

INSIDE

TODAY'S EDITION

HMS STUDENTS ASSEMBLE 3D PRINTER
PAGE 2



HEWITT PLANS TO BE EVEN STRONGER AT OLIVET
PAGE 9



LAST SAXON CHANCES WON'T FALL IN SEMI'S AT OLIVET
PAGE 11

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New Barry County Planner comes with experience and a vision



Jeff Keesler started his job on Dec. 2 as Barry County's new planning director and zoning administrator. **Photo by Karen Turko-Ebright**

Karen Turko-Ebright
Contributing Writer

He's Barry County's new planning director and zoning administrator.

Jeff Keesler started his new position three months ago, after Jim McManus, the county's planner for 33 years, retired from the same position.

McManus told *The Banner* that he now works as a Principal Planner consulting for McKenna Associates in Kalamazoo.

Keesler worked at McKenna as an associate planner from 2022 to 2024 before taking over McManus's former office inside the Historical Courthouse in Hastings.

He gained experience at McKenna and stepped in to help other communities.

"I did master plan projects, zoning ordinance updates, and community planner work when communities didn't have a staff planner," Keesler said,

According to the 2022-2023 Michigan Association of Planning annual report, Barry County's most recent master plan, dubbed the Barry County 2040 "Live Better" Master Plan, received an award for Outstanding Planning Project: Best Practice.

McKenna Associates of Kalamazoo served as a consultant to Barry County in development of that plan.

Keesler grew up in Durand and graduated from Durand High School. For the last 20 years, he's lived in Lansing with his family. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Bridgewater State University in Massachusetts. Additionally, he earned a Master of Arts degree in Urban and Regional Planning.

Not only did Keesler work for McKenna before accepting his new planning director and zoning administrator position with Barry County, he also worked as a program specialist for the AARP Michigan State office in Lansing for six years. His job focused on carrying out age-friendly community work in Michigan communities.

He worked with a team providing technical assistance to communities to help older adults feel at home as

See **VISION** on 3

Judge sentences Nashville woman to jail, probation for role in fatal sulky cart crash

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

Brinna Lavonne Cobb of Nashville won't be going to prison for her role in a 2023 accident that left two dead and a third person hospitalized, as members of the victims' family in an emotional statement said they had already forgiven Cobb.

Following the wishes of the victims' family, rather than handing Cobb over to the Michigan Department of Corrections, Judge Michael Schipper sentenced the Nashville resident to 180 days to be served in the Barry County Jail, as well as two years probation, continuation of counseling and rehabilitation, during an emotionally charged hearing in District 56B court in Hastings on Tuesday, March 11.

Schipper said he was inspired by the message of forgiveness, but added that Cobb must learn from her role in the 2023 fatal crash.

"But there are consequences, there's punishment," Schipper said. "That's not vengeance.

"I'm much like a father here," he added. "A sentence is to deter further bad behavior."

Cobb initially faced up to seven criminal charges and up to 15 years in state prison for her alleged role in a Sept. 12, 2023, vehicular accident that claimed the lives of a 40-year-old Amish man and his 14-year-old son, as well as seriously injuring the father's 17-year-old son. Those charges included operating while intoxicated causing death, operating while intoxicated causing serious injury and moving violation causing death.

She entered a guilty plea on Jan. 16 to one count of operating a vehicle with the presence of THC causing death.

The Barry County Prosecutor's Office reportedly charged Cobb, then 19, who was allegedly intoxicated when the accident occurred, though the substance involved was not initially revealed.

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

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



Brinna Cobb of Nashville attempts to fight back tears as she makes a statement before Judge Michael Schipper, taking full responsibility for her actions related to a fatal accident in September 2023 that claimed the lives of two persons and seriously injured a third, during a sentencing hearing Tuesday, March 11, in Barry County District Court 56B. **Photo by Dennis Mansfield**

Speaking on behalf of the victims' family, David Miller needed several minutes to gather himself before making a statement during Tuesday's hearing.

"I'm sorry. My emotions …," Miller said. "I just want to know there's no hard feelings. We've forgiven (Cobb).

"I don't hold a grudge against anybody. I just want to thank the Lord we can forgive each other, we can love each other."

Miller, however, also asked one question that seemingly went unanswered during Tuesday's sentencing.

"We realize she was underage," he said. "Who was the one who gave it to her?"

See **CRASH** on 3

Longtime representative, Middleville native Bob Bender dies at 88

Molly Macleod
Editor



Robert "Bob" Bender

The county is mourning the loss of a longtime leader, volunteer and community member.

Robert "Bob" Bender, a lifelong Middleville resident, died at the age of 88 this week. A Navy veteran, Bender served area residents for years as both a Barry County Commissioner and a longtime representative in the Michigan House of Representatives.

After graduating from Thornapple Kellogg High School in 1954, Bender earned his degree in agricultural education from Michigan State University in 1959. From there, he began his career as a U.S. Navy pilot before transitioning to the Navy Reserves in 1981 and serving until 1990. He retired at the rank of captain in 1991.

While on the ground, Bender ran his 1,100-acre, 500-head dairy farm in Middleville.

Bender spent much of his life devoted to public service. He served as chairman of the Barry County Board of Commissioners from 1978 to 1982 before being elected to serve in the Michigan Legislature — a job he held for six terms from 1983 to 1994.

Barry County Commissioner Catherine Getty asked her fellow

See **BENDER** on 2

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Hastings middle schoolers assemble grant-funded 3D printer

Molly Macleod
Editor

Two Hastings middle schoolers are celebrating this month after successfully assembling a new 3D printer.

Keagan Nichols and Abe Winebrenner, eighth graders at Hastings Middle School, tackled the project in William Renner's Innovation and Design class last month.

Renner explained the new printer, which can print faster and larger items than the class's old 3D printer, was funded via a $1,000 Guido A. and Elizabeth H. Binda Foundation mini-grant opportunity through the Barry, Branch and Calhoun County intermediate school districts.

"We received $1,000 towards a new 3D printer and some filament for our classroom. We ended up buying the Prusa MK4S kit, and instead of myself assembling it, I asked an eighth grader (Nichols) if he would be interested in putting it together," said Renner.

Renner said Nichols was excited to work on the project. After about a week of tinkering, fellow eighth grader Winebrenner offered his assistance assembling the machine.

"My first project was a 3D print and I just wanted to know how they worked," said Winebrenner when asked what inspired him to help Nichols with the assembly.



Keagan Nichols (left) and Abe Winebrenner stand next to a Prusa MK4S 3D printer they assembled last month. The printer was funded through a mini-grant from the Guido A. and Elizabeth H. Binda Foundation. **Photo by Molly Macleod**

Nichols and Winebrenner took two more weeks assembling the machine before it was ready for testing and calibration. Renner didn't assist the students until the printer was ready for final calibration. He said the project helped the students learn problem-solving and perseverance.

"It was very challenging at first, but it was fun," said Nichols.

Prusa printers come from Czechia. Renner said that while the instructions were mostly in English, the students overcame language barriers and vague instruction at times.

"They had some online tutorials to help them, but they also had to kind of figure some things out as they were working through it," said Renner.

Another problem to watch out for during assembly? Making sure everything was tightened down.

Nichols said a challenge they faced was "not cross-threading the screws and making sure everything was tight."

Winebrenner added making sure each wire was in its correct spot was another important factor to watch out for.

The new printer runs four times faster than its predecessors at HMS, said Renner. "I will be able to do a lot more reiteration of student work because we'll be able to get the prints through the printer faster."

The printers also have additional sensors that will stop the print job if a filament breaks. Before, Renner said waylaid prints could go on for hours, wasting filament, before errors were discovered.

"The printer moves, but nothing gets created," Renner explained.

Renner said the new printer will serve Hastings middle schoolers for eight to 10 years before needing a replacement.

"As students design 3D prints, they will be able to use that printer to create them," said Renner.

Hastings Pride OK'd for second year

Festival returns to Thornapple Plaza June 28

Molly Macleod
Editor

The Hastings Pride Festival will return for its second year at Thornapple Plaza on Saturday, June 28, after a successful inaugural event last summer.

The event, organized by the Hastings Pride Committee, raised over $3,000 in donations last year, more than enough to put on this year's event. The rest of the funds raised were donated to local non-profit organizations that support LGBTQ youth.

J. Maizlish Mole, an organizer for the event, wrote in a memo to the Hastings City Council that last year's event was "an unmitigated success, drawing an estimated 800-900 participants."

Though organizers were prepared for protesters at last year's event, only a handful turned out and were not disruptive.

This year's festival, slated for June, will follow a similar blueprint to last year. Taking place at Thornapple Plaza in Hastings, community organizations will have booths on display. There will be activities for all ages, a DJ, live music and a family-friendly drag show.

Organizers emphasized the drag performance will be designed to be age-appropriate for all audiences. There will be no profanity, nudity or adult themes of any kind, organizers say.

"For those unfamiliar with the form, this drag show is basically a series of uplifting lip-sync acts performed in extravagant and fanciful costumes by both men and women; last year we had a space alien, a clown and a harlequin among the acts," wrote Mole.

Hastings City Council members unanimously approved the Hastings Pride Committee's request on Monday to sell merchandise and accept donations during the festival, which is slated from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. on June 28. The Hastings Kiwanis and Rotary clubs will be serving concessions during the event.

"On behalf of the (Hastings Pride) committee, I'd like to thank you for your time and approval of our ability to sell and accept donations. We're excited and confident to bring another safe, entertaining festival to the City of Hastings where allies, family members and members of our LGBTQ+ community can connect, celebrate and be entertained," said Sydney Smith, Hastings Pride Committee president.

"We thank you again for the use of this wonderful venue. And also, I'd like to say that I'm happy to speak with anyone with any questions, concerns or interest. And our committee can be reached at hastingspridecommittee@gmail.com," said Smith.



A performer dressed as a space alien performs at last year's inaugural Hastings Pride Festival. The festival will return for its second year on Saturday, June 28, from 1 to 6 p.m. at Thornapple Plaza. **File photo**

BENDER

Continued from Page 1

commissioners to take a moment of silence honoring Bender at Tuesday's Board of Commissioners meeting.

"I'd like us to take a moment to remember a fellow commissioner that passed away this past weekend. Bob Bender served as not only a county commissioner chair but also then continued to serve our state as house rep," said Getty during Tuesday's invocation.

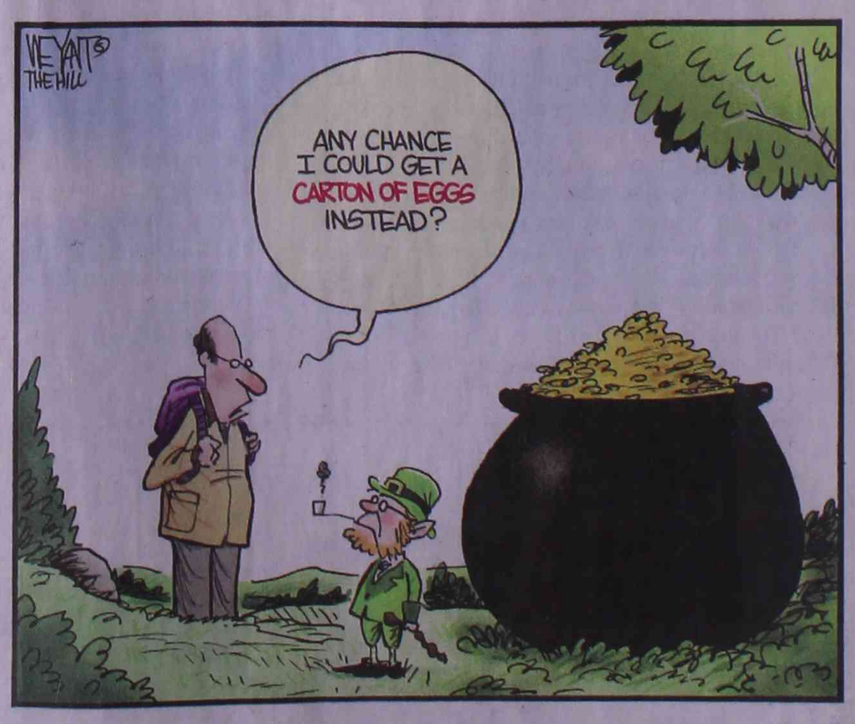
Bender represented Michigan's 88th District from 1983 to 1992, which at the time included Ionia County and townships of Assyria, Baltimore, Barry, Carlton, Castleton, Hastings, Hope, Irving, Johnstown, Maple Grove, Orangeville, Prairieville, Rutland and Woodland and City of Hastings in Barry County. After redistricting, Bender represented the new 87th District from 1993 to 1994, which included Barry County and the townships of Berlin, Boston, Campbell, Easton, Keene, Odessa and Otisco and the cities of Belding and Ionia in Ionia County.

