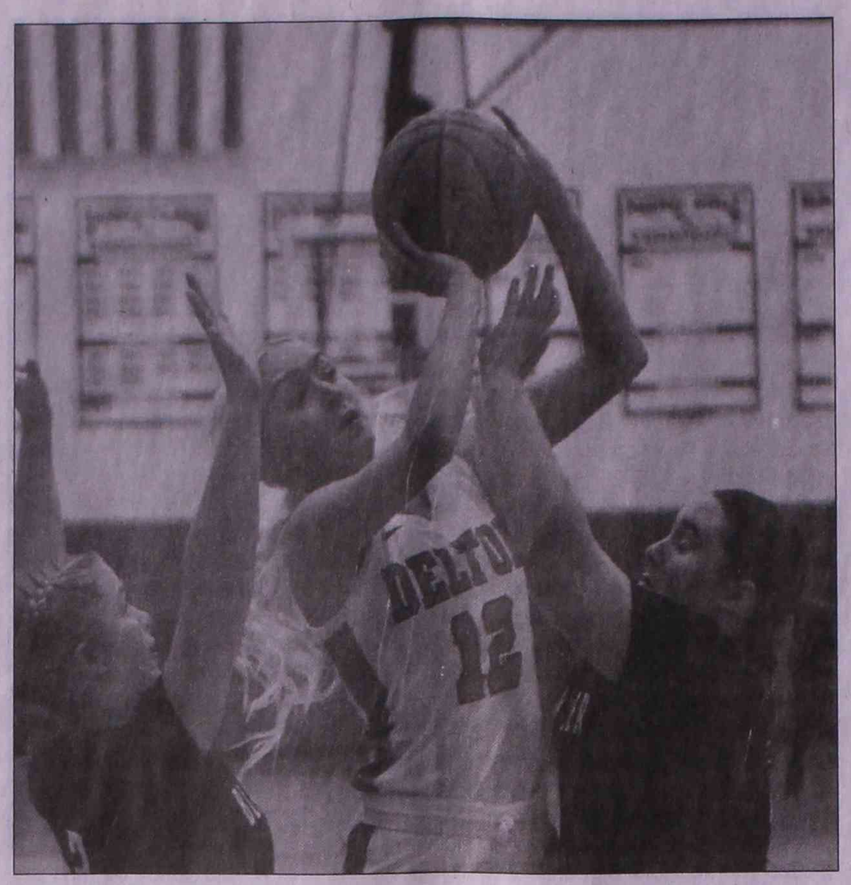
The Delton Kellogg varsity girls' basketball team bookended things nicely for its second win of the season over Maple Valley Monday at Delton Kellogg High School.

The Panthers opened the ballgame with a 14-5 advantage in the first quarter and closed the night on a 15-2 run in the fourth to earn a 46-22 victory.

Addie Stampfler fired in 20 points to go with nine steals and ten deflections for Delton Kellogg.



Delton Kellogg junior Dani Fields (5) dribbles into the lane during the first half of the Friday night contest with Black River. **Photo by Perry Hardin**



Delton Kellogg's Josie Williams (12) goes up strong to the rim between Holland Black River's Cam Smith (2) and Sophia Davis (23) Friday. **Photo by Perry Hardin**

The Panther team also got a big all-around night from Josie Williams who had ten points, 14 rebounds, two steals and three blocks. Williams had nine offensive rebounds. Jalin Lyons added six points and two steals for DK, six rebounds from Dani Fields, and eight points and four steals from Izzie Wendland.

Ines Sanchez had seven points and eight rebounds to lead theMaple Valley girls. Aubree Roth added six points and three boards.

Delton Kellogg is now 2-11 overall this season and will try to get its first Southwestern Athletic Conference Central Division win at home Friday when it takes on Gobles.

The DK ladies fell 53-38 in a SAC Central ballgame against visiting Holland Black River Friday, and they were bested 61-30 in a SAC crossover Tuesday at Parchment.

"Tonight didn't go as played," Delton Kellogg head coach Kevin Lillibridge said after Tuesday night's loss on the road. "I felt like my team gave solid effort considering our numbers and playing on a back-to-back, but Parchment looked locked in and played defense that stunted our offense. They also made 17 threes. I'm not sure if it is a school record, but it has to be up there."

Kionna Jackson was tough for the DK girls to stop all night. She hit eight threes and finished with 25 points.

Coach Lillibridge said Lyons had a stand-out game with a career high 12 points. Addie Stampfler had nine points and her coach said she kept driving and working hard all game.

In the loss to Black River, Stampfler had 26 points, five rebounds and three steals. Williams chipped in 14 points, seven rebounds and three steals. Lyons had six rebounds and led the Panthers in assists.

Saxons home for first time in four weeks Friday

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Saxons are finally back home Friday night.

The Hastings varsity boys' basketball team will take its second shot at Interstate-8 Athletic Conference foe Harper Creek at Hastings High School Friday as game two of a doubleheader with the girls. That first meeting with the Beavers, back in December, was the start of nine consecutive losses for the Saxons and the Hastings boys haven't played a home game since a Jan. 3 contest with Ionia.

