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Hastings Public Library
227 E State Street
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THE HASTINGS BANNER

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DK teachers prepare for innovative technology program in the fall

Karen Turko-Ebright
Contributing Writer

Through the advocacy efforts of the Michigan Manufacturing Association (MMA), Delton Kellogg High School, Athens High School in Troy, and LIFT: The National Advanced Materials and Manufacturing Innovation Institute in Detroit are all recipients of a $1 million appropriation from the state legislature.

The funding will bring both schools the IGNITE/ Amatrol Mastering Manufacturing program. The bulk of the allotment will be split between the schools.

LIFT Executive Vice President, Public Affairs, Joe Steele told *The Banner* Delton Kellogg, and Athens will each receive their grants in the form of equipment built by Amatrol, estimated at approximately

See **PROGRAM** on 4



Pictured here is LIFT's Detroit Learning Lab.

Hastings 'goes green' with annual St. Patrick's Day parade

Jayson Bussa
Contributing Writer

This year's St. Patrick's Day parade in Hastings had everything that attendees expect from the yearly event.

A flood of green throughout the downtown area, chilly weather but high spirits and plenty of treats to lend the kiddos a midday sugar rush — it was all there.

On Monday at 4 p.m., city police closed off

See **GREEN** on 2



The City of Hastings marked St. Patrick's Day on Monday afternoon with its yearly parade, put on by local radio station 100.1-FM WBCH. **Photos by Jayson Bussa**



A group of students and parents from Hastings Central Elementary School make their way down Jefferson Street on Monday afternoon as part of the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Judge says people need to be aware of THC law

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

Judge Michael Shipper wants people to know, before they possibly stand before him in Barry County's District Court 56B, that if they use cannabis products containing THC they are potentially risking spending years in state prison if they are involved in an accident where others are seriously injured or killed.

This was again his message, one he has repeated over and over in his courtroom, during a March 11 sentencing hearing for Brinna Lavonne Cobb of Nashville, who entered a guilty plea for her role in a 2023 accident that left two dead and a third person hospitalized.

Cobb initially faced up to seven criminal charges for her alleged role in a Sept. 12, 2023, vehicular accident that claimed the lives of a 40-year-old 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.

With a member of the victims' family saying they had already forgiven Cobb, Schipper sentenced her to 180 days to be served in the

See **THC** on 3

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GROWTH CONTINUES FOR AREA GIRLS' WRESTLING PROGRAMS
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MDNR details plan for Hall Lake Dam repairs at open house

Molly Macleod
Editor

Plans to repair the Hall Lake Dam in Yankee Springs are coming into focus after the Michigan Department of Natural Resources held an open house last week detailing its plans for the project. Should the plans be approved following a series of feedback and public hearings, the lake could stand to lose roughly 20 acres in size.

The event, held in the Hastings Public Library's community room on Wednesday afternoon, served as an opportunity for residents to hear from DNR staff on their plans for the aging dam. Residents were also encouraged to share their thoughts on the project with the DNR at the open house. Dozens of attendees were seen filling out comment cards to be read by DNR staff when considering the project.

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy's (EGLE) Dam Safety Unit classified the Hall Lake Dam, built in 1964, as a significant hazard dam the last time it was inspected in July 2021. This means that if the dam fails, loss of human life is unlikely, but economic damage, environmental harm or disruption to essential services downstream are probable, according to the DNR.

"What's considered Hall Lake Dam right now was inspected by the state, and it came back as a significant hazard — meaning if it was to fail, there could be a loss of, in this case, the road," MDNR regional field planner Justin Gerould told The Banner at last week's open house.

He noted there are no houses on the lake at risk in the event of a dam failure.

Gerould said state inspectors marked deficiencies in the dam that must be fixed in 2021. Inflation following the COVID-19 pandemic led to some sticker shock when it came time to go out to bid for the project.

"We actually had a plan drawn up at one time (in 2022) drawn up, and when we went out to bid to fix it, the bids came in double what we had been hoping for," Gerould said.

Most funding for this project will come from a recently awarded EGLE Dam Risk Reduction Grant. The $1.6 million grant, awarded in May 2024, can be used to address infrastructure concerns with the dam and potential impact on the surrounding environment. Hall Lake was one of 22 dams across the state last year to receive grants totaling $14.1 million designed to reduce the risk of dam failures.

Specific deficiencies in the Hall Lake Dam include a rusting and clogged outlet pipe past its usable life and erosion destabilizing the bank.

Gerould said the state has shifted its focus in recent years to managing its operating costs for the over 200 dams it owns.

"The cost to manage and operate and maintain those (dams) is becoming more and more, so we're starting to look at ways now to reduce that cost and the risk," he said.

Should the DNR's plans for the dam be approved, frequenters of the area will notice some changes both in the structure of the dam and the landscape of the lake.

"There's basically a pipe that goes across the road and it has a pipe that stands up 6 feet, and that's what brings the water level up to that point," Gerould said. "We're basically taking that 6-foot pipe off and dropping the lake down, in this case, about 7 feet. We're putting a new culvert in across the road."



Attendees at last week's Michigan Department of Natural Resources open house at the Hastings Public Library fill out comment cards, sharing their opinions on the Hall Lake Dam modification project. The project has yet to gain final approval. **Photo by Molly Macleod**

The modifications will cost the lake roughly 20 acres in size.

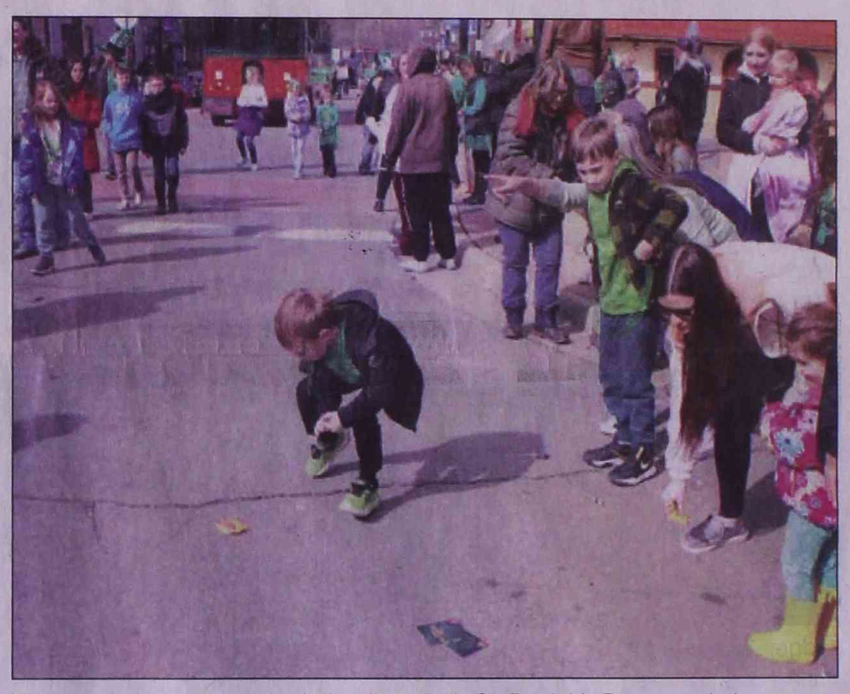
"The lake is 50-some acres in size right now, but we anticipate when it's done, it'll be a little more than 30 acres," Gerould said.