During his time in the state legislature, Bender served on the House Agriculture Committee, the Appropriations Committee, the Agriculture and Forestry Committee, the Corrections Committee, the Education Committee, the Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee and the Social Services & Youth Committee.

After his time in the legislature, Bender and his wife of 65 years, Carol, joined the Peace Corps for a 2-year volunteer stint in Russia from 1995 to 1997. The couple spent many more years volunteering for "Houses to Houses" in Guatemala.

Visitation for Bender is scheduled for Friday, March 21, from 5 to 8 p.m. at Beeler-Gores Funeral in Middleville. A memorial for Bender will be held at the Middleville United Methodist Church on Saturday, March 22, at 11 a.m. A private burial will follow at Mount Hope Cemetery in Middleville.





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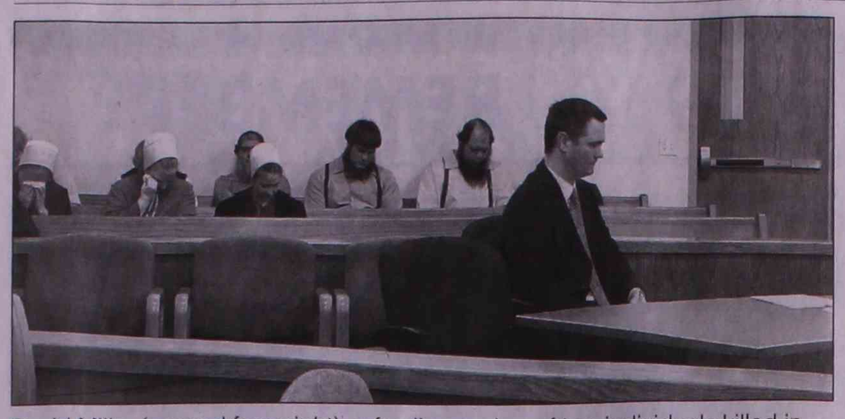
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David Miller (second from right), a family member of two individuals killed in a fatal vehicle accident in September 2023, collects himself before making a statement at the sentencing hearing of Brinna Cobb of Nashville in Barry County District Court 56B on Tuesday. **Photo by Dennis Mansfield**

CRASH

Continued from Page 1

Josh Carter, Barry County assistant prosecutor, requested a sentence for Cobb of between 29 to 57 months, stating that Cobb had intentionally used a marijuana product which may have, in turn, resulted in hindering her reactions at the time of the fatal crash.

"It's a heartbreaking situation for everyone in this courtroom," Carter said. "But one of the things that stood out is this was just an accident. But this wasn't just an accident."

He added Cobb intentionally used a marijuana product despite being underage and then intentionally drove a vehicle under the influence of THC.

According to the assistant prosecutor, THC may impair a driver's judgment, reaction time and reflexes. He also said that Cobb was reportedly speeding, possibly traveling in the mid-60s, just seconds before the accident and was allegedly still speeding at the time of impact.

"And she never once hit her brakes," Carter said. "You're not as good a driver with THC in your system."

Cobb's attorney, Heath Lynch, said he's unsure whether she had any THC in her system made any difference, adding he stood "on the same exact hill" and that the glare from the sun at that time of morning "was blinding."

"I don't think it would have made any difference at all if she hadn't vaped that morning," Lynch said. "(But) we don't dispute she broke the law. That's why we're here."

He also argued that a lengthy prison sentence would seemingly go against the Miller family's wishes for prayer and forgiveness, citing that the family had even reached out to Cobb and invited her to the funerals of the two victims.

"They have fought amazingly alongside her," Lynch said. "They're an inspiration to all of us.

"Vengeance, the family has already said they don't want that. They want forgiveness."

There was again a pause in the hearing as Cobb collected herself as she stood before Schipper.

"I fully understand the devastating impact of my actions," a tearful Cobb stated. "I fully accept my responsibility.

"I ask for the court's mercy … and that I'm a changed person."

Before handing down Cobb's sentence, Schipper said he was thankful for the Miller family's presence, as well as that of the Amish community, during the various court proceedings.

"It's been good for me, educational for me," he said. "I thank you for that."

He added it was uplifting to see how the victims' family "embraced" Cobb after the accident.

"That's where I feel weak," the judge said. "That's where I should be. That's why I thank you. I should be a little better after today."

However, Schipper added that Cobb needed to learn there are consequences for her actions, despite any debate over whether she was impaired or what impact having THC in her system might have played in the accident.

"What you did was illegal," he said. "One hundred and 80 days is a long time. There has to be a consequence."

In addition to the jail time and probation, Schipper said he wants Cobb to accompany him, whenever possible, to talk to area students during his trips to local schools in hopes she can share her story and the impact her actions have had on her and others.

"It might be difficult," Schipper said. "It might be emotional for both of us.

"To her family, I hope she uses her time (in jail) wisely," he added. "I don't want it to be wasted time. I want it to be a learning time."

Nesbitt stepping down from city council

Molly Macleod
Editor

The Hastings City Council will soon be looking to fill a vacant seat after First Ward Councilman Bill Nesbitt announced his intentions this week to step down from the seat later this month, citing health concerns.

Nesbitt has served on the council since being appointed to the seat in February 2022, serving out the remainder of former council member Therese Maupin-Moore's term. After being elected to the council in December 2022, Nesbitt ran as a challenger for the seat of mayor against incumbent Dave Tossava in 2024. Ultimately, Nesbitt lost in the mayoral race but remained on the council in his First Ward seat.

"Last year, at about this time, I submitted a resignation from two boards, the Airport Board and the Library Board. It was due to some medical issues, and, in talking with some folks (they said), 'Well, you should run for mayor.' Well, it's like jumping out of one area right into another one. But unfortunately, my situation hasn't improved, and I informed the mayor tonight that at the end of this month, I'll be stepping down from council," Nesbitt said.

Nesbitt thanked his fellow council members for their comradery and support over the years.

"I appreciate all the support that I have received and getting to know each and every one of you. And I'll keep watching you on TV. But I appreciate the support," Nesbitt said.

"I was saddened to hear that from Bill tonight," said Hastings Mayor Dave Tossava on Monday. "I do appreciate everything he's done on this council since he's been on it but you've got to take care of your health first."

The Hastings City Council will soon be looking to fill Nesbitt's seat. The council has enjoyed filled seats for the past month after two vacancies were filled by Jon Rocha and Ann DeVroy in January.

VISION

Continued from Page 1

they aged.

"We did statewide advocacy for older adults and age-friendly community projects in East Lansing, Highland Park, Auburn Hills, Grand Rapids, Jackson, and several others," Keesler explained.

While fulfilling many responsibilities at the state AARP office, Keesler had a priority job that was his focus.

"My role was working with helping age-friendly communities be welcoming places and help our older adults flourish and stay active," Keesler said.

On Thursday, Feb. 27, Keesler joined an audience of about 40 people at the Revitalize Delton meeting.

Revitalize Delton (RD) started in the summer of 2023 with a handful of community members ready to clear a path for future generations. Since then, the organization has grown with more volunteers. RD aims to bring additional housing, residents, and businesses to Delton and make it a place where families thrive, raise their children, and send them to Delton Kellogg Schools.

Keesler told the audience his department does not plan to change the natural charm of Barry County, including Delton, but instead, to keep it intact.

"Our goal is to keep our county lakes, fields, and woods all natural and healthy. We are not trying to urbanize Barry County. We want to keep things natural and beautiful," Keesler said. "The way that we can do that is to follow the master plan. This is the only ordinance that we have, a new 2023 master plan that really sets out the goals for the county in the next 10 to 20 years."

Read the Barry County Master Plan in its entirety at barrycounty.org.

Dozens attend open house hosted by wind power company

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

More than 70 area landowners and residents attended an open house hosted by the Canadian-based wind power company, Cordelio Power, at the Hughe House in Lake Odessa on Thursday, March 6, with Cordelio officials taking the opportunity to educate attendees about the proposed Tupper Lake project.

"Teammates from development, engineering and construction, and environmental were all able to lend their expertise in talking to folks and answering questions," said Stephanie Buway, senior director for development with Cordelio. "We believe the night was a success and look forward to hosting the next event."

According to Cordelio representatives, the company is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Canadian Pension Plan Investment Board, which Buway said provides for the financial backing and stability to make the Tupper Lake project a success.

The Tupper Lake wind power project is projected to have a capacity of 198 megawatts, with between 44 to 47 – depending on the type used – interconnected wind turbines to be installed in Campbell, Odessa, Sebewa, Boston and Berlin townships.

The Tupper Lake project dates back nearly two decades. According to a timeline presented at Thursday's open house, TCI Renewables installed the first "MET" (meteorological evaluation tower) tower to measure wind patterns and collect related data in 2007.

The project was purchased by Leeward Renewables in 2018 and then by Cordelio Power in 2024. And, Buway said plans currently call for construction to start in the third quarter of 2027, with the project becoming operable in late 2028.

Buway added Cordelio is currently still in the process of securing lease agreements with area landowners.

"Cordelio does have approximately 12,000 acres under agreement," she said. "The goal of 17,000 acres is a moving target as it depends on the land we have acquired and can we build the project.

"It could increase, it could decrease, it depends on the land we secure and the design of the project."

Unlike solar farms, Cordelio officials stated that the installation of wind turbines will not stop landowners from farming their property. Buway said an individual turbine will only take two to three acres out of production, once installation is complete.

And, besides providing another source of revenue for the landowners, the Tupper Lake project could be an added form of tax revenue for local governmental units.

According to Cordelio, Gratiot County garnered nearly $100 million in added tax revenue from 2012-23 for a wind generation project there.

For more on the open house, look to this weekend's edition of The Lakewood News.

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Key Decisions for Retired Couples

Once you and your spouse retire, you'll have some decisions to make — decisions that could affect your quality of life in your retirement years. What are these choices?

Here a few of the most important ones:

• How much should you withdraw from your retirement accounts? By the time you retire, you may have contributed for decades to an IRA and a 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan. But once you retire, you'll probably need to draw on these accounts to help pay your living expenses. Consequently, both of you will need to be sure that you don't withdraw so much each year that you risk running out of money later in your retirement. One common guideline is to aim for an annual withdrawal rate of 4%, but everyone's situation is different based on age, pre-retirement income, lifestyle, health, travel plans and other factors. (Once you turn 73, or 75 if you were born in 1960 or later, you will have to take certain amounts, based on your age and account balance, from your traditional IRA and traditional 401(k) each year.)

• When should you take Social Security? The answer to this question depends on many factors, such as your age and other sources of income. You can take Social Security as early as age 62, but your monthly payments will typically be bigger if you wait until your full retirement age, which will be age 67 if you were born in 1960 or later. And if you can afford to wait even longer, your payments will "max out" when you reach age 70. Your decision on when to take Social Security can affect your spouse — and vice versa. If the lower-earning spouse claims Social Security before their full retirement age — again, age 67 — their own retirement benefit and any potential spousal benefit will be reduced. (Spousal benefits are given to the lower-earning spouse if their full retirement benefit is less than half the other spouse's full retirement benefit.)

• Should you downsize? If you live in a big home and your children are grown, you may find it economical to downsize. Of course, this is also an emotional decision, but you may find that you can save money by moving into a smaller home.

• Where should you live? Some states are far more expensive to live in than others. You'll want to weigh your decision carefully, considering the cost of housing, food, income and real estate taxes, transportation and health care in whatever state you choose.

• Have you finished your estate plans? If not, now is the time. You'll want to work with your legal professional to create whatever documents are needed — a will, living trust, power of attorney — to help ensure your assets go where you want them to go, and that your financial and health care choices will be protected if you become physically or mentally incapacitated.

Of course, many of these same issues will apply if you are single, divorced or widowed. But if you are married, you and your spouse will want to discuss all your choices and then decide which steps to take. Once you've got your plans in place, you may well find that you can fully enjoy your retirement years.

