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THE HASTINGS BANNER

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DK High School approved for $1M state grant for manufacturing program



From left, Delton Kellogg High School shop teachers Tess and Brad Knobloch. **Photos by Greta Munger**

Karen Turko-Ebright
Contributing Writer

Thanks to the Michigan Manufacturing Association's (MMA) advocacy efforts last year, the state legislature approved a $1 million grant to Delton Kellogg High School as one of two schools to pilot the IGNITE/Amatrol Mastering Manufacturing program in the fall, according to an article published in this month's issue of Michigan Manufacturing (MiMfg) Magazine. Athens High School in Troy also received the grant.

After applying for the grant in July, Superintendent Jeremy Wright did not know what to expect.

"I was surprised. We discussed the grant with Geramy from Amatrol, and he told us he would put our name in the ring for it," Wright told *The Hastings Banner*. "He said there are a great deal of schools in the state that could get it so don't get your hopes up. Several weeks later, he called and said we got it."

School officials are excited that their students will have an opportunity to gain hands-on experience with the Amatrol equipment included in the IGNITE program. DK High School shop teacher Brad Knobloch plans to teach his students the new technology next year.

"This grant will open new doors for our students by providing them with the opportunity to earn Smart Automation Certification Alliance (SACA) certifications, which major employers highly value," Knobloch said. "Additionally, it will equip them with practical skills applicable across a wide range of industries."

Amatrol equipment is expected to arrive in April. Tess Knobloch will also teach the IGNITE program to students.

"We are in the process of setting up the metal shop as our new IGNITE Program teaching space," Tess Knobloch told *The Banner*.

Through the IGNITE/Amatrol program, students will learn skills that could lead them to several career paths, including Robotics and Automation, Industrial Design, and IT/Network Security, to name a few.

DK High School Principal Jim

See **GRANT** on 5

County residents clash over national politics at Moolenaar office hours



A group of citizens concerned with Elon Musk's involvement in federal agencies, among other things, planned a protest this week to "welcome" Congressman John Moolenaar during his Tuesday office hours at the Hastings Public Library. Their action prompted a turnout from those in support of Moolenaar and the Trump Administration. **Photos by Molly Macleod**

Molly Macleod
Editor

Scores of county residents packed the Hastings Public Library's community room Tuesday, Feb. 25, to speak their opinions on the Trump Administration, Elon Musk's involvement in federal agencies and the state of the country as a whole at a not-so-normal rendition of Congressman John Moolenaar's monthly office hours.

Many speakers took time to praise the Republican representative who serves Michigan's Second Congressional district, which includes Barry County, while others criticized him for his perceived compliance with the Trump Administration.

Despite the high turnout, Moolenaar was not present at the monthly office hours, with Josiah Williams representing the congressman. The office hours are typically used as a chance for residents to seek help navigating federal agencies. Moolenaar himself does not usually attend these office hours.

From 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, speakers waited in line, one by one, for their chance to speak in front of Moolenaar's representative and a crowd of their peers. At times, the meeting grew contentious, with members of the crowd often responding to

See **POLITICS** on 2

Chiefs reflect on rash of high-profile fires, tell homeowners to remain vigilant with fire safety



Firefighters work to fight a blaze a Smith & Doster in November that led to the loss of the building. The county has seen multiple, high-profile structure fires this winter. **File photo**

Jayson Bussa
Contributing Writer

After multiple, high-profile structure fires around Barry County this winter, Thornapple Township Emergency Services Chief Bill Richardson hopes residents are reminded of the importance of proper fire safety.

"I try to keep (fire safety) in the public's eye, but I think it's something we're so conditioned to not think it's going to happen to us," Richardson said. "We preach it to the kids in school and they go back to their parents and tell them, but I think a lot of people think it's not going to happen to them."

This winter has been the backdrop to a number of devastating structure fires throughout the county. In November, a fire destroyed Delton-based car dealership Smith and Doster followed by a fire that caused a total loss at Yankee Springs restaurant Yankee Bill's Wood-Fired Saloon.

Most recently, earlier this month, a fire destroyed Gymnastics in Motion, a long-standing gymnastics gym located in Middleville. While these large commercial fires caught headlines, fire crews continued to contend with plenty of residential fires, too, including in December when an Orangeville Township blaze claimed the life of a teenager

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TKHS PERFORMING 'THE WIZARD OF OZ' MARCH 6-8
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The Hastings Public Library's community room was packed this week as county residents showed up to voice their opinions on politics at a national level.

POLITICS

Continued from Page 1

speakers mid-speech or shouting over others.

Tuesday's contention comes on the heels of increased political action by a group of county residents opposed to the Trump Administration's decision to allow Elon Musk's involvement in various federal agencies.

The group planned to "welcome" Congressman Moolenaar at the office hours on Tuesday, according to a Facebook post from the Barry County Democratic Party. This prompted representatives from the Barry County Republican Party to show up in support of Moolenaar on Tuesday.

Earlier this month, the citizen group protested outside of Moolenaar's Caledonia office, demanding the congressman take action to remove Musk's influence from the federal government. On Feb. 17, President's Day, the group picketed in front of the Barry County Courthouse.

Chris Bush, Barry County Democratic Party chairperson, said the group was made up of concerned citizens.

"We're not necessarily here as a partisan thing. This is all about the Constitution and Representative Moolenaar fulfilling his oath to the Constitution," said Bush. "I think that's what a lot of people who are like-minded with us are going to be bringing to his aide's attention."

Dozens on all sides of the political spectrum stood in line to speak out during Tuesday's event.

"We stood by for four years while our rights were being taken during the Biden Administration," said Bethany Matthews, speaking in support of Moolenaar. "There were many people laid off while the pipelines were shut down. (Members of our military) were forced to leave if they were unvaxxed. We were forced to stay in our homes."

Ken Scheck, a pastor at Grace Lutheran Church in Hastings, said his church was "attacked" by Musk and the president "for caring for the least among us, for giving care for those who need care beyond their own ability."

"My concern is what's going to happen to the U.S. citizen," Scheck said.

Desiree Holley shared the story of her daughter, a federal employee, whose job has been impacted by cuts stemming from the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), which is being led by Musk.

"My daughter is a federal employee," Holley said. "Every federal employee takes an oath when they go into those federal employee jobs. She works for NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) in Ann Arbor and she is scared to death. She has already seen 15 employees just get terminated for no reason, doing their job.

"She has three kids that she is trying to take care of, and it is not fair (what) this president, this administration does our employees, does those that are doing a good job, according to the oath that they took for this country, to do the things that they do to help our country move forward," Holley said.

"It is power to the people. We can change the tide around it, and we should, when there's things that are not done in accordance with our Constitution and in accordance to what we know is right. We need to change it and step up for it and turn it around," she added.



Several members of the local clergy spoke up on Tuesday. Here, Danny Quanstrom, pastor at Hastings Nazarene Church, voices his concerns over the Department of Government Efficiency's access to sensitive data.

Many speakers pushed back on the statements of those who went before them.

"I'm very sorry to the woman whose daughter is losing her job but I want to remind you that we live in an at-will state," said Abby Taylor. "You can be fired for any reason as long as it's legal in almost every state in the country

Taylor also criticized audience members for speaking over one another, interrupting speakers' allotted time.

Barry County Republican Party Chairwoman Cyndi Twichell said the event was eye-opening for her.

"I was there today to represent the Constitution and truth. I was there for the purpose of letting Congressman John Moolenaar know that I support him in defending the original intent of our federal Constitution as he supports President Trump in removing unconstitutional federal programs and spending under the executive branch," Twichell wrote in an email to *The Banner*. "I had no real expectations of the office hour — it was a time to express support for Congressman Moolenaar and President Trump in eliminating unconstitutional spending taking place within the executive branch."

Twichell added it was informative to listen to each speaker. She criticized those who interrupted speakers and shouted over others.

"We need to bring our country back to the original intent of our forefathers — dependence on God and family, not on the government," Twichell stated.

To emphasize her point, Twichell quoted Thomas Jefferson: "A government big enough to give you everything you want is strong enough to take everything from you."

Bush, on the other side of the political spectrum, said her group hopes Tuesday's demonstration will lead to a town hall with Moolenaar present to hear from his constituents.

"One of the things that we really hope for is that Congressman Moolenaar will hold a town hall that he participates in directly," Bush said. "And (that) he has the chance to hear directly from all his constituents who attend the town hall."

Bush added she thinks a two-way conversation with the congressman would be more productive than speaking with his representative, Williams, who then passes communication along to Moolenaar.

Annual St. Patrick's Day parade returns March 17 for 19th year

Molly Macleod
Editor

Hastings residents will see the streets turn green for a 19th year next month at the annual South Jefferson Street Saint Patrick's Day Parade.

The parade steps off at 4 p.m. on Monday, March 17. The parade will follow its typical route down Jefferson, Church and Court streets in downtown Hastings.

Revelers will see various community groups and officials decked out in their finest greenery. As always, first responders will be a fixture of the parade, offering youngsters an up-close look at police and fire vehicles, along with other heavy machinery.



This year's St. Patrick's Day parade will step off at 4 p.m. on Monday, March 17. **File photo**

FIRE

Continued from Page 1

near Plainwell.

The high-profile nature of these fires may make it seem like the winter has been especially active for fire crews, but Richardson pointed to numbers for his own department that showed it's a fairly typical winter.

Last year, Thornapple Township Emergency Services responded to 13 structure fires. This year, that number has crept up to 15.

Total losses on those fires are also about even between the two years. However, a fire at Bradford White last year inflated that number and without factoring that one in, total losses would be significantly higher this year.

It comes with the territory in the winter — especially a frigid one like this year.

"When you're heating your home, it just depends on what you're heating with," said Richardson, adding that older homes are more susceptible to fire risks.

"Codes have really straightened up a lot of the risks," he added. "You don't see as many fires in the newer-built homes because of code changes."

"The human factor is always the outlier," Richardson said. "We have people who overload circuits or use extension cords inappropriately. People who self-install fireplaces and wood-burning chimneys without cleaning them. Those are all human factors that can't be changed with codes."

But, even when it comes to fire codes — which dictate how often a commercial building should be inspected and what inspectors are looking for — they vary depending on the municipality. Local departments also need the personnel and capacity to inspect properties when needed. While many commercial buildings are subjected to regular inspections, it's not a silver bullet to avoid fire hazards.

Jim Yarger, long-time chief of the Freeport Area Volunteer Fire Department, didn't go as far as saying this year was an especially active one for fires, instead, that instances of structure fires typically ebb and flow.

"We'll have some winters where it seems like we run all winter and then we'll have a winter where we don't have anything," said Yarger, who said a typical year will see his department make roughly 14 runs to structure fires. "I don't know if there is a pattern to that, I just know it goes up and down."

Upcoming Events at the HASTINGS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Professional Events

Grand Rapids Symphony | Music of Harry Potter | *Sun, 04/13 | 3:00 pm*

DIVA Jazz Orchestra | *Fri, 04/25 | 7:30 pm*

Tickets: hastings.ludus.com | 269-818-2492

Other Events

HHS Musical | Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

Thu, 03/13 | 7:00 pm ~ Fri, 03/14 | 7:00 pm ~ Sat, 03/15 | 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm

Middle School Pre-Festival Concert | *Tue, 03/18 | 7:00 pm*

MSVMA MS Choral Festival | *Fri, 3/21 | 8:00 am - 5:00 pm*

Thornapple Wind Band | *Sun, 3/23 | 3:00 pm*

Hastings Youth Choir (HYC) | *Tue, 3/25 | 6:30 pm*

HHS Choir Follies | *Thu, 4/17 | 7:00 pm*

Special program note: The performance of *Rhythm is Gonna Get You,* scheduled for Saturday, March 22, has been canceled.

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Hastings, DK and Barry ISD boards hold joint meeting discussing potential regional enhancement millage

Molly Macleod
Editor

Board of education members from Hastings Area School System, Delton Kellogg Schools and the Barry Intermediate School District gathered for a rare meeting of the minds on Monday. The joint board meeting was called to discuss a potential regional enhancement millage for the ISD, which services both HASS and DKS.

Though it is still in its most nebulous stage of planning, if passed, the regional enhancement millage would allow another source of funding for HASS and DKS, disseminated via the ISD. Unlike money generated from a bond issue, funds generated from a regional enhancement millage can be used for almost anything — including hiring support staff. Bond funding is typically constricted in its uses, often only for building and facility improvements.

Gary Goscenski of Perspectives Consulting, a Paw Paw-based firm, set the stage for discussion between the boards on Monday. Once the three boards reach a consensus on a few options they would like to explore for the millage, Perspectives Consulting will issue a survey to district residents. The survey will collect data on which options are likely to pass, or not, and will allow for residents to express their opinions in open-ended response questions.

"The idea here is we're going to give voters options, rather than saying to voters, 'This is it; will you vote for it?'" said Goscenski.

All responses will be posted publicly once the survey is complete.

The survey, once available, can be completed online. Residents wishing to fill out a paper copy can find one at the schools.

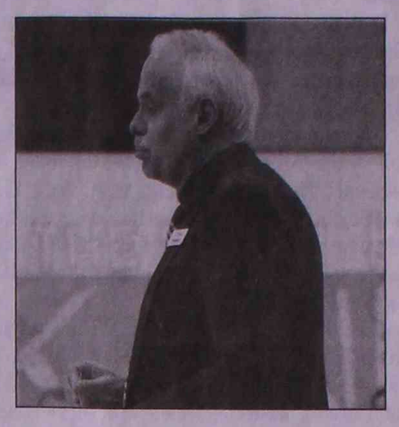
Perspectives Consulting is a familiar firm to HASS residents — it conducted a similar survey ahead of HASS's successful 2023 bond issue.

Goscenski said one of the challenges he anticipates with passing a regional enhancement millage is increasing awareness of the ISD and the services it provides residents.

The regional enhancement millage could be on ballots as soon as November 2025. Delton Kellogg board members raised concerns with a November attempt. Should the three boards follow that timeline, the ballot language would have to be set in stone before knowing the results of Delton Kellogg's upcoming May bond request.

DK board members suggested potentially pushing the millage back to May 2026.

Though nothing is yet set in stone, discussions will continue between the three boards in the coming weeks. Should the boards stick to the original November timeline, voters could see survey information rolling in as soon as next month.



Gary Goscenski of Perspectives Consulting returned to Hastings this week for a joint meeting between the Hastings Area School System, Delton Kellogg Schools and Barry Intermediate School District boards of education. Goscenski's firm plans to survey voters on options for a potential regional enhancement millage. **Photo by Molly Macleod**

Delton woman charged in fatal crash set for April prelim



Kylee Brooks appeared in Barry County District 56B Court before Judge Michael Schipper on Wednesday, Feb. 19, with the judge scheduling a preliminary hearing for April 21. **Photo by Dennis Mansfield**

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

The court case of a Delton woman charged in a fatal crash will continue with a preliminary hearing set for late April.

Kylee Lynn Brooks, then 19, of Delton was charged with four criminal counts, including reckless driving causing death, after her alleged involvement in a June 14, 2024, accident on Dowling Road, west of M-37, in Baltimore Township that led to the death of an 84-year-old Middleville woman, Arlene Willis, as well as injuring another person.

According to news reports, a preliminary investigation by the Barry County Sheriff's Office stated that a line of vehicles was headed eastbound on Dowling Road, when the lead vehicle pulling a trailer slowed down to turn right into a driveway.

At the same time, a black Buick driven by Willis' daughter, 60-year-old Susan Alcala of Middleville, was turning left into a gravel pit driveway. Brooks, driving a Ford Maverick in the same direction, allegedly attempted to pass the slower vehicles ahead of her, but instead crashed into the turning vehicle.

Willis, who was a passenger in the Buick, was taken to a hospital where she later died.

Along with the reckless driving charge, Brooks is also charged with a moving violation causing death, reckless driving causing serious impairment of a body function and moving violation causing serious impairment of a body function.

Brooks appeared in Barry County District 56B Court before Judge Michael Schipper on Wednesday, Feb. 19, with the judge scheduling a preliminary hearing for April 21.

If convicted, Brooks faces up to 15 years in prison on the reckless driving causing death charge.

Opioid community needs assessment data released as applications roll in for settlement funds

Molly Macleod
Editor

Researchers at Michigan State University spent much of the fall getting to know Barry County residents with lived experience concerning the opioid epidemic. Barry County Substance Abuse Task Force (SATF) Coordinator Liz Lenz shared the data compiled by researchers with the Barry County Board of Commissioners this week.

The data, Lenz said, identifies community needs as the county prepares to divvy out a nearly $1.5 million chunk of funding from opioid settlements.

MSU's research team conducted a needs assessment for opioid community needs last year.

"They came the last part of August and the first week of September 2024 and they met with people throughout our county, mostly folks with lived experience and relevance to the opioid epidemic and crisis," Lenz said.

Instead of conducting quantitative research, based on concrete, numerical data, Lenz said the MSU researchers focused more on qualitative research — hearing directly from residents about their experiences and their opinions.

"We decided to work with MSU to do face-to-face interviews, focus groups and listening sessions. And it was lovely, actually," Lenz said. "Which is a word that is strange to use when we talk about people's lives not being lovely as a result of opioids. But people felt heard. They felt welcomed. They appreciated the team that came from East Lansing, and we got to know them rather well as we traveled around the county. And we made sure that we went where people were."

Lenz said the researchers conducted 82 interviews in their weeks traveling across the county. Thirty-one of those interviews were with community health professionals and representatives of community-based organizations. Nineteen interviews were with general community members, 27 with residents with lived experience and five members of public safety.