The decision to lower the lake level didn't come easy, said Gerould. He and DNR staff tried to strike a healthy balance between meeting state safety requirements and preserving recreation opportunities on the lake.

"We really have worked back and forth with EGLE on how (to complete the repairs). We didn't want to drain it down to the way it was back in (1964). It was like an 8-acre pond when it first started. We've really been trying to reach a happy medium where we can leave some kind of recreation for people because we know people love to go out there and use it, but at the same time, it's a lot of maintenance, and it's a lot for our guys who take care of it and inspect it," said Gerould.

Last week's open house marks the first step of many for the project to see completion. The DNR will review feedback given at the open house, plus feedback returned through an online form before going back to EGLE with its repair plans. Public hearings will be held before the plans gain final approval.

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Kids scurry to grab candy during Monday's St. Patrick's Day parade in Hastings.

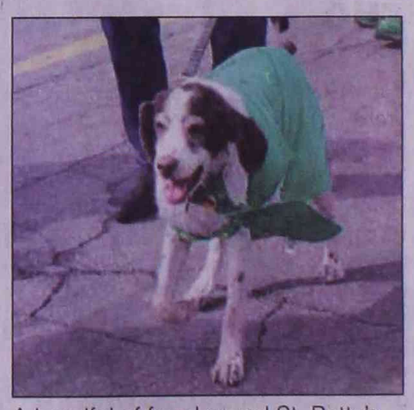
GREEN

Continued from Page 1

three blocks of the downtown area to make way for the St. Patrick's Day parade, which is put on by local radio station 100.1-FM WBCH. The parade was short but sweet — in more ways than one.

A handful of local businesses and organizations walked the parade route, which made block-long stretches down Jefferson and Church streets, while attendees lined the roads and kids shoveled candy into their bags.

A mid-March event is never guaranteed great weather, but this year's attendees were treated to plenty of sun.



A handful of four-legged St. Patty's Day enthusiasts also showed up at Monday's parade, decked out in green.

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HASS preparing to roll out new strategic plan in the fall

Molly Macleod
Editor

Locals got a first look at the new Hastings Area School System 2025-2030 strategic plan at Monday's regular board of education meeting.

Andy Ingall of the Michigan Leadership Institute overviewed some of the legwork that has gone into formulating the plan on Monday, from stakeholder surveys and focus groups to hours of meetings with district advisory staff.

"This process was truly authentic. You ended with something that is unique for Hastings, and that really happened in a genuine or organic way through the process. I've never had the experience in the process of being able to meet with essentially the entire teaching staff of the district," said Ingall.

The plan, once finished, will be posted publicly on the district's website.

"I said to the team over and over while this plan will be published and should be shareable and visible within your community, the plan is really for the people that work in the school district to continue to grow and improve and stay focused in their work. So to have that level of input from people was really unique and special," said Ingall.

The draft 2025-2030 strategic plan centers itself on three main focuses: staff commitment, fiscal responsibility and community partnership.

"The engine that gets those going are our six C's — so we have communication, culture, creativity, classrooms, critical thinking and caring," said Hastings Area School System Superintendent Dr. Nick Damico.

Though he acknowledged the strategic plan is still in its early stages, Damico said it will serve as a guideline for staff for the next five years.



Hastings Area School System Board of Education members got their first looks at the district's new strategic plan on Monday. **Photo by Molly Macleod**

"Our plan is this is going to be something we live out at every building at every level in every department. This really is going to be the focus over the next five years," said Damico.

Damico and Ingall previewed the district's new vision and mission statement on Monday: "Exceptional schools, exceptional community — building successful Saxons."

"Our 'why' is pretty simple. It's pretty straightforward, but I do think it's pretty powerful to say that you have exceptional schools, we are an exceptional community and we will be building successful Saxons," said Damico.

The plan details several goals for the next five years. Under the umbrella of the staff commitment focus, Damico said the district will focus on early literacy and math, career and technical education, expansion of credit articulation and awareness, putting an emphasis on revitalizing initiatives and improving communication.

Under the community partnership focus, the district will strive for safe schools, attract and retain high-quality staff, improve external communication and produce graduates that contribute to the Hastings community and beyond.

Lastly, under fiscal responsibility, Damico said the district will evaluate and consider programs for their effectiveness and physical impact as well as seek unique and creative funding resources.

The district will roll out the draft plan to the community in the coming weeks before it goes to the board of education for final approval next month. Should everything go to plan, the new strategic plan will be incorporated into Hastings classrooms as soon as this coming fall.

Fatal crash claims life of Hastings resident

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

Michigan State Police officials are investigating a deadly three-vehicle accident that occurred on Friday morning, March 14, in Woodland Township.

According to a statement released by the MSP on Friday, the accident occurred at 8:21 a.m. Friday on M-66, near M-43, in Barry County's Woodland Township.

"A southbound Chevy Avalanche pickup crossed the centerline, sideswiped a northbound Ford Econoline van, then collided head-on with a northbound Chevy Colorado pickup," MSP stated in the release. "The Colorado's driver, a 70-year-old Hastings man, was taken to Pennock Hospital and later died from his injuries."

MSP officials added that the Hastings resident was allegedly not wearing his seatbelt at the time of the accident.

The other two drivers, a 34-year-old Corunna man and the driver of the Ford van, were both reportedly wearing their seatbelts and were uninjured.

The accident remains under investigation.

"Fatigue is suspected," MSP officials stated. "Alcohol/drugs are not believed to be a factor."

MSP troopers were assisted at the accident scene by the Woodland and Sunfield township fire departments, Castleton-Maple Grove-Nashville EMS and the Michigan Department of Transportation.



Judge Michael Schipper reviews a file before announcing a sentence for Brinna Cobb of Nashville during a sentencing hearing Tuesday, March 11, in Barry County District Court 56B. **Photo by Dennis Mansfield**

THC

Continued from Page 1

Barry County Jail, as well as two years probation, continuation of counseling and rehabilitation. But, afterward, Schipper said he could have sentenced Cobb to up to 15 years in a state prison for violation of Michigan's zero tolerance laws for drivers involved in serious or deadly accidents who are found to have THC in their system.

And, according to the local judge, most of these drivers don't realize it doesn't matter when they might have last used a cannabis-based project, only that they test positive for THC.

"No clue," he said, while the court was in recess on Tuesday, March 18, a week after the Cobb sentencing. "I could have given (Cobb) up to 15 years. That's what the law says."

Cobb reportedly had used a cannabis-related product, despite being just 19 at the time of the accident, for anxiety and to help her sleep. But prosecutors argued she was still impaired on the morning of the accident.

Schipper said THC can stay in a person's system for days, even weeks. And, if a driver tests positive for THC, "it's exactly like blowing 0.08" for alcohol, under Michigan law.

"It's exactly the same," he said. "You're driving illegally."