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Edward Jones, Member SIPC

Conservation officials urge landowners to be leery of spongy moth's return



A spongy moth caterpillar seen on an oak leaf. **File photo**

As spring approaches, folks who have had trouble with the spongy moth may be wary of its return.

The troublesome pest is usually noticed in its caterpillar stage, where it is a voracious eater of many different tree species' leaves. Its preferred host is oak trees, but they can also commonly be found on spruce, basswood and apple trees.

It is important to understand the life cycle of these insects because it helps determine the best steps to control them. The spongy moth, like other moths and butterflies, has a four-stage life cycle – egg, larvae, pupa and adult.

The cycle begins with the egg stage, where each egg mass can contain 600-1,000 eggs. The eggs hatch into larvae, the fancy science-name for caterpillars, and it is this stage where spongy moths will feed continuously and can cause severe to complete defoliation of trees if the population (number of caterpillars in an area) is large enough.

While the opening stage may seem like an eternity, the caterpillars are a short-lived portion of the moth's life cycle emerging in late-April or early-May and feeding for seven to eight weeks.

Following this, the larvae (caterpillars) enter the pupal stage for one to two weeks in late-June or early-July, where the caterpillar has created a cocoon and will undergo metamorphosis. After pupating and emerging as an adult moth they no longer feed.

After adult moths mate, the cycle starts over again and the flightless female moths will lay their egg masses in dark and protected areas, such as the underside of branches, crooks of trees, awnings, and gutters.

As Michigan Department of Natural Resources officials predicted, 2024 spongy moth populations in southwest Michigan were high enough to cause noticeable tree defoliation in some areas, including Barry County.

Luckily, outbreaks of spongy moths are cyclical and also dependent on their natural predators. For instance, moth populations may increase when their predators, like mice and squirrels, decrease.

In addition, this species also has two pathogens that become prevalent when spongy moth populations get very large. The nucleopolyhedrovirus, or NPV, is a viral disease that naturally occurs in spongy moths, and E. maimaiga is a fungal pathogen introduced to the United States in the 1990s to help control spongy moths.

The two diseases combine to wreak havoc on large, dense populations, leading to a significant population decline when the five-to-seven-year cycle will start all over again.

In the fall of 2024, the Barry Conservation District conducted surveys for spongy moth egg masses across the five most heavily forested townships in Barry County – Hope, Irving, Yankee Springs, Orangeville and Rutland. Technicians compared the number of non-viable egg masses to viable egg masses following a simple sampling protocol developed by Penn State University Extension.

On average, the survey indicated that 84 percent of egg masses were not viable, which indicates the population of spongy moths in the sample area is largely expected to decline. There were a few sampled sites with higher percentages of viable new egg masses, but subsequent follow-up this winter has shown continued decline of viable egg masses even in these sites.

Natural patchiness in populations can make outbreaks hard to predict across a larger landscape, but thankfully spongy moth populations do appear to be declining and there are actions the landowners can take to stem the flow of caterpillars this spring if you find your property has a lot of viable egg masses and you are worried about your trees and shrubs.

The first step is to take stock of your situation.

Take a walk around your yard, or through your woods and start looking for signs of these critters. The most obvious sign will be their egg masses, which are inch-long fuzzy-looking mounds of rusty orange hairs stuck on the bark of trees, underside of decking, and other dark places near forests or large trees. New egg masses will be darker in color and firm to the touch, whereas non-viable egg masses will be lighter, crumbling and spongy/squishy.

While you are out counting, you can destroy the egg masses so they do not hatch in the spring by scraping them into a bucket of soapy water.

Even if you don't notice spongy moths until the caterpillars are out and about, there are still things you can do. A common trap for the caterpillars is to wrap a dark cloth around the trunk of the tree at a height that is easy for you to reach. When the spongy moth caterpillars travel to hide during the day, they will hide under the cloth, then you can go out during the day and smash, burn, or dump them into soapy water to kill them.

For the most severe cases, pesticide is an option. The most effective spray for spongy moths is the organic pesticide Bacillus thuringiensis v. Kurstaki, or BtK, a soil bacteria that kills many types of leaf eating insects. There are a few things to consider before deciding to spray.

First, the timing of a spray is important. If the timing is off, or spray drifts onto non-target vegetation, it has the potential to harm beneficial insects like other moths and butterflies, including the Monarch butterfly.

Second, the cost of spraying has to be considered. To be effective, the spray must cover all the leaves of the tree. On large forests, this can be done by airplane or helicopter, whereas individual trees can be sprayed with either hand or truck sprayers. Local contractors can help decide if either of these options will help accomplish any goals for control.

The State of Michigan considers the spongy moth to be an endemic pest, so treatment is considered the responsibility of the landowner. Knowledge is our best tool to combat this pest and recognize when treatment may be most effective.

Barry Conservation District has put together more information, links and a list of contractors that can help at barry-cd.org/learn/spongymoth. Or feel free to contact the district office via email at barryconservation@gmail.com or by calling 269-908-4139.

Editor's note: The Barry Conservation District contributed this report.

DO YOU **REMEMBER?**



Groups of police, firefighters and Boy Scouts worked Saturday to clean up the Tupper Creek near Lake Odessa. Divers from the Ionia County Sheriff's Department worked underwater to gather trash from the bottom of the creek. Lake Odessa police and firefighters, as well as Boy Scouts from Troop 300 and others, supported the divers. Workers are pictured here hauling a stop sign out of the creek onto shore.

Annual spring weight restrictions in effect statewide

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and local agencies have enacted spring weight restrictions, an annual move to protect roads.

As of Monday, March 10, weight restrictions are now being imposed and enforced on all state trunkline highways in the entire state of Michigan. State routes typically carry M, I, or US designations.

In the restricted areas, the following will apply:

On routes designated as "all-season" (designated in green and gold on the MDOT Truck Operators Map), there will be no reduction in legal axle weights.

All extended permits will be valid for oversize loads in the weight-restricted area on the restricted routes. Single-trip permits will not be issued for any overweight loads or loads exceeding 14 feet in width, 11 axles, and 150 feet in overall length on the restricted routes.

On routes designated as "seasonal" (designated in solid or dashed red on the MDOT Truck Operators Map), there will be a posted weight reduction of 25 percent for rigid (concrete) pavements and 35 percent for flexible (asphalt) pavements, and maximum speed of 35 mph for some vehicles.

Drivers must follow the speed limits for weight restricted roads, per state law. Speed restrictions for trucks and the rules for propane fuel delivery and public utility vehicles can be found online.

When roads that have been frozen all winter and begin to thaw from the surface downward, melting snow and ice saturate the softened ground. During the spring thaw, the roadbed softened by trapped moisture beneath the pavement makes it more susceptible to damage. This contributes to pothole problems already occurring due to this winter's numerous freeze-thaw cycles.

MDOT determines when weight restrictions begin each spring by measuring frost depths along state highways, observing road conditions, and monitoring weather forecasts. Weight restrictions remain in effect until the frost line is deep enough to allow moisture to escape and the roadbeds regain stability.

County road commissions and city public works departments put in place their own seasonal weight restrictions, which usually, but not always, coincide with state highway weight restrictions. Signs are generally posted to indicate which routes have weight restrictions in effect.

For weight restriction information and updates, call 800-787-8960, or you can access this information on MDOT's website at Michigan.gov/Truckers, under "Restrictions." All-season routes are designated in green and gold on the MDOT Truck Operators Map, which is available online at bit.ly/4hr4fiI. You also may sign up to receive e-mail alerts at public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MIDOT/subscriber/new. — *MM*

PIERCE CEDAR CREEK INSTITUTE EVENTS

— MARCH 14-20 —

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

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.

Tuesday, March 18 — Cedar Creek Book Club, 10 a.m.-noon.

Thursday, March 20 — Healthy Planet, Healthy People Lecture Series: Living the Change, 6:30-8 p.m. How do ecosystems affect our health? Does our personal health and actions have an impact on our planet?

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



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-NOTICE-

To Members of Amicrest Mutual Holding Company, Hastings, Michigan:

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Member Meeting of Amicrest Mutual Holding Company will be conducted on Wednesday, April 9, 2025 beginning at 9:00 a.m., at 404 E. Woodlawn Ave, Hastings, MI. The annual meeting agenda includes two items:

Election of Directors: A proposal to elect the following Directors: Renee R. Beauford, Douglas J. Finn, Kellie M. Haines, Norice A. Thorlund Rasmussen, and Kurtis T. Wilder.

Amend Articles of Incorporation to Change Annual Meeting Date: A proposal to approve an amendment to the Articles of Incorporation of Amicrest Mutual Holding Company to amend the date of the annual meeting of members from the second Wednesday in April to the second Thursday of March.

For more information contact Michael W. Puerner, Secretary, 269-948-1532.

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

'In My Time' Part VI

BANNER AUG. 17, 1995

JOYCE F. WEINBRECHT

In 1919, the Faulkner family moved to Middleville to operate the drug store there, which had belonged to John Armstrong. Robert Faulkner continues his story about living in Middleville in the 1920s:

"Every May 1 at the opening of the trout season, Dad would take the whole family fishing on Hampton's Creek east of Delton. We would get up before daybreak and arrive at the creek at sunup, about 3 a.m. Dad had permission from Mr. Hampton to drive down his lane and through a gate to a field near the creek. We all climbed the fence, baited our hooks and sent after the wily speckled trout. We always caught a few fish, but never very many. About 8 o'clock we would start home.

"One May 1, after we had climbed back into the field where we had left the Model T Ford, a bull came through charging across the field. He snorted and pawed the ground. Dad picked up a stone about the size of a baseball and threw it at the bull. His pitching ability served him well as he hit the bull square in the face. The bull backed off a little, but then resumed his snorting and pawing and made a tentative charge. There were lots of stones in the field and Dad held off the bull while Paul climbed the fence, ran up the gate and unfastened it. The rest of us were sitting in the car. Dad cranked the car, threw one final stone at the bull and drove as fast as he could through the gate with the bull in pursuit. Paul opened the gate and closed it behind the car just in time.

"In July, we all went to the big swamp to pick huckleberries. The bushes were twice as tall as I was, but I picked what I could reach. We paid the owner 10 cents a quart for all we picked. Mother canned them, and we had delicious huckleberries all winter.

"The big swamp ran between Wall and Pleasant lakes. In the early 1900s, there was a causeway consisting of fill and wooden bridges spanning a mile of swamp. But a few years after I was born, the bridges were removed and the entire causeway was built on fill. This was a big job, and the C.K.&S. built a side track on the swamp to bring in cars of fill dirt. Horses and wagons hauled the dirt from the cars. At night, the teams were hitched to a freight car.

"One morning, when the workmen returned, the horses, freight cars and a section of siding were gone. During the night, the swamp had swallowed everything.

"A common sight around Delton was Mr. Kelly standing straight in the front of his dray, holding a rein in each hand to guide his white horse. Mr. Kelly delivered railway express from the C.K.&S. depot and did many other jobs he could find.

"Uncle Will Toot was a favorite with us boys. He was my mother's uncle and son of Adam Toot of Irving. He was a proofreader at the Grand Rapids Press and he and his wife, Clara, liked to spend their vacations with us.

"Frequently, Dad would rent a cottage at Wall Lake and we would all live there together for a week or two. We boys looked forward to these visits, but I'm not sure that Dad shared our enthusiasm. The cottages on Wall Lake were the barest of two-story frame structures. The studding was not covered; there was neither electricity nor running water. One well-served several cottages.

"The furnishings were limited to the barest necessitates. We furnished our own bedding and towels. A leaky wooden rowboat went with the cottage.

"One day, my Uncle Will took Arnold and me fishing. After a time, we noticed there was an inch or two of water in the boat. 'Uncle Will, the boat is leaking,' I told him. 'Let it leak,' he replied. 'Then, it will sink,' I protested. 'It ain't our boat, let it sink,' he said.

"Uncle Will took Arnold and me on long walks. He showed us the berries we could eat and those which were poisonous, and told us what a rattlesnake sounded like. He was our friend, companion and teacher. We hated to see him leave at the end of his vacation. I believe he wanted to stay as much as we wanted him to. He was the grandfather that we didn't have.

"For some reason, we call Uncle Will, affectionately, 'Uncle Spud.'

"The summer Arnold was 5 and I was 7 when he came to visit, I remembered we hadn't thanked him for his Christmas present. I said to Arnold, 'What did Uncle Spud get us for Christmas?' Arnold said, 'I'll find out,' and went over to him and said 'Uncle Spud, what did you get us for Christmas?' 'Nothin',' Uncle Spud replied.