The Saxons are seeing signs that brighter days might be ahead. Their last two ballgames came down to the wire, a 42-39 loss to the Interstate-8 Athletic Conference leaders in Coldwater last Friday, Jan. 24, and a 57-49 non-conference road loss at Belding Tuesday night.

"We were in both of the games until the end," Hastings head coach Jess Webb said. "We need to have better coaching and execution at the end of games. I need to do a better job of putting us in the right positions at the right times down the stretch. No excuses, just need to be better. The players are working their butts off for us. It has been an incredibly long road stretch."

Luca DiBernardo drilled a three from the left corner to tie Friday's ballgame at Coldwater at 36-36 for the Saxons with 2:20 to play in the fourth quarter, and half a minute later Jack Webb found a cutting Eli Randall for a go-ahead bucket on an inbounds play.

The Saxons' 38-36 lead only lasted about half a minute tough. The Cardinals got a bucket in the paint to even the score. Hastings got a timeout with 1:10 to play, but a Saxon turnover led to an Ayden Dirschell lay-up that put the Cardinals back in front 40-38 as the clock ticked under a minute.

The Saxons' Jett Barnum had a spinning shot in the paint come up just short with about half a minute to go. The Cardinals hit two free throws the rest of the way and the Saxons one, and the Cardinals managed to play keep away in the end to run the final seconds off the clock.

Jack Webb led the Saxons with 11 points on the night, five assists and four steals. Drew Mathis added ten points, four rebounds and two steals. Barnum and Randall closed the ballgame with six points and five rebounds each.

Gavin Taylor had 17 points to pace the Cardinal offense. Dirschell had ten points, three assists and five steals. Austin Downs added seven points.

Hastings led the ballgame 7-3 after one quarter, but the Cardinals surged to a 17-11 lead at the half.

"I thought our offense did a good job of limiting possessions and slowing the pace of the game," coach Webb said. "The first couple possessions I think we were able to run three to four sets before taking a good shot and getting ahead early. We have been focusing on coming out with high energy and setting the tone early. Our defense stepped up too, creating havoc and keeping them off balance."

He was also pleased with his guys' work on the glass. They outrebounded the Cardinals 26-18 for the night.

The Cardinals head into this weekend 6-1 in the Interstate-8 and 9-7 overall. Hastings is 1-10 overall and 0-6 in the I-8 so far.

In the non-conference loss at Belding Tuesday, coach Webb said a couple Knights got hot from behind the three-point line and the Saxons allowed a couple offensive rebounds late that allowed Belding to seal the win.

The Saxons will celebrate their youth program during Friday night's ballgame with Harper Creek.

"The seventh and eighth grade youth team will scrimmage each other for six minutes during halftime with a couple JV kids reffing," coach Webb said. "I think it will be fun to start highlighting some of the kids that will be the future of our program. We are still very optimistic about our future here and the development we are getting in the lower levels. Even with our record where it is, you can feel the energy within the locker room and the kids are buying in and it shows. We are a fun team to come watch play."

HHS boys pick up another pair of wins on I-8 lanes

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Hastings varsity boys' bowling team kept rolling through the Interstate-8 Athletic Conference in the past week.

The Hastings boys took a 26-4 win over Parma Western at Hastings Bowl Tuesday on the heels of a 17-13 win at Coldwater last Thursday.

Brody Mix earned a point for the Saxon boys in the win over Western with a 225 game and Andrew Barton rolled a 212 to win a team point. Miles Lipsey and Hunter Pennington won two points each in the individual games. Lipsey rolled a 179 and a 203. Pennington scored a 169 and a 192.

In the win over Coldwater, Hastings got two points each from Barton, Lipsey and Pennington. Pennington rolled a 176 and a 222. Lipsey had scores of 181 and 187. Barton scored a 235 and a 198.

The Saxons also got points from a 188 from Mix and a 146 from Deagan Wilkins.

The Hastings girls had a tie and a loss in those two conference contests. They finished even at 15-15 with the Western girls Tuesday. Kass Harton scored a team point with a 136 for Hastings and Megan Ramey and Jen Stoline tallied two team points each. Ramey had games of 137 and 154. Stoline rolled a 141 and a 184.

In a 23-7 loss to Coldwater, Kass Harton scored a point with a 143 and Ramey rolled a pair of 152 games on the afternoon.

Saxons happy with offensive output versus Belding

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Hastings fell in a hole early, dug out with a strong second quarter, but couldn't quite overcome a hot-shooting Belding varsity girls' basketball team at Hastings High School Tuesday.

The visiting Black Knights took a 59-41 non-conference win over the Saxons to improve to 9-2 overall this winter. They hit nine three-pointers in the ballgame. Hastings falls to 4-8 with the defeat.

Hastings head coach Ben Wilson had a lot to be pleased with. He said it was a great crowd on youth basketball night and his girls played three good quarters of basketball that has him encouraged heading into the final month of the season.

"With injuries, we have had to adjust some roles and have players playing new spots, we have gotten better and want to keep moving in right direction heading towards districts in March," Wilson said.

He really liked his girls efforts on the offensive end. He said they had one of their best games offensively all season.

Rachael Hewitt led the Saxon attack with 15 points. Bella Friddle chipped in nine points, Maddie Peake had six and Ashlynn Bailey and Bri Darling both had four points. Lakaya Evans added three-points too.