This is a fact that he said he believes many individuals who use products with THC in them are unaware of before using and getting behind the wheel.

"No one knows," Schipper said. "We need to educate people. It's zero tolerance."

In a case like Cobb's, a defendant might claim they had used a product with THC the night before, or even days before. But, unlike drunk driving laws which specify a percentage of alcohol a person has to have in their system before being legally impaired, there's no such number related to THC. It's simply whether that individual tests positive.

"You're not allowed to use it and drive," Schipper said, repeating the fact that state law is a zero-tolerance policy. "It does dull your system."

Unlike public ad campaigns and educational efforts on the perils of drinking and driving, Schipper added he doesn't see similar efforts to educate the public that, if they ingest THC and it's in their system at the time of an accident, they could be facing a potential prison sentence.

"Most people don't drive high, but you're still driving impaired," he said. "It still dulls your reflexes.

"The word needs to get out. It's zero tolerance."

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Five moves for young investors

If you're just beginning your career, what are your financial priorities?

You might have student loans to deal with. And you may even be thinking about saving for a down payment on a house. These are certainly significant issues, and yet, you shouldn't ignore your long-term goals, such as retirement — which is why you may want to get started as an investor.

And as you invest, consider these suggestions:

1. Take advantage of your opportunities. Even while addressing your other concerns, such as loan payments, you may well have space in your life to invest — if you take advantage of the opportunities presented to you. For example, if you work for a business that offers a 401(k) or other retirement plan, try to put in as much as you can afford, or at least enough to earn your employer's matching contribution, if one is offered. And you may find that contributing to a traditional 401(k) or similar plan is more affordable than you think, as your contributions may be deductible, lowering your taxable income.

2. Think long-term. Some people make the mistake of seeking short-term gains by trying to "time" the market — that is, they try to "buy low and sell high." While this is a great strategy in theory, it's almost impossible to follow, as no one can really predict market highs and lows. The most successful investors follow a long-term strategy and don't jump in and out of the market.

3. Know your risk tolerance. Your investment choices should be based partially on your risk tolerance. Typically, the more investment risk you take on, the greater the potential reward, but it works the other way, too — riskier investments can result in greater losses, at least in the short term. You need to find a risk level with which you are comfortable. Also, your risk tolerance can change over time — when you get close to retirement, for instance, you might want to invest more conservatively than you did when you still had decades ahead of you in the working world.

4. Diversify your investments. The financial markets affect different investments in different ways, which means that, at any given time, some investments will perform better than others. But if you only owned one type of investment or asset class, your portfolio could suffer if a market downturn had a particularly strong effect on that investment or asset. By spreading your investment dollars among a range of investments, you'll have more opportunities for success, and you can help reduce the effects of market volatility on your holdings. Keep in mind, though, that diversification, by itself, can't guarantee profits or protect against all losses.

5. Prepare for the unexpected. You don't always know when you'll face a large expense, such as a medical bill or a major home repair. If you're not prepared, you could be forced to dip into your long-term investments, such as your 401(k), to pay for these costs. To help avoid this problem, you may want to take steps such as keeping a cushion of cash in your portfolio and building an emergency fund containing several months' worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid account.

By putting these moves to work, you can help yourself make progress on an investment journey that could last a lifetime.

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

Kiwanis honors young citizens

Hastings elementary school and middle school teachers have selected students to be honored as citizens of the month by the Kiwanis Club of Hastings.

Students are selected by their teachers for reasons such as excellent citizenship, attitude, conduct, academics, character, service, leadership and sportsmanship.

The citizens of the month for February (with parents' names in parentheses) include:

Central – Wynter Holtz (student of Tom and Tara-Lee Holtz) and Lillian Klein (student of Alan Klein and Megan Lavell).

Northeastern – Sadie Ferguson (student of Chad Ferguson and Melissa Smith) and Anna Frith (student of Eric and Emily Frith).

Southeastern – Caylen Ugianskis (student of Roy and Heath Ugianskis) and Jeffrey Mack III (student of Kay Adams).

Star – Xavier DeVries (student of Chris DeVries and Hailey Calver) and Kora Lindsey (student of Jason and Erin Lindsey).

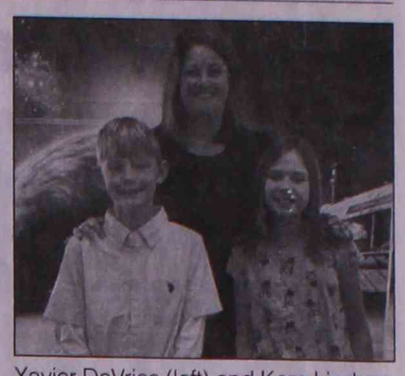
Hastings Middle School — Sixth graders Ian Ansorge (student of Eric and Janette Ansorge) and Lacie Shepard (student of Christopher and Sharon Shepard); seventh graders Lucas Evers (student of Ryan and Nancy Evers) and William Sparks (student of Davy and Candice Sparks); eighth graders Brynn VanderMale (student of Nicholas VanderMale and Jenica Needham) and Mason Klinge (student of Jeremy Klinge and Sara Whitmore).



Several Hastings middle schoolers were recently named citizens of the month. They include sixth graders Ian Ansorge and Lacie Shepard; seventh graders Lucas Evers and William Sparks and eighth graders Brynn VanderMale and Mason Klinge.



Wynter Holtz and Lillian Klein are Central Elementary's Citizens of the Month. **Courtesy photos**



Xavier DeVries (left) and Kora Lindsey are Star Elementary's February Kiwanis Citizens of the Month.



Southeastern's Citizens of the Month for February are Caylen Ugianskis and (not pictured) Jeffrey Mack III.



Sadie Ferguson and Anna Frith are Northeastern Elementary's Citizens of the Month.

View Newspaper Group sales professionals honored

LAPEER — Leadership at View Newspaper Group is proud to announce the company's 100+ Club Class of 2024.

Each sales professional honored achieved more than 100 percent of their individual sales goals for the entire year of 2024. A dinner and celebration attended by View Newspaper Group leadership, the honorees and their guests was held at Frankenmuth Brewery to honor the group on Wednesday, March 12.

View Newspaper Group Publisher Wes Smith said, "We take great pride in honoring the 100+ Club Class of 2024 to acknowledge and show our appreciation for their dedication, hard work and outstanding sales achievement."

The 100+ Club Class of 2024 includes Michele Guerra, Nikki Howard, Murray Callahan, Jim Misener and Lorraine DeHues.

View Newspaper Group is Michigan's largest independently owned newspaper group covering 13 Michigan counties. The company publishes 21 newspapers with print editions reaching more than 335,000 households each week plus an additional 500,000 monthly online readers.



The View Newspaper Group 100+ Club celebration held March 12 honored sales team members who achieved more than 100 percent of their annual sales goal in 2024. Pictured here are View Newspaper Group Controller Jill Nichols, honorees Lorraine DeHues and Michele Guerra, North Oakland Advertising Manager Eric Lewis, honoree Jim Misener, View Newspaper Group President Rick Burrough, honoree Nikki Howard, Brand Manager Emily Caswell, Advertising Director Pete Clinton, Graphics Manager Jen Ward, Greenville Daily News General Manager Amber Rood, View Newspaper Group Thumb Area Consultant Jody Woltman and View Newspaper Group Publisher Wes Smith.