"Uncle Will and Aunt Clara had two children, Kate and Roy, who were already grown when I first knew them. Sometimes, they came with their folks. They took the Michigan Central to Hastings and the C.K.&S. to Delton.

"I remember the August evenings we sat together on the screened-in back porch visiting, telling stories or just listening to the katydids and watching the Harvest Moon through the wild cucumber vines that grew over the screens.

"In 1925, Dad tried selling Atwater Kent radios at his Middleville drug store. One August Day he said, 'Bob, I sold a radio to a farmer south of town and tomorrow I want you to install it.

"I was pleased with the assignment and got together the tools, insulators and so forth that I needed. Before I left the next morning, Dad cautioned me about my manners: 'If they ask you for noon dinner thank them and stay and eat with them. They will be offended if you don't.'

"First, I had to run a wire from the barn to the house for the aerial. The aerial was attached to a lightning arrester. I fastened this to a long steel stake, which I drove into the ground. From the lightning arrester, the lead in went under the window sash to the radio. I also had to hook up the A battery, which was a car storage battery, and the B batteries which were two 45-volt dry batteries.



Middleville High School circa 1920.

"I was not nearly finished when the call came for dinner, so I washed up at the pump and joined the family at the large dinner table in the dining room. There must have been hundreds of hungry flies in the room. They perched on the bread, tried to steal the meat and even went after the boiled potatoes. I suddenly lost my appetite. But I made myself eat and even congratulated the farmer's wife on the delicious meal. I always felt I should have received a medal for bravery.

When I turned on the radio, I tried to conceal my surprise when KDKA Pittsburgh came in loud and clear.

"I graduated from high school in June 1926. I agreed with my mother and father that, being only 16, I should work for a year before going to college. This would give me time to earn money for college, since I was expected to pay my own way, as had Paul and Earl.

"Just three days before my 17th birthday, the world was electrified by the non-stop solo flight of Charles Lindbergh across the Atlantic. The world needed a hero and Lindbergh was the idol of Europe and America. He was young, attractive, daring and modest. For years, he was the most popular man in the United States.

"During 1927, I started dating a girl who lived between Middleville and Caledonia. She was the prettiest girl I had ever seen. I usually took her to one of the theaters in Grand Rapids — the Majestic or Regent or Keith's, where they had vaudeville. The State Theater had just opened in Kalamazoo and featured a sky complete with moon and stars and airplanes silently gliding from horizon to horizon. I wanted to give my girlfriend a real treat and hoped to impress her at the same time.

"I asked Dad for the use of the Studebaker. He warned me there was something wrong with the oil system in the car, and if I drove over 45, I might burn out a rod. After picking up my date, I drove to the paved road that connected Grand Rapids with Kalamazoo headed south. It was a fine summer evening and gliding down the highway in the big Studebaker, with 20 dollars in my pocket, (and) my beautiful companion by my side, I felt on top of the world.

"However, I forgot to watch my speed, and a few miles south of Martin, I heard a loud clanking in the motor and I knew that we had burned a rod. I crept into Martin and since it was a Saturday night, the only garage in town was open. They said they didn't have any Studebaker parts and would have to drive to Hastings, a distance of about 25 miles, to get the parts that they would need. After we waited for some time, my date asked to use the bathroom. The manager presented her with a key tied to a piece of wood about six inches long and pointed to the outhouse.

"At a quarter to 12, the car was ready. The repair bill was $19.75. So I went home with 25 cents in my pocket.

"Dad could get very angry if he were disobeyed, and it was with considerable apprehension that I told him what had happened. 'How much did it cost,' he asked. When I told him, he reached into his pocket and handed me $20 muttering something about that no-good Studebaker.

"In the fall of 1927, I entered Western State College at Kalamazoo. I had not decided on a career so I just took a general liberal arts course.

"I'll never forget enrollment day. We stood in a long line in the gym waiting our turn at a single desk to fill out the required forms. I could not believe that college would have such an inefficient method of registration. I went without breakfast in order to complete my registration early. But when I got there, I found myself at the end of a long line. After two hours of standing in the stuffy air of the poorly ventilated gym, I suddenly felt faint. I rushed outside and in doing so yielded my place in line. The fresh air revived me and after a short time, I again took my place at the end of the line and I eventually registered.

"After finding a room at Bellevue Place, which I shared with another student, I discovered Mrs. McCastle's boarding house at 416 Bellevue Place. She served noon dinner and supper for 25 cents a meal. The food was plain, but good and plentiful. I ate breakfast of a long John and a glass of milk at the drugstore. The roll cost two cents and the milk four cents.

"I usually went home for the weekends, so my board bill for the week was $2.80. My room cost me $2.50 a week. My fees for the fall term were a little less than $12. There was no tuition.

"The college buildings were on a hill. I was intrigued with the cable cars. One car came down as the other went up. It seemed strange to me that the college could install cable cars so we wouldn't have to walk up the hill, but at the same time require us to take a gym class so we could get our exercise.

"My gym class was at noon. My 11 a.m. class was across campus, and when it didn't go overtime, it would let me out at 11:50 (a.m.). I would run all the way across campus, change my clothes in the locker room, and appear in the gym class a few minutes late. Every day, the instructor would give me a lacing down for being late."

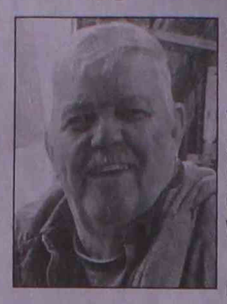
To be continued...


A view of the post office and Faulkner's Drugstore in Delton circa 1920.

OBITUARIES

VIEW OBITUARIES ONLINE. HASTINGSBANNER.COM

Bill Briggs Lewis



Bill Briggs Lewis, age 78, of Middleville, Michigan, passed away on Saturday, March 8, 2025 with his family by his side. He was born on April 1, 1946 in Barry County.

Bill retired from Bradford White Corp. as a skilled tradesman after 43 years after serving in the United States Navy.

He was preceded in death by his parents Russell and Edna Lewis, brothers Johnny and Gladeon, and sister, Melanie. Surviving are his wife Sherrie, brother Alpha (Margilene) Lewis, children April Lewis, Orin (Carrie) Lewis, Stephanie (Tom) Wilde-Ecker, Robert Wilde, grandchildren Skyler Favreau, Chase Favreau, and Dillon Ecker.

A Celebration of Life gathering will be held from 3-7 p.m. on Saturday, April 5, 2025 at Ss. Cyril & Methodius Catholic Church at 159-131st Ave, Wayland Michigan.

Memorial contributions may be made in honor of Bill Lewis to (Barry County Animal Shelter) via checks or cash at 540 Industrial Park Dr., Hastings, MI 49058.

To send a message of sympathy to the family, sign (Bill B. Lewis's) online guest book, or to share a favorite memory, please visit: www.NeptuneSociety.com

Stuart Martin Peck



Stuart Martin Peck, was born July 30, 1948, to Andrew II and Clara Peck. He passed away peacefully on Wednesday, March 5, 2025, surrounded by his family.

Stu grew up in Fort Custer, graduating from Springfield High School in 1966. He helped his parents from a young age, working in the family businesses, Peck's Landscaping, and Peck's Rock Shop. He served in the U.S. Air Force after high school, working in crypto communications, and traveling the world.

He married Karen Green in 1971 and had two daughters, Shelley and Kristy. From 1981 until the early 90s, he ran the family store, Peck's Sportsman's Post in Lacey, MI. In 1987, he married Bonnie Kay Walker-McKeever and became father to her sons, Scott, Chad, and Eric. Stuart worked at Clark Equipment Company, Cello-Foil, Patten Michigan Monument Company, and a few other places, as well. He was a firefighter/Lieutenant for 23 years for Johnstown Township. He was not afraid to put in a hard day's work to support his family.

Stuart is survived by his children, Shelley (Paul Rine) Cole; Scott (Jen) McKeever; Kristy (Cameron) Johnson; Chad (Jenny) McKeever; Eric (Olivia) McKeever; 9 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren; his sisters, Glenda (Lonnie) Rodger; Cheryl Kennedy; and several nieces and nephews. Stu was preceded in death by his parents, his wife of over 30 years, Bonnie, his brother Andrew Peck III, his sister Demaris Mills, and brother-in-law, Daniel Kennedy.

Visitation will be held at Farley Estes Dowdle Funeral Home on Thursday, March 13, 2025, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Services will be held at Pleasantview Family Church, 2791 Lacey Rd, Dowling, on Friday, March 14 at 11:00 a.m. Burial will be at Banfield Cemetery. Luncheon to follow at the church. Personal messages for Stuart's family may be shared at www.farleyestesdowdle.com.

Doris Allerding



Doris Allerding, passed away peacefully on March 5, 2025, in Hastings, Michigan. She was born on August 1, 1932, in Sault Ste Marie, Michigan, the daughter of John McCartney and Pearl Marie (Massey) Parker.

Doris began her career at Michigan Bell, as a telephone operator from 1949 to 1953. She was a graduate of Sault Ste Marie High School, class of 1951. She later worked at Brown's Custom Interior in Hastings from 1969 to 1978, before joining Flexfab, where she remained until her retirement in 1993.

On November 3, 1951, Doris married Vern Allerding. Together, they shared a beautiful marriage of 68 years until Vern's passing in 2019.

Doris was a member of Grace Lutheran Church. Beyond her work and church life, she was an extraordinarily talented artist. Her passion for sewing, chair caning, refinishing furniture, and porcelain doll making was more than a hobby; it was a form of expression that brought beauty to the world. Doris specialized in creating authentic Native American dolls, a craft that required both artistic skill and deep respect for the culture she represented. She poured the molds herself, ensuring each piece was unique. Her creations won 1st and 2nd place awards at Native American Art Shows in Sault Ste Marie, Michigan, and at Soaring Eagle in Mt. Pleasant. Her work was displayed in art galleries, where visitors could appreciate the intricate details and cultural significance of each doll.

Doris was preceded in death by her parents, husband Vern Allerding, and sisters Roberta McGuire, Shirley Runyan, Corrine Blackwell, and Joan Clark.

She is survived by her sons Larry J. Allerding of Hastings; Bryan Lee (Paula) Allerding of Hastings; grandchildren Tyler J. Allerding of Tampa, Florida, Erin (Zachariah) Leary of Hastings, Katie (Richard) Grove of Sunfield, Abbie (Drew) Plemmons of Okemos; great-granddaughters Emmerson Leary of Hastings, Isabella, Grace and Emilee Grove of Sunfield; great-grandsons Liam Leary and Calvin and Harrison Plemmons; siblings-in-law Duane (Marie) Allerding of Hastings, Kevin (Cheryl) Allerding of Hastings, and Terri (John) Catt of Lake Odessa; and many nieces and nephews.

The family wishes to express their heartfelt gratitude to the staff at Woodlawn Meadows Assisted Living for their compassionate care during Doris' time with them.

Funeral Service will be held on Friday, March 14, 2025, 11:00 AM, with a time of visitation one hour prior, at Grace Lutheran Church, 239 E. North Street, Hastings, MI 49058.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Grace Lutheran Church or Interim Healthcare and Hospice of West Michigan, 1971 E. Beltline Ave NE # 216, Grand Rapids, MI 49525: Arrangements by Girrbach Funeral Home, to leave an online condolence visit www.girrbachfuneralhome.net.

Paul Stephen Casarez



Paul Stephen Casarez, aged 70, passed away peacefully on February 27, 2025, leaving behind a legacy of love, dedication, and service. Born to Pablo and Joann Casarez on June 26, 1954, Paul's indomitable spirit and joy for life touched everyone who knew him, especially his siblings Pamela, David, Brenda, and Phillip.

After graduating with a degree in Chemical Engineering from Michigan Technological University, Paul embarked on a rewarding career starting with Olin Chemical in Charleston, TN, and finishing as an independent safety consultant with Process Improvement Institute. His keen intellect and problem-solving abilities made him a respected figure in his field. Paul's commitment to excellence was only matched by his dedication to mentorship, as he generously shared his knowledge with colleagues and newcomers alike.

Beyond his professional pursuits, Paul was a man of faith and fellowship, most recently attending the First Church of the Nazarene in Columbus, IN. His voice was a staple in church choirs and song worship wherever they lived over the years.