Housing was identified as the greatest need to help lessen the negative impact of the opioid epidemic, closely followed by access to mental health services, transportation, community support and improved responses to those struggling with opioid addiction.

The State of Michigan received $800 million from opioid settlements. Of that $800 million, Barry County is set to receive $1.499 million.

More details about this funding can be found on the Barry County SATF website: barrycountysatf.com/opioid-settlement/. Funds will be awarded based on guidance from Johns Hopkins University, the Michigan Association of Counties and local data. Funding will go toward projects that follow the key strategies listed in the opioid settlement court documents.

Though commissioners will take the MSU data into account when deciding who will receive funds, the county will focus on proposals that address major community needs, identified through MDHHS MODA Dashboard data and the Barry County Opioid Community Assessment by Michigan State University. Priority areas include:

- Recovery housing: Safe and supportive housing for people in recovery. Homes for high-need groups should provide peer recovery support and community connections. Programs should be MARR-certified or working toward certification.
- Recovery support services: Help for people staying sober, such as transportation to treatment, childcare during treatment, supervised parenting visits, recovery coaching, and sober events. Programs should be designed with input from people with lived experience.
- Harm reduction initiatives: Services that provide lifesaving resources, case management, and connections to treatment for people using opioids. These programs should be led and promoted by people with lived experience.
- Quick response teams (QRTs): Teams that follow up within three days of an overdose to offer support and resources. Follow-ups should be done by a certified recovery coach.

Individuals and groups can apply to receive a chunk of the funding by emailing applications to OSFRFP2025@bccmha.org or dropping them off in person at the Barry County Administration Office, 220 W. State Street in Hastings. Applications are due by 4 p.m. on March 31.

Interested parties can contact Liz Lenz, SATF coordinator, at llenz@bccmha.org for application help.



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Women Caregivers Face Financial Challenges

On March 8, we observe International Women's Day. Although this event celebrates women's achievements, it's still true that women, especially caregivers, face significant financial hurdles. How can these challenges be met?

To begin with, let's look at some concerning statistics connected to American women in the "sandwich generation" — those who care for children and parents or other relatives — from a study by Edward Jones and research firms NEXT360 and Morning Consult:

- Nearly half of women report feeling financially strained.
- Almost two-thirds of women say caregiving duties have harmed their ability to save for their own financial goals.
- More than half of women have had to reduce their professional responsibilities due to caregiving, resulting in the loss of potential income.

So, if you're a sandwich-generation woman, what can you do to improve your financial outlook?

Consider these suggestions:

- Establish your own financial goals. Depending on the length and complexity of your caregiving duties, your own financial goals could be affected. For example, you may need to change your retirement date from what you had originally intended, or else adjust the retirement lifestyle you had envisioned. However, this doesn't mean you shouldn't try to establish your own short- and long-term financial goals and then create a strategy for achieving them. In doing so, you may find it helpful to work with a financial professional.
- Contribute as much as you can to your retirement accounts. Your caregiving obligations may be preventing you from working as many hours as you like, or perhaps even from accepting a higher-paying position. In either case, your ability to contribute to your retirement accounts may well be diminished. Nonetheless, each month try to put in as much as you can afford to your IRA and your 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan. And if you do get salary increases, think about boosting your monthly contributions to your plan.
- Don't rush into taking Social Security. You can start collecting Social Security as early as age 62, and you might be tempted to do so if you're feeling some financial pressure because of your caregiving responsibilities. But your monthly benefits can be bigger if you wait until your full retirement age, which will be age 67 if you were born in 1960 or later. So, if you can find other ways to bridge this gap — possibly through a spouse's income or your own savings — it may well benefit you to wait as long as you can before collecting.
- Maintain separate finances. If your parents are concerned about falling behind on their bills, they might suggest combining their bank accounts with yours. This may not be a good idea — if your finances get tangled with those of your parents, you could end up paying for some of their expenses, even if they can afford to do so themselves. Consequently, try to keep your finances separate.
- Create a financial power of attorney. You may want to see whether your parents will agree to give you a financial power of attorney, so you can make decisions on their behalf should they become incapacitated. Such an arrangement can help protect them and you.

There's no sugar-coating it: Caregiving can be financially taxing on caregivers. But by taking the appropriate steps, you may be able to help reduce some of the stress involved.

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

Edward Jones, Member SIPC

TKHS performing 'The Wizard of Oz' March 6-8

Molly Macleod
Editor

Dorothy, Scarecrow, Tin Man, the Cowardly Lion and Toto, too, won't be in Kansas next week. Instead, the merry band can be found inside the halls of Thornapple Kellogg High School's performing arts center.

Drama students at Thornapple Kellogg High School will follow the Yellow Brick Road to Oz in the TKHS spring musical "The Wizard of Oz" next week. Director Haley Bovee said the cast and crew have been putting in hours of rehearsal to make this an unforgettable show for all ages.

Three performances are slated for March 6-8 at 7 p.m. each night.

Tickets are $7 for adults and $5 for students and senior citizens. They can be purchased online now at tkschools.ludus.com/index.php and may also be available at the door each night. Customers can reserve their seat selections when purchasing tickets online in advance. Those who purchase tickets at the door on the night of the performance can still select seats based on availability.

The story of "The Wizard of Oz" follows Dorothy Gale, a young girl from Kansas, who is swept away by a tornado to the magical land of Oz. In her quest to return home, she journeys along the Yellow Brick Road to find the Wizard, who is said to have the power to help her. Along the way, she befriends a Scarecrow seeking a brain, a Tin Man longing for a heart and a Cowardly Lion seeking courage. Together, they face challenges from the Wicked Witch of the West and discover the importance of self-belief, friendship, and the idea that "There's no place like home."

Bovee said she and the cast are excited to perform such a beloved show as "The Wizard of Oz."

"I am thrilled to be putting on 'The Wizard of Oz.' My parents introduced me to the movie from a young age, and it's one of those stories that I keep coming back to," said Bovee. "I think it resonates with a lot of people, and I'm hoping to fill our auditorium seats for these talented students."

Bovee, a 2020 TKHS graduate, graduated from Western Michigan University in December, earning her bachelor's degree in vocal music education. 'The Wizard of Oz" marks the first turn in the director's seat for Bovee — but she is no stranger to the TKHS stage.

"The best part of the rehearsal process has been getting to know the students," Bovee said. "The cast is talented and full of energy, and the crew is super creative. It's amazing to see what these young adults can do.

"It's also been super cool to direct at the same high school I went to. I was in the students' position five years ago, and I remember how much fun I had in the theater program. Those memories still stick with me, and I'm hoping that the students leave this program feeling the same way."

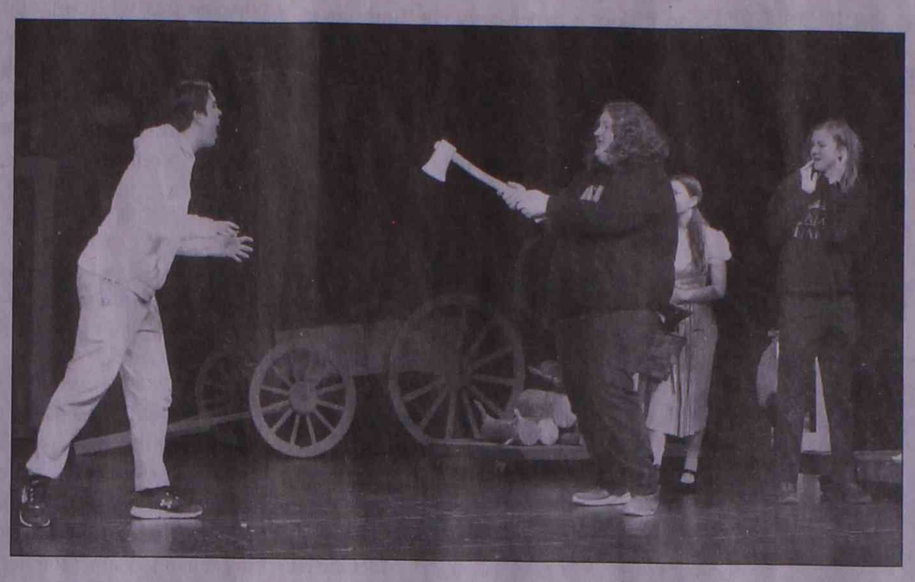
The production involves 35 student cast members, student musicians and many additional students and adults working behind the scenes. Alyssa Spurgeon plays the role of Dorothy, who travels to Oz with Scarecrow, played by Alex Evans; the Tin Man, played by Lukas Walters; and the Cowardly Lion, played by Michael Sager-Wissner.

Other cast members include Abigail Dumond as the Wicked Witch and Mrs. Gulch; Avery Hagemann as Glinda; Valerie Tamez as Aunt Em; Isaac Oprea as Uncle Henry; and farmhands Zeke, Hickory and Hunk, played by Anthony Sager-Wissner, Lucas Eggers and Adam McLaughlin.

Additional cast members include Sheamus Nutt as Professor Marvel, Anthony Sager-Wissner as the Wizard of Oz, Bo Snyder as an Emerald City guard, Chiya Collantes as the Coroner and Jackson Lambitz as the Mayor of Munchkin City. Several more students are involved in supporting roles such as flying monkeys, poppies, Munchkins, Winkies and Ozians.



The cast of Thornapple Kellogg High School's "The Wizard of Oz." Performances are slated for March 6-8. **Photos provided**



Michael Sager-Wissner (Cowardly Lion) tries to scare Lukas Walters (Tin Man), Alex Evans (Scarecrow) and Alyssa Spurgeon (Dorothy).

"This TKHS performance will feature some special effects that are not commonly done on our stage, including the use of fog and snow machines," said Bovee. "Our auditorium manager, Mr. John Schilthroat, has also created a green screen effect to project the head of our actor who plays the Wizard onto the back wall, along with flame projections. I think it's a super cool effect, and I am so grateful to have a team of creative people to make moments like this come to life."

Though Bovee is looking forward to her directorial debut next week, she gave credit to the many parents and TK staff who have dedicated their time and help to the show.

"I'm very grateful to have so much help in the form of TK staff and parents. It's a huge job, and I didn't realize how huge it was until I started this process. It takes a village," said Bovee.



Alyssa Spurgeon rehearses a solo as Dorothy in "The Wizard of Oz."

Roundtable Companions to discuss book March 11

The Hastings Roundtable Companions for Racial Equity group will discuss Angeline Boulley's new novel, "Warrior Girl Unearthed" at next month's book club and discussion on Tuesday, March 11 at 6:30 p.m. in the Hastings Public Library.

Boulley's YA novel "Fire Keeper's Daughter" was selected as the 2024 Great Michigan Read. Because of this, the Roundtable group feels her newest work will be a good addition to the group's monthly book club that highlights works by authors from diverse backgrounds.

Boulley, who grew up in Sault Ste. Marie, where both her books are set, is a member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians and highlights the language and culture of Michigan's Upper Peninsula in her work.

A review of "Warrior Girl" from Birchbark Books says, "Set in the same community as Fire-keeper's Daughter, and featuring many of the same characters, 'Warrior Girl Unearthed' is the story of an Ojibwe teen who discovers a plot to profit off robbed Indigenous graves. With the help of a ragtag group of friends, (she) takes matters into her own hands to protect her community, and bring her ancestors home where they belong, while staring down challenges including generational grudges, bureaucratic subterfuge, unnerving stories of missing women, family secrets, and painful realities about the legacy of colonialism. A thrilling heist gives way to a complex and compelling mystery, effortlessly exploring themes of identity, family, and reclamation in a Native community."

All are welcome to join the group for its discussion.

The Hastings Public Library is located at 227 E. State St. in Hastings. — *MM*

Historic Charlton Park receives $10K grant for track chair purchase

Historic Charlton Park announced this week it has been selected to receive a $10,000 grant from the Barry Community Foundation. The funding will offset the purchase of an all-terrain wheelchair (track chair) to provide access to HCP's grounds and trails for visitors that use mobility devices and wheelchairs.

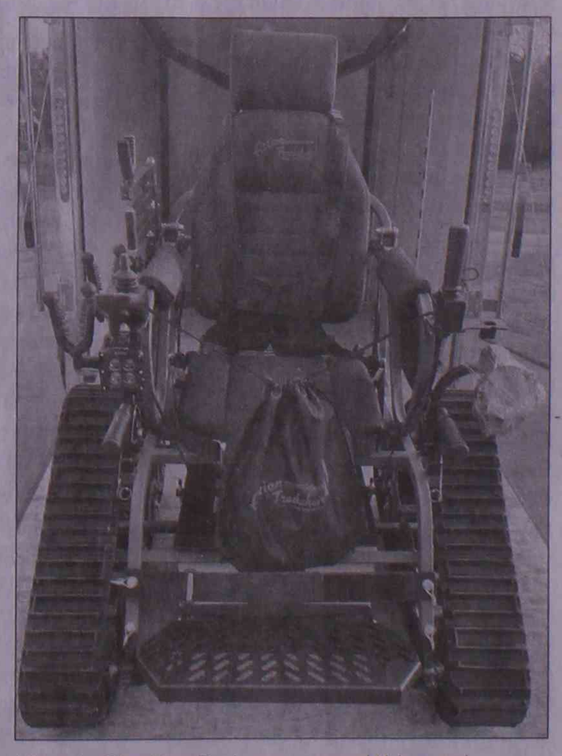
HCP will also embrace opportunities to loan the track chair to other units of local government to make their programming welcoming and accessible.

"The purchase of the track chair will promote health and wellness for the Barry County community with a specific focus on a portion of the population that is often overlooked. Sharing this resource with other community organizations will allow for greater reach and usage," said Dan Patton, Barry County Parks director. Action Trackchairs, the company HCP plans to purchase its track chair from, are also in use at Michigan DNR state parks and recreation areas.

There will be no charge to use the track chair, but reservations will be required. Fundraising is ongoing to cover the remaining cost, but HCP anticipates accepting the first reservations in summer 2025. Learn more about the project by charltonpark.org/news_events/current-projects.html.

The Barry Community Foundation provides grant funding for projects that positively impact the lives of Barry County residents and make positive, sustainable change.

For additional information or questions about HCP, call 269-945-3775 or email info@charltonpark.org.



Historic Charlton Park announced this week it received a $10,000 grant from the Barry Community Foundation to help purchase an all-terrain wheelchair. The track chair will offer those with mobility issues better access to Historic Charlton Park's grounds. **Photo provided**

Historic Charlton Park is located north of M-79 at 2545 S. Charlton Park Rd., Hastings, MI 49058, and is part of the Barry County Parks system. — *MM*

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Delton Kellogg High School shop teacher, Brad Knobloch, demonstrates a welding technique. From left, seniors Haily Arnett and Georgie Pannill.

GRANT

Continued from Page 1

Hogoboom looks forward to watching the students gain skills leading them to successful careers.

"This opportunity for our kids is very exciting. I think it is the type of program that can set us apart as a district. As we continue to build real and relevant programming for our kids, this aligns perfectly with that focus," Hogoboom said. "As one of only two high schools in the state to win this grant, it feels like a real honor for our kids to have this on-site."

Students will also connect with manufacturing industry leaders while learning through the IGNITE Amatrol program.

"The fact that completers of this program can earn valuable industry certificates that will give them an advantage in the work world is a bonus for our kids," Hogoboom added. "I think we will have local businesses recruiting our kids into employment."

Wright said that not only will the grant prepare students for careers in manufacturing but also give them a taste of what to expect and the ability to take industry certifications for free and add that to their resumes for employment post-high school.

"This grant sets DK Schools apart by providing students with industry-recognized SACA certifications and hands-on experience with cutting-edge Amatrol equipment—opportunities many schools do not have access to," added Brad Knobloch.

Innovators of the IGNITE curriculum developed the program to align specifically to the Certified Production Technician (CPT) certification from the Manufacturing Skills Standards Council, plus numerous SACA certifications.

However, several key disciplines are derived from the classes that broadly align with industry-recognized and highly valued credentials. They include Quality, Safety, Process and Production, Maintenance Awareness, Basic Operations, Advanced Operations, Robotic System Operations, Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT), and Networking and Data Analytics.

"This is an exciting time for Delton Schools," Wright said. "We are working towards offering more CTE programs and putting students in the position to get well-paying jobs upon graduation."

According to the MMA, IGNITE is a six-course program created to be administered in high school. Still, the initial classes can be taken in middle school, and the upper-level courses can be done at or as "dual enrollment" classes with a community college. The program can be executed in conventional high school semesters, with options for one-, two- or three-year schedules. Non-Career Technical Education (CTE) high schools would coincide well with the one and two-year options as a preparatory pipeline for a CTE center. However, two- and three-year plans are better for career/tech centers and early middle colleges.

"The combination of the IGNITE program's in-depth curriculum and practical training ensures that our students graduate with both the knowledge and the skills that major employers highly value across multiple industries," said Brad Knobloch. "This unique approach enhances their career readiness and gives them a competitive edge in the workforce."

More information about workforce solutions can be found by visiting the Michigan Manufacturing Association's website at mimfg.org/.

"With the bond vote coming in the spring and the additional CTE program offerings we are building into our scheduling plans, big things are happening in Delton," Hogoboom said. "The community is very excited about these added opportunities for our kids."

PIERCE CEDAR CREEK INSTITUTE EVENTS

— FEB. 28-MARCH 6 —

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

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

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

Friday, Feb. 28 — Science Storytime at the Hastings Public Library: National Science Day, 10 a.m. Learn about science through the power of books! Join Hastings Public Library and the Institute as they share their favorite books, activities and crafts with little learners.