Commissioners continue PACE discussion ahead of next week's public hearing

Molly Macleod
Editor

Barry County could soon opt into the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program following the results of a public hearing scheduled for next week's Board of Commissioners meeting.

While commissioners have not yet sided either way on whether Barry County will become a PACE district, with some expressing their concerns this week, the public hearing will be an opportunity for residents to speak their support or concerns for the opportunity.

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

CopperRock Construction, developers of the Hastings Riverwalk Lofts at the Royal Coach site on Mill Street, are reportedly interested in taking advantage of PACE financing should the county opt in next week. This could allow developers to construct the Riverwalk Lofts above code and with energy-efficient standards. The cost savings to the developers will, in theory, trickle down to create a savings for future residents of the development in rent or energy costs.

Last month, Mary Freeman of Lean & Green Michigan provided information on

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PROGRAM

Continued from Page 1

$420,000. Because LIFT provides an online and in-class curriculum, the organization will receive a smaller allocation of approximately $160,000 to pay its staff and cover the necessary costs to deploy the program.

"We did initially seek out three million, and it was funded at that level at the state, but when the budget got passed last year, it did not turn out that way," Steele explained. "We are doing what we can and hoping to get these schools off the ground."

The grant will cover the cost for LIFT instructors who will train teachers to teach the classes, their commuting costs and some materials.

Steele said another step in laying the groundwork for successful teaching of the IGNITE/Amatrol program includes, "Our management of the program to make sure that our team has been to Delton Kellogg a number of times and has been to Troy a number of times to make sure they're prepared and ready to go to deliver the curriculum."

Additionally, LIFT will defray the costs with a stipend for the schools that have to pay for substitute teachers while IGNITE's instructors train the schools' teachers to instruct the master manufacturing program classes.

"We don't want to put a burden on the school district to pay for what goes into hiring a sub for that given period of time," Steele said. "If you listen to everyone across the state, advanced manufacturing and the need for talent in advanced manufacturing is at the top of everyone's list."

The grant will open new doors for students by allowing them to earn Smart Automation Certification Alliance (SACA) certifications, which major employers highly value across a wide range of industries.

"The Amatrol equipment will be similar to what we have in Detroit as the equipment is a key part of the IGNITE: Mastering Manufacturing curriculum," Steele explained to The Banner. "We will provide the students a wide look at a variety of advanced manufacturing tools and techniques."

Learning robotics, electronics, electrical systems and pneumatics are among the lessons the equipment will provide in hands-on experience inside the classroom.

"Manufacturing jobs are in high demand. Hands-on is the most important thing. That's why the equipment is so critical to learning about advanced manufacturing in 2025," Steele said. "Students get the opportunity to begin and hopefully feel the excitement and light a spark to begin a career in advanced manufacturing in the great state of Michigan."

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

Delton Kellogg Schools Superintendent Jeremy Wright said work is ongoing to offer more CTE programs to place students in the position to get well-paying jobs upon graduation.

The Advanced Manufacturing program was developed a number of years ago in partnership with Amatrol, Steele said.

"We developed the curriculum with some partners around the country back in 2019," Steele said. "That is when we first launched it in the state led from our Corktown facility in Detroit."

Delton Kellogg School officials and teachers are excited that their students will have an opportunity to gain hands-on experience with the Amatrol equipment and the IGNITE curriculum. DK High School Shop teachers Brad and Tess Knobloch are planning to teach students the Amatrol/IGNITE program in the fall.

"I can't speak to what is happening with this next year's budget, but what I can say is that we will continue to work with the legislature and partners of the Michigan Manufacturers Association again and try to make sure that there are opportunities for more students to learn," said Steele.

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Other Events

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.

Restoring Trust with Transparency

By Eric Hamp
Michigan Press Association President, Publisher & Editor Houghton Lake Resorter/Crawford County Avalanche

Freedom of the press is important to those who have chosen to be journalists and serve as the peoples' watchdogs in America for almost 250 years.


Eric Hamp

Many feel that the First Amendment is in peril. Trust in the media has eroded at every level. Continuous allegations of "fake news" continue to permeate social media and "new" media… often targeting legacy media who will not report a certain opinion but rather continue to rely on facts. In Michigan, this is not helped by the fact that our "Capitol Press Corps" has limited access to information about the legislature and the executive office.

For a decade, proponents of open government in the legislature and the public have pushed to remove the exemption our governor and legislators have from the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). For five consecutive legislative sessions, this effort has been shut down.

This year, the state senate showed a strong willingness to advance these bills by making them the first and second bills introduced in the session. They then went ahead to pass them out of the senate to the house…where they have once again been stiff-armed.

Newspapers, small and large around the country, have been threatened with lack of access – and worse – for not capitulating to a certain political narrative. In Michigan, we continue to fight for access to what should be public records from our legislature and governor but both are currently exempt from FOIA. Which leads us to keep asking these elected officials, "What have you got to hide?"

There are things you can do to help strengthen your rights and press freedom. Let your state representative know you want to see transparency in the State Capitol. Join your community newspaper in celebrating Sunshine Week, March 16-22, a nonpartisan collaboration among groups in the journalism, civic, education, government and private sectors that shines a light on the importance of public records and open government.



View Newspaper Group and this newspaper are proud members of Michigan Press Association. Since 1868 MPA has promoted freedom of the press and government transparency through its public policy work.
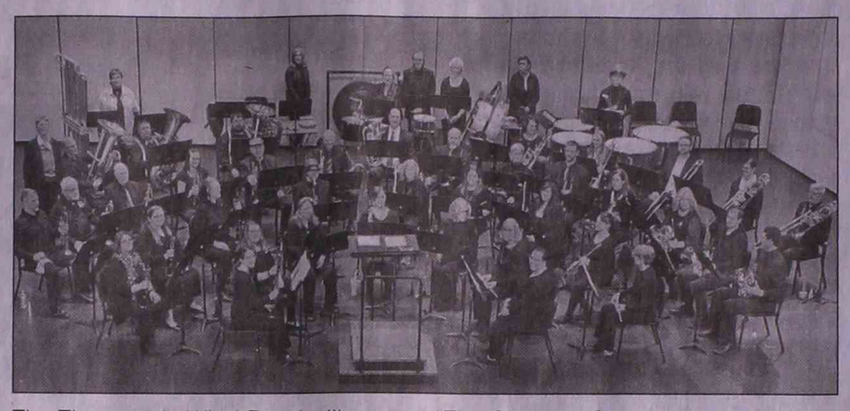
MPA MICHIGAN PRESS ASSOCIATION Promoting Press Freedom Since 1868

Thornapple Wind Band performing 'The Chestnut Stage,' a concert of classics

The Thornapple Wind Band is looking back to the past for its upcoming concert, "The Chestnut Stage," at the Hastings Performing Arts Center, 520 W. South St. in Hastings, at 3 p.m. on Sunday, March 23.