An avid golfer, Paul found serenity on the greens and fairways, where he also forged lasting friendships. His love for sports extended into the realm of coaching, where he became a beloved figure to many youths. Paul's encouragement and guidance helped shape the lives of countless young athletes, instilling in them the values of teamwork, discipline, and fair play.

Perhaps Paul's most cherished role was that of Executive Director of the Indian Lake Nazarene Camp in Vicksburg, MI. There, he worked tirelessly to create a welcoming and nurturing environment for children, youth, and families. His leadership and vision transformed the camp into a haven for spiritual growth and community building.

Paul's devotion to his family was unparalleled. As a loving husband to Carol, father to Corbin and Kevin, and grandfather to Leia and Aria, he was the cornerstone of his family, offering unwavering support and boundless affection. His legacy lives on in the cherished memories and the strong family bonds that he nurtured throughout his life.

Per his wishes, no services are planned. A private burial will take place at a later date in Hastings, Michigan.

James Ellis Johnston



James Ellis Johnston passed away on March 4, 2025, in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He was born on September 30, 1957, in Hastings, Michigan, the son of Ellis Holmes Johnston and Alice Lorraine (Layle) Strimback.

Jim attended Lakewood High School. His love for learning and his determination led him to further his education at Huntington College. Despite his developmental disabilities, Jim's resilience and strength of character shone brightly throughout his life.

In his professional journey, Jim demonstrated remarkable adaptability and a commendable work ethic. He found joy and purpose in various roles, from assisting customers at the local grocery store to bringing smiles to moviegoers at the theater. He also assisted at a preschool, where his kindness and gentle manner made a lasting impact on the young lives he touched.

Jim was an amazing and wonderful man who, despite his challenges, left a positive mark on many. His kind and gentle nature was not just a personal trait, but a gift he shared generously with the world around him. Jim's ability to remain polite and considerate, even in the face of adversity, was a testament to his character.

Jim is preceded in death by his parents, brother Durwood Birman, and nephew Patrick Strimback.

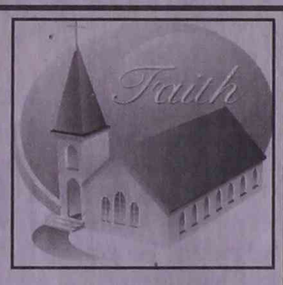
He is survived by his siblings Beverly McClintock, Kathy Hoffman, Diane Smith, and Durwin "Curly" Birman, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

The family would especially like to thank the staff at Hope Network at both River Valley and Breton Valley facilities.

Visitation will be held on Monday, March 10, 2025, at 11:00 AM with a funeral service to follow at Noon at Hastings Free Methodist Church, 2635 M-43, Hastings, MI 49058, Pastor Brian Teed officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to Hope Network, One Hope Network Center, PO Box 890, Grand Rapids, MI 49546, or online at https://hopenetwork.org/foundation/give. Arrangements by Girrbach Funeral Home. To leave an online condolence visit www.girrbachfuneralhome.net.

Worship Together



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

HASTINGS
Fiberglass Products
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Hastings, MI 49058
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OBITUARIES

VIEW OBITUARIES ONLINE. HASTINGSBANNER.COM

Robert Gordon Bender



Robert Gordon Bender, of Middleville, Michigan, flew peacefully into his next great adventure, leaving behind a lifetime of stories, service, and love. He reunites with his beloved wife of 65 years, Carol Cox Bender, as well as his parents, Russell and Alice Bender, and his sister Beverly Bourgeau. Bob's legacy continues through his children—Cheryl Hemond (Michael), Julie Cleary (Kevin), and Greg Bender. He was a cherished grandfather to Cal Cleary (Lynsi), Hannah Chesser (Dan), Sydney Johnson (Peter), and Gabby Hemond, and an adoring great-grandfather to Margo and Remi Chesser, and Peter Johnson. His sisters, Joan Tabor (Vinal) and Mary Wood (Steve), will also miss him dearly, along with a lifetime of friends and admirers. A proud alumnus of Thornapple Kellogg High School (Class of 1954) and Michigan State University, Bob earned a degree in Agricultural Education before taking to the skies. In 1959, his love for flight became his career as a U.S. Navy pilot. After years of active duty, he transitioned to the Navy Reserves, serving until 1990 and retiring as a captain in 2001—though his heart would forever remain in the cockpit. Back on the ground, Bob returned to Middleville in 1964 to run his 1,100-acre dairy farm, managing 500 head of cattle and the chaos that comes with it. But his passion didn't stop at farming—Bob also found himself drawn into the world of politics. He served as chairman of the Barry County Board of Commissioners (1978-1982) and spent 12 impactful years in the Michigan State Legislature as a state representative. Bob and Carol's story didn't end with public service. The adventurous couple joined the Peace Corps, spending two years in Russia (1995-1997), followed by many more years volunteering with the nonprofit "From Houses to Homes" in Guatemala. Together, they hiked and camped across nearly every National Park in America, explored Europe, and spent idyllic summers on Mackinac Island—a place they held close to their hearts. Though Bob's flight plan on earth has ended, the spirit of his adventure and kindness lives on in the lives he touched. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations in Bob's honor to From Houses to Homes in Guatemala (www.Fromhousestohomes.org). Bob's family will receive friends on Friday, March 21, 2025 from 5:00-8:00 PM at the Beeler-Gores Funeral Home, Middleville. A memorial service will be conducted at 11:00 AM on Saturday, March 22, 2025 at Middleville United Methodist Church. Private burial will take place at Mt. Hope Cemetery. Please visit www.beelergoresfuneral.com to share a memory or leave a condolence message for Bob's family. Fly high, Captain Bob. May you find endless skies, open trails, and Carol by your side once more.

Terry Neymeiyer



Terry Lee Neymeiyer, Sr., aged 64, of Hastings, Michigan, passed away peacefully on March 4, 2025, after a courageous battle with cancer. Terry was born on October 18, 1960, in Grand Rapids, Michigan, the son of Edward and Esther (Westbrook) Neymeiyer.

Terry was a graduate of Hudsonville High School. After completing his education, he embarked on a fulfilling career as a Trailer Mechanic, a role he held for over 40 years until his retirement in 2020. On July 21, 2001, Terry married Denise McCole, and they enjoyed 23 years together.

Terry found joy in the simple things, especially the outdoors. He loved fishing, hunting, and bowling. Every spring, he eagerly searched for morels in the woods and enjoyed gardening. Terry's generosity knew no bounds, especially when it came to helping others with their houses, and he was always there to lend a hand.

Preceding Terry in death were his parents, Edward and Esther (Westbrook) Neymeiyer, his brothers Ed, Rick, and Tim Neymeiyer, his niece Della, his father-in-law Gerald McCole, and his nephew Jonathan McCole.

He is survived by his wife, Denise; children, Aspen Neymeiyer of Hastings, Terry Neymeiyer, Jr. of Moline, and Bambi (Robinson) Hollingsworth of Byron Center; granddaughters Adriana and Lillian Gould, Brooklynn and Jaelynn Neymeiyer; grandson Brayden Neymeiyer; sisters Tammy Dull and Judy Richardson; mother-in-law Betty McCole; sisters-in-law Sally Neymeiyer, Jill Neymeiyer; brothers-in-law Dave (Roxanne) McCole, Don (Deb) McCole, and Dean McCole; and many nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be held on Friday, March 14, 2025, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at Girrbach Funeral Home, 328 S Broadway, Hastings, MI 49058. The funeral service will take place on Saturday, March 15, 2025, at 11:00 AM, with visitation starting one hour prior at Girrbach Funeral Home. Arrangements by Girrbach Funeral Home. To leave an online condolence visit www.girrbachfuneralhome.net.

HASTINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY SCHEDULE

Thursday, March 13 – Teen Advisory Board, 3:30 p.m.; Movie, Memories and Milestones watches a 1939 film starring Maureen O'Hara, Charles Laughton, Robert Newton, 5 p.m.

Friday, March 14 – Friday Story Time 10:30 a.m.

Saturday, March 15 – Dungeons & Dragons and Warhammer, 9 a.m.

Monday, March 17 – Crafting Passions, 10 a.m.; PAWS for Reading, 3:30 p.m.; Lego Club, 4 p.m.;

Tuesday, March 18 – Baby Cafe, 10 a.m.; mahjong, 2 p.m.; Youth Garden Club, 3:30 p.m.; chess, 5 p.m.

Wednesday, March 19 – Itsy Bitsy Book Club, 10:30 a.m.

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

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thatcher Colt Tobias, born at Corewell Health Pennock on 2-16-25, to Isabella and Leighton Tobias of Delton.

*****

Daxtyn Armstrong, born at Corewell Health Pennock on 2-13-25, to Mackenzie and Daryn Armstrong of Dowling.

*****

Nora Leona Davis, born at Corewell Health Pennock on 2-10-25, to Jessica Willerick and Thomas Davis of Springfield.

*****

Lincoln James Kubek, born at Corewell Health Pennock on 1-28-25, to Shian and James Kubek of Hastings.

*****

Andrew Christopher Jones, born at Corewell Health Pennock on 2-6-25, to Samantha and Kyle Jones of Dowling.

*****

Edith Kelly Miller, born at Corewell Health Pennock on 2-5-25, to Meaghan and David Miller of Hastings.

*****

CLASSIFIEDS

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

BUSINESS SERVICES

PACILLO LAWNCARE Taking new clients in Hastings. Phone (269)838-6025.

TREE SERVICE

BUYING WALNUT, HARD maple, and white oak trees. Will buy single walnut trees. Free Estimates. Fully Insured. Fetterly Logging 269-818-7793.

EMPLOYMENT

BARN HELP WANTED Must have experience with horses. Full and part time positions available with competitive pay. Please call 269-207-4218 or email at zlpowell@yahoo.com if interested.

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You're our friends, our family, our neighbors...and our future.
VIEWnewspaper Group
Your Community Connection

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*
Band Ensembles Concert | *Tue, 4/1 | 7:00 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.

City of Hastings
COUNTY OF BARRY, STATE OF MICHIGAN
City Council Agenda
March 10, 2025

1. Regular meeting called to order at 7:00 PM
2. Roll call
3. Pledge to the flag
* 4. Approval of the agenda
* 5. Approval of the minutes of the February 24, 2025, regular meeting √ 6. Public Hearings: (None)
7. Public Comment:
8. Formal Recognitions and Presentations:
   A. Presentation from Dave Hatfield, Barry County Commissioner.

√ 9. Items for Action by Unanimous Consent:

* A. Request from Gina McMahon, Recreation & Outreach Director of the YMCA of Barry County, to hold their yearly summer program at Fish Hatchery Park's Large Pavillion and Fish Hatchery Building from **June 17 through August 9, 2025, Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM.**
* B. Request from J. Maizlish Mole of the Hastings Pride Committee to accept donations and sell merchandise at the Hastings Pride 2025 event at Thornapple Plaza on **Saturday, June 28, 2025 from 1:00 pm – 6:00 pm.**
* C. Consider acceptance, with regret, the resignation of Ann Ulberg from the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Board, effective immediately.
* D. Consider the Mayor's appointment of Scott Schultz to the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Board with the consent of the Council. The term of appointment is March 11, 2025, through December 31, 2025.
* E. Receive and place on file four (4) invoices totaling **$34,537.16.** √ 10. Items of Business:
* A. Conduct first reading of **Ordinance 628** amendment to Division 2-V-2, Article II, of Chapter 2 of the Hastings Code of 1970 to establish the purchasing and contracting procedures for the City of Hastings.

* B. Conduct first reading of **Ordinance 629** pertaining to text amendment to Section 90-883 Driveways. The Planning Commission has recommended an amendment to Section 90-883 (b)(4) increasing the maximum driveway width at the property line from 20 feet to 24 feet.
* C. Motion to approve, under the direction of staff, Relay for Life of Barry County's annual request to hold the Relay for Life event supporting the American Cancer Society in Tyden Park from **12:00 PM Saturday, September 13, 2025, through 12:00 PM on Sunday, September 14, 2025**, and to adopt **Resolution 2025-03**, staying the necessary ordinances.
* D. Motion to approve, under direction of staff, Michigan Cyclocross, LLC request to conduct the "Kisscross Cyclocross" bicycle racing event in Fish Hatchery Park from **7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 14, 2025**, and adopt **Resolution 2025-04**, staying the necessary ordinances.
* E. Motion to adopt the **2025 Capital Improvement Plan** as presented.
* F. Motion to approve the purchase of a tow behind air compressor from AIS Construction in the amount of **$27,050.**

11. Staff Presentations and Policy Discussion:
12. City Manager Report:

* A. Fire Chief Jordan Monthly Report
* B. Library Director Edelman Monthly Report
* C. Assessor Rashid Monthly Report

√ 13. Reports and Communications:

* A. Hastings Public Library Board of Trustees Draft Minutes – March 3, 2025 14. Public Comment:

15. Mayor and Council comment:
16. Adjourn

* Items with enclosures.
√ Motion under agenda heading requires roll call vote.