The Saxon girls are now prepping for a home contest with Harper Creek Friday. The Saxons are still looking for their first Interstate-8 Athletic Conference win of the season and the Saxons and Beavers currently sit sixth and seventh in the conference standings. The Beavers took an 11-point win when the two teams met in Battle Creek back in December.

The Hastings girls follow up Friday night's ballgame with trip to Lakewood for a non-conference contest Tuesday, Feb. 4.

Last Friday, Jan. 24, the Saxons were bested 50-16 by a Coldwater team that is currently 6-1 in the conference and 9-5 overall.

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Lions wipe out another double-digit lead in fourth

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

They did it again.

The Maple Valley varsity boys' basketball team dug out of an 11-point fourth quarter deficit to score a 46-45 win at Delton Kellogg Thursday, Jan. 23. The win came one week after the Lions did the same thing, rally for a win when trailing by 11 in the fourth quarter, in a Big 8 Conference ballgame against Bronson.

The Lions surged fast enough in that one that they were the ones holding a lead over the final minute and a half, at Delton Kellogg Thursday Maple Valley didn't overtake the Panthers until the final seconds. Delton Kellogg led 45-34 with four and a half minutes to go and then the Lions closed the game on a 12-0 run with all five of their buckets over that stretch coming from different players.

Sophomore guard Teegen McDonald had the game-winner with 9.8 seconds remaining. He had a three-pointer miss its mark, but as the Delton Kellogg guys tried to corral the rebound behind the back board the ball squirted away. McDonald went up and got it and went right up with it, scoring a bucket that evened the game and earning an and-one opportunity, which he converted, to put the Lions in the lead.

After a couple of timeouts, the Panthers managed to work the ball to sophomore sharp-shooter Grady Matteson for an open three from the left wing in front of the DK student section, but it was no good as the horn sounded.

Both teams had an unusual week with three snow days leading up to Thursday.

"We tried to do things mentally, like watching film, and it is just not the same," Maple Valley head coach Ryan Nevins said. "I thought both teams came out kind of flat and it was kind of create your own energy and we finally started to create some momentum in the fourth quarter. We made a couple plays and got a couple easy buckets, and then we catch a break down here at the end where a kid kind of bobbles it and it comes to us. It is nice to get one of those breaks every once in a while.

"But I liked the way our kids battled tonight. We didn't quit and ended up getting another win."

That final Maple Valley surge started with a three-pointer from freshman Kelvin Nevins-Davis. A pair of missed Delton free throws and a couple of Panther turnovers allowed the Lions to keep inching closer. Senior guard Jake McDonald scored thanks to a nice cut and a well thrown assist from junior guard Bradley Cushing. Cushing then got a reverse lay-up in transition to fall after beating the DK defense back to the basket. That lay-up by Cushing drew as Panther time-out with 1:53 to play and Delton clinging to a 45-43 lead.



Delton Kellogg junior guard Keegan Hill looks to split Maple Valley defenders Teegen McDonald (left) and Kelvin Nevins-Davis to get into the paint during the second half of their non-conference ballgame in Delton Wednesday. **Photo by Brett Bremer**



Maple Valley senior guard Jake McDonald goes up for two points ahead of Delton Kellogg senior guard Grant McArthur during the second half Friday at DKHS. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

Teegen McDonald led all scorers with 18 points. Jake finished with 11 for the Lions and Nevins-Davis had five points.

Coach Nevins said he thought his guys did a better job of communicating on the defensive end as the game wore on and put forth a little more ball pressure and played better help-side defense.

Delton Kellogg took a 66-49 win over the Lions in the season opener, so the Lion head coach was happy to see his team's improvements.

Senior guard Rafael Cotta had a team-high 16 points for Delton Kellogg and Matteson and senior guard Grant McArthur had 11 points apiece. Senior guard Maxim Bonechi finished with five points.

"The first half we had that seven-point lead, thought it should have been a little bit more, but that is just the way it was," Delton Kellogg head coach Jason Howland said. "Maple Valley, they work hard. They're a very hard-working team. I give them all that credit for that. When a team comes into any game and they're going to outwork you – hard work beats talent when talent doesn't work hard. So, if you're not going to play to their energy level we need to bring things back to center.

"I thought when we got it to that ten-point lead we had that energy, but then a timeout and in basketball you get on those runs. We got on our run and everything was good, and then they went on their run and we just played into their energy and they built off of us. We made some errors at the end of that game that we're not happy with."

Howland said the goal was 10 turnovers or less in the ballgame. His Panthers only had four in the first half, but he guessed his guys had close to ten in the fourth quarter alone.

Maple Valley was 5-8 following that win but has since fallen to 5-10 with a couple of tough Big 8 Conference losses. The Lions were bested 71-38 at Concord Friday, Jan. 24, and fell 78-40 at home against Stockbridge Tuesday, Jan. 28. Maple Valley is 2-7 in in the Big 8 this winter.

The Lions head to Union City in the league Friday and then will be home to take on Comstock in a non-conference ballgame Wednesday, Feb. 5.