The concert will feature concert band classics of the past and modern favorites. Featured composers are Randall Standridge (Randy Standy to his fans), Charles Carter (Charlie Pedal Tone), Leroy Anderson (Miniature Master) and Karl King (Barnum & Bailey's Favorite).

First organized in 1995, the Thornapple Wind Band is a community-based organization whose mission is to bring wind band music to the Barry County area while giving adults the opportunity to combine their musical talents with others. The organization is open to anyone with a passion for music regardless of ability. Current members range from young adults with only a few years of experience to retired professional musicians with decades of experience — and every point in between.


The Thornapple Wind Band will present "The Chestnut Stage," a concert of classic wind band music, at the Hastings Performing Arts Center on Sunday, March 23. **Courtesy photo**

The first rehearsal for the band's May 4 concert is on Thursday, March 27, in the Hastings Middle School band room. Anyone interested in joining can email the music librarian to reserve a folder at roseanger@sbcglobal.net or get more information by calling/texting 269-779-3310. More information can also be found on the Thornapple Wind Band's Facebook group. — *MM*

Hastings students show off skills at annual leadership conference

Several Hastings High School students got the chance to show off their talents at the annual Business Professionals Association's state leadership conference March 13-15 at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids.

The theme for the event was "Elevate Excellence," and students did just that at the open event testing held in the DeVos Place Convention Center. Students participated in business-related events and competed for the top spots.

Students who placed are eligible to go to the National Leadership Convention in Orlando, FL, in May.

Hastings students completing at the recent state leadership conference included:

- Christian Boniface – Entrepreneurship, Annual Business Meeting and Campaign Rally;
- Cayden Cappon – Administrative Support Team;
- Parker Erb – Fundamental Word Processing;
- Carter Favreau – Computer Security;
- Rachael Hewitt – Administrative Support Team, Business Law & Ethics;
- Alan Li – Fundamental Accounting;
- Aiden Oliver – Open Events, Annual Business Meeting, Campaign Rally; and
- Nicklas Steh – Business Law & Ethics.

Also, Hastings' Levi Taylor-Krebs applied for a position within the State Executive Council this year.

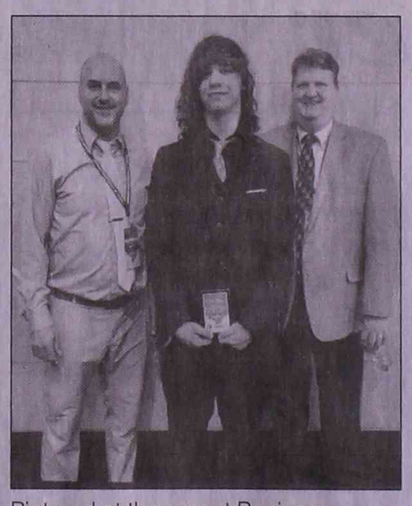
"This is the first time a Hastings student has applied for a state officer position in my tenure," said Bob Carl, co-advisor for the Hastings BPA chapter. "A state officer develops leadership skills through professional development training, networking with other student members from around Michigan and the US, influencing and impacting the future of Michigan BPA, increasing self-confidence, responsibility, and work ethic through their term.

"Although Levi was not elected to the executive board, it was a memorable experience to add to his resume," Carl added.

Favreau placed fourth in the state in Computer Security and qualified to attend the BPA National Leadership Conference in Orlando on May 7-11.

According to Carl, the national conference will bring together about 6,000 delegates from across the country to vie for top honors in business and information technology skills competitions, attend leadership and professional development workshops, receive awards for community service activities and elect BPA's 2025–26 national student leadership team.

"Each year, the National Leadership Conference offers our students the opportunity to showcase their skills and compete against other students from across the country and be recognized for their dedication and hard work they have put forth through the year," said Carl, who teaches computer science and cybersecurity. "This year, we had one student who excelled throughout the year and represented our high school level chapter of Business Professionals of America from Hastings."


Pictured at the recent Business Professionals of America state leadership conference are (from left) Jeff Erb (advisor), Carter Favreau and Bob Carl (advisor). **Courtesy photo**

Carl and chapter co-advisor Jeff Erb are business teachers at Hastings High School's Career and Technical Education and mentored students in preparation for competition events.

While in Orlando, participants will also have opportunities to network with other BPA members and business leaders, visit local attractions and participate in community service activities.

The conference's opening session on May 7 and awards ceremonies on May 11 will be streamed live at bpa.org/nlc/. — *DM*

PACE

Continued from Page 4

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

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

Freeman was present at this week's Committee of the Whole, offering further information about PACE as questions arose.

Some commissioners remained on the fence about the move ahead of Tuesday's discussion.

"There were several questions from commissioners last time, there were a few no-votes on this. And some of this, I think, it was just brand new," said County Board Chair Dave Jackson. "You didn't really have the opportunity to really delve into the details of it. I know Commissioner (Jon) Smelker had mentioned he had done some due diligence on this. You were initially a no-vote on this, if you'd like to share some of your insight."

"I went around to some businesses and private parties and left the information with them, and they know the public hearing is next week. If we vote on this, I'm going to vote to move it on," said Smelker. "But we'll see what the public hearing has to say next week."

"And, I have to admit — I'm old school. I personally don't think the tax assessment is the place to put loans, but I've been wrong before," Smelker added.

Commissioner Mike Callton asked about the worst-case scenario in the event CopperRock defaults on its PACE loan.

"I guess the biggest concern is guaranteeing private loans for these kind of environmental improvements but using the public tax assessment to guarantee that," Callton said.

Freeman explained that the PACE loans are first in line to be paid by the developer. In the unlikely event the developer defaults on the loan, the county will assume the property at no cost and can sell it for a profit.

County Board Vice Chair Dave Hatfield, who spent his career in banking, backed up Freeman's statement.

"I'm totally comfortable with this. We're allowing our tax rolls to be the funnel between the payer and the lender. Absolute worst-case basis, we would, through a tax foreclosure, we would become the owner of the property — at no cost. It's not going to happen," said Hatfield.

Commissioners will vote on whether the county should join as a PACE district at the Tuesday, March 25, Board of Commissioners meeting.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

BUSINESS SERVICES

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

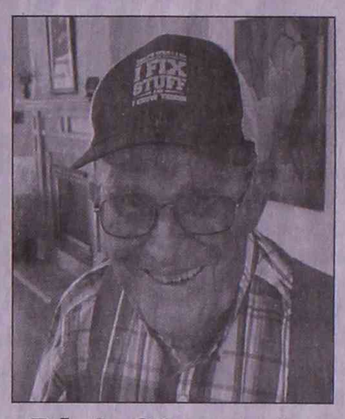
EMPLOYMENT

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.

GARAGE SALES

MOVING SALE MARCH 20TH, 21ST, & 22ND; 9am-4pm. 1005 N Glenwood Dr., Hastings. Bench mounted drill press, wheelbarrow, 1/2" drill motor, small tools, 2 Coping saws with case. Lots of small items. Elm table w/6 chairs, China cabinet, book shelf, sewing cabinet, leather sofa, revolving DVD & CD stand, queen bed. Lots more items.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Dick Stager to celebrate 95th birthday

Dick Stager, long-time resident of Middleville, is celebrating his 95th birthday. An open house will be held in his honor on Saturday, April 5 from 2 to 5 p.m. at 257 High Ridge Ct, Middleville. All are invited, but please do not bring a present.