March 1-31 — Mystery Hike: A Sticky Situation. Spring is a time of melting snow and new growth. Plants emerge from dormancy and undergo a variety of processes to prepare for the summer growing season. Follow the trail to solve the mystery of spring's sweetest treat. The Mystery Hike is free and self-guided on the Lupine Trail.

March 1-31 — March Storybook Walk: "Hello, Puddle!" by Anita Sanchez; illustrated by Luisa Uribe. What happens in a puddle? This puddle is a busy place, welcoming animals and creating habitat. Explore puddle ecology of all four seasons. After your storybook adventure, stop by the Visitor Center to pick up an activity sheet. The Storybook Walk is free and self-guided on the Black Walnut Trail.

Thursday, March 6 — Nature Playdates in the Play Space: Bird Bonanza, 10-11 a.m. 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. Registration for this free event can be found at CedarCreekInstitute.org.

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

HASTINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY SCHEDULE

Thursday, Feb. 27 – Teen Advisory Board, 3:30 p.m.; Movie, Memories and Milestones watches a 1941 film starring Danny Kaye and Dana Andrews, 5 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 28 – Friday Science Story Time 10:30 a.m.; Mario Kart tournament, 3:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 1 – All the Dirt on Winter Sowing: A Healthy Start to Garden Transplants, 10 a.m.; Breadmaking: Grandma's Braid, noon.

Monday, March 3 – Crafting Passions, 10 a.m.

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

Wednesday, March 5 – Itsy Bitsy Book Club, 10:30 a.m.; Open Art Studio, 11:30 a.m.; Digital Literacy: Genealogy for Beginners (registration required), 6 p.m.

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

County board schedules public hearing on PACE program for March 25

Molly Macleod
Editor

Members of the Barry County Board of Commissioners on Tuesday voted to schedule a public hearing to hear opinions on the county potentially opting into the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program. While commissioners have not yet sided either way on whether Barry County will become a PACE district, the public hearing will be an opportunity for residents to speak their support or concerns for the opportunity.

Adopted by the Michigan Legislature in 2010, the PACE Statute provides an opportunity for developers to receive funding from private, secure lenders for energy-efficient construction projects above code.

Last week, Mary Freeman of Lean & Green Michigan provided information on PACE to commissioners at the Committee of the Whole meeting. Lean & Green Michigan sets up PACE districts across the state, where local governments opt into the program. Lean & Green has a uniform program statewide to connect developers with private, national lenders.

CopperRock Construction, developers of the Hastings Riverwalk Lofts at the Royal Coach site on Mill Street, are reportedly interested in taking advantage of PACE financing should the county opt in. This could allow developers to construct the Riverwalk Lofts above code and with energy-efficient standards.

Freeman explained last week that PACE financing offers little risk to the county. No county funds will be used to fund the projects; private lenders provide the money. Developers must perform a special assessment on the property when entering into a PACE financing agreement, placing the property on the tax rolls. In the event the developer would default on the PACE loan, the county would receive the property and could resell it for a profit.

Mental Health Authority announces Community Art Project

The Barry County Community Mental Health Authority (BCCMHA) has announced its annual Community Art Project, open to all individuals in Barry County.

Representatives from BCCMHA say the goal of the contest is to create a welcoming atmosphere that inspires recovery through art.

Barry County artists are invited to show their creativity and passion for mental health awareness and recovery by submitting up to three pieces of artwork for consideration for permanent display at BCCMHA.

Artwork and submission forms can be submitted between April 23 and May 7. The art selected for permanent display will be announced in The Reminder.

Those interested in the Community Art Project are asked to stop by the BCCMHA office at 500 Barfield Drive in Hastings for more information and submission forms. — *MM*

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OBITUARIES

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Monty "Joe" Clare Bennett



Joe (Monty Clare) Bennett, age 86, of Nashville, Michigan and Sebring, Florida, went to heaven peacefully on February 22, 2025, and will be deeply missed by all who loved him.

He was born at home on March 6, 1938, in Hastings, Michigan, the son of Cecil C. Bennett and Ellen M. Edwards Bennett Thaler. His grandmother, Anna Edwards Brock delivered him, and she was a very special person in his life. He lived in Hastings all of his life until retiring to Nashville, Michigan and Sebring, Florida.

Joe attended the Hastings schools, graduating in 1956, and was proud to have been the only person that ever lettered in four sports, (football, basketball, track and baseball) in his senior year of High School. He was a lifelong athlete who enjoyed skiing, bowling, golf, tennis, and running. He could consistently bowl perfect score 300 games and was an excellent golfer. He ran daily for thirty years, from age 50 to 80 and finished two marathons. He took many classes at Michigan State College and was a true Spartan Fan, attending many home games for years.

Joe joined the Army directly out of High School and served in Korea. He was very proud to be a Korean War Veteran.

He started at the Hastings Manufacturing Company shortly after serving in the Army, working his way up from a machinist to Corporate Secretary and being an Officer and Director of the company. He was very proud to have worked for the same company for 45 years before retiring. Joe was a Barry County Commissioner for four years and was involved in several projects that benefited the residents of the county.

Joe helped to support many organizations in Hastings and Barry County and enjoyed sharing his expertise. He was a Life Member of the Hastings Masonic Lodge #52, joining at age 21. Joe was a 15-year member of the Junior Chamber of Commerce from age 21 to 36 years old. He also served on the Board of Directors for the Barry County Chamber of Commerce. Joe was the treasurer of the Barry County YMCA for 12 years. He served in various roles helping the Barry County Red Cross, the Barry Community Hospice, the Barry County Manor, the Barry County Sheriff's Department, and several other organizations during his many years of service.

In retirement, Joe was so happy living in a resort in sunny Florida for the winter with the love of his life, wife and partner of 16 years, Kimberley Bell, where he socialized, shot pool at the pool hall, went to concerts and shows, danced, enjoyed the lake, enjoyed visits from family, especially daughter, Jolene, her husband, Harold, and grandchildren, and made many wonderful friends.

Joe Bennett had a zest for life and enjoyed many activities. He taught himself to ski and enjoyed skiing in Lake Tahoe for many years on his birthday, and in various other places. He enjoyed watching his favorite sports, golf and tennis, on television, and followed them for years. He taught himself to sail a large sailboat and enjoyed sailing on Lake Michigan. He loved to fish, being on or by the water and kayaking. He was an avid reader of thriller novels and loved those types of movies. He loved camping, especially at music festivals, state parks, and a yearly family mushrooming weekend. He loved bonfires and being with his family.

Joe loved music, especially country music, and going to Traditional Music Festivals where he played music with many special friends at the campgrounds. He taught himself to play banjo, mandolin and guitar in retirement. He was a member of several traditional music organizations. Joe had a beautiful tenor voice, joining choir in High School and then singing at jams in Michigan and Florida while his wife, Kimberley, accompanied him on guitar.

Joe Bennett had a big and fun-loving personality that would light up the room and he was very at ease with people and in large groups. He could talk to anyone, anywhere, and everyone was a friend. Joe was a deep thinker and was a lifelong student, studying many different subjects, with systems and energy being his favorites. To be successful was very important to him, as well as, staying with something long term. He was very spiritual and had a deep faith in God. He was definitely a witty and very funny talker who could creatively come up with jokes on the fly. He loved a good joke and talking with friends and family.

He was preceded in death by his granddaughter Rachael Elizabeth Finney; his brother, Lanny R. Bennett; his mother, Ellen M. Edwards Bennett Thaler; his father, Cecil C. Bennett; a very special aunt, Elsie Sage; his grandparents, Melvin R. Edwards and Anna M. Edwards Brock; and grandparents, Arthur and Flossie Bennett; and his favorite cat of 16 years, Kiki.

Joe Bennett is survived by his loving wife, Kimberley Bell; his loving daughters, Julie (Bob) Cooke and Jolene (Harold) Finney, eight grandchildren and six great grandchildren, his brothers, Gordon (Delilah) Bennett, and Jay Bennett, his dear exchange student Pascal (Stefanie) Bussmann and many family and friends who loved him dearly.

A private Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. Arrangements by Morris Funeral Chapel of Sebring, Florida. To leave a favorite memory or condolences visit morrisfuneralchapel.com.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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ASK DR. UNIVERSE

Plant perception

Do plants have feelings or consciousness?
— Ella, 10, Wis.

Dear Ella,

I love plants. But when I hug a tree, does it love me back? Does it think about anything at all?

I talked about your question with my friend Michael Knoblauch. He's a plant scientist at Washington State University.

He told me that whether or not plants have feelings or conscious thought is an open question. Right now, most scientists think it's unlikely.

Animals like us feel and think—and we're aware that we feel and think. Scientists believe that has to do with how our brains evolved.

Plants don't have brains and nervous systems like ours. They can send and receive signals, but that seems to be automatic.

"They clearly show reactions," Knoblauch said. "But they're not conscious reactions. The plant always does the same thing or makes the same chemical. It doesn't say, 'Oh, today I'm too tired for it. I'm not going to make the chemical.'"

Think about how plants respond to predators. When a hungry rabbit nibbles a leaf, the plant can't pull up its roots and run away. It can't ball up its leaves and punch the bunny.

Instead, most plants make defensive chemicals. The chemicals make the plant taste bad or harder to digest.

A plant with strong defenses will sense damage to its leaf and send signals to its other leaves. The signals tell the leaves to release the chemicals and hopefully send the rabbit hopping.

As far as we know, a leaf never gets that signal and ignores it because it thinks the rabbit is cute.

Sometimes plants send chemical signals in the air or soil. Scientists call these volatile compounds. Other plants and animals respond to those signals, too.

Have you ever smelled freshly cut grass? That scent is a volatile compound that grass plants release when they're damaged.

The grass doesn't know if the damage comes from a mower or a very hungry caterpillar. It just automatically sends the signal.

Sometimes other plants pick up the message. They start signaling so their own chemical defenses are ready. Sometimes insect predators pick up the message. They zoom over to see if there are tasty caterpillars doing the damage.

It's tempting to imagine that means plants and insects talk and help each other like we do. But it's more like how the cells in our bodies send signals. Sometimes we describe those signals as chemical messages, too.

When you woke up, a chemical message signaled your body to feel hungry. Later, another one signaled you to feel full. That automatically happens. You might make the conscious decision to ignore the message and skip breakfast. But your cells don't ever decide to sleep in and not send signals.

We can't ask plants about their internal experiences to see if they make decisions. Scientists rely on evidence they can test.

"If you do an experiment a hundred times under precisely the same conditions and get the same reply a hundred times, it's probably not a conscious decision," Knoblauch said. "If you got different replies, though, that's likely a conscious decision."

Fortunately, plants don't need to think about how much they love my hugs for me to enjoy hugging them. We're both living things adapting to the environment, and you better be-leaf I'm rooting for them.

— Dr. Universe

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

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

'In My Time' Part IV

BANNER AUG. 3, 1995

JOYCE F. WEINBRECHT

The following is a continuation of Robert Faulkner's account of the early life of the Ellis Faulkner family.

"Some of the great athletes were Gertrude Ederle, the first woman to swim the English Channel (this was in 1926); Big Bill Tilden, tennis champion; Bobby Jones, golf great; Ty Cobb and Babe Ruth, baseball immortals; Red Grange of football fame and Jack Dempsey, the great prizefighter. This was also the age of infamous gangsters like Al Capone.

"You may have heard of some of the famous movie stars of the 1920s. They included Mary Pickford, Greta Garbo, Charlie Chaplin and Douglas Fairbanks. In 1927, the first talking picture starred Al Jolson in 'The Jazz Singer.' The first talking picture I saw was 'The Sidewalks of New York' starring Ruth Chatterton. This was in 1928 at the Fox Theater in Detroit. The matinee cost me 25 cents.

"During this period, William Randolph Hearst was establishing his newspaper empire.

"In the late 1920s, the electric refrigerator for the home first appeared. Until then, people refrigerated with ice boxes. Ice was delivered regularly mostly by horsedrawn vans. A favorite Vaudeville song included these lines: 'Bought my wife a Frigidaire, but when I got home the iceman was there. There ought to be a law against that.'

"In many cities, delivery men preferred the horse and wagon to the delivery truck. A good milk horse would learn the route and where stops were close together, the milkman would deliver all the stops in a block without getting back in the wagon.

"The replacement of iceboxes with electric refrigerators took many years. The electric refrigerator industry was one of the few businesses that thrived and grew during the Great Depression of the 1930s.

"When I was in the eighth grade, I attended my first class party at the age of 11. The party was scheduled for 7 p.m. Before leaving home, my father ordered me to leave the party at 9 and come straight home. The party was at the home of Dr. Swift, whose son, Carlton, was a classmate.

"I arrived promptly at 7 o'clock. The door was opened by the good doctor himself. He said, 'Come in Bob, have you had your supper yet?' The sarcasm escaped me at the time but I was very uncomfortable by the time the other guests began to arrive about 7:45.

"Our teacher was chaperone but showed neither surprise nor concern when we started playing kissing games such as cheat the judge, spin the bottle and show. I was the only one present who was embarrassed. I was even more embarrassed when, just as the party was getting well underway and before refreshments were served, I abruptly left for home to meet the 9 o'clock deadline.

"Our entertainment in Middleville in the 1920s was the homespun variety. An isolated spot on the Thornapple River was our swimming hole. On a summer night, boys and girls from our end of town would frequently gather under a nearby street light and play hide and seek. Arnold, Earl and I often played ball tag around our house and barn. At night in the fall, wiener roasts down by the river or on LaPinnacle, a large hill southeast of town, were a class event.

"Some Middleville teenagers enjoyed the excitement of stealing watermelons. A few gathered a bottom full of rock salt from the shotgun of an angry farmer. One grower even loaded a few of his choice melons with croton oil, a very powerful laxative, much to the distress of thieves.

"On winter nights, we frequently gathered on (the) Main Street hill with our sleds. There was almost no automobile traffic on a winter night and we had the hill pretty much to ourselves.

"On a Saturday afternoon, one of our principal pastimes was hopping bobs (bobsleds). In the winter, the farmers came into town in sleighs that looked like wagons with runners in the place of wheels. Typically, the farmer would be standing in (the) front dressed in a fur cap, black fur coat, fur gloves and boots. Usually, icicles would be hanging from his mustache.

"We would jump on the back of the slow-moving bobs and if the driver didn't reach for his whip, we would ride to his destination which as likely as not would be the French's Flour Mill. We would then wait for a bob leaving the mill and ride back up Main Street Hill. Sometimes, we would get on the sleigh of an inhospitable farmer and have a whip cracked at us — but this only added to the fun.

"In those days, the severity of winter was judged by the days of sleighing. The farmers could tell you how many days of sleighing there had been in any recent year. A normal winter provided around 60 days. Winters with 90 days of sleighing were severe and much talked about in later years.

"There wasn't much excitement in Middleville in the 1920s except for an occasional runaway on Main Street. If you have never seen a team run away with a wagon, you can't understand the sheer terror. A team running away, pulling a wagon at incredible speed is a sight one can never forget: the terror in the horses' eyes, their laid-back ears, the froth at their mouth as they fight the bit, the panicked driver frantically pulling on the reins and futilely shouting, 'Whoa, whoa.' Other drivers seeing approaching danger urged their own teams out of the way. People on foot ran for safety. The terror-stricken horses would trample anything in their path and would stop only when completely exhausted.



The Delton Drugstore in 1995.

"The summer I was 14, my father sent me to Delton to run the soda fountain in the Delton Drugstore, which was managed by my Aunt Bessie who lived in the house where I had spent the first 9-and-a-half years of my life. They now had electricity and running water. Otherwise, little had changed. I had worked at the soda fountain in Middleville since I was 12 and knew how to make the chocolate syrup and sugar syrup that was the base for all the other flavors.

"In Delton, Aunt Bessie made all the syrups. She made the orange from fresh oranges and grated peels. In June, we served fresh strawberry sundaes. Aunt Bessie put up a large quantity of fresh strawberries in syrup so that we could serve them long after the season ended.

"Originally, Dad had made the soda water from bicarbonate of soda and sulfuric acid, but this had given way to commercial carbon dioxide purchased in heavy tanks.

"When I arrived at work in the morning, my first job was to take the ice tongs and bring a block of ice from the ice house, wash off the sawdust under the pump (in the) back of the store, place the ice in a heavy wooden box and break it up with a tool designed for the purpose.

"There were always one or more tubs of Piper's ice cream behind the store. The ice cream came on the C.K.&S. from Kalamazoo. The five-gallon metal can sat in a large wooden tub with a canvas top. I removed the plug near the bottom of the tub and let the water run out. Then, after removing the canvas, I packed ice down around the can with a ball bat. I then put in a layer of salt, added more ice and more salt in layers until the tub was full. The ice cream in the soda fountain was iced in the same manner. I also crushed the ice for drinks. That lake ice might be contaminated never occurred to anyone.

"When we sold ice cream to take out, it was packed by hand in pint or quart cartons Ice cream cones were sold for 5 cents and sundaes and ice cream sodas were sold for 10. A banana split was 15 cents.

"On the west side of the store, shaded by a box elder tree, was our ice cream porch. The tables and chairs were the kind you now see only in museums or old pictures. The chairs had heavy wire legs and backs and a round wooden seat. The round tables had legs that matched the chairs. My jobs included serving our soda fountain customers, cleaning the fountain and washing dishes.

"In June of that year, 1924, Paul married Aline Cross. Aline was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cross. The ceremony was held in their home. At the reception, her brother, Maurice, Arnold, Earl and I had a table to ourselves. I remember Maurice saying, 'I guess this makes us some kind of relatives.'