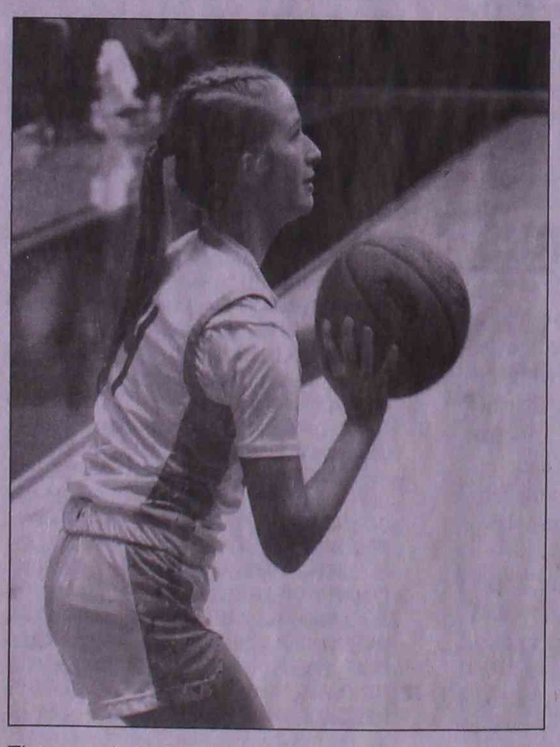
Delton Kellogg heads into a Friday night ballgame with Gobles sporting a 6-7 overall record and a 3-3 mark in the Southwestern Athletic Conference Central Division. The Panthers took a 58-46 win at Black River Friday in the SAC Central and then fell 54-51 in a SAC crossover at home against KalamazooChristian Tuesday, Jan. 28.

Freshman Lloyd sets TK girls' three-point record

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Thornapple Kellogg varsity girls' basketball coach Brandi James got freshman guard Taylor Lloyd up off the bench when teammate Tealy Cross was whistled for her fifth foul with 90 seconds to play Friday night.

Lloyd had already knocked down seven three-pointers in a ballgame the Trojans led by more than 20 points, but the Trojan coach told her that if she wanted the school record she should go for it.



Thornapple Kellogg freshman guard Taylor Lloyd fires up one of her school record eight successful three-pointers during the Trojans' OK Gold Conference victory over visiting Grand Rapids Union Friday in Middleville. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

Lloyd nailed a step-back three from the left wing with 15 seconds left for her eighth of the night, setting a new TK record and putting the final points on the scoreboard in a 63-41 Trojan win over the Grand Rapids Union Red Hawks in Middleville.

"She deserves that. She put a lot of work in," coach James said.

"I had no clue until coach said, 'Tay, get one more,'" Lloyd said of her awareness of the record. "I didn't know what was going on."

The Trojan freshman finished the night with 29 points and sophomore forward Reece Ritsema had 14 points in what was really an all around outstanding team effort offensively. The TK ladies did an excellent job of moving the basketball and the step-back transition three at the end was probably the toughest one Lloyd knocked down all night.

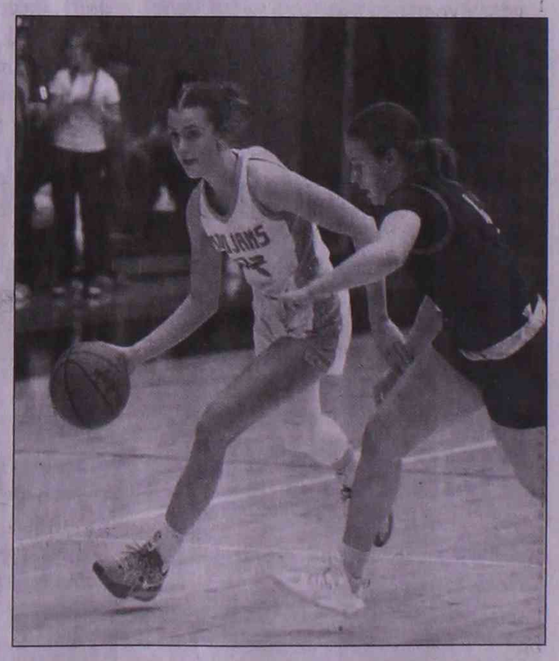
"I feel like we all just played really good and had fun. We played as a team," Lloyd said. "We all tend to play better and happy and stay out of our heads that way.

"Then the ball is moving. We get more passes and we end up with a good shot."

Lloyd said it took her the whole summer and more to really feel confident as a strong three-point shooter. She trained every single day shooting a lot of shots – up to 1,000 on a couple of days.

She said there are times she stays after her team's practice and shoots up some extra shots with the TK varsity boys' team that includes her two brothers the senior Brice and junior Ben Lloyd – also strong outside shooters. The hunt is on to find out just what the Trojan varsity boys' team record is after Ben hit ten threes in the TK boys' loss at Hamilton Tuesday.

Cross chipped in six points in the TK girls' win over Union and McKenna Hoebeke had five and Emma Dykhouse four.



Thornapple Kellogg junior guard Tealy Cross dribbles around Grand Rapids Union's Taylor Wetherbee during the first half Friday in Middleville. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

"Ball movement is what we have been looking for," coach James said. "We want more ball movement, and we want to stop catching and dribbling immediately, but taking care of the basketball and taking our time to slow down on offense. A team win feels good."