Guidelines for Public Comment

Public Comment is welcomed and appreciated. Please follow these simple guidelines to ensure all have an opportunity to be heard.

All comments and questions will be made through the chair. All comments will be made in a courteous and civil manner; profanity and personal attacks will not be tolerated. Please limit the length of your comments to 3 minutes. If you are a member of a group, please appoint a spokesperson to speak on behalf of the group (those speaking on behalf of a group may be provided additional time). Please state your name before offering comment.

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 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)

SYNOPSIS
RUTLAND CHARTER TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
February 12, 2025 - 7:00 p.m.

Regular meeting called to order and Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Hall, Hawthorne, Greenfield, Watson, Bellmore, James, Mayack
Absent: None

Approved the Agenda

Approved the Consent Agenda

Monthly Treasurer's Report

Monthly Clerk's Voucher/Payroll Report

Motion to appoint Board of Review member, Doug Lectka Roll Call Vote – All Ayes, motion passes

Motion to approve the prepay to PLM for Algonquin Lake 2025 weed treatment Roll Call Vote – All Ayes, motion passes

Motion to approve the Hold Harmless Agreement and permit for Algonquin Lake fireworks show Roll Call Vote – All Ayes, motion passes

Adjournment 8:12 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Hawthorne, Clerk

Attested to by,
Marti Mayack, Supervisor

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

Decendent: John M. Bergsma JR. Date of birth: Febraury 17, 1951

TO ALL CREDITORS: *
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, John M. Bergsma, Jr., died on January 1, 2025. There is no probate estate.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against John M. Bergsma, Jr. or the Ray Bergsma Protection Trust u/a/d March 29, 2024, will be forever barred unless presented to Jean S. Ray, the trustee, within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: March 6, 2025
James Curcio (P83113)
625 Kenmoor Ave SE Ste 301
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
(616) 226-1861
jcurcio@curciolawmi.com
Attorneys for Trustee

Jean S. Ray
Trustee
3003 East Michgain Ave., #1273
Lansing, MI 48912

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent Trust

The Kermit R. Merrow and Elsie G. Merrow Revocable Trust Fourth Restatement dated June 22, 2022

TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedents, Kermit R. Merrow, born September 17, 1924, and Elsie G. Merrow, born December 24, 1926, Settlors of Kermit R. Merrow and Elsie G. Merrow Revocable Trust Fourth Restatement dated June 22, 2022, who last lived at 1821 N. East Street, Apartment 5, Hastings, Michigan 49058, died: Kermit R. Merrow, October 24, 2015; Elsie G. Merrow, February 14, 2025
Creditors of the Decedents are notified that all claims against the Kermit R. Merrow and Elsie G. Merrow Revocable Trust Fourth Restatement dated June 22, 2022 will be forever barred unless presented to Michael J. McPhillips, Successor Trustee of the Kermit R. Merrow and Elsie G. Merrow Revocable Trust Fourth Restatement dated June 22, 2022 within 4 months from the date of publication of this Notice.
Date of Publication of this Notice: 3/4/2025
Michael J. McPhillips
121 West Apple Street, Suite 101
Hastings, Michigan 49058
269-945-3512

GO ONLINE TO HASTINGSBANNER.COM

SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - BARRY COUNTY Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 49c of the State Housing Development Authority Act of 1966, 1966 PA 346, MCL 125.1449c, 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 10, 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): Dennis R. Allen and Josephine M. Allen, husband and wife Original Mortgagee: Mortgage 1 Incorporated Date of mortgage: May 21, 2019 Recorded on May 24, 2019, in Document No. 2019-005031, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Michigan State Housing Development Authority Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Seventeen Thousand Four Hundred Twenty-Nine and 23/100 Dollars ($117,429.23) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Barry County, and described as: Parcel 1: Part of Lot(s) 5 and 6, Block 14 of VILLAGE OF WOODLAND according to the plat thereof recorded in Liber 1 of Plats, Page 21 of Barry County Records, described as: Commencing at the Southeast Corner of Section 16, Town 4 North, Range 7 West; thence North 953.5 feet; thence West 33 feet for the place of beginning; thence West 132 feet; thence North 66 feet; thence East 132 feet; thence South 66 feet to the place of beginning. Parcel 2: A part of Lots 7 and 9 of Block 14 and a strip of land 1 1/2 rods wide on the West end of Lot 9 of the VILLAGE OF WOODLAND described as commencing at the Southeast corner of Lot 7 of Block 14 of the Village of Woodland according to the recorded plat thereof, for the place of beginning; thence North 15 feet along the East line of said Lot 7; thence West to a point 1 1/2 rods West of the West line of said Lot 9 of Block 14; thence South to a point 1 1/2 rods West of the Southwest corner of said Lot 9; thence East along the South line of said Lot 9 to the Southeast corner of said Lot 9; thence North along the East line of said Lot 9 to the Southwest corner of said Lot 7; thence East along the South line of said Lot 7 to the point of beginning. Parcel 3: Part of Lots 5, 6 and 10 of Block 14 of the original VILLAGE OF WOODLAND, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Liber 1 of Plats on Page 21 and vacated Green street adjacent thereto described as follows: Commencing at the Southeast corner of Section 16, Town 4 North, Range 7 West; thence North 953.5 feet along the West line of Section 16; thence West 33.0 feet at right angles for the true place of beginning; thence South 6.0 feet; thence West 363 feet to the center of vacated Green Street; thence North along the center of Green Street to a point 24.75 feet West of the Northwest corner of said Lot 10; thence East 231 feet along the North line of Lot 10 to the Northeast corner thereof; thence South to a point West of the place of beginning; thence West 132 feet to the place of beginning. Commonly known as 217 N Main St, Woodland, MI 48897 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 125.1449v, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 125.1449v(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. 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. Michigan State Housing Development Authority Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400
1555640 (03-13)(04-03)

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)

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)

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)

Hewitt plans to be even stronger on court at Olivet

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The girls bouncing off her in the paint for the past two or three seasons might not have believed it, but Hastings senior Rachael Hewitt has plans to start weight lifting this spring in preparation to play some college basketball.

A physical force around the basket, whether she was wearing a protective face guard during her junior season or leading the Saxons in points, steals, rebounds, three-pointers and blocked shots as a senior, Hewitt signed her National Letter of Intent to join the Olivet College Women's Basketball program inside the Hastings High School gymnasium Thursday.

"I really wanted to be close to home, and in a small town because I don't like big cities. I really liked the coaches. They kept in contact with me all the time. I had another option, but I really liked how these coaches always stayed in contact and invited me all the time to stuff like camps and games."

Hewitt said the Comet coaching staff hasn't set up a prep plan or her yet, but she knows she wants to start weight lifting to prep for next season and on the court she said the biggest thing she has to do is keep improving her shooting.

She averaged 16 points per game and 7.8 rebounds per game this season and was named first team all-conference in the Interstate-8 Athletic Conference. The Saxon varsity season ended last Wednesday in a tough district semifinal loss at Olivet High School.

The Saxons played their final district ballgame Wednesday, Hewitt signed her NLI on Thursday and she had plans to visit the Olivet College campus Friday for scholar day to look into joining the honors program. She has plans to study business at Olivet.

"I just want to have a job in business where I work with people," Hewitt said.

She is thankful her parents Mark and Jill Hewitt helped her make the most of her time on the basketball court. Rachael started working with the Attack Basketball club in Kalamazoo as a sixth grader and eventually spent time in the Michigan Basketball Academy club out of Grand Rapids.

Rachael has also played volleyball and softball at Hastings High School.

"[Basketball] was my first sport," Rachael said. "I started in the YMCA and then I just fell in love with it, and I was the best at it. I just picked that one. Then I started going to training and then I realized I wanted to play in college, and I tried getting scouted."

"Attack built me," she added. "I was bad before I went there. [Alton] Tucker saved me. He saved my shot and taught me everything I know pretty much.

"I was actually scared of him at first. He would throw a football pad at me and then I would go to the back of the line until he caught me, and then he would tell me to get to the front to go again.

"You would go up for a lay-up and he would just whack you with it."



Hastings senior Rachael Hewitt signs her National Letter of Intent to join the Olivet College Women's Basketball program next year, Thursday in the Hastings High School gymnasium. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

By the time she was on the Saxon varsity scoring through contact was a regular occurrence for Hewitt whether a whistle blew or not. Her last basket as a Saxon looked like so many before, rushing down the left side of the lane to post up on the block on an inbound play. She made one dribble to her left and then turned back to her right with a defender on her back to put the ball up and in. It had Hastings within two points with less than a minute to go, but the Saxons couldn't finish their comeback bid.

"We tried really hard. Our effort was really good," Hewitt said.

It was a tough end to a senior season that Hewitt enjoyed. She said one of her biggest varsity highlights was the team winning a tournament at Loy Norrix early this season.

Saxons compete with state's best at D2 bowling finals

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Hastings girls placed 14th in the team competition and Saxon freshman Andrew Barton placed 46th in the boys' singles competition at the MHSAA Division 1 Bowling Finals at Century Bowl in Waterford the weekend of Feb. 28-March 1.

The Hastings girls' threw eight Baker games and two regular games during the girls' team finals Feb. 28. The Saxons put together a total pinfall of 2,617 pins. The Hastings girls had top Baker games of 181 and 161 from among their eight throughout the course of the day.

The top eight teams from the qualifying earned spots in a match play bracket. Swartz Creek was tops in qualifying with an overall pinfall of 3,337 and to roll through the match play competition to the state championship. Swartz Creek outscored Cedar Springs 148-138, 223-115 and 201-196 in three Baker contests to clinch the state champions.

The Flint Kearsley boys rolled to a team state title in Division 2 too, beating out New Boston Huron in the championship match. New Boston Huron and Kearsley had finished the boys' qualifying games 1-2 in the standings.

It was Barton's turn to take the lanes or the MHSAA Division 2 Singles State Finals Saturday, March 1, and he put up a total pinfall of 1,020 through six games. He closed his day with his two highest scoring games of the tournament – a 212 and 179.

The top 16 of 56 bowlers in the singles qualifying earned spots in a match play bracket. Brayden Siders, a Carleton Airport sophomore, was the top bowler in qualifying with an overall pinfall of 1,325. Flint Kearasley senior Trent Zemore and St. Clair Shores Lake Shore junior Gregg Winters tied for 15th to be the last two match play qualifiers. They had overall scores of 1,183.

In the end, it was Vicksburg junior Jordan Butler outscoring DeWitt sophomore Griffin Lindemann in the finals of the match-play bracket. In two games, Butler outscored Lindemann 400-387.

Tecumseh junior Kierra Pinter won the D2 girls' singles championship Saturday.

Eklunds hit milestones for P-W in district win over DK

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Panthers had one good run early on, but couldn't slow down the Pewamo-Westphalia girls who entered the state tournament number two in the MHSAA's Division 3 Power Ratings.

Pewamo-Westphalia (25-0) scored a 78-16 win over the Delton Kellogg varsity girls' basketball team in the MHSAA Division 3 District Semifinals at Pewamo-Westphalia High School Wednesday, Feb. 5. The Pirates followed up with a 56-16 win over NorthPointe Christian in the district final Friday and then outscored Saugatuck 51-23 in an MHSAA Division 3 Regional Semifinal Monday.

"Pewamo is just a machine," Delton Kellogg head coach Kevin Lillibridge said. "They came out up 12-1, and we actually went on a 9-0 run to make it 12-10. After seeing them play Saugatuck [Monday] it showed how special that run was. Afterwards they went on a 66-6 run to finish out the game."

Delton Kellogg senior Josie Williams closed out her varsity basketball tenure with the Panthers by scoring eight of her team's 16 points. Junior guard Addie Stampfler, playing a little shy of 100 percent, added seven points.