"The Cross family was highly respected. Dr. Cross was loved by all the people he served in and around Delton. His home and office were only a half-block from the drug store so, of course, he came into the store often and he always had time for a short visit. He was the doctor who saved my life when I almost died of croup at the age of 7. He was the doctor who brought me into the world — at least he almost did.

"On the evening of Sunday, May 22, Mother told my dad that she was in labor. Dad ran all the way to church, a distance of more than a mile, to get Dr. Cross. There were no automobiles in Delton in 1910. By the time Dad returned with Dr. Cross, I was lying in Mother's arms, kicking and screaming.

"Aunt Bessie, by force of circumstances, was the midwife. She was a single woman with no experience in childbirth. It must have been a traumatic experience for both her and my mother. However, they both had more courage than most men and Aunt Bessie was always calm and controlled in every crisis she faced during life.

"It is historically interesting that while this life drama was taking place in the light of an oil lamp, a spectacular event was taking place in the sky. During most of May 1910, Haley's Comet, with its head brighter than the moon and its tail stretching halfway across the heavens, dominated most of the night sky. It was probably the most dramatic astronomical event of the 20th century. The superstitious tried to make something of the fact that I was born with a double crown under Haley's Comet. The double crown was supposed to be a sign that I would live in two kingdoms.

"In case you don't know what a crown is, I will try to explain. At the back of the top of your head, your hair swirls like a vortex. Some people have two swirls, side-by-side, and are said to have a double crown.

"From what Mother and Dad said, I must have screamed most of the first year. When I was about two months old, Mother asked Dr. Cross to see if he could find what was the matter with me. He came to the house and looked me over for rash, pinpricks, et cetera. Finally, he practically tossed me down on the bed and said, 'God, he's just ugly.'

"Years later, in my defense, Mother said that I was probably not getting enough to eat and was probably just hungry. Even today, I get irritable when hungry.

"My brother Earl and I were planning a canoe trip on the streams of Northern Michigan for the summer of 1925. Earl was attending the University of Michigan. When he came home between semesters, we celebrated his 19th birthday on Jan. 30. It was a few days later that he and I walked to LaPinnacle to go skiing. It was about a three-mile walk, so we had lots of time for conversations. The day was mild and the snow was melting a little so the skiing was bad, but the west slope of LaPinnacle was very steep and we had a good time.

"Earl had been suffering from a kidney ailment for years, but that night, for the first time, he told me that the doctor told him that if he caught a cold he would probably die. That was the first time I realized how serious his illness was.

"The sun had set before we started home, but the moonlight on the snow made visibility good. We talked as we walked with wet feet through the melting snow. We talked about science. I wondered if maybe the solar system was merely an atom in some large scale of things and if the atom might not be a miniature universe. Earl said, 'I've thought of that, but I wonder if somewhere there might be atoms of various sizes, say, the size of a small snowball, for example.'

"About March 1, my folks got a telegram that Earl was very sick and in the hospital. They hurried to Ann Arbor to do what they could, but he was already dying.

"We buried Earl on Arnold's 13th birthday, Sunday, March 7, 1925. This was the first great tragedy of my life.

"My parents were devastated, but a stranger never would have known. In my family, if anyone cried, they did it in the privacy of their own room. To display one's emotions was considered in bad taste and a sign of weakness. There were no tears at Earl's funeral.

"Before that, my mother had loved to play the piano while Dad accompanied her on the mandolin and sang in his beautiful baritone voice. After Earl died, I don't remember ever hearing Mother play or Dad sing again. The piano sat silent for years and was finally given to a school. I never knew what happened to my dad's musical instruments. My folks carried on in public as though nothing had happened, but in March 1925, the music went out of their lives."

YOU'RE NOT JUST OUR READERS.
You're our friends, our family, our neighbors... and our future.
VIEW Group

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Barry County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on March 20, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Anthony T. Wonnacott, a single man

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

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): New American Funding, LLC FKA Broker Solution Inc. DBA New American Funding

Date of Mortgage: August 24, 2021

Date of Mortgage Recording: October 6, 2021

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $74,549.95

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Thornapple, Barry County, Michigan, and described as: Commencing at a point on the West line of Section 19, Thornapple Township, Barry County, Michigan, 1238.40

feet South of the Northwest corner of said Section; thence South 172.0 feet; thence East 300 feet; thence South

130 feet; thence East 300 feet; thence North 155 feet; thence East to the West 1/8 line of said Section: thence

North 147.0 feet; thence West to the Point of Beginning.

Common street address (if any): 4696 Patterson Rd, Middleville, MI 49333-9742

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

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

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

This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: February 13, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515

1553000
(02-13)(03-06)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Barry County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on March 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. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Denton W. Kemp and Cindy S. Kemp, husband and wife Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender`s successors and assigns Date of mortgage: November 23, 2018 Recorded on November 28, 2018, in Document No. 2018-011472, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans Inc. Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Three Thousand Two Hundred Fourteen and 90/100 Dollars ($103,214.90) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Barry County, and described as: Commencing 1,094 feet South of the Northwest corner of Section 22, Town 4 North, Range 7 West for point of beginning; thence East 198 feet; thence South 110.5 feet; thence West 198 feet; thence North 110.5 feet to point of beginning. Commonly known as 215 S Main St, Woodland, MI 48897 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 f/k/a Quicken Loans Inc. Mortgagee/ Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400

1552985
(02-13)(03-06)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

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

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Joyce J. Dennie, unmarried

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

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing

Date of Mortgage: July 17, 2014

Date of Mortgage Recording: July 30, 2014

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $13,470.37

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Woodland, Barry County, Michigan, and described as: Lot Twelve (12) of Innovation Subdivision according to the recorded plat thereof being located in the Northwest one-quarter of Section 3 Town 4 North Range 7 West, Woodland Township, Barry County, Michigan.

Common street address (if any): 7795 Woodland Rd, Lake Odessa, MI 48849-9323

The redemption period shall be 1 year from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a.

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

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

This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: February 13, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515

1552706
(02-13)(03-06)

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
BARRY COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. File# 25-30003-DE

Court address: Barry County Trial Court Family Division 206 W. Court St Suite 302 Hastings MI 49058

Estate of Harland Richard Fish. Date of birth: 06/30/1940.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Harland Richard Fish, died 12/07/2024.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Alora R. Fish, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 206 West Court St. Suite 302 Hastings, MI 49058 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: 02/20/25
Alora R. Fish
4351 Peake Rd.
Hastings MI 49058
269-320-3647

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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, March 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. Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Karen Hickey, An Unmarried Woman to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as Mortgagee, as Nominee for Amerifirst Financial Corporation, its successors, and assigns, Mortgagee, dated October 25, 2021, and recorded on November 1, 2021, as Document Number: 2021-013538, Barry County Records, said mortgage was corrected by an Affidavit of Scrivener's Error dated February 3, 2025 and recorded February 5, 2025 by Document Number 2025-000877, Barry County Records, said mortgage was assigned to Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC by an Assignment of Mortgage dated February 04, 2025 and recorded February 11, 2025 by Document Number: 2025-001003, Barry County Records, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Seventy Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty and 99/100 ($170,880.99) including interest at the rate of 4.37500% per annum. Said premises are situated in the Township of Maple Grove, Barry County, Michigan, and are described as: Commencing at the Southeast Corner of the North 70 acres of the East 1/2 of the Northeast 1/4 of Section 28, Town 2 North, Range 7 West; Thence North 676 feet for a place of beginning; Thence North 258 feet; Thence West 260 feet; Thence South 258 feet; Thence East 260 feet to the place of beginning. Subject to a Highway Right of Way for Highway M-66. EXCEPT 120 FOOT WIDE PARCEL, 60 FEET ON EITHER SIDE OF M-66 HWY AS CONSTRUCTED PARCEL DEEDED TO STATE IN LIBER 307, PAGE 377. Commonly known as: 8260 S M 66 HWY, NASHVILLE, MI 49073 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: February 20, 2025 Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C. Attorneys for Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC 43252 Woodward Avenue, Suite 180, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302, (248) 335-9200 Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Case No. 25MI00035-1 (02-20)(03-13)

NOTICE

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

Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Barry County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM on MARCH 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 Nicholas Toecker and Rachel Antony, husband and wife, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Ark-La-Tex Financial Services, LLC dba Benchmark Mortgage, Mortgagee, dated April 10, 2023 and recorded April 12, 2023 in Instrument Number 2023-002951 and Affidavit Affecting Realty recorded on January 29, 2025, in Instrument Number 2025-000738, Barry County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by Data Mortgage, Inc. dba Essex Mortgage, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Seventy-Two Thousand Six Hundred Ninety and 67/100 Dollars ($172,690.67).

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 vendue at the place of holding the circuit court within Barry County, Michigan at 1:00 PM on MARCH 13, 2025.

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

Lot 35, Supervisor Chase's Addition No. 2 to the City (formerly Village) of Hastings, Barry County, Michigan, except the West 123 feet thereof, according to the recorded plat thereof, filed in Liber 3, Page 2, records of Barry County, State of Michigan.

918 N Michigan Ave, 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: February 13, 2025
File No. 25-000855
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400
(02-13)(03-06)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Barry County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on March 27, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Juan Navarro and Esther Beecroft n/k/a Esther Navarro, husband and wife

Original Mortgagee: Wells Fargo Financial America, Inc

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): US Bank Trust, N.A., not in its individual capacity but solely as owner Trustee For VRMTG Asset Trust

Date of Mortgage: May 27, 2008

Date of Mortgage Recording: June 13, 2008

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $76,144.33

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Orangeville, Barry County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 33 of Lapham's Airport Lots, according to the recorded Plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 3 of Plats, on Page 100, being a part of Section 8, Town 2 North, Range 10 West.

Common street address (if any): 5729 Marsh Rd, Shelbyville, MI 49344-9611

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

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

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

This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: February 27, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515

1553725
(02-27)(03-20)

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 April 3, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Molly K. Diekhoff, an unmarried woman

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

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR RCF 2 ACQUISITION TRUST

Date of Mortgage: August 8, 2005

Date of Mortgage Recording: August 10, 2005

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $113,303.98

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Woodland, Barry County, Michigan, and described as: BEGINNING AT A POINT ON THE WEST LINE OF SECTION 30, TOWN 4 NORTH, RANGE 7 WEST, WOODLAND TOWNSHIP BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN DISTANT NORTH, 858 FEET FROM THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 30; THENCE NORTH, 220 FEET ALONG SAID WEST

LINE; THENCE EAST, 231 FEET PARALLEL WITH THE SOUTH LINE OF THE SOUTHWEST FRACTIONAL 1/4 OF SAID SECTION 30; THENCE SOUTH

220 FEET; THENCE WEST, 231 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. SUBJECT TO AN EASEMENT FOR PUBLIC HIGHWAY PURPOSES OVER THE

WESTERLY 33 FEET THEREOF FOR DURKEE ROAD, AND ANY OTHER EASEMENTS OR RESTRICTIONS OF RECORD.

Common street address (if any): 3200 Durkee Rd, Hastings, MI 49058-9449

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

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

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

This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: February 27, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515

1554208
(02-27)(03-20)

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Barry County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM on March 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 SALE –Greg Walejewski and Jessica Walejewski, original mortgagors, granted a Mortgage to Coastal Community Bank, dated September 1, 2022, and recorded December 27, 2022 as Instrument Number 2022-012600, in official records of Barry County Register of Deeds, Michigan, which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of $51,202.67. The following described premises situated in the Village of Middleville, County of Barry, State of Michigan, to-wit: Lot 100, Misty Ridge No. 5, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Liber 6 of Plats, Page 66, Barry County Records. Commonly known as 625 Misty Ridge Drive, Middleville, MI 49333 Property ID# 08-41-128-100-00 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241, in which case the redemption period shall be 1 month, or under MCL 600.3241a 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a (b) notice, whichever is later, or extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice ATTENTION PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. This notice is from a debt collector. Dated: February 21, 2025 For more information, please call: (513) 852-6066 Daniel A. Cox Wood + Lamping, LLP Attorneys for Servicer 600 Vine Street, Suite 2500, Cincinnati, OH 45202 File 24-12040

(02-27)(03-20)

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in BARRY County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on March 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. MORTGAGE INFORMATION: Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Shawnda Robinson and Mathew Hallifax, joint tenancy with full rights of survivorship, whose address is 1249 Boncher Boulevard, Hastings, Michigan 49058, as original Mortgagors, to MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., AS NOMINEE FOR AMERIFIRST FINANCIAL CORPORATION, being a mortgage dated May 28, 2021, and recorded on June 1, 2021 with Document Number 2021-007090, Barry County Records, State of Michigan and then assigned to Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC, as assignee as documented by an assignment dated March 29, 2024 and recorded on March 29, 2024 and given document number 2024-002088 in Barry County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of TWO HUNDRED FORTY-SIX THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED AND 11/100 DOLLARS ($246,600.11). Said premises are situated in the Township of Hastings, County of Barry, State of Michigan, and are described as: UNIT 19, OF SUMMERWYN ESTATES EAST CONDOMINIUMS, FORMERLY KNOWN AS, CREEKWOOD SITE CONDOMINIUMS, ACCORDING TO THE MASTER DEED RECORDED IN DOCUMENT NUMBER 1024069 AND AMENDEMENTS, RECORDED IN 2016-010383 AND RE RECORDED IN 2017-05529, AS AMENDED, BARRY COUNTY RECORDS, AND DESIGNATED AS BARRY COUNTY CONDOMINIUM SUBDIVISION PLAN NO. 13, TOGETHER WITH RIGHTS IN THE GENERAL COMMON ELEMENTS AND THE LIMITED COMMON ELEMENTS AS SHOWN ON THE MASTER DEED AND AS DESCRIBED IN ACT 59 OF THE PUBLIC ACTS OF 1978, AS AMENDED. Street Address: 1249 Boncher Boulevard, Hastings, Michigan 49058 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA § 600.3241a in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of the sale. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCLA § 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. THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. 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: February 20, 2025 For more information, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing: Kenneth J. Johnson (P69564), Johnson, Blumberg, & Associates, LLC, 5955 West Main Street, Suite 509, Kalamazoo, MI 49009. Telephone: (312) 541-9710. File No.: MI 24 6194 (02-20)(03-13)

STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF BARRY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

Living Trust of Mary Lou Stanton, dated July 29, 1993, as restated on July 30, 2013.
Mary Lou Stanton
Date of Birth of Decedent: October 22, 1928
Date of Death of Decedent: January 19, 2025
TO ALL CREDITORS:

The decedent, Mary Lou Stanton, Settlor of the Living Trust of Mary Lou Stanton, dated July 29, 1993, as restated on July 30, 2013, died on January 19, 2025.

There is no personal representative of Settlor's estate to whom letters of administration have been issued.

Creditors of Settlor are notified that all claims against the Living Trust of Mary Lou Stanton, dated January 19, 2025, will be forever barred unless presented to Sue A. Diamond or Robert J. Stanton Jr., Successor Co-Trustees, within four months after the date of publication.