Grand Rapids Union was led by 17 points from senior guard Tanayah Porter and 12 from sophomore guard Kamdyn Lee. The Union girls are now 0-6 in the OK Gold and 1-9 overall this season as of Tuesday's action.

It was a win the TK ladies needed while starting a tough stretch that had them going on the road to face West Catholic Monday, a home game against Hamilton Tuesday and a trip to Forest Hills Northern on the slate for tonight, Jan. 30.

West Catholic is ranked seventh in the MHSAA Division 2 power rankings and the FHN girls are ranked 18th in D1.

TK heads into the match-up with the Huskies with a 6-7 overall record and a 2-6 mark in the OK Gold Conference. West Catholic took a 64-44 win over the TK ladies Monday in the conference to get to 6-0 in OK Gold play and 12-1 overall.

The Trojans bounced back Tuesday at home with a 69-67 win over the Hamilton Hawkeyes.

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DK boys drop close one with Comets, host Gobles Friday

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Delton Kellogg varsity boys' basketball team evened its Southwestern Athletic Conference Central Division record at 3-3 with a 58-46 win over visiting Black River Friday.

The win was the sixth of the season overall for the Panthers and they'll look to bump their conference mark up over .500 as they play host to Gobles for Winterfest at DKHS Friday in a doubleheader with the girls.

Gobles and Galesburg-Augusta head into this weekend's action tied atop the SAC Central boys' standings with 5-1 records.

DK is currently 6-7 overall. Maple Valley surged late to steal a 46-45 win at Delton Kellogg last Thursday, Jan. 20. Back in action at home Tuesday, the DK boys were downed 54-51 by Kalamazoo Central.

Delton led by one point over the Comets at the half and after three quarters, but the Comets held them to just six points in the fourth quarter to take the three-point win.

Delton Kellogg had three guys in double figures. Grant McArthur led the way with 13 points. Keegan Hill had 12 points and Grady Matteson hit three three-pointers and finished with 11 points, all in the first half. DK also got nine points from Tyler Howland who hit three three-pointers too.

Jack Ayotte hit five threes for Kalamazoo Christian and had a game-high 17 points. Ian Tuin had 13 points for theComets and Austin Richmond finished with ten points.



The Panthers' Maxim Bonechi (32) pulls up at the elbow and fires a shot over River Rats Ty Elmer (24) and Mike Brown (34) Friday at Delton Kellogg High School. **Photo by Perry Hardin**

Vikes and Raiders to grapple for White title again

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

That's 6-0. Now it's time for the showdown with Portland.

The Lakewood varsity wrestling team kept its Capital Area Activities Conference White Division record perfect with a 55-17 win over the host Orioles at the Charlotte Quad Wednesday, Jan. 22. The Vikings were set face off with Portland in the final CAAC White dual of the season last hight, Jan. 29, at another CAAC Quad hosted by Mason.

Lakewood entered last week ranked ninth in the state in Division 3 and Portland checked in at number four.

The Raiders also moved their CAAC White record to 6-0 with a win over Eaton Rapids in Mason Jan. 22.

At Charlotte Wednesday, the Vikings took their win over Charlotte and also downed Holt 61-14.

The Orioles and Vikings were back and forth for a moment at the start of their dual, but the Vikings took pins in the four heaviest weight classes to take control of the dual. Alexander Risk at 175 pounds, Owen Prowdley at 190, Jacob Everett at 215 and Joel Simon at 285 scored those four Viking pins with Everett's foe the only one to make it much beyond a minute.

Lakewood also had a pin from Bryson Boucher at 150 pounds over Charlotte's Tyler Densmore early in the dual, and added pins from Oliver Johnson at 126 pounds and Kade Boucher at 132 late in the match.

The Viking team also had Calder Villanueva score a 14-8 win over Charlotte's Wyatt Billsen at 157 pounds and Dakota Harmer at 113 earn a 16-4 major decision over Charlotte's Xavier Pettigrew.

Austin Witt chipped in a forfeit win for the Lakewood team at 106 pounds.

In the dual with Holt the Viking team got pins from Bryson Boucher, Villanueva, Carter Stewart, Simon, Everett, Landon LaFavor, Bryce Goodemoot and Lydon Rogers, as well as technical falls from Dakota Harmer and Kade Boucher and a decision from Johnson.

Lakewood followed that up by winning the championship at its own eight-team Lakewood Invitational Saturday. The Vikings scored 271.5 points for the title with Wayland second with 168.5 points ahead of Caledonia 155.5, Portage Northern 114, Armada 98.5, Loy Norrix 24.5, Laingsburg 23.5 and Ravenna 22.

Lakewood got flight championships from Stephen Aldrich at 113 pounds, Stamm at 126, Bryson Boucher at 150, Owen Prowdley at 175, Everett at 215 and Simon at 285 pounds. Kade Boucher at 132 pounds and Rogers at 138 both placed second in their weight class for Lakewood. Calder Villanueva, Carter Stewart and Dakota Harmer were all third and Eric Bartlett and Alexander Risk were fourth.