BCEA to host recycling presentation March 26

Barry County Earth Alliance is looking to help local residents who have questions on the benefits and best ways to recycle.

The BCEA is hosting an informational presentation with Emma Dillman of the Kent County Recycling Center at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 26, at the Hastings Public Library on East State Street in Hastings.

Dillman will share information on the importance of recycling, common misconceptions and how individuals can make a meaningful difference in the community's environmental impact, according to a press release by the BCEA about the event.

The presentation will include "Watch Your Waste," a video tour of what happens after a recycling bin is emptied into the truck. — *DM*

OBITUARIES

VIEW OBITUARIES ONLINE. HASTINGSBANNER.COM

Michael Ray Norris



Michael Ray Norris, age 70, of Hastings, MI, passed away unexpectedly on March 14, 2025, due to an automobile accident.

Mike was born on July 29, 1954, in Hastings, MI, to Keith and Mary Jane (Varney) Norris. He attended Lakewood High School, where he was a three-sport athlete, and graduated in 1972.

Mike dedicated 45 years of service to Hastings Manufacturing, retiring in 2019. During his time there, he played an active role in U.A.W. Local 138, holding multiple leadership positions and attending many trainings at Black Lake, where he built numerous friendships.

A lifelong Michigan State Spartan fan, Mike attended countless basketball and football games, making four memorable trips to the Final Four. He enjoyed sports, camaraderie, and sharing his love for MSU athletics with family and friends. Mike was an amateur greenskeeper who took pride in his neatly manicured lawn and there was always a fresh coat of wax on his vehicles. In the winter months he could be found in his garage, "playing with his nuts" (cracking walnuts).

Mike took great pride in his kids and grandkids, never missing a birthday or holiday to make them feel special and always made sure the grandkids received a special treat bag on Halloween.

In 1975, Mike married Phyllis McLaughlin, and together they had two children, Kristen and Curtis. In 1993, he married Carole Anne Norton, who preceded him in death in 2016. Mike later found love again with Jane Ann Pierce, and they were married in 2019.

Mike was preceded in death by his father, Keith Norris, and his brother, Anthony "Tony" Norris.

He is survived by his loving wife, Jane Norris; his mother, Mary Jane Norris; his children, Kristen (Andy) Cove and Curtis (Erica) Norris; and his cherished grandchildren: Damon (Madie) Cove, David Cove, Jack (fiancée Kaylyn Beard) Cove, Erik Cove, Claire Norris, Amelia Norris, and Henry Norris. He is also survived by his "CousinBrother," Carl Norris.

Visitation service for Mike will be held on Friday, March 21, 2025, from 5 to 7 p.m., at the Daniels Funeral Home - Hastings.

Funeral service will be held on Saturday, March 22, 2025, at 12 p.m. at the Daniels Funeral Home - Hastings, conveniently located at 1401 North Broadway, Hastings. Following the service, there will be a gathering and celebration of Mike's life from 1 to 3 p.m. with light refreshments at the funeral home.

Guests coming to the services are encouraged to wear their MSU Spartan attire.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to: Youth Haven Ranch: 3796 Perrine Rd. Rives Junction, MI 49277

Mike will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him, and his legacy of dedication, friendship, and Spartan pride will live on. Go Green. Go White.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Daniels Funeral Home - Hastings. For further details, please visit our website at www.danielsfuneralhome.net.

Margaret Betty Wolfe



Margaret Betty Wolfe, age 96, passed away on March 16, 2025 at Thornapple Manor.

Margaret was born on February 18, 1929 at the family homestead on Bristol Lake, Johnstown Township the daughter of Rollin and Goldie (Brunt) Babcock. She was raised and attended school in Barry County. She worked in the laundry and food service industries until retiring.

She is survived by her life partner and companion, Kendall Pranshka and many nieces and nephews.

Margaret was preceded in death by her parents; son, Donald Yother; brothers, Robert Babcock, Lyle Babcock, Duanne Babcock, Kenneth and Keith Babcock (twins), Gerald Babcock, and Ronald Babcock and best friend since first grade, Viola Willard.

Margaret was fortunate to have Kendall in her life and she loved him so very much. He took care of her for many years due to her many strokes. He was her rock. She enjoyed watching nature from her living room windows. Hummingbirds were one of her favorites along with the deer and other wildlife she could see in her yard and surrounding forest.

Margaret's family will receive friends on Thursday, March 20, 2025, 4 to 6 p.m. at the Williams-Gores Funeral Home. A graveside service will be conducted at 12 p.m. on Friday, March 21, 2025 at Brush Ridge Cemetery.

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

Gregory Lee Parker



Gregory Lee Parker lived life to the fullest—always ready for the next adventure, filling every space with camaraderie and energy.

Born on January 9, 1966, in Hastings, MI, Greg was a gift to all who knew him. He had an undeniable enthusiasm for life, and a heart big enough to welcome everyone as a friend.

On March 13, 2025, Greg's earthly journey came to an end after a brief yet courageous battle with metastatic melanoma. While we grieve his passing, we take comfort in knowing that we will see him again. The countless memories that he created will continue to live on in the hearts of those who loved him.

The son of Gordon and Dorothy (Varvir) Parker, Greg grew up in Hastings, MI, and graduated from Hastings High School with the Class of 1984. He went on to earn a construction management degree from Michigan State University, a school he loved fiercely—Go Green! His career began at Northern Boiler in Muskegon before he transitioned to roofing and trim carpentry, where he found invaluable mentors.

With wisdom from others and his own unyielding determination, Greg founded Tritan Construction, pouring his craftsmanship into countless homes and building lifelong friendships along the way. His hard work, integrity, and passion for his craft left a lasting impression on all who worked with him.

Greg was a man of many passions, and if you ever tried to keep up with him, you'd know that sitting still just wasn't in his nature. If he wasn't working on a project, he was likely strumming a guitar, out biking, golfing, or simply strolling the golf course after hours with his wife. He loved being outdoors, whether it was a day on the lake or an afternoon cheering on his beloved Spartans. Euchre nights, backyard cookouts, bonfires, and sharing spirits with friends/family were among his favorite pastimes—Greg loved to get together, laugh, and create memories that will be told for years to come.

Among the places Greg cherished most was anywhere "up north," but especially Drummond Island and Traverse City, where he found both peace and adventure. Yet the greatest journey of his life began on September 1, 2018, when he married his best friend and true love, Karen (Tebo) Boonstra. He never missed a chance to tell the world she was his "hunny" and that he had found the love of his life. Their marriage was effortless, filled with laughter, kindness, mutual respect, and a deep, unwavering love.

Greg's heart grew even fuller when he became a Dad and a Papa through his marriage to Karen—two roles he fully embraced and cherished deeply.