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

Date: February 18, 2025
PREPARED BY: Kenneth L. O'Deen (P58004) Attorney at Law 133 S. Cochran Avenue Charlotte, Michigan 48813 (517) 543-5551 SUCCESSOR CO-TRUSTEES: Sue A. Diamond Successor Co-Trustee 23431 74th Avenue West Edmonds, WA 98026 Robert J. Stanton Jr. Successor Co-Trustee 304 South Poplar Avenue Corbin, KY 40701

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VIEW Newspaper Group

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in BARRY County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on March 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. MORTGAGE INFORMATION: Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Angela Marie Metzger and Brad Allen Jousma, joint tenancy with full rights of survivorship, whose address is 600 E. North Street, Hastings, Michigan 49058, as original Mortgagors, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Amerifirst Financial Corporation, being a mortgage dated July 9, 2021, and recorded on July 20, 2021 with Document Number 2021-009248, Barry County Records, State of Michigan and then assigned to Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC, as assignee as documented by an assignment dated January 29, 2025 and recorded on February 3, 2025 and given document number 2025-000828 in Barry County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of TWO HUNDRED THIRTY-THREE THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED SIXTY-SIX AND 02/100 DOLLARS ($233,466.02). Said premises are situated in the City of Hastings, County of Barry, State of Michigan, and are described as: COMMENCING AT THE NORTH 1/4 CORNER OF SECTION 8, TOWN 3 NORTH, RANGE 8 WEST; THENCE SOUTH 0 DEGREES 03'20" WEST 1743.01 FEET ALONG THE NORTH-SOUTH 1/4 LINE OF SAID SECTION 8; THENCE 90 DEGREES 0'00" EAST 99 FEET ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF NORTH STREET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE SOUTH 90 DEGREES 0' 00" EAST 30.75 FEET ALONG SAID SOUTH LINE; THENCE EASTERLY 68.52 FEET ALONG SAID SOUTH LINE, AND A CURVE TO THE LEFT OF THE RADIUS OF WHICH IS 433.00 FEET AND THE CHORD OF WHICH BEARS NORTH 85 DEGREES 27'59" EAST 68.45 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 0 DEGREES 03' 20" EAST 360.41 FEET; THENCE NORTH 90 DEGREES 00' 00" WEST 99.00 FEET; THENCE NORTH 0 DEGREES 03' 20" WEST 355.00 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. Street Address: 600 E. North Street, Hastings, Michigan 49058 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA § 600.3241a in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of the sale. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCLA § 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. THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. 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: February 13, 2025 For more information, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing: Kenneth J. Johnson (P69564), Johnson, Blumberg, & Associates, LLC, 5955 West Main Street, Suite 509, Kalamazoo, MI 49009. Telephone: (312) 541-9710. File No.: MI 25 6254 (02-13)(03-06)

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

Estate of Gerald Norman Knapper. Date of birth: 02/26/1930.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Gerald Norman Knapper, died 01/12/2025.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Diane T. Mulvaine, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 4312 Indian Isle St. Battle Creek, MI. 49017 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: 02/20/25
Diane T. Mulvaine
4312 Indian Isle St.
Battle Creek, Michigan 49017
(269) 401-0485

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
BARRY COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. 25-30015 DE and JUDGE: Hon: William M. Doherty

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

Estate of Jerry Lee Patrick. Date of birth: 09/13/1952.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Jerry Lee Patrick, died 06/24/2024.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Diana Lea French, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 206 West Court St., Hastings, MI 49058 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: 02/03/25
Victor L. Bland P38278
4341 S. Westnedge Avenue, Ste. 2202
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
269-382-6900
Diana Lea French
12786 Boysen Road
Shelbyville, MI 49344
269-370-9145

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Barry County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM on MARCH 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. Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Zachary R. Koon and Sierra W. O'Connell Koon, husband and wife, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Amerifirst Financial Corporation, Mortgagee, dated December 6, 2016 and recorded December 14, 2016 in Instrument Number 2016-012461 Barry County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by MIDFIRST BANK, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Sixty-Six Thousand Four Hundred Thirty-Seven and 53/100 Dollars ($66,437.53). Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Barry County, Michigan at 1:00 PM on MARCH 20, 2025. Said premises are located in the Township of Prairieville, Barry County Michigan, and are described as: Commencing at the North 1/4 post, Section 29, Town 1 North, Range 10 West, thence South 2640 feet to the center of the section; thence West parallel with the North section line 650 feet to the point of beginning; thence North 660 feet parallel with the North and South 1/4 line; thence West parallel with the North section line 132 feet; thence South parallel with the North and South 1/4 line 660 feet; thence East parallel with the North section line 132 feet to the point of beginning. Also conveying an easement for said parcel for ingress and egress commencing at the center of the section; thence North 33 feet; thence West 650 feet; thence South 66 feet; thence East 650 feet; thence North 33 feet to the point of beginning. 14460 Burchette Rd, Plainwell, Michigan 49080. The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period. Dated: February 20, 2025 File No. 25-001299 Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084 Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400

NOTICE

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

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

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

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

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

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

8150 Tasker Rd, Bellevue, Michigan 49021

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

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

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

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 March 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): Rylee Nicholson and Ty Sinclair, joint tenants Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender's successors and assigns Date of mortgage: September 30, 2022 Recorded on October 7, 2022, in Document No. 2022-010426, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Servis One, Inc. DBA BSI Financial Services Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: Two Hundred Twenty-Six Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty-Eight and 77/100 Dollars ($226,728.77) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Barry County, and described as: The North 5 acres of the East 1/2 of the West 1/2 of the Northeast 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 15, Town 3 North, Range 8 West, Barry County, Michigan. Commonly known as 2340 E State Rd, Hastings, MI 49058 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. Servis One, Inc. DBA BSI Financial Services Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400

1553861
(02-27)(03-20)

SPORTS

Vikings reach final four for first time in 20 years

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The last hope for the Vikings reaching the state wrestling championship match for the first time ever on Saturday came down to an eight second ride.

Lakewood senior LJ Rogers played the bull, and he very nearly displaced his rider.

Yale 138-pounder Logan Winters held to a 3-2 lead after scoring a two-point reversal with 23 seconds remaining in the third period of his bout with Rogers. The two were set for a restart with eight seconds left on the clock.

At the whistle, Rogers spun out to his left and then back into Winters nearly managing to score a reversal with Winters on his back in the middle of the mat, but Winters recovered. When that push failed, Rogers shot to his feet and Winters wrapped himself around Rogers' waist. Rogers drove forward, pushing hard with his left leg, and Winters had slipped down down below Rogers' right knee clinging to an ankle when the horn sounded.

Ten bouts into the MHSAA Division 3 Team Wrestling Semifinal at Wings Event Center in Kalamazoo Saturday afternoon Yale had a 35-17 lead on the Lakewood varsity wrestling team, meaning any more points in the final four bouts would clinch a Yale victory. The three Winters took with his 3-2 decision sealed the deal in what would be a 43-25 Yale win.

The Bulldogs went on to be the Dundee Vikings' annual victim in the Division 3 State Championship falling 74-0. Dundee has now won eight straight MHSAA Division 3 Team Wrestling State Championships.

Lakewood matched its best state tournament run ever by earning a spot in the final four for the first time since a one-point loss to Lowell in the MHSAA Division 2 Semifinals in 2004.

"Nothing to hang our heads about," Lakewood head coach Tony Harmer said. "It's been 20 years since we were in the final four. We're doing the right things. We have a bunch of freshmen that are coming back. We had great senior leadership that got us here. Those freshmen coming back though, they're going to get better over the summer. They're truly going to get better over the summer."

Even if Rogers had managed to escape Winters' grasp, or clinch a win in the 138-pound bout with a reversal, Lakewood still would have had a lot of work to do in the final three bouts to keep the 2025 tournament run going.

Yale scored five pins in the first ten matches of the dual to build its nearly insurmountable lead getting six points from Cole McLaughlin at 175 pounds, William Spain at 190, Mackey McClelland at 113, Logan Rhodes at 120 and Kersten McClelland at 32 pounds. Jacob Everett at 190 pounds and Vincent Stamm at 132 were the only two Lakewood guys to make it beyond the first period in those matches.

While the Vikings' weren't mathematically out of it at that point, coach Harmer said his corner knew that the math wasn't working out once McClelland pinned Stamm, one of the Vikings' three individual state qualifiers this season.

"We had some disappointments, that is really what it is," Harmer said. "It's about match-ups and it's about doing your job when you're out there and the expectations."

Early Lakewood wins included a 9-6 victory for Alexander Risk at 165 pounds against Yale's Dominic Burns to open the dual and a 10-1 major decision by Joel Simon in his 215-pound match with Yale's Josh Harrison. Coach Harmer did think both of those guys may have been able to push just a little more in an attempt to score more team points in those two bouts.

Lakewood did have an 18-12 lead six bouts into the semifinal. Bryan Aguilera had another explosive match for Lakewood with a pin of Yale's Shawn Coarse 21 seconds into the 285-pound bout and then 106-pounder Dakota Harmer followed up with an 18-3 technical fall over Yale's Pierce Moran.

Yale won the next five matches though with three pins, a 15-0 technical fall by Landon Sopha over Viking senior Kade Boucher and Winters' win.

Boucher was really pleased his team helped him earn one more day of varsity wrestling, alongside his father, assistant coach Nick Boucher, and his brother, sophomore Bryson Boucher, with Friday's quarterfinal victory over Whitehall, but he had the toughest of draws Saturday. Sopha's technical fall was his 200th varsity victory in four years. He is 51-4 on the season and was a state runner-up as a sophomore.

Bryce Goodemoot came out strong for Lakewood after Rogers' loss and took an 18-6 major decision over Yale's Caiden Hackett at 144 pounds. Bryson Boucher followed that up with a 5-0 shut out of Yale's Levi Frazer in the 150-pound match.

Senior Calder Villanueva was the last guy on the mat for Lakewood, falling 21-5 by technical fall to Yale's Finn Ruediger.

Perennial state champion Dundee defeated Allegan 72-0 in the other state semifinal in Kalamazoo Saturday, and it was a pin by Ogemaw Heights' 113-pounder Roman Goulette in the quarterfinals Friday that kept the Dundee squad from shutting out all three of its opponents over the weekend.

Dundee dispatched of its quarterfinal opponent, Ogemaw Heights 75-6, while Lakewood and Whitehall were at the midpoint of their dual Friday. Allegan beat Hart 35-24 and Yale toppled Madison 41-24 in the other two D3 State Quarterfinals Friday.

Dundee has only missed appearing in the Division 3 State Final once since 2007 and has now won 12 state titles since then including the last eight. Whitehall had been the state runner-up in D3 to the Dundee Vikings in three of the past four seasons before falling to Lakewood Friday.

State Quarterfinals

Jacob Everett lit a spark.

Joel Simon got a fire going.

Bryan Aguilera blew up a whole crate of fireworks.

Those three had the first real successes for the Lakewood varsity wrestling team in its MHSAA Division 3 State Quarterfinal against Whitehall at Wings Event Center in Kalamazoo Friday. The fifth-seeded Lakewood Vikings "upset" fourth-seeded Whitehall 38-28 to earn a spot in Saturday's D3 State Semifinals against third-seeded Yale.

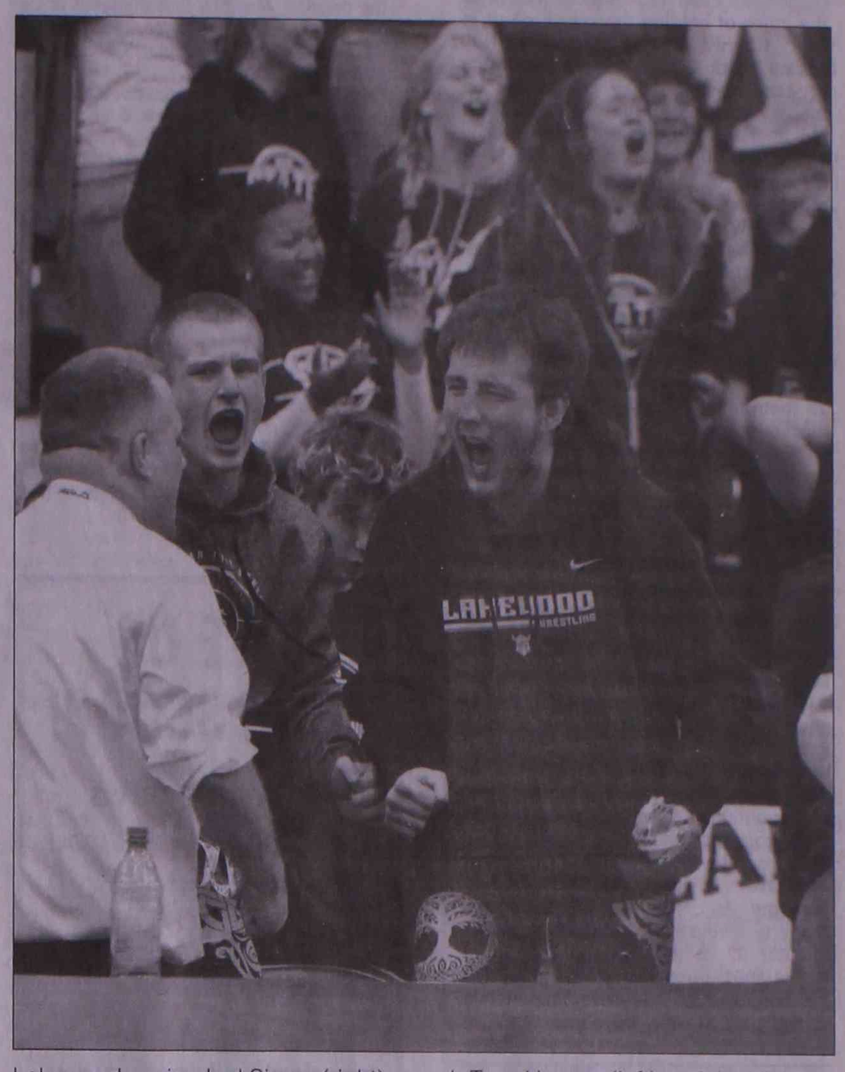
The freshman Everett drew gasps and the first real signs of enthusiasm from the Lakewood bench when he earned a quick reversal against Whitehall senior Gavin Craner in the 190-pound match. Craner recovered to pin Everett moments later, in 1:27 total, and improve to 54-0 on the season. Craner is the defending 175-pound state champion in D3, and was the state runner-up at that weight class wrestling for Belding back when he was a sophomore. Only a handful of wrestlers all season have been even able to score an escape point or two against him - let alone a reversal.

Craner's pin did put the Whitehall Vikings in front 16-0 three matches into the quarterfinal. Simon, a senior, got the Vikings their first points on the team scoreboard with a 1-0 decision against Parker Mott in the 215-pound bout, although that was a weight class where Lakewood may have really been hoping to get more than three points.

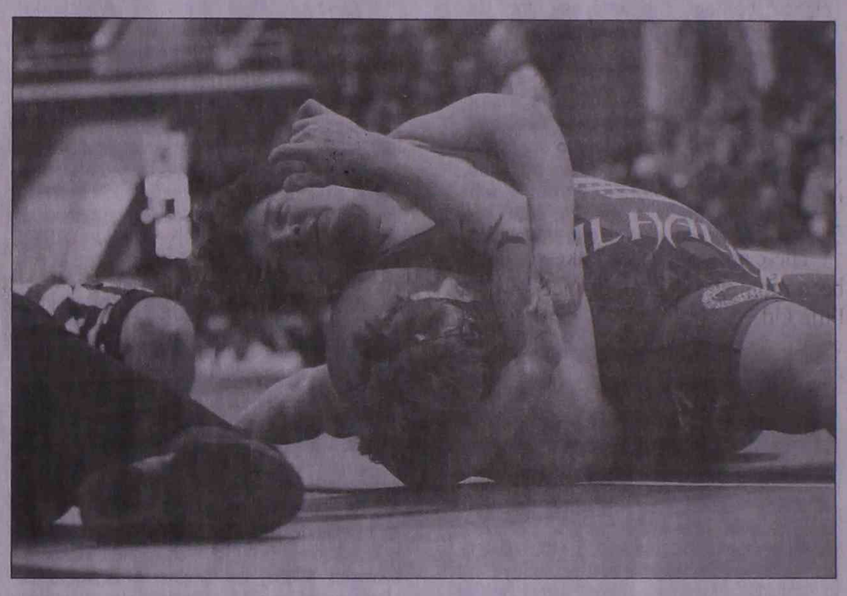
Aguilera, another senior, followed up with a stunning heavyweight match in which he pinned Whitehall's Wyatt Jenkins at the 3-minute mark, one minute into the second period. Jenkins, who won an individual regional title at 215 pounds last weekend and is now 49-3 overall this season, scored a couple nearfall points and led 5-0 at the end of the first period. Aguilera got a throw in half a minute into the second period though and turned it into a pin that sent the Vikings into a frenzy.

Whitehall started the dual with a pair of five-point technical falls thanks to Blake English outscoring junior Alexander Risk 16-0 at 165 pounds and Liam Leeke taking a 19-4 win over junior Owen Prowdley at 175.

The Vikings did some work making up for a tough individual regional the previous Saturday in Whitehall. Lakewood head coach Tony Harmer said Everett's reversal there against Craner was a good pick-me-up for Everett after a heart-breaking blood round loss at the individual regional. Aguilera and Dakota Harmer both had blood round losses at individual regionals too and came up huge for Lakewood Friday. Another Lakewood senior, Kade Boucher, was pretty happy to extend his high school wrestling career another day after he wasn't able to earn the return to trip to the individual state finals he was seeking this season.



Lakewood senior Joel Simon (right), coach Tony Harmer (left) and the Viking sideline celebrates clinching its victory over Whitehall in the MHSAA Division 3 Team Wrestling Quarterfinal at Wings Event Center in Kalamazoo Friday.
Photos by Brett Bremer



Lakewood senior Bryan Aguilera works on a pin of Whitehall's Wyatt Jenkins in the second period of their 285-pound match Friday in the MHSAA Division 3 Team Wrestling Quarterfinals at Wings Event Center in Kalamazoo.

"It means a lot. I was disappointed in what happened last Saturday obviously," Kade said. "I am happy that now I get one more match, at least, maybe even two hopefully."

Dakota in the 106-pound bout got an escape early in the third period for the first point in his contest with Whitehall's Thomas Leeke. The score was evened in the last seconds as Leeke was awarded a point for a stalling penalty against Dakota, but in the one-minute sudden victory overtime period it was Dakota scoring a take down in the closing seconds that earned him a 4-1 win.

Lakewood went on to get a 9-1 major decision from Stephen Aldrich in his 113-pound match with Kassie Sapp, a 4-0 win from Vincent Stamm over Max Kurkowski at 126 pounds, a 17-7 major decision for Kade Boucher at 132 pounds against Jason Sheaffer and an 8-0 major decision from LJ Rogers in the 138-pound match against Kolten Weiler.

Aldrich's win at 113 tied the dual at 16-16 at the midway point. Cody Manzo pinned Lakewood's Eric Bartlett 52 seconds into the 120-pound match to put Whitehall momentarily back in front 22-16.

The string of wins by Stamm, Boucher and Rogers had Lakewood up 27-12. Whitehall's Caden Varela took a pin in the 144-pound match against Lakewood's Bryce Goodemoot that flipped the lead again to 28-27 in favor of Whitehall. Goodemoot put up a solid fight, but Varela finally got him on his back in the final minute of the third period.

From there, Bryson Boucher and Calder Villanueva took care of business for Lakewood. Bryson went right at Wyatt McFarren with one of Lakewood's most aggressive performances of the night and pinned him 1:41 into the opening period. Villanueva basically just needed to not get pinned to seal the win for Lakewood, and that never was much of a concern as he took a 19-3 technical fall against Colton Kyser.

Kade said he gets more anxious watching Bryson wrestle than he is for his own matches, and was happy to see him use his speed to go after points against McFarren.