"Pewamo made 11 three point shots, and move the ball seamlessly," Lillibridge said. "It was a great look at where we want to be in the future."

Peyton Eklund set a school record with eight three pointers and led the Pirates with 28 points. It was also a milestone night for P-W head coach Steve Eklund who earned his 300th varsity coaching victory at P-W.

NorthPointe earned its spot in Friday's district final with a 55-31 win over the Saranac girls in their Wednesday evening district semifinal last week.

KNOW SOMETHING INTERESTING?
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THE HASTINGS BANNER
VIEW newspaper Group

Handful of scoring swims for DK/Hastings at SCC meet

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

A ninth-place time of 1 minute .94 seconds by DJ Kuck in the 100-yard backstroke was the top finish for the Delton Kellogg/Hastings varsity boys' swimming and diving team at the Southwestern and Central (SCC) Michigan Swim Conference Championship this season.

Kuck won the 'B' Final of the race, swimming faster than all but the top four swimmers who had qualified for the 'A' Final in the event. Carter Pratt of Marshall had a stellar time of 55.11 seconds to win the 'A' Final of the race in the Otsego High School pool. The conference championship was held Feb. 28- March 1.

The DK/Hastings team had a pair of swimmers score among the top 16 in the 50-yard freestyle during the March 1 finals. Caleb Kramer placed 12th in that spring with a time of 25.95 and Colton Baker was 13th in 26.44. Baker also contributed a sixth-place diving performance. He closed the 11-dive competition with 273.00 points and earned a spot in last week's regional diving competition.

Kuck added a 13th-place time of 1:05.07 in the 100-yard butterfly at the SCC Championship.

Reese Hammond swam to an 11th-place time of 6:45.57 for the DK/Hastings team in the 500-yard freestyle. Justine Bayabay scored with a 16th-place time of 1:24.47 in the 100-yard breaststroke for the DK/Hastings team too.

The meet was filled with personals best times for the DK/Hastings boys.

The top relay performances for the DK/Hastings team were in the 200-yard medley relay and the 200-yard freestyle relay where teams placed tenth.

Plainwell was well ahead of the field in the day's final team standings with 480 points. Otsego was second with 416 ahead of Marshall 384, Allegan 321, South Haven 228, Sturgis 188, Harper Creek 185 and Hastings 78.

Plainwell's Sam Harper and Otsego's Liam Smith both won two individual events each. Smith took the 200-yard individual medley in 1:52.44 and the 100-yard breaststroke in 1:00.31. He was also a part of victorious Bulldog teams in the 200-yard medley relay and the 400-yard freestyle relay. Harper won the 200-yard freestyle in 1:44.70 and the 500-yard freestyle in 4:41.20, and he was a part of runner-up finishes for the Trojans in the 200-yard freestyle relay and the 400-yard freestyle relay.

Baker was the last DK/Hastings competitor this winter as he closes his season by placing 25th at the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 2 Diving Regional hosted by Grand Rapids Northview Thursday. He put together a score of 118.35 through five dives.

The top 14 competitors at the regional qualified for the state finals, which will be held this weekend at Eastern Michigan University. Byron Center's Jack Olivet won the regional championship with an 11-div e score of 505.00 points. William Blind from Portage Northern was the runner-up at 487.10.

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STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF BARRY
NOTICE OF HEARING
FILE NO. 25030040-NC

In the matter of Jean Marie Leak
TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on 4/02/2025 at 145 p.m.
at Barry County Trial Court, Family Division Room FC01, 206 W Court St. Ste 302, Hastings, MI 49058 before Judge William Michael Doherty Bar No. 41960 for the following purpose(s): Petition for name change

If you require special accommodations to use the court because of a disability, or if you require a foreign language interpreter to help you fully partcipate in court proceedings, please contact the court immeditately to make arrangements.

Date: 2-26-25

Jean Leak
1028 Old Barn Ln
Freeport MI 49325
616-633-3361

GO ONLINE TO
HASTINGSBANNER.COM

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

In the Matter of The Reuben M. Fish Trust
Date of Birth December 7, 1922

TO ALL CREDITORS*
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: the decedent, Reuben M. Fish, died January 11, 2025, leaving the above Trust in full force and effect. Creditors of the decedent or against the Trust are notified that all claims against the decedent or trust will be forevered barred unless presented to Steve R. Fish and Amanda R. Novak, Trustees, within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: 3/10/25
Rhodes McKee PC

Stephanie S. Fekkes P43549
607 North Broadway, Suite A
Hastings, MI 49058
(269) 945-1921

Steve R. Fish & Amanda R. Novak
c/o Rhodes McKee
607 North Broadway, Suite A
Hastings, MI 49058
(269) 945-1921

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)

Big Viking push extends district semifinal to overtime

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Vikings dispatched one Capital Area Activities Conference White Division foe, but couldn't down a second in the MHSAA Division 2 District Tournament at Olivet High School this week.

The Lakewood varsity girls' basketball team fell 41-36 in overtime against conference foe Eaton Rapids in the district semifinals Wednesday. The Greyhounds scored the game's first nine points and still had a nine-point lead as the clock ticked down towards three minute to go in the game.

"Talk about believing in themselves and grit, these girls never gave up and fought hard. I'm most proud of their effort and desire. They left it all out there," Lakewood head coach Luke Farrell said.

The Greyhounds had a big night on the offensive glass and the Vikings had a few too many turnovers throughout the first half. Lakewood cleaned up those to problem areas a bit in the second half, but putting the ball in the basket continued to be a challenge until sophomore guard Avery Farrell buried a three-pointer with 3:12 to go in the ballgame that cut the Greyhound lead down to 31-25.

Ana Grant knocked down a couple of free throws, Johanna Duits blocked a putback attempt by the Greyhounds' Rylee Winkelman, Grant knocked down as bucket in the paint and then drew a charge at the other end of the floor. Finally a putback by senior forward Liz Markwart for the Vikings tied the game at 31-31 with 1:15 to play in regulation.

The teams traded buckets in the final minute, with a putback from Duits tying the game at 33-33 with about 36 seconds to go. The two teams went into overtime tied at 33-33 as a three-point attempt from the top of the key with time running about was swiped away by the Greyhounds.

Eaton Rapids knocked down a three half a minute into overtime and led for the rest of the night. All three points for the Vikings in the extra four minutes came on free throws by Markwart. A steal and lay-up by the Greyhounds Avah Vozar sealed the win for her team.

Grant had a team-high 11 points. Duits and Markwart closed the night with nine points apiece for the Vikings, and the freshman center Duits had a massive all-around game. She finished with 17 rebounds including seven on the offensive end.

Avery Farrell had three points and Heidi Carter finished with two points. Markwart had four rebounds and Carter contributed four assists and three steals. As a team a, the Vikings shot 67 percent from the free throw line, which was one of its top performances all season long.

Lakewood closes the season with a 6-14 record. The Greyhounds won all three match-ups with the Vikings this season taking four-point and 11-point wins during the conference season.

Eaton Rapids (13-11) went on to beat host Olivet 54-30 in the district final Friday night, but saw its tournament run in a 47-22 loss to Goodrich in the MHSAA Division 2 Regional Semifinals at Pinckney High School Monday.

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 APRIL 3, 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 Heather Anne Barton, an unmarried woman, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for MB Financial Bank, N. A., Mortgagee, dated October 12, 2016 and recorded October 18, 2016 in Instrument Number 2016-010472 and Loan Modification Agreement recorded on February 19, 2019, in Instrument Number 2019-001257, and Loan Modification Agreement recorded on October 17, 2023, in Instrument Number 2023-008173, 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 Two Hundred Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty-Nine and 43/100 Dollars ($207,769.43).
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 APRIL 3, 2025.
Said premises are located in the Township of Thornapple, Barry County Michigan, and are described as:
That part of the Southeast 1/4 of Section 36, Town 4 North, Range 10 West, described as: Beginning at the East 1/4 corner of said Section 36; thence South 89 degrees 50 minutes 30 seconds West 625.0 feet along the North line of said Southeast 1/4; thence South 45 degrees 09 minutes 30 seconds East 575 feet, more or less, to the centerline of Thornapple River; thence Northeasterly along said centerline 295 feet, more or less, to the East line of said Section 36; thence North 00 degrees 00 minutes West 215 feet, more or less, to the Place of Beginning.
7101 W Loop Road, Middleville, Michigan 49333
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.
Dated: March 6, 2025
File No. 25-003062
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400

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)

Beard 41st in qualifying at D3 bowling finals

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Lakewood senior Lucas Beard closed out an outstanding our seasons of varsity bowling by placing 41st in the qualifying at the MHSAA Division 3 Boys' Bowling Singles Finals Saturday, March 1, at Jax 60 in Jackson.

Beard had top games of 210 and 197 among his six games in the qualifying which included 56 of the state's top D3 bowlers. He put together an overall pinfall of 1,074 for the day.

The top 16 bowlers in qualifying earned spots in the match play round of the tournament.Joshua Gunderson, a sophomore from Croswell-Lexington, finished tops in the qualifying with an overall pinfall of 1,363, finishing 16 pins ahead of the runner-up, senior Hunter Ross from Almont.

Overall for the day, Gunderson knocked down a couple more pins, but it was Ross to rallied to take the state singles championship. Ross put together games of 187 and 190 to beat out Gunderson's 192 and 183 by two pins in the championship finals of the match play bracket.

A couple of Capital Area Activities Conference White Division bowlers advanced through the qualifying. Portland senior Eli Dakin was fourth with an overall pinfall of 1,293 and Olivet junior Michael Fitzner 15th with a score of 1,218.

Fremont senior Gavin Payne was the last of the 16 match play qualifiers with an overall score of 1,212.

Standish Sterling senior Paige Vallad was the D3 girls' singles state champion Saturday.

The Standish Sterling boys and Livonia Clarenceville girls won team state championships on Friday, Feb. 28, at Jax 60.

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

Last Saxon chances won't fall in semi's at Olivet

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

It was about as even of a match-up as the Saxons had all season long according to head coach Ben Wilson.

That left it all down to a bounce here or there, and too many times the Saxon shots bounced the wrong way off the rim Wednesday, March 5, in the MHSAA Division 2 District Semifinals at Olivet High School. The host Eagles (9-14) took a 32-29 win over the Hastings varsity girls' basketball team (7-16).

"The kids played hard like they always do," Wilson said. "They were really feeling that loss on Wednesday. I could tell how much they care and how much they wanted it. I think that is all we can hope for going into March, that kids want to take advantage of the opportunity."

A bucket in the post on an inbounds play by Saxon senior Rachael Hewitt had Hastings within 31-29 with 42 seconds to go in the ballgame, and a Hewitt steal at the end of the press moments later got the ball back for her team. She took the ball the length of the floor and then kicked it out for an three-point attempt by Maddie Peake, but Peake's attempt to take the lead came up short.

Another Eagle turnover with 17.3 seconds to go gave the Saxons another shot in the closing moments, but Hewitt had a tough shot blocked in the paint. The Eagles upped their lead to three at the free throw line with 5.9 seconds to go and then survived a half-court shot from the Saxons' Bri Darling that glanced off the backboard.

"They came out and had some things we weren't ready for in terms of our preparation from film," Wilson, the first-year Saxon head coach said. "They came out and played a lot of zone that we didn't see going into that very much. Had to make some adjustments there. So, we didn't shoot it great. We were down three at the half. They came out and hit some big shots in the second half. We played a lot more man than we were planning on playing.