He is survived by his loving wife, Karen Marie Parker; his children, Tucker (Anna) Boonstra and Sydnee (Jordan) Ruger; and his adored grandchildren, Elijah, Flynn, Tauren, Luke, and Israel. He also leaves behind his brothers, Jeff (Becky) Parker and Tom (Laura) Parker, along with many special nieces, nephews, and the extended Tebo family, who welcomed him as one of their own.

Greg's circle of friends was vast, spanning decades and distances, with some friendships dating back to when he was just five years old. His people loved him fiercely.

Greg was preceded in death by his beloved parents, Gordon and Dorothy Parker.

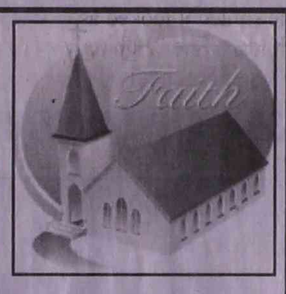
Greg's laughter, kindness, and boundless energy will forever echo in the hearts of those who knew him. His life was filled with music, adventure, and an undeniable passion for making every moment count. Though he has left this world, his spirit will continue to inspire those lucky enough to have known and loved him.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Sunday, May 4, 2025, at Walldorff Brew Pub & Bistro from 2-5 p.m. in the upstairs event room. All are welcome to come, share stories, and raise a glass to a man who lived and loved with his whole heart.

"Well done, good and faithful servant." – Matthew 25:23

Services provided by Girrbach Funeral Home, Hastings, Michigan. 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
A WORLDWIDE SUPPLIER OF Hot Line Tools & Equipment
1301 W. Green St.
Hastings, MI 49058
945-9541

PIERCE CEDAR CREEK INSTITUTE EVENTS

— MARCH 21-27 —

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.

Thursday, March 27 — Native Gardening Workshop: On the Road, 6-7 p.m. at the Dowling Public Library. Learn about native plant gardening at your local library.

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

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

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

'In My Time' Part VII

BANNER AUG. 17, 1995

JOYCE F. WEINBRECHT

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

"About 9:30 (p.m.) on a Saturday night in May 1928, I was driving my car along the country road west of Middleville. By this time, thanks to the State of Michigan, Middleville had a concrete main street through the business district, but no rural roads were paved.

"A car was coming toward me in the middle of the road. I got as far over as I could without going in the ditch. But the car kept coming at me. There was a terrible crash as our cars hit head-on. The next thing I knew, I was picking myself up off the ground. It happened too fast. I had no sensation of falling nor did I know my right arm had gone through the windshield until I felt something wet on my wrist. Searching the spot with my fingers, I could feel blood then bone.

"The people in the other car were obviously drunk. They did write down their license number for me. Holding my fingers tightly around my wrist to staunch the flow of blood, I ran about a hundred yards to the corner of a road that went into town.

"As luck would have it, there was a car coming when I reached the corner. The driver took me to Dad's drugstore. I apologized for the blood on the carpet of his car. He graciously insisted it was nothing. My mother was working in the store. She took me back to the prescription room, washed the cut, which went almost halfway around my wrist and applied a tourniquet, then called Dr. Taylor.

"It was a short walk to the doctor's office. Dr. Taylor was waiting for me. At his direction, I lay down on his examination table and he, still in his nightshirt, proceeded to sew up my wrist and bandaged it. He then made a sling and directed me to keep my arm in it at all times.

"'Do I have to wear this?' I asked. 'No,' he replied. 'I had a case like yours last year and the fellow didn't keep his arm in a sling.' He paused for effect, then added, 'A couple of months later, I took his arm off right up to the shoulder.'

"Needless to say, I wore the sling and the deep cut healed without any problems.

"Dr. Taylor was very popular and we looked forward to his visits to the drugstore. Before starting on his house calls, for which he charged two dollars (his office calls were one dollar), he would come in for three whaleback cigars. He always had time to visit and spin yarns. He would laugh about stopping in Bill Reed's tobacco shop up the street and being told that whalebacks were eight cents, three for a quarter.

"He would sometimes mention his son Thaddeus. He was obviously proud that Thaddeus was a judge in Grand Rapids. He would tell us about Froggy Wiggins from the Clay Hills, east of Middleville. He said the immigrants in Clay Hills sewed their long johns on in the fall and didn't take them off until spring. When one of them came in the drugstore in winter before they were through the doorway, we could smell the fetty (sic) (asafoetida, commonly known as 'feety'). They wore it in a bag on a string around their necks.

"On the shelf behind the cigar case were the cigarettes. We carried four brands: Camels, Lucky Strikes, Chesterfield and Fatimas. Ninety-five percent of our business was for the first three brands. The Fatimas were made of Turkish tobacco and sold for 20 cents a pack, five cents more than the other brands. There were no filters, no king size, no 100s, no hard packs. Our entire cigarette display took up only four rows. Our display of cigars filled up the entire case. Cigarettes were smoked mostly by men under 30. Very few women smoked, it was not considered ladylike.

"In June, Dad surprised Arnold and me with a new 1928 Ford roadster which he gave us to drive. We could barely believe our eyes. The car cost him $416. That was all it cost, there was no sales tax in 1928.

"That year, the primary elections were in September. In August, the campaign between the three-term governor, Groesbeck, and his opponent, Mr. Kelly, in the Republican primary became quite heated. Paul and I got into a discussion as to who would win. I picked Kelly and he sided with Groesbeck. He said, 'I'll bet you a trip to the University of Michigan-Ohio State game at Ann Arbor that Groesbeck wins.'

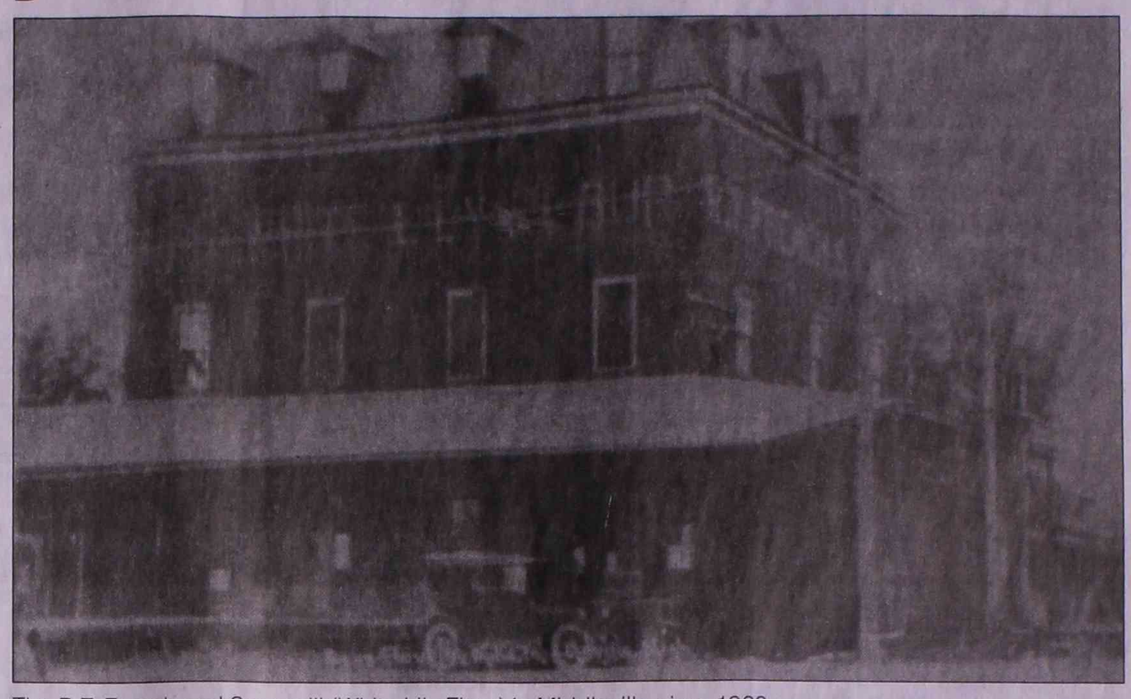
"As luck would have it, I won the bet. Paul was a very good sport and we had a pleasant day at the game. I don't remember who won.