"I was excited. It was just pure enjoyment," Kade said of being on the side watching Villanueva finish off the win. "I'm happy for him. I'm happy he got out of his head and got it done."

Bryson Boucher, Stamm and Simon are the three Lakewood grapplers who also have more wrestling ahead this weekend at Ford Field in Detroit for the MHSAA Division 3 Individual State Finals.

The win Friday was a big turnaround from when the two teams met back in December of 2024. Whitehall beat the Lakewood team 46-24 Dec. 28 at Grandville's Marge and Tate Frederick Invitational. Dakota Harmer flipped his match from that one. Thomas Leeke beat him 7-2 in Grandville, and the Vikings didn't have Aguilera in the line-up at that point, and coach Harmer said his team had a lot of guys still working on getting to the weight they wanted to wrestle at back then. Villanueva didn't wrestle that day either and LHS Vikings had a void in the line-up at 120 pounds.

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Hilton finds touch at the line to finish district win

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Thornapple Kellogg junior forward Trey Hilton took the ball away from the Scots and went to the free throw line with 70 seconds to play in their MHSAA Division 1 District opener at Wyoming High School Monday.

Hilton buried two free throws to give the Trojans their first lead of the second half and the Trojans held the lead the rest of the night.

The TK varsity boys' basketball team earned a spot in Wednesday's (Feb. 26) MHSAA Division 1 District Semifinal against Byron Center back in Wyoming with a 44-37 win over the Caledonia boys.

"I feel like once we work as a team and love each other, things go well for us," Hilton said. "As soon as we play on-on-one things don't work out, but once we love each other, work together and play basketball as a group, as a whole instead of five individual people, it is a really solid squad. Part of that started with a lot of offensive rebonds and a lot of easy buckets we were getting."

Hilton's two free throws that put TK in front 37-36 were part of a 12-1 run by the Trojans to close out the ballgame. Hilton, who has made a little over half of his free throws this season, was a perfect 6-for-6 at the line for TK in the fourth quarter and finished with ten points before fouling out late in the ballgame.

"I told him, I said I'm so proud of you because he has been struggling. He is usually like 50-60 percent from the line, and I thought oh, boy, but he came up clutch," TK head coach Phil Garber said. "Those were those moments to seal it at end end. It was great to see that."

"I love being in clutch situations," Hilton said.

Trojan junior forward Lucas Ploeg buried two three-pointers and had a big offensive put-back during the fourth quarter to wipe out what had been a 27-20 Caledonia lead early in the fourth. He finished with 11 points.

TK junior guard Ben Lloyd had a game-high 16 points including a three and a few free throws in the fourth quarter.

The young Caledonia squad got 14 points from sophomore forward Bryce Backus, ten points from sophomore guard Ben Geerdes and eight from senior guard Parker Little.

Points were tough to come by in a ballgame where the officials let the two teams play. It was a 7-7 tie after one quarter and the Scots led 16-10 at the half.

"They're a physical team for sure," Hilton said. "Props to them, a whole bunch of sophomores out there, they know they have to play physical and they did and they made it tough, but not tough enough I guess."

A 5-0 lead by TK at the start of the game, and a seven-point lead early in the second half for the Scots were the biggest lead for either side until TK pulled away in the end.

"They did nothing [special]," TK head coach Phil Garber said. "They ran man. They did some heavy ball denial … on our end we went into man in the second half and turned it up. That was a good turnaround. It was the second game in a row we were down eight, ten points hey, we've got to battle back. We've got to battle back.

"That is not what you expect, but it is. It's championship basketball. I told them it's districts, anything can happen. Every team comes to battle. Nobody is just going to lay down for you."

The Trojans made the bounces go their way late with a little extra hustle. Hilton had the take away that led to his go-ahead free throws, and Trojan senior guard Jude Webster got a takeaway on the press after those foul shots, getting the ball up off the floor to Ploeg who then found senior guard Bryce Lloyd for an easy two points. TK also kept a few possessions alive late by tipping rebounds away from the Fighting Scots.

"I told them, when you guys are everywhere like that it is hard to stop you. You get on that roll, so that was good to see," Garber said. "I don't think we ever cracked under that pressure. We have been here before. Don't make this moment bigger than what it is I said during a timeout with 30 seconds left. You know what to do, get one stop and the game is over and that is exactly what happened."

The winner from Wednesday night's ballgame in Wyoming will be back there Friday for the district final set to tip off at 7 p.m. East Kentwood and Wyoming were set to meet in the district's other semifinal ballgame Wednesday. The host Wolves outscored Ottawa Hills 74-68 in their opening round ballgame Monday.



Thornapple Kellogg junior Trey Hilton puts a shot over Caledonia sophomore Lincoln Senti in the paint during their MHSAA Division 1 District Quarterfinal ballgame at Wyoming High School Monday. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

Vikings leverage defense to edge out Olivet in district

Jayson Bussa
Contributing Writer

Teams don't have to spend hours analyzing film to come up with a scouting report on the Lakewood boys basketball team.

Coach Jason Solgat will tell anyone to their face exactly what his team will be running on defense.

"There are no secrets; Lakewood has been running a 3-2 zone since I was a little kid," Solgat said. "We, as a team, were trying to find an identity defensively. … We went all in on a 3-2-style zone."

At times on Monday night, especially in the first quarter of play, that zone completely shut down Olivet to help propel the Vikings (6-16) to a 40-38 victory in the Division 2 district quarterfinals. Monday served as the rubber match for the two teams, who split in regular season play this season.

The victory moved Lakewood to the district semifinals where they were scheduled to host Lansing Sexton last night (Feb. 26), a team that tagged the Vikings with a couple of losses this year in Capital Area Activities Conference White Division play.

While Lakewood's zone shut the water off on Olivet (5-18) in the first quarter, and the Vikings never trailed during the game, that didn't mean it wasn't a nail-biter. In fact, the contest came down to the last possession, where the Eagles were able to launch a game-winning shot attempt. Out of a timeout with three seconds left, the Eagles found a flashing Zaiden Bramer, who launched a 3-point attempt that missed everything.

The thrilling conclusion came on the heels of the Vikings carving out their largest lead of the game in the fourth quarter. When Troy Acker knocked down a free throw with just over three minutes left in the game, Lakewood took a 33-25 lead, which was a comfortable lead relative to the low-scoring game.

Acker, a senior, attacked the rim down the final stretch to keep his team afloat offensively.

"I don't always just look to take over late but sometimes I feel like I want to get a bucket so I just go get the bucket," Acker said. "I have that mentality when I go to the hoop that no one is going to stop me."

After building the eight-point lead, the Vikings missed some key free throws and Olivet saw a flurry of scoring from Ethan Miars, who finished with nine points to tighten up the game. Olivet's Jack Masters hit a 3-pointer with 9 seconds left to cut his team's deficit to just one point. Lakewood's Hollis Poll responded by making one of his two free throws. That gave the Eagles an opportunity to tie or win the game.

"(The win) told us that we can play as one and not as individuals," said Solgat, who tipped his cap to the Lakewood student section, which he said helped his team build momentum. "That's what we have really been talking a lot about — doing it for each other and not for one."



Troy Acker, senior guard for Lakewood, looks to use a pick set by freshman Bryer Poll to drive to the rim during Monday night's Division 2 District Quarterfinal basketball game against Olivet at Lakewood High School. **Photo by Jayson Bussa**

Acker and freshman Bryer Poll carried the offensive load for the Vikings and did it in different halves of play. Acker came alive in the second half, and down the crucial final stretch, to finish with 17 total points. Nine of those points came in the second half.

Poll, who was force inside for the Vikings, finished with 11 points with seven of those in the first half.

Arguably the difference maker in the game, though, came early. Lakewood locked in their zone defense and nearly held Olivet scoreless for the whole first quarter. Ben Possehn hit a 3-pointer with 1:17 left in the first quarter for the Eagles' only points. Lakewood led 9-3 after the first frame.

Olivet was able to find its offensive footing, but the zone defense continued to give the Eagles problems throughout the rest of the game. Down the final stretch, when the Eagles needed to score quickly, they circled the perimeter looking to penetrate.

"We knew what Olivet was going to bring to the table — we knew where to jam in at," Solgat said. "We made a couple of adjustments in the second half to take away the middle and they were working hard in that middle."

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
BARRY COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. AND JUDGE
25-30034-DE HON WILLIAM DOHERTY

Court address: 206 W. Court Street Ste 302, Hastings MI 49058

Estate of Scott Laroy Sunior. Date of birth: 10/24/1961.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, SCOTT LAROY SUNIOR, died 12/16/2024.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to CHARLES RICHARD SUNIOR, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 206 West Court St. Suite 302, Hastings, MI 49058 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: 02/21/25
Jackie L. Baker P76955
137 W. State Street
Hastings, MI 49058
269-945-3999
Charles Richard Sunior
334 E. State Street
Hastings, MI 49058
269-953-5716

Synopsis
Hope Township

Regular Board Meeting
Feb 17, 2025

Meeting opened at 6:30 pm

Approved:

Consent agenda

Salary Resolutions

Deputy Clerk, Deputy Treasurer and Code Officer wage increase

Assessor's salary

Fire Dept Appropriations

Approve publishing and sending budget to public hearing

Adjourned at 6:59 pm

Submitted by:
Deborah Jackson, Clerk

Attested to by
Doug Peck, Supervisor

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 March 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): Justin D. Drenth, a single man Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender`s successors and assigns Date of mortgage: October 22, 2019 Recorded on October 28, 2019, in Document No. 2019-010426, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Ninety-Five Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty-Two and 28/100 Dollars ($195,862.28) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Barry County, and described as: COMMENCING IN THE CENTER OF THE HIGHWAY AT THE INTERSECTION OF HIGHWAYS LEADING TO PLEASURE POINT, AS RECORDED IN LIBER 2 OF PLATS, PAGE 12 AND BONIFACE POINT, AS RECORDED IN LIBER 1 OF PLATS, PAGE 65, IN SECTION 6, TOWN 1 NORTH, RANGE 10 WEST, PINE LAKE; THENCE EASTERLY IN THE CENTER OF HIGHWAY LEADING TO PLEASURE POINT 473 FEET FOR A PLACE OF BEGINNING; THENCE NORTHERLY ALONG THE WEST SIDE GOLDSMITH PROPERTY 300 FEET TO SHORE LINE OF PINE LAKE; THENCE WESTERLY ALONG SAID SHORE LINE FOR FIFTY FEET, THENCE SOUTHERLY PARALLEL WITH SAID GOLDSMITH LINE 300 FEET TO THE CENTER OF SAID HIGHWAY, THENCE EASTERLY CENTER OF HIGHWAY FOR 50 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING. ALSO COMMENCING IN THE CENTER OF THE HIGHWAY AT THE INTERSECTION OF HIGHWAY LEADING TO SAID PLEASURE POINT AND SAID BONIFACE POINT IN SECTION 6, TOWN 1 NORTH, RANGE 10 WEST PINE; THENCE EASTERLY IN THE CENTER OF HIGHWAY LEADING TO PLEASURE POINT 373 FEET FOR A PLACE OF BEGINNING; THENCE NORTHERLY 300 FEET TO THE SHORE LINE OF PINE LAKE; THENCE EASTERLY ALONG SAID SHORE LINE FOR 50 FEET; THENCE SOUTHERLY PARALLEL WITH SAID MILLER LINE 300 FEET TO THE CENTER OF SAID HIGHWAY THENCE WESTERLY IN THE CENTER OF HIGHWAY 50 FEET TO PLACE OF BEGINNING. Commonly known as 10727 Center St, Plainwell, MI 49080 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

1554354
(02-27)(03-20)

TK comes up short of third straight finals trip

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Round one had its sparkle.

Round two was solid.

Round three just wasn't quite where it needed to be for the Thornapple Kellogg varsity competitive cheer team to make a return trip to the state finals for the third consecutive season.

The Trojans placed sixth at their MHSAA Division 2 Competitive Cheer Regional hosted by Forest Hills Northern High School Saturday.

The Trojans have made their money in round three in recent seasons, but a round three score of 309.30 Saturday wasn't enough for the TK ladies to hold the spot in the top four that they had after the first two rounds of the regional.

Plainwell, Zeeland West, Cedar Springs and Reeths-Puffer had the top four round three scores of the day at FHN and finished as the top four teams in the final standings. Plainwell won the regional title with an overall score of 767.68 ahead of Zeeland West 760.14, Cedar Springs 750.86 and Reeths-Puffer 646.60.

TK was a couple points up on Cedar Springs and Reeths-Puffer heading into round three, and Northview also jumped the Trojans in the standings in the final round. Northview was fifth, less than half a point back of the last of the four state qualifying teams with a total of 746.14 points. TK had a final score of 743.00.

The TK ladies had a score of 226 in round one and sat in second place behind only Plainwell at that point. The TK team added a score of 213.20 in round two, and was in third place going into round three.

Plainwell had the top score in each of the first two rounds at 232.20 and 224.08. The Plainwell Trojans capped off the regional championship with a score of 311.40 in round three. Zeeland West had the day's top round three score of 315.10. Cedar Springs moved into third with a score of 313.60 in round three and Reeths-Puffer into fourth with a score of 310.60 in that final round.

Mason was seventh on the day overall with a score of 739.02 ahead of Forest Hills Northern 732.92, Gull Lake 728.48, DeWitt 726.54, Mount Pleasant 718.54 and St. Johns 703.40.

The MHSAA Division 2 Competitive Cheer Finals will be held Saturday, March 1, at McGuirk Arena on the campus of Central Michigan University in Mt. Pleasant.



Junior Payton Gater and the Thornapple Kellogg varsity competitive cheer team perform back walkovers during their round two routine Saturday at the MHSAA Division 2 Competitive Cheer Regional hosted by Forest Hills Northern High School in Grand Rapids. The TK season came to an end with a sixth-place finish Saturday. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

SVSU next stop for big, talented Saxon TE

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

When Hastings sophomore quarterback Mason Tossava heaved a pass up to the sideline on a third down during his first season as the Saxons' varsity starter nobody on the Saxons sideline looked at it as a coin flip, not with senior tight end Jett Barnum on the other end.

The same went for the previous QB firing balls out to Barnum, 2024 grad Owen Carroll.

"Both of the quarterbacks that he had always talked about the fact they knew where Jett was on every play," Hastings head coach Jamie Murphy said. "Every time they were dropping back, they knew where he was. He kind of changed how we looked at things. We knew on a third or a fourth down, and everybody in the stadium knew, where the ball was going to go just because he had that innate ability to go up and compete for the ball.

"It wasn't a 50-50 ball. It was an 80-20 ball. That gave us a huge advantage on second and third down with what we were going to do."

The 6-4, 215-pound tight end, who is competing this week in districts with the Hastings varsity boys' basketball team, signed his National Letter of Intent Friday to join the Saginaw Valley State University football program next season. Murphy said Barnum is the first player to sign on at the NCAA Division II level since he has been as part of the Saxon coaching staff.

"Jett has shown over the last three years that he is one of those kids that loves the workouts, the grind. To be a college athlete you have to be able to love to grind, you have to love to practice, you have to love to work out in the weight room, because that is what you're going to do for your first couple years. You're going to be a practice guy, you're going to be a weight room guy, and you're going to have to have a great attitude about it, and he has got those qualities."



Hastings senior Jett Barnum is joined by his parents Jude and Jesse Barnum and Hastings High School football coaches Pat Coltson and Jamie Murphy as he signs his National Letter of Intent to join the Saginaw Valley State University football program next season. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

Barnum ends his time with the Saxon varsity football team as its all-time leading receiver. He had 22 catches for 209 yards and nine touchdowns as a senior even with the Saxons' Wing-T offense moving the football on the ground most of the time – and Barnum's blocking was certainly a part of that rushing success too.

"Offensively and defensively this year we were different because of him," Murphy said. "We knew he was special when he was coming up and when he was younger and we have kind of changed our offense to fit him into what we do. We do that with our defense every year and we do that with our offensive with different kids. We do that to fit the kids that we have. He was a little bit different in terms of his athletic ability on the edge and his ability to go after balls. His ability to just compete in the air. That made us change things. He made us a lot better."

Barnum also scored on a pick six this fall, and had 63 tackles, six sacks and four forced fumbles playing a defensive end spot. He went through the recruitment process as a tight end and outside linebacker, and said he is looking forward to being on the offensive side of the ball at SVSU.

"I went there and it was all energy, all hype, I really loved the atmosphere and can see myself working there for the next four years," Barnum said. "That is kind of what was the deciding factor, like man I'm going to go there and I'm going to work my tail off for four or five years and just kick it. Hopefully, get a starting job there real soon."

He knows he'll have to get stronger to do that, and he is expecting a much broader college playbook to be one of the challenges he'll face right away at the next level. Barnum said he chose SVSU in part because of the atmosphere, but also because he sees a good business school there and an affordable one too.

Barnum won't be too far from home competing with the Cardinals in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, also home to Grand Valley State University and the Ferris State University team that has won three of the past four NCAA Division II Football National Championships.

While winning all kinds of all-conference, all-region and all-county awards for football throughout high school, and being a key member of the Saxon varsity boys' basketball team for three seasons, Barnum has also won numerous track and field accolades most notably an all-state finish with the Saxon 4x400-meter relay team that placed second at the 2023 MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 2 Finals.

Barnum was as part of the Saxon varsity football team that won a district title his sophomore season in 2022. The Saxons have been in the postseason in each of the past five seasons and won at least a share of four straight Interstate-8 Athletic Conference Championships from 2020-2023.