Lakewood's Owen Prowdley works to pin Portage Northern's Carson Hernandez during their semifinal match in the 215-pound weight class Saturday at the Lakewood Invitational. **Photo by Brett Bremer**



Lakewood senior Joel Simon nears a pin of Ravenna's Mason Carringer in their 285-pound semifinal match Saturday at the Lakewood Invitational. The Vikings' celebrated Simon's 150th varsity victory Saturday. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

DK has a few top finishes at tough Portage tourney

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Delton Kellogg varsity wrestling team placed sixth at the tough nine-team Portage Central Corey Fuller Memorial Invitational Saturday.

A Three Rivers team ranked second in the state in Division 2 that took down the Hastings Saxons in a Friday night dual, took the tournament championship Saturday with 285 points. Grand Ledge was second with 235.5 points ahead of the Southwestern Athletic Conference leaders from Allegan who were third with 167 points.

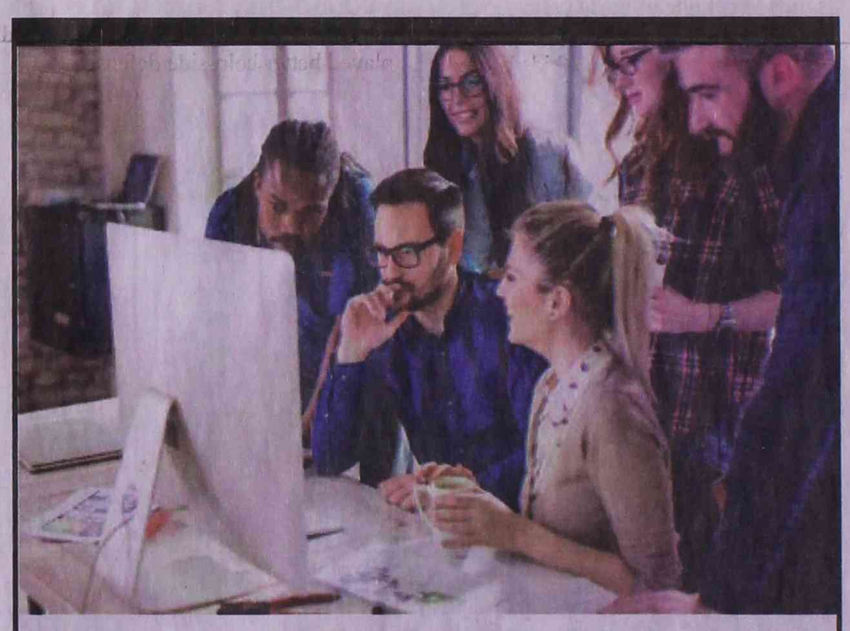
Delton Kellogg closed the day with 81.5 points also looking up at fourth-place Jenison and fifth-place Sturgis.

Senior Gauge Stampfler was the lone DK guy to reach the championship round. He was pinned late in the third period of the 138-pound final by Three Rivers' Ethan Moreland. Stampfler won his first four matches of the day including a 16-45 major decision over Allegan's Luke Wedge. Stampfler, Moreland and Wedge all have at least 30 victories so far this winter and only a dozen losses between them.

Mason Ferris at 190 pounds was third for DKL with a 3-2 record on the day. Isaac Ferris at 215 pounds, Mitchell Swift at 285 and Evan Stampfler at 120 were all fourth at their weight class.

Delton Kellogg split a pair of duals at a SAC quad hosted by Allegan Wednesday, Jan. 22. The host Tigers Tigers took a 62-15 win over the Delton squad while the Panthers earned a 60-12 win over Fennville.

DK heads to Coloma Saturday for the SAC Championship Tournament.



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Lady Saxon Invite title goes to hosts again

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Hastings Lady Saxon Invitational wasn't a thing when Saxon junior Dezarae Mathis was a freshman.

When Thornapple Kellogg senior Emma Gibson was a freshman there wasn't an MHSAA tournament dedicated for female wrestlers.

Mathis and the Saxons won their home girls' tournament for the second year in a row Saturday outscoring runner-up Grand Haven 132-119.5 and Gibson and the Trojans were fourth overall at the tournament where 30 schools were represented. Those two were the lone individual champions for their teams on the day.

Both girls were state qualifiers a year ago, and Mathis finished fourth in the 120-pound girls' weight class at the MHSAA Individual State Finals at Ford Field in Detroit. Gibson is a two-time state qualifier.