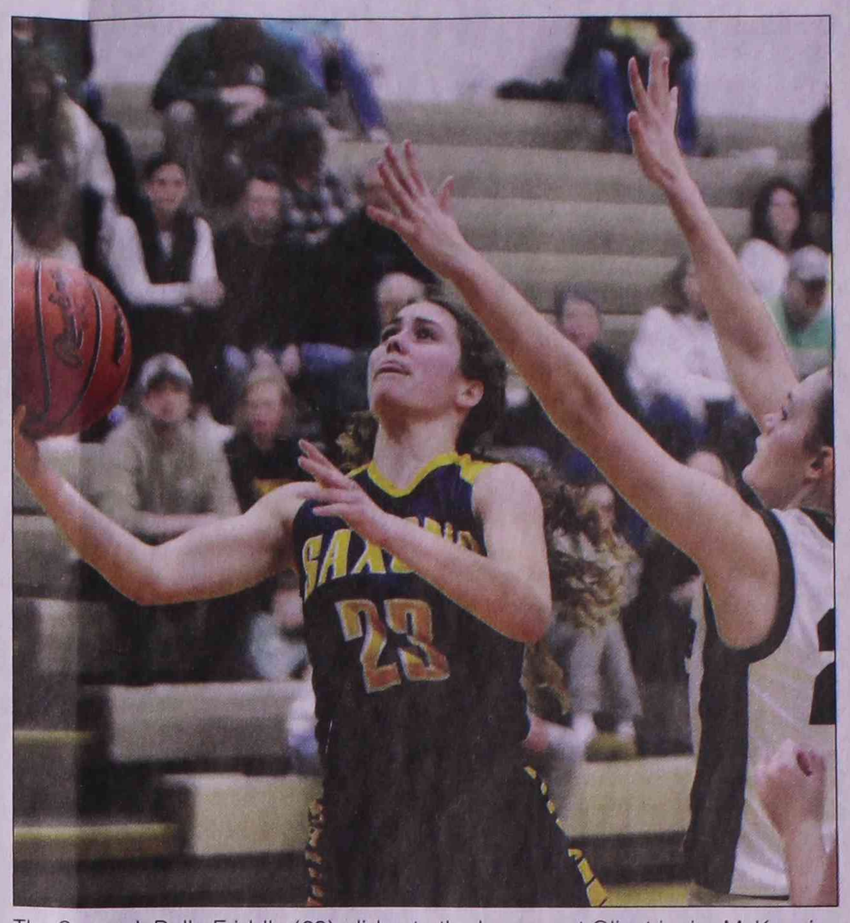
"They had a really good player that we knew and did a really nice job. A couple other kids hit some big shots. We put pressure on them the last three or four minutes and we were able to force some turnovers and had opportunities to tie it and the ball just didn't go in. It was a tough one from that sense, but played really hard as we always do and if we have a chance to do that game over again and who knows what might have happened."

Junior forward Magan Priesman had 12 points to lead the Eagles. Wilson said guard Bella Friddle did a solid job defending her and that most of Priesman's points came from the free throw line. The Eagles shot 19 free throws on the night and the Saxons shot just six.

"We knew that the base of their offense was going to be screen away, curl cut and get to that basket area, and that is where they were able to pick up most of those fouls," Wilson said.

He had planned to throw a zone defense at the Eagles, a change-up like the Eagles threw the Saxons' way, but Olivet got a few too many good looks at the basket early for the Saxons to stay in their zone. Hastings played about half zone and half man defense throughout the regular season, and Wilson said his girls have been really tough in man-to-man as the season has wound down and leaned on that more heavily down the stretch.

"We have been switching really well, have been physical on the ball and have been rebounding really well on the defensive side," Wilson said.



The Saxons' Bella Friddle (23) glides to the hoop past Olivet junior MyKenzie Lake during their MHSAA Division 2 District Semifinal ballgame at Olivet High School Wednesday, March 5. **Photos by Perry Hardin**

"Our man, we gave up 32 points, I'm not going to complain about that ever," Wilson added. "I felt more comfortable with the way our defense was playing that we kind of became a primarily man team down the stretch. We were able to switch on everybody, and contest shots, and they did a great job of that. We just had a few more we wanted to get into the basket on our end."

On that offensive end, Hewitt had a game-high 14 points. Hastings also got eight points from Darling, five from Peake and three from Victoria Tack.

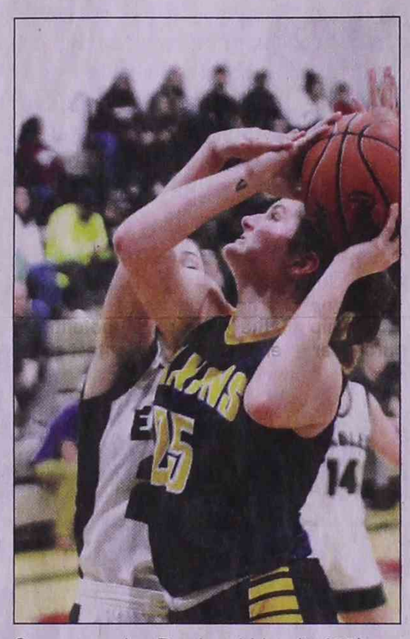
Eaton Rapids took an overtime victory over Lakewood in the first district semifinal ballgame of the evening in Olivet Wednesday, and the Greyhounds went on to defeat Olivet 54-30 in the district final Friday.

"We had a lot of growth and improvement over the year," Wilson said of his Saxons. "We were fortunate to have five seniors on this steam, and also got a lot of minutes and time for our juniors and sophomores who played varsity this year. There is a lot to look forward to. We have some kids coming back from injury next year, and that's really exciting, who were really limited.

"We're going to have a lot of turnover and have a lot of kids are going to be in new positions, and I am excited for them. I know, meeting with them last week after [the loss to Olivet] they were excited about getting after it this summer and looking forward to the season next year."



Hastings head coach Ben Wilson tries to settle his girls late in their MHSAA Division 2 District Semifinal against Olivet at Olivet High School Wednesday, March 5.



Saxon senior Rachael Hewitt (25) powers her way to the rim through Olivet defender MyKenzie Lake during their district semifinal ballgame at Olivet High School Wednesday.

Gars' Magnuson 25th at D1 diving regional

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Grand Rapids Gars junior Ethan Magnuson closed out the 2024-25 varsity boys' swimming and diving season at the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 1 Diving Regional hosted by Hudsonville Thursday.

Magnuson was about ten points shy of getting through the first round of cuts. He put together a score of 94.95 points through five dives which had him 25th overall.

The top 13 in the end earned spots in the MHSAA Division 1 L.P. Boys' Swimming and Diving Finals that will be held at the Holland Aquatic Center March 14-15.

East Kentwood's Fidele Byiringiro won the regional championship with an 11-dive score of 417.60 points, and Grandville's Brody Agema was the runner-up with a score of 402.35.

The Gars' lone state qualifier this winter is freshman Gabriel Van in the 100-yard butterfly.

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BARRY COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Barry County Road Commission, 1725 West M-43 Highway, P.O. Box 158, Hastings, MI 49058, until 10:30 AM, Monday, March 24, 2025 for the following items.

Specifications and additional information may be obtained at the Road Commission Office at the above phone number or at our website www.barrycrc.org.

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TK finds scoring tough in semifinal against Scots

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Trojans were pleased to only give up 18 points in the first half.

Caledonia was happier to allow just eight.

The Caledonia varsity girls' basketball team (18-6), the 2025 OK Green Conference Champions, opened the state postseason with a 47-25 win over Thornapple Kellogg in the MHSAA Division 1 District Semifinals at Byron Center High School Wednesday, March 5.

Thornapple Kellogg (10-13) took down the district hosts in the opening round of the state tournament last Monday, but it was the postseason opener for the Scots. It took some time for the Caledonia girls to get into an offensive rhythm, but as head coach Todd Bloemers had hoped his defense didn't collect any rust waiting for the postseason to begin.

Freshman guard Emily Stauffer had a game-high 22 points and shouldered much of the offensive load early on for Caledonia. She scored or assisted on each of the Scots' first five baskets spanning most of the first quarter and a half.

Stauffer found an open Olivia Foster for a three-pointer four and a half minutes into the ballgame that put the Scots up 5-2 and they led the rest of the night. They had a 9-6 lead at the end of one quarter and pushed the lead to 18-8 at the half.

"That is the best thing about Emily," Bloemers said. "She is such a joy to coach because she is not a scorer. It's not just assists. She is just a playmaker. Whatever the right play is, she is going to make it, and she gets more joy out of setting up her teammates. When you watch her watch her teammates make a shot, she is the first one to run to them and touch them and tell them good job. That becomes contagious too, and that is how a freshman can lead."

Thornapple Kellogg freshman guard Taylor Lloyd drilled a three-pointer and sophomore forward Reece Ritsema knocked down a couple free throws to open the second half, but five points was as close as the Trojans would get the rest of the night.

"Honestly, we had opportunities, we just needed to take care of the ball a little bit better," TK head coach Brandi James said. "I think the emotions and the weight of this game got the best of us tonight. Our defense was fantastic. We did a lot of things to shut them down. We only allowed 18 points in the first half, so that was pretty good, but only scoring eight obviously there were defensive woes. We can hit big shots, we just didn't tonight. They were kind of up in our faces and we let it make us miss opportunities. We didn't use the whole floor."

Trojan senior guard Lydia Schilthroat led her team with eight points. Lloyd had seven points, and seniors Emma Dykhouse and Emma Geukes had four points apiece.

Foster, a freshman guard, and senior center Lakely Bottum had six points each for the Fighting Scots. The Scots had eight girls score.



Thornapple Kellogg senior forward Emma Dykhouse looks to move the ball away from pressure being applied by Caledonia senior center Lakely Bottum during their MHSAA Division 1 District Semifinal at Byron Center High School Wednesday, March 5.



Thornapple Kellogg junior guard Tealy Cross works to disrupt Caledonia freshman Myla Gortmaker at the top of the key during their MHSAA Division 1 District Semifinal at Byron Center High School Wednesday, March 5. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

James said defensively her team knew the Fighting Scots liked to get to the basket and that Bottum would look to be a distributor out of the high post. She liked how her team fought on the boards, got hands on passes, and fought to try and keep the Scots out of the paint.

"We have a lot of kids that score," Bloemers said. "There tend to be a lot of kids in that four to six point range and those add up when you have a lot of kids contributing. I thought we were hard to play against tonight. Brandi does a really good job coaching her teams and her kids always battle. We knew what we were getting into, and I am just glad the ball started falling through the basket a little bit so we were able to take a deep breath and start relaxing and playing our game."

Bottum was certainly someone the Trojan defense had to pay attention to in the paint, but her defensive presence in the post was certainly felt at the other end of the floor. Midway through the second quarter on back-to-back attempts she rejected shots by Trojan senior guard Tealy Cross and Ritsema near the rim, and Trojans looking to drive appeared always aware of the threat of her coming after their shots.

The win earned the Scots a spot in the district finals back in Byron Center Friday, against the East Kentwood girls who beat Wyoming in their district semifinal ballgame Wednesday. East Kentwood took a 44-40 win over the Caledonia girls in that Friday night district final.

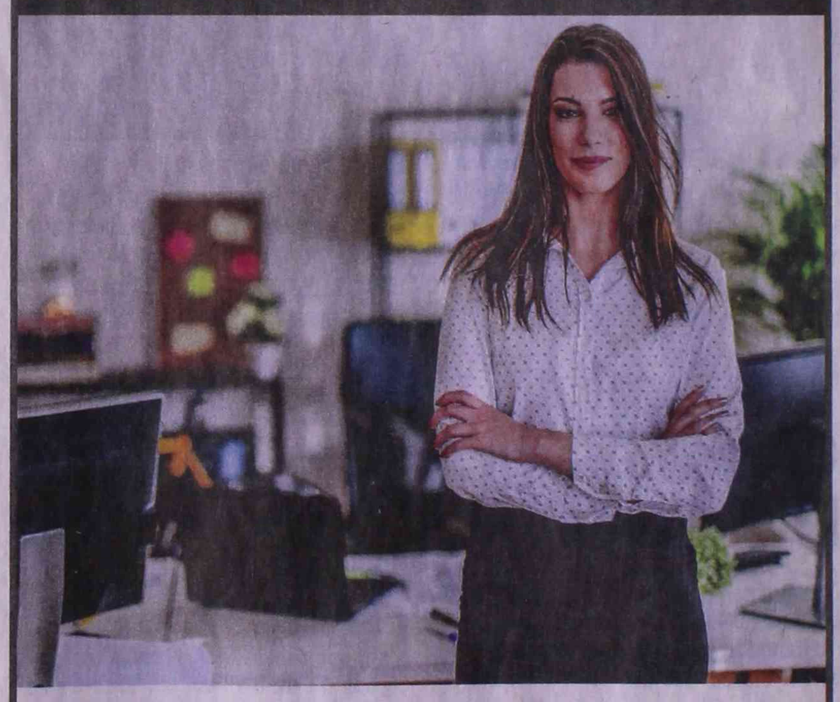
"The future is bright," James said of her TK program overall, "but these seniors were great so I wanted it now. I thought that we had a good chance … We will miss those seniors greatly, but yes our future is bright."

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