"Football has always just been a big sport for me," Barnum said. "I have always watched highlights growing up of people catching footballs, and I have always grinded towards one thing and that was football. No matter what, where I was at, because I moved here in fifth grade, no matter where I was at or what I was playing I was always giving my all in football. It was kind of the sport I fell in love with, so that is kind of why I want to keep it going."

Sure, Murphy is a tad biased, but he thinks the Cardinals got a steal in adding Barnum.

"He has all the capabilities of blocking in space, drive blocking off the line, going up and getting the ball off the air and running clean routes. People thought this offense might hold him back and limit his capability of going on to the next level, and it really didn't. When you have got talent, talent is going to play anywhere," Murphy said.

Yankee Springs Township
284 N. BRIGGS ROAD- MIDDLEVILLE, MICHIGAN 49333
269-795-9091 / FAX 269-795-2388

NOTICE OF ORDINANCE ADOPTION

TOWNSHIP OF YANKEE SPRINGS BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN

TO: THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF YANKEE SPRINGS, BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN, AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the following is a summary of Ordinance No. 02-13-2025-1 which was adopted by the Yankee Springs Township Board at a regular meeting held on February 13, 2025.

ORDINANCE 02-13-2025-1 - FIRE DEPARTMENT ORDINANCE

SECTION 1 SCOPE, PURPOSE, INTENT. This section includes the purpose to establish a Township fire department, to establish rules and regulations and prescribe duties of fire department volunteers and employees.
SECTION 2 GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE AREA. The fire department will provide coverage to the entire Township.
SECTION 3 SCOPE AND LEVEL OF SERVICES. The fire department is authorized to provide a range fire services to the township citizens.
SECTION 4 BASIC ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE. This section provides the organization of the fire department.
SECTION 5 FIRE DEPARTMENT FINANCES. This section specifies methods of financing the fire department operations.
SECTION 6 FIRE DEPARTMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS. This section authorizes the Township Board to prepare and adopt rules and regulations for the fire department.
SECTION 7 CHIEF DUTIES. This section specifies the authorities and duties of the fire department chief.
SECTION 8 FIREFIGHTERS. This section includes requirements and provisions regarding firefighters.
SECTION 9 TRAINING. This section includes requirements for training and certifications for fire department personnel.
SECTION 10 SAFETY. This section includes the requirement to develop and adopt safety regulations for fire department operations.
SECTION 11 DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE. This section authorizes the fire chief to develop and recommend disciplinary procedures to the township board for department personnel.
SECTION 12 COMPENSATION. This section includes regulations regarding compensation for fire department personnel.
SECTION 13 PUBLIC CONTACT. This section authorizes the chief or designed to represent the township regarding fire department matters.
SECTION 14 EMERGENCY RESPONSES. This section provides that fire department personnel shall only respond outside of the township pursuant to recog nized mutual/automatic aid agreements.
SECTION 15 DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLES. This section authorizes the township board to provide necessary vehicles and equipment for fire fighting operations and for the chief to recommend the types of equipment and vehicles needed.
SECTION 16 DEPARTMENT BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES. The township board shall determine the number of buildings/facilities needed for the fire department. The chief shall ensure the maintenance of fire department buildings and facilities.
SECTION 17 SOLICITING DONATIONS. The township board must approve all fundraising activities. All donations shall be submitted to the township treasurer. Fire department personnel may establish a tax exempt organization for fundraising activities.
SECTION 18 SEVERABILITY. The provisions of this Ordinance are severable.SECTION 19 EFFECTIVE DATE/REPEAL. This Ordinance shall take effect the day after publication after adoption. All ordinances in conflict are herewith repealed.

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

YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP
Tom Hopkins, Clerk
284 N. Briggs Road Middleville, MI 49333 (269) 795-9091

TOWNSHIP OF HOPE
Notice of Budget Public Hearing

The Hope Township Board will hold a public hearing on the proposed township budget for fiscal year 2025-26 on Monday March 17,2025 at 6:30 p.m., at the Hope Township Hall 5463 S M-43 Hwy Hastings MI 49058, the Regular Board meeting to follow.

THE PROPERTY TAX MILLAGE RATE PROPOSED TO BE LEVIED TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSED BUDGET WILL BE A SUBJECT OF THIS HEARING. A copy of the budget is available for public inspection at the Township hall. This notice is posted in compliance with PA267 of 1976 as amended (Open Meetings Act), MCLA 41.72a (2) (3) and the Americans with Disabilities Act. (ADA) The Hope Township Board will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting upon seven days notice to the Hope Township Board. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Hope Township Board by writing, calling or via email the following:

Deborah Jackson
Hope Township Clerk
5463 S M-43 Hwy.
Hastings, MI 49058
(269) 948-2464 clerk@hopetownship.com

Lions and Panthers nearly reach regional tournament

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

They were so close.

The Maple Valley varsity competitive cheer team placed fifth and the Delton Kellogg team sixth at the MHSAA Division 4 Competitive Cheer District Saturday, Feb. 15, at Schoolcraft High School.

The Lions were better than seven teams at their cheer district, but were shooting for being better than eight. Host Schoolcraft earned the fourth and final regional qualifying spot by outscoring the Lions by 1.18 points over the course of the three rounds.

The Lions put on a great charge in the end. Maple Valley's round three score of 284.60 points was bettered only by the district champions from Coloma and was 9.4 points better than the round three score of the Schoolcraft ladies, but not quite enough to catch them.

Lion head coach Sarah Huissen said she thought her girls performed three great rounds on the day, "but so did the other four teams that advanced to regionals. I am so proud of this team and their accomplishments this season."

Coloma won the district championship with an overall score of 735.54 points. Lawton was second with a score of 688.90, White Pigeon third at 663.60 and Schoolcraft fourth with a final tally of 653.30. Maple Valley put up a three-round score of 652.12.

There were three teams within ten points of the Schoolcraft for the final regional qualifying spot. Delton Kellogg was sixth overall with a score of 648.20 ahead of Gobles 644.10, Comstock 591.40, Covert 558.20, Bloomingdale 510.00, Constantine 501.02 and Hartford 490.60.

Despite not being too far from advancing, Delton Kellogg head coach Zoe Reynolds said it was still a great way to end her team's season. The Panthers had their best overall score of the year.

"The girls performed with confidence and pride," Reynolds said. "We missed moving on by just a few points, and as sad as we were, they were happy with how they performed."

The Delton Kellogg team's round one was its best of the season with a 208.5 score, and coach Reynolds said it was a huge improvement from the team's first meet of the season where they earned a score of 179.1. She said her girls were on time with their jumps and their motions.

DK was third after that opening round. She said that her team was a bit shaky in round two, but still good overall.

The Panthers closed out their season with their best round three performance of the season which earned a score of 266.3. That total was more than 70 points better than their first round three attempt this season.

While Delton Kellogg started strong, round one was the one where the Maple Valley score wasn't quite up to the challenge of keeping up with the district leaders. Maple Valley had a score of 196.00 in round one. All four regional qualifying teams were over 200 points in the round, as were Delton Kellogg and Gobles. The Lions were in seventh after round one and still seventh after round two after tallying a score of 171.52 in round two which included a ten-point deduction.

Coloma had the top score in each of the three rounds. The Comets scored 222.40 points in round one, 210.14 in round two and 303.00 in round three. They were the only ones to score more than 200 points in round two and the only ones to pass the 300-point mark in round three.

"Overall, the season was not a smooth as one hopes for, but I am still proud of these young ladies," coach Reynolds said. "We improved over 100 points from our first meet in December. We are losing a few seniors and a few foreign exchange students. I expect to have a strong and eager team next year."



The Delton Kellogg varsity competitive cheer team celebrates a successful performance at its MHSAA Division 4 District Feb. 15 at Schoolcraft High School. The Panthers had their top score of the season while placing sixth.
Photo provided

Hastings downs Hopkins in district opener at Hamilton

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Hopkins made a late run with the help of a few Hastings turnovers, but the Saxons prevailed to get another shot at Holland Christian.

The Hastings varsity boys' basketball team was set to face the Maroons in the MHSAA Division 2 Boys' Basketball District Semifinals at Hamilton High School Wednesday, Feb. 26. The Maroons ended the Saxons' season in the district semifinals a year ago.

The Saxons opened the state tournament with a 56-52 win over Hopkins in the district's opening round at Hamilton High School Monday.

Saxon head coach Jess Webb said his team had some unforced errors late in the game, specifically dealing with some full-court pressure from the Vikings, "but luckily we had some kids step up in big moments."

Saxon senior Jett Barnum had a steal that led to a coast-to-coast lay-up putting Hastings in front by four points with about two minutes to play. Hopkins was within one after burying a contested three-pointer, and the Vikings were within 54-52 with 25 seconds to play with the basketball.

Hastings still had a couple of fouls to give before sending the Vikings to the free throw line and senior guard Dre Mathis used those up as the clock ticked down to 17 seconds. The Saxon defense forced a tough shot on the Vikings' next chance, and then the Saxons hit a couple of free throws down the stretch while preventing Hopkins from getting any real good looks at the basket.

The Saxons had been up nine points going into the fourth quarter.

"We didn't handle their press very well down the stretch, and they were hitting threes," coach Webb said. "They hit some deep threes and some contested threes. We tried to shut them down on that. It's districts. It's a different feel."

Porter Shaw led the Saxons with 16 points in the ballgame and Barnum finished withs 15. Sophomore guard Jack Webb chipped in eight points.

Coach Webb said the plan was to get the ball inside to Barnum and let him go to work on the offensive end. He found good shots there, but coach Webb said it felt like there was a lid on the basket that prevented the Saxons from really stretching their lead.

As for dealing with the Vikings' pressure late, the Saxons got used to it some as the Hopkins squad pressured after made

See **OPENER** on 16

RUTLAND CHARTER TOWNSHIP
NOTICE OF BOARD OF REVIEW

The Board of Review will meet on Tuesday, March 4, 2025, at 10:00 am in the office of the Assessor at Rutland Charter Township Hall, 2461 Heath Rd, Hastings, Michigan 49058 to organize and review the Assessment Roll.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING to hear Assessment APPEALS will be held at the RUTLAND CHARTER TOWNSHIP HALL, 2461 Heath Rd, Hastings, Michigan on:

MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2025 **1:00 pm to 4:00 pm & 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm**
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2025 **9:00 am to NOON & 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm**

Also, any other days deemed necessary to equalize the Assessment Roll.

PROPERTY ASSESSMENT RATIOS & FACTORS FOR 2024

CLASS	RATIO	MULTIPLIER
Agriculture	50.23	.9954
Commercial	49.17	1.0168
Industrial	47.27	1.0577
Residential	45.24	1.1052
Developmental	50.00	1.0000
Personal	50.00	1.0000

The above ratios and multipliers do not mean that every parcel will receive the same. If you have purchased property, it will be assessed at 50% of market value. If you have improved your property such as additions, new buildings, driveways, etc., this will also reflect in the value of your property. Upon request of any person who is assessed on said roll, or his agent, and upon sufficient cause being shown, the Board of Review will correct the assessment of such property and will, in their judgment, make the valuation thereof relatively just and equal.

Dennis McKelvey, Assessor
RUTLAND CHARTER TOWNSHIP
2461 Heath Rd
Hastings, MI 49058
269-948-2194

Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Rutland Charter Township Clerk by writing or calling the Township.

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

TOWNSHIP OF JOHNSTOWN
2025 NOTICE OF BOARD OF REVIEW

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Board of Review will meet at the Township Hall, 13641 S. M-37 Hwy, Battle Creek, MI 49017, to examine and review the 2025 assessment roll. The board will convene on the following dates for the hearing of appeals of assessment or taxable values, poverty exemptions, parcel classification appeals and/or current year qualified agricultural denials:

Tuesday, March 4, 2025, 5:00 pm Organizational Meeting
Monday, March 10, 2025, 9:00 am to noon and 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Thursday, March 13, 2025, 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

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

APPOINTMENTS ARE RECOMMENDED, but not required; letter appeals will be accepted and must be received no later than 5:00 pm the Friday before the first appeal hearing.

Tentative ratios and estimated multipliers for 2025 are as follows:

Agricultural	45.32%	1.10327
Commercial	43.25%	1.15607
Industrial	50.09%	0.99820
Residential	45.45%	1.10011
Personal Property	50.00%	1.00000

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

Barb Earl, Johnstown Township Supervisor – for appointments: 269-721-8443 Michele Story, Johnstown Township Assessor

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

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

Johnstown Township Clerk
13641 S. M37 Hwy.
Battle Creek MI 49017
269-721-9709

Public Notice
City of Hastings

2025 Board of Review Meeting Schedule

The City of Hastings Board of Review for 2025 will be held at Hastings City Hall, 201 E State St, on the following dates:

Organizational Meeting: March 4th, 1:00 pm
Appeal Hearings:
Tuesday, **March 11th,** 3:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Wednesday, **March 12th,** 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Meetings are by Appointment, to schedule, contact: City Hall @ ph. 269-945-9350

The Board of Review will meet as many more days as deemed necessary to hear questions, protests and to equalize the 2025 assessments.

By City Resolution, residents are able to protest by letter, provided protest letter is received by March 10th, 2025

The tentative ratios and the estimated multipliers for each class of real property and personal property for 2025 are as follows:

Commercial..... 44.36.....1.1271
Residential..... 47.13.....1.0608
Industrial..... 43.60.....1.1467
Agricultural..... 45.47..... 1.0996
Personal Property..... 50.00..... 1.0000

Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Notice
The City will provide necessary reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon 3-day notice.
Contact: Sarah Moyer-Cale - City Manager, ph. 269-945-9350

TOWNSHIP OF HOPE
2025 NOTICE OF BOARD OF REVIEW

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Board of Review will meet at the Township Hall, 5463 M-43 Hwy., Hastings, MI 49058 to examine and review the 2025 assessment roll. The board will convene on the following dates for the hearing of appeals of assessments or taxable values, poverty exemptions, parcel classification appeals and/or current year qualified agricultural denials:

Tuesday, March 4, 2025, 11:30 am Organizational Meeting
Monday, March 10, 2025, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Tuesday, March 11, 2025, 3:00 pm to 9:00 pm

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

APPEALS ARE HEARD ON FIRST COME FIRST SERVE BASIS; letter appeals will be accepted and must be received no later than 5:00 pm the Friday before the first appeal hearing.

Tentative ratios and estimated multipliers for 2025 are as follows:

Agricultural	47.78%	1.0465
Commercial	45.18%	1.1067
Industrial	49.22%	1.0158
Residential	43.81%	1.1413
Personal Property	50.00%	1.0000

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

Doug Peck, Supervisor Hope Township
Kevin Harris, Assessor Hope Township

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

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

Hope Township Clerk
5463 M-43 Hwy.
Hastings, MI 49058
269-648-2464

DK girls shut down Coloma late to win their finale

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Delton Kellogg held visiting Coloma to one point in the fourth quarter to rally for a 32-28 win over the Comets on senior night at DKHS Tuesday.

"It was a tale of two halves," Delton Kellogg head coach Kevin Lillibridge said. "The first half we looked out of sync, and didn't take care of the basketball. Down 18-12 [at the half], missing lay-ups and box outs we struggled to get anything going."

The Panthers clawed to within 27-23 by the end of the third quarter and then went ahead with a 9-0 run to start the fourth.

"I was proud of our two seniors, Lucy Lester and Josie Williams, for playing hard every minute they were in there. Lucy always talks, no matter where she is on the court, and Josie really worked hard grabbing rebounds and getting to the hoop."

Williams had ten points, all at the free throw line. She was 10-of-22. As a team DK was just 13-of-28 at the free throw line, so they could have had a little more breathing room with a better performance there.

Izzie Wendland had a team-high 11 points for Delton including a big basket late in the fourth quarter that extended her team's lead to two possessions.

Lillibridge said Addie Stampfler came into the game and came up with a bunch of steals and made the extra passes when needed on offense to help lead the charge.

The one Coloma point in the fourth quarter came on a free throw with less than a second left.

"This never quit attitude, and growth from the team is what I continue to be proud of," Lillibridge said. "We matched our win total from last year and continue to fight."

Delton Kellogg moved its record to 5-16 overall this season with the win to close the regular season.

The Panthers return to action Monday at Pewamo-Westphalia High School where they will face Maple Valley at 7 p.m. in an MHSAA Division 3 District Quarterfinal contest to start the state tournament. The winner of that one gets the host Pirates in the district semifinals Wednesday, March 5.

The Delton Kellogg girls were 2-0 in a pair of non-conference ballgames against the Maple Valley girls this season.

The Panthers were held winless in the Southwestern Athletic Conference Central Division this winter. They fell to 0-10 in conference play with a 63-26 loss to visiting Galesburg-Augusta last Friday.

Jalin Lyons had a career high 12 points in the loss and Williams added 12 points too with a hard-working second half.



Panther Dani Fields (5) probes the Coloma defense from the corner during senior night at Delton Kellogg High School Tuesday. **Photo by Perry Hardin**

LHS cheer squad sixth at its D3 regional meet

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Vikings' string of three straight trips to the MHSAA Division 3 Competitive Cheer Finals will come to an end in 2025 after a sixth-place finish at the MHSAA Division 3 Regional at Grand Rapids West Catholic High School Saturday.

In a rebuilding season, the Lakewood varsity competitive cheer team just didn't get the scores it needed to finish among the top four in the regional.

Viking head coach Kim Martin couldn't pinpoint any reason why her team's final overall score was more than 27 points lower than it had been the week before when her girls were second at districts just a few points behind the district champs from Tri County.