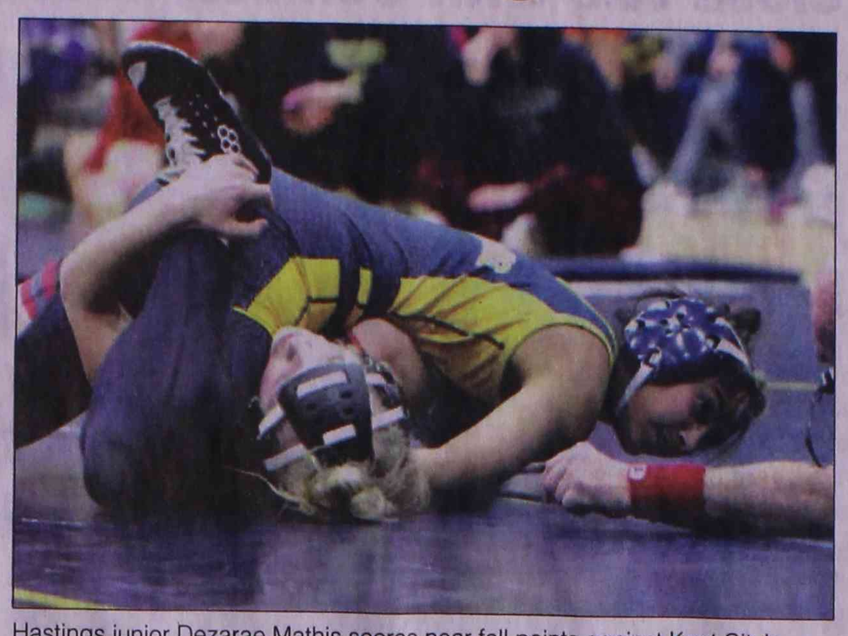
"It is definitely weird, because my freshman year there were not many girls. I was wrestling every other weekend. There were no girls' tournaments. All of us were new and it was a whole mess," Mathis said. "Now, it's weird seeing our whole gym covered with girls and there are girls who are actually really good. My freshman year, not many girls were good."

Mathis said her own biggest improvements since her freshman year have come in her confidence level. She had never wrestled before joining the Saxon girls' varsity program – which is one of the biggest in the state year in and year out so far.

"I used to just go into it and kind of be scared and just try to throw, but now I'm confident with the stuff that works for me, and I make sure I go through all the motions at practice to have the right technique for it," Mathis said.

Mathis was the 120-pound champion Saturday in Hastings with three pins that took about a minute and a half each. She stuck Kent City's Brooklin Armstrong 1 minute 35 seconds into their championship match to improve her record to 17-1 on the season.

"I just knew that I just had to go out there and do my stuff and go with it, go with the flow," Mathis said. "I really am trying to rack up my take down count, because I have the [team] record for it from last year. I want to beat that obviously, so I've trying to work on that and make sure I'm not always just throwing and I'm getting my take down points."



Hastings junior Dezarae Mathis scores near fall points against Kent City's Brooklin Armstrong during the first period of their 120-pound championship match Saturday at the Lady Saxon Invitational. **Photo by Brett Bremer**



Thornapple Kellogg senior Emma Gibson (right) works to switch spots with Otsego's Samantha Bonoevetz during the second period of their 135-pound championship match at the Lady Saxon Invitational at Hastings High School Saturday. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

Gibson pinned Otsego's Samantha Bonoevetz midway through the second period of their 135-pound championship match to move her record to 22-4 on the season. Gibson thought she could have wrestled a little better than she did. She had to scramble a bit against Bonoevetz and nobody scored in the first period, but Gibson got a reversal in the second period and eventually got Bonoevetz on her back.

"I did good. I think I could have worked a little bit harder my last match and actually took a shot and worked my moves instead, but she is tough. It was kind of hard for me to get that," Gibson said.

The gym was packed with the 30-team varsity competition and a middle school contest too.

The Hastings gym will be full again Sunday, Feb. 9, when Hastings is one of the hosts to one of the first ever girls' district tournaments. Female wrestlers opened the first two years of the MHSAA girls' state tournament with a regional round, but the sport has grown enough in such a short time that a district round was added this winter. Hastings, Lakewood, Delton Kellogg and Thornapple Kellogg girls will all be a part of that upcoming district tournament in Hastings where the top four at each weight class advance to regionals.

Mathis is looking forward to the district tournament. There were 20 girls in her weight class at regionals last winter. She is not a fan of having face a couple knock out round matches right at the start of the bigger tournament like last year's regional. She is also looking forward to an extra tournament on the schedule. She has 74 wins as a varsity wrestler so far and would like to push for 100 wins before this season is up.

The Saxons had four girls in the top four in their respective weight classes Saturday and a 'B' division champion too. Jordan Milanowski at 140 pounds and Naomi Grummet at 155 had runner-up finishes. Sydney Patterson placed fourth at 145. Autumn Miller won a 110-pound 'B' division championship.

Pine River was third with 114 points ahead of Thornapple Kellogg 106.5, Olivet 86.5, Otsego 82, Traverse City West 73.5, Forest Hills Eastern 63.5, West Ottawa 63 and Northview 55.5, Harper Creek 50 and Wayland 44.5 in the top 12. Delton Kellogg placed 22nd with 21.5 points and Lakewood 23rd with 19.

"I like it a lot. I think a lot of girls have improved so much from when they were freshmen too that kept going. It helps a lot having just the girls, then you get more matches and get paired up with different people," Gibson said.

She said her own biggest improvements over the years have come on her feet. She is much better in the neutral position than she was as a freshman, and also getting better at getting off the bottom like she did in her championship match with Bonoevetz.

"I've just kept doing the same things over and over again at practice, and really worked on my movement on my feet and my set-ups. I am trying to get good at that, and not let them have my head. I've got to clear that so I can get in a shot," Gibson said.

Gibson said she felt like she was really strong on her feet in her semifinal win, a pin of the Saxons' Sara Barker, Saturday.