The Tri County girls were regional champs too, putting together an overall score of 760.06 Saturday at West Catholic High School. The 2025 Capital Area Activities Conference White Division championships from Charlotte were second with a score of 733.74 were second ahead of Gladstone 726.42 and Portland, another team out of the CAAC White, 726.30.

Paw Paw placed fifth with an overall score of 724.28 with Lakewood sixth at 720.50.

"I thought my girls put out three solid rounds Saturday, probably one of our best round twos of the season and one of our better round ones," coach Martin said. "In round three we had one minor stunt issue, but nothing major. Maybe it should have been at max a .5 deduction in execution, but the rest of it was very solid like we have been all season.



The Lakewood varsity competitive cheer team shouts out at the end of its round one routine Saturday at Grand Rapids West Catholic High School during the MHSAA Division 3 Competitive Cheer Regional hosted by the Falcons. The Viking season came to an end with a sixth-place finish Saturday. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

"I thought we performed better at regionals than I did at districts and our scores were over 20 points less."

She said being one of the first teams out on the mat in rounds one and two didn't help her team any. Many coaches agree that it can be tough to score especially well when their team is setting the bar early in a round.

Lakewood had a score of 219.00 in round one which had the Vikings in seventh place. They were still in seventh after scoring 200.90 points in round two. Only Tri County, Gladstone and Portland score better than Lakewood's 308.40 in round three, but it wasn't enough to vault the Vikings into the top four.

Tri County had the top score in every round. Those Vikings scored 228.60 points in round one, 214.96 in round two and 316.50 in round three. Charlotte was number two in scoring in each of the first two rounds and then held onto the runner-up spot despite a sub-300 score in round three.

Hart was seventh in the day's team standings with 720.46 points ahead of West Catholic 715.46, Montague 695.82, Parchment 688.56, Allegan 677.92 and Mason County Central 600.58.

Hastings girls win big at Wellspring Prep

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Hastings varsity girls' basketball team improved to 7-14 this season with a 44-16 win at Grand Rapids Wellspring Prep Wednesday, Feb. 19.

Saxons finished with a balanced scoring night with 13 points from Racheal Hewitt, 11 from Maddie Peake and f0our points from Bayley Smith, Victoria Tack, Bella Friddle and Ashlynn Bailey.

Hastings is set to close the regular season at Ottawa Hills tonight, Feb. 24.

The Saxons travel to Olivet to start the state postseason Wednesday, March 5, in the MHSAA Division 2 District Semifinals where they will face the host Eagles.

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Saxon girls set for return to D2 Finals

It wasn't an exceptional season until all of a sudden it was.

The Hastings varsity girls' bowling team will return to the MHSAA Division 2 Girls' Team Bowling Finals after winning its first regional championship Thursday at Spectrum Lanes in Wyoming.

"I went in there just wanting the girls to bowl the games I know they can bowl and they did," Hastings head coach Deanna Rhodes said. "They did great. I was very proud of them. Turned out they were the top scores of the day."

The Saxons did bring back much of their line-up from the team that rolled to 16th in the qualifying at the 2024 team bowling finals.

The stand out performance at the end of the day for Hastings was a 170 from senior Kass Harton in the second of the two regular games at the regional. Wayland had an 11-pin lead on the Saxons through eight Baker games and one regular game Thursday. That 170 from Harton helped boost the Saxon team to a score of 761 in that final game which was the highest scoring game from among all of them rolled by the ten teams at the regional.

In the end, the Saxons outscored the Wildcats 2,608 to 2,517 for the regional title. Both teams will be a part of the Feb. 28 MHSAA Division 2 Girls' Bowling Team Finals at at Century Bowl in Waterford.

Unity Christian was third as a team at the regional with an overall score of 2,488 ahead of Lowell 2,434, Thornapple Kellogg 2,229, Grand Rapids Christian 2,175, Ionia 2,087, Godwin Heights 2,047, Forest Hills Central 2,008 and Otsego 1,994.

Hastings started strong with games of 156 and 151 to start the Baker contests, and finished strong with scores of 157 and 153. In between, the Saxons rolled Bakers of 132, 131, 142 and 125.

The Saxons' led a three-team chase for the two state qualifying spots after the eight Baker games. They were ten pins ahead of Unity Christian and 11 ahead of the Wayland girls. Unity Christian fell off with a 627 in the first regular game while Hastings scored a 700 and Wayland a 722 to move into the lead.

Rhodes said the scores for the day from her girls were "pretty normal." At times, the Saxons have struggled with consistency this season, and they finished at 4-5 in Interstate-8 Athletic Conference duals this season. She said her girls have done pretty well in Baker games throughout the year.

"They're pretty good. They know they only have two frames, so they're consistent there and making sure everyone is holding suit."

The Saxon girls won't be a part of the March 1 MHSAA Division 2 Girls' Bowling Singles Finals as senior Heaven Simmet and Jen Stoline were the eighth and ninth place finishers at the regional singles competition at Spectrum Lanes last Friday, Feb. 21.

Simmet rolled a total score of 930 and Stoline 920. Ionia junior Lena Cox, the last of the seven singles state qualifiers, had an overall score of 939. She took a big jump in the standings with her score of 217 to close out the last of her six games.

Simmet had a high single game on the day of 182 and Stoline's top mark was a 172.

Having the team qualify for the state finals a day earlier helped ease the sting of missing out on a finals singles appearance by just a few pins.

"They were happy with their day. They were happy. They were bummed that they didn't make the cut, but at the same time they were good," coach Rhodes said.

Harton placed 14th with an overall score of 901, senior Kaylin Schild was 22nd at 842 and junior Megan Ramey 24th at 837 for the Saxons.

Thornapple Kellogg had its girls' season end Friday too. Junior Kenzie Hoogterp rolled an 872 to lead the Trojan team with a 19th-place finish and junior Jenna Robinett was 20th overall at 863.

The TK girls also had Casey Phillips 26th at 816, junior Aubrie Hooten 43rd at 662, freshman Kayla Chapin-Dyer 46th at 647 and junior Lilian Rubert 49th at 623.

Forest Hills Eastern senior Emilee Nowicki beat out Wayland senior Haven Baker in a tiebreaker for the individual regional title 181-176. The two of them both put up scores of 1,106 through their six regular regional games.

The rest of the seven state singles qualifiers from the regional included Lowell junior Amaya Jackson (third), Otsego senior Mercedes Edney (fourth), Lowell senior Cadence Dewit (fifth) and Wayland sophomore Brooke Trumbull (sixth).



Saxon senior Heaven Simmet lets a shot go down the alley during her team's I-8 win over visiting Pennfield at Hastings Bowl Feb. 19. The Saxons followed up that win by taking the team championship at their Division 2 Regional Thursday to earn a spot in the Feb. 28 state finals in Waterford. **Photos by Brett Bremer**



Hastings senior Kaylin Schild sets up for a shot during her team Interstate-8 Athletic Conference win over visiting Pennfield Wednesday, Feb. 19, at Hastings Bowl.

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
BARRY COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. 25-30014-DE and JUDGE:
William M. Doherty P-41960

Court address: 206 West Court Street, Ste. 302, Hastings, MI 49058
Court telephone no.: 269-945-1390

Estate of Leatrice D. Anderson. Date of birth: March 15, 1929.

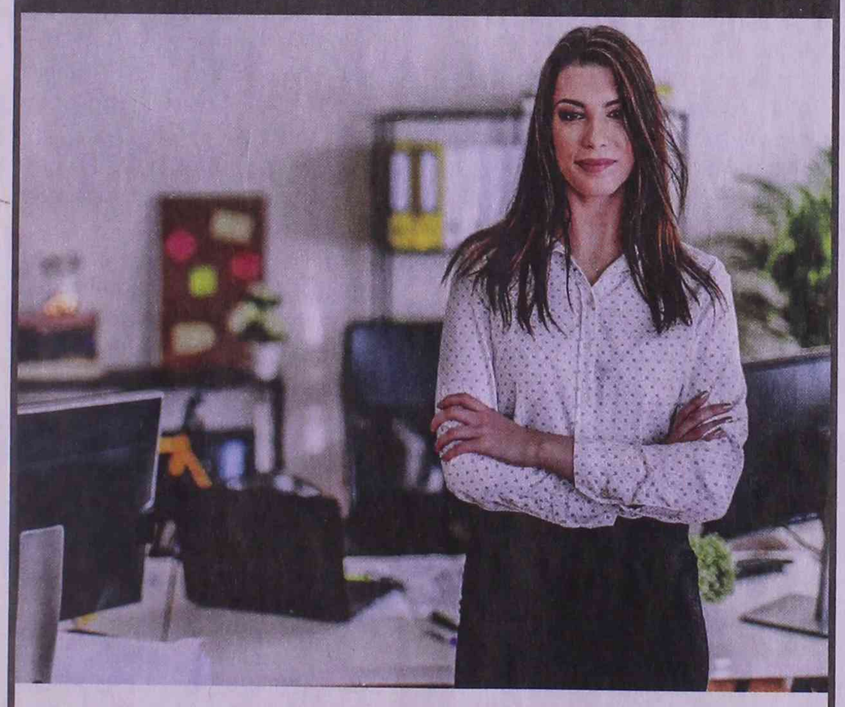
TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Leatrice D. Anderson, died December 21, 2024.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Jean M. Lockwood, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 206 West Court St., Ste. 302, Hastings, MI 49058 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: 02/06/25
Robert L. Byington P-27621
222 West Apple Street, P.O. Box 248
Hastings, Michigan 49058
269-945-9557
Jean M. Lockwood
1280 Sunview Drive, Apt. 11
St. Johns, Michigan 48879

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Pennfield catches Saxons to share I-8 title

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

There will be a trophy and the Saxons' first Interstate-8 Athletic Conference Championship will be highlighted on the boys' banner in the Hastings High School gymnasium.

It was the Pennfield guys who were having more of a celebration at Hastings Bowl Wednesday, Feb. 19, though.

The Panthers chased down the Hastings boys in the Interstate-8 Athletic Conference standings, to create a three-way tie for the top spot in the conference with Pennfield, Hastings and Marshall, by scoring two victories over the Saxons in the final week of the regular season.

The Hastings boys opened the conference season with a 7-0 record in conference duals but fell to Jackson Northwest last week Monday at Hastings Bowl. Pennfield then took wins on back to back afternoons against the Hastings boys. Pennfield won by the slimmest of margins, 16-14, at M-66 Bowl Feb. 18 on Battle Creek and then took an 18-12 win at Hastings Bowl Feb. 19.

"We're still conference champs," Hastings senior Deagan Wilkins said. "I think it is great. It has never been done before in the varsity boys' bowling history. It's something new that the school can have and I am glad to be a part of it.

"We knew we had a lot of potential, and up until those last three matches were were undefeated. I guess we just got in our heads, and everybody fell apart just a little bit. We usually brought it back towards the end."

Pennfield built its advantage right at the start Wednesday, outscoring the Saxons 8-1 in the first regular game. The Panthers won four of the five head to head match-up points and outscored the Saxons as a team 954-773.

Hastings rebounded from there, pulling within 12-8 by the end of the regular games. Freshman Andrew Barton was the lone Saxon to win two team points in the individual games. He rolled a 192 in the opener and then a 202 in the second regular game.

Seniors Wilkins and Miles Lipsey took team points in that second regular game for the Saxons too. Wilkins had the top individual game of the day for Hastings at 231 and Lipsey rolled a 181. Hastings won that second game 910-854, but the overall regular game pinfall went to the Panthers.



Hastings senior Deagan Wilkins fires a shot down the lane during his team's Interstate-8 Athletic Conference finale against Pennfield at Hastings Bowl Feb. 19. Hastings was 7-3 in I-8 duals this season to earn a share of its first conference boys' bowling title. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

"I just found my line the second game and everything stuck. I just made spares, got strikes and then finished out the tenth frame with a good game," Wilkins said.

He said he had the same early issues finding his line on Monday, and it was a little frustrating.

"I just pulled through it, kept myself together and continued bowling."

Jeff Michael was the lone Pennfield bowler to win two points thanks to scores of 202 and 177, and teammate Mykah Haxley had the top Panther score of the day at 211 in game one to earn a team point.

Hastings won the opening Baker game 176-168, but Pennfield bookended its day with an outstanding finish. A 206 in the second Baker game was plenty to clinch a share of the conference championship for the Pennfield boys, and by extension, the Marshall boys. Hastings scored a 164 in that second Baker game.

"They're pretty good. I give them credit," Wilkins said of the Pennfield boys. "They're not terrible. We have definitely played some pretty good games against them before, and they definitely have a good team this year."

The freshman Barton is the lone Hastings boys with some bowling ahead this season. He earned a spot in this weekend's MHSAA Division 2 Boys Bowling Singles Finals at Century Bowl in Waterford with a sixth-place finish at the MHSAA Division 2 Regional at Spectrum Lanes Friday, Feb. 21.

Barton secured his spot among the seven state qualifiers from the regional with a flurry at the end of the day that included a 199, a 238 and a 202 to close out his six games. He opened with scores of 146, 159 and 173. His 202 in the end allowed him to jump up three spots into the state qualifying mix.



Hastings senior Hunter Pennington sets up for a shot during the Baker games at his team's final I-8 dual of the season against Pennfield Feb. 19 at Hastings Bowl. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

Unity Christian senior Lucas Van Maanen was the last of the seven state qualifiers from the region with an overall pinfall of 1,091 for the day. Barton had a tally of 1,117. Wayland senior Will Dewing, the first man to miss the cut had an eighth-place score of 1,081.

Lipsey was one of seven guys within 25 pins of Van Maanen at the end of the day. The Saxon senior had his season end with a 13th-place overall score of 1,066. He had high games of 196 and 195 throughout the day.

Saxon senior Hunter Pennington was 25th overall, Wilkins placed 32nd, freshman Dakota Cole was 42nd and sophomore Brody Mix placed 43rd.

Lowell senior Caden Witten was the tournament's regional singles champion on the boys' side with an overall pinfall of 1,222. He closed his day with a score of 257 pushed him from fourth to first in the standings.

Grand Rapids Christian junior Braeden Busscher was the runner-up with a total score of 1,210.

The list of state qualifiers also included Forest Hills Eastern sophomore Evan Nowicki (third), Wayland sophomore Loui Harnish (fourth) and Forest Hills Central freshman Thomas Wells (fifth).

Sophomore Chase Buter led Thornapple Kellogg with a 35th-place performance. He had an overall pinfall of 949. The TK team also had junior Landen England 39th, sophomore Travis Grabemeyer 44th, junior Myles Chambers 57th, sophomore Colten Wiest 58th and junior Travis Sholty 60th.

Hastings was fifth and the TK boys 11th in the 13-team team regional competition last Thursday, Feb. 20.

Wayland won the boys' regional championship with an overall pinfall of 3,279 in the competition that included eight Baker games and two regular games at Spectrum Lanes. Grand Rapids Christian also qualified for the Division 2 Boys' Bowling Team Finals with its runner-up score of 3,233.

Ionia was third with a total score of 3,152 ahead of Unity Christian 2,952, Hastings 2,923, Lowell 2,899, Forest Hills Central 2,898, Forest Hills Eastern 2,731, South Christian 2,666, Otsego 2,546, Thornapple Kellogg 2,538, Godwin Heights 2,413 and East Grand Rapids 2,223.

The D2 boys' singles competition will be held Saturday, March 1 at Century Bowl with the team competition planned for Feb. 28.

Pierce Cedar Creek's Volunteer Orientation Training

will be held Tuesday, March 11th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Institute's Visitor Center.

The event is free.

Have you thought about volunteering with the Institute? Would you like to learn more about the Institute's mission? Join us for an evening of learning about the Institute's history, an overview of the trails and property, a tour of the main buildings, and upcoming volunteer opportunities. Whether you are interested in education, land stewardship, community science, office work, or public relations, learn how you can help inspire appreciation and stewardship of the environment.

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THE HASTINGS BANNER
VIEW newspaper Group

NOTICE: SEEKING APPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Barry County Board of Commissioners is seeking applications from volunteers to serve on the following Boards:

Barry County Conservation Easement Board – 1 Real Estate Interest; 1 Township designee
Mental Health Authority Board – 1 position for a primary or secondary consumer; 3 positions, preference with lived experience in mental health diagnosis and/or substance use disorder
Planning Commission – 2 positions
Tax Allocation Board – 1 general public position
Zoning Board of Appeals – 1 position

Applications may be obtained at the County Administration Office, 3rd floor of the Courthouse, 220 W. State St., Hastings; or www.barrycounty.org under the tab: How do I apply for: An Advisory Board or Commission and click to display the application. Applications must be returned no later than 5:00 p.m. on **Monday, March 3, 2025.** Contact 269-945-1284 for more information.

OPENER

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baskets and free throws throughout the night but they stepped things up a bit as the game wore on.

On the Saxons' defensive side, coach Webb was really pleased with the play of senior forward Dan Jensen.

"That kid played his butt off," he said. "He started for us, gave us a ton of minutes and a ton of rebounds - offensive and defensive and worked his butt off at the top of the 1-3-1."

Hastings moved its record to 5-17 overall this season with the win. Hopkins closes the season at 5-18.

Holland Christian went into its district semifinal with the Saxons sporting a 14-8 overall mark. A pair of 10-12 teams, Hamilton and Wayland, were set to meet in the second district semifinal of the night in Hamilton Wednesday. The district final between Wednesday's winners is planned for 7 p.m. Friday back in Hamilton.