The Trojan team got a runner-up finish from Adelaide Hodlerman and third-place wins from Raini Braska at 110-pounds and a Jaycee Teunessen in a 155-pound 'B' bracket. Briella Dykstra added a fourth-place finish for TK at 115 pounds.

Delton Kellogg's lone competitor was Olivia Post who wrestled her way to a runner-up finish at 125 pounds. DK girls' coach Owen Post said it was a great day for Olivia, right up until a bit of a stumble in the opening moments against Northview's Trinity Kemp in the 125-pound championship match gave Kemp the chance to score a quick pin. Post had a pin and a technical fall victory against Traverse City West wrestlers to get into the finals.

Lakewood had one medalist too as Korin Mitchell placed third at 120 pounds. She was knocked out of the championship bracket by Mathis, but then pinned Wayland's Ryleigh Haveman and Traverse City West's Annika Yuncker to place third.

Milanowski, a two-time state qualifier herself for the Saxons, had a pair of quick pins to start her day before being bested 8-6 by Wayland's Alexis Hozeska in the 140-pound championship match.

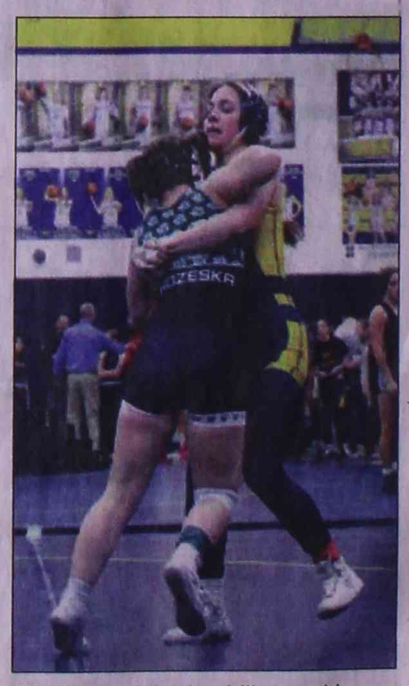
In 17 different weight classes, theirs was the only final to come down to a decision. There was one major decision and the rest of the championship bouts ended in either a pin or a technical fall. A take down in each of the first two periods had Milanowski in front 6-2 going into the third period, but Hozeska managed a reversal in the third period and got Milanowski to her back for near fall points.

Grummet, a state qualifier last year, had a pair of pins before being stuck by Allendale's MacKenzie Maka in the third period of their 155-pound championship bout.

As impressed as Mathis was with how some of her teammates performed on the mat, some of their actions off the mat had her smiling too.

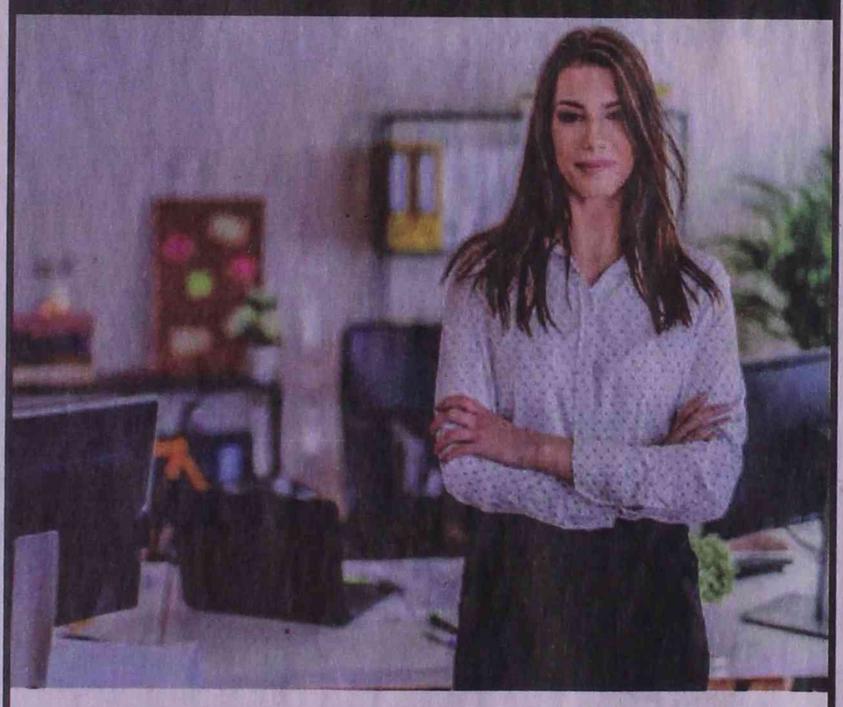
"Lilliana [Fox] was really kind of upset with herself with the fact that she was up and she lost, and she still sat on the edge of every single one of our girls' mats and cheered for them and was happy with them even though she was kind of upset with herself," Mathis said.

While Fox didn't place, she joined teammates Sydney Lindsey, Morgan Casselman, Aryonnah Farrell, Baker and Chloe Aicken in also winning bouts that helped towards the Saxons' team championship.



The Saxons' Jordan Milanowski (right) fights for a take down with Wayland's Alexis Hozeska during their 140-pound championship match Saturday at the Lady Saxon Invitational at Hastings High School. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

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