"In the fall of 1929, I transferred to Michigan State College, now Michigan State University. For a while, I worked at a restaurant during the noon hour. My pay was a free meal that otherwise would have cost me 40 cents. I later got a job at a drugstore. I had to mop the floor every night after the store closed. No matter how hard I tried, there were always streaks on the floor when I had finished. I hated the work, but it gave me a little spending money.

"One Friday in October before I got the drugstore job, I hitchhiked home to Middleville. The next morning, I went to work in the Middleville drugstore. I went to the post office, picked up the mail (which included a small bundle of Grand Rapids Heralds), opened the newspapers and laid them on top of the cigar case. I was startled by the bold headline, 'Stock Market Crashes. Panic on Wall Street.'

"I knew this was a momentous event, but had no idea it would lead to 10 years of depression. By the fall of 1930, 10 million people out of a workforce of 60 million were unemployed. Fear and despair were everywhere.

"During our summers of 1929 and 1930, Arnold and I worked on Dad's golf course. Arnold kept the fairways mowed with a tractor that was converted from a Model T Ford. He was mechanically inclined and kept the rather primitive contraption running.



The R.T. French and Sons mill (White Lily Flour) in Middleville circa 1920.

"I was the greens keeper. This meant mowing all the greens with a reel-type push mower. My job included sprinkling and top-dressing the greens and keeping the ants away. Dad made a syrup with sugar and arsenic. We applied this with a squirt-type oil can such as used to oil machinery. One squirt did the job. Once the greens were free of ants, treating the area around the greens kept them away.

"Dad paid us $20 a week, and we also had room and board. This was a generous wage for that time. (The golf course was on the east side of Middleville, across from the cemetery.)

"In the fall of 1929, when I entered Michigan State College, the girl from Caledonia that I had been dating entered business college in Grand Rapids. After this, we drifted apart.

The Depression Years

"A warm summer rain was falling. It ran down my neck and dripped off of my nose. My companion's hair was matted down, and when she smiled it looked as though she was smiling through tears. She laughingly sang a couple of lines from the song 'Singing in the Rain.'

"We had been canoeing on the Kalamazoo River and got caught in a surprise storm. We walked through the rain laughing and talking and we reached Kellogg Hall, the dormitory for student nurses at the Battle Creek Sanitarium. This is where I had first met her the previous fall.

"In October 1930, a friend of mine, Aaron 'Slim' Kaechele, had a date with a student nurse. He asked her to get me a date. Soon after we arrived at Kellogg Hall, his date appeared in the waiting room and Slim introduced me to Dot. She said 'We will be ready in a few minutes,' and disappeared into the dorm. Later, I learned that my date had asked her to see how tall I was so she would know if she should wear high heels. After seeing me, Dot told her, 'Wear any heels you want.'

"Naturally, I was quite apprehensive about what Dot's friend would look like. When she appeared with a tall, slim, attractive girl I was, of course, very pleased. 'Bob, meet Juanita Mitchell,' Dot said.

"We went to see the four Marx Brothers in a movie I believe was called 'Animal Crackers.' Juanita had a cheerful, outgoing personality and I liked her at once. She later told me that as a girl in southern Indiana, her father and her mother's brother owned a coal mine. Juanita and her cousin often tended the tipples at the mine, loading the wagons with coal. (A tipple is an apparatus by which loaded cars are emptied by tipping, usually at a coal screening plant).

"In the summer, business was very slow and they had lots of time to play and read. They could see over the flat countryside so they could always see when a wagon arrived. One book she had read was 'Pollyanna: The Glad Girl.' This made a lasting impression and Juanita always looked at the bright side of any difficult situation. She was fun to be with. She was Pollyanna the Glad Girl. She was slow to anger, always asking herself, would it really make any difference tomorrow or next week? She would not let little things upset her.

"The nursing school at the Battle Creek Sanitarium was operated in connection with Battle Creek College. In those years, the Battle Creek Sanitarium was one of the most prestigious health centers in the United States. Movie stars and industrialists from all over the country came there for rest and treatment.

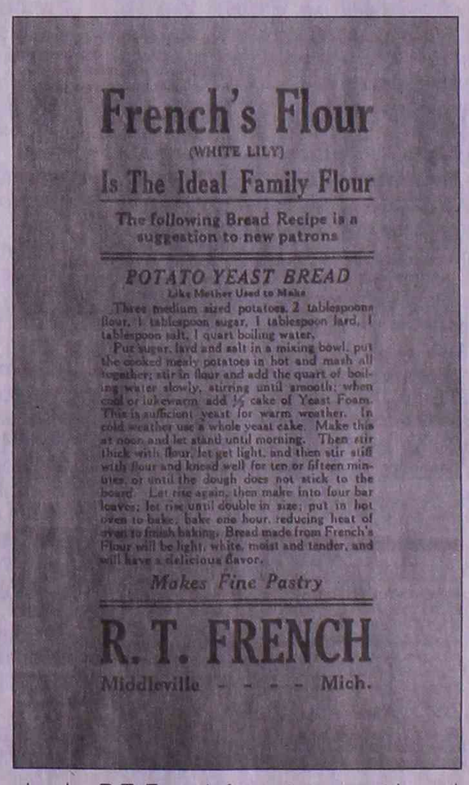
"The sanitarium was run by Dr. John Harvey Kellogg, brother of W.K. Kellogg, who founded the breakfast food company. Dr. Kellogg was a Seventh-day Adventist and no meat was served at the sanitarium, or at Kellogg Hall. When the student nurses wanted to have a wild time, they sneaked into a hamburger stand like others might sneak into a speakeasy.

"Dr. Kellogg had his own health food cereals. He also made imitation meats. He was one of the first to successfully freeze strawberries, sweet corn and so forth. He was a pioneer in the frozen food business, but I believe that his frozen foods were never sold in the open market, but were made for use at the sanitarium only. Dr. Kellogg was living proof of the efficacy of the sanitarium diet. At age 90, he could be seen riding a bicycle around the sanitarium grounds. (He died in 1943 at the age of 91).

"In January of 1931, Juanita's class was sent to the University of Michigan's Hospital in Ann Arbor for three months of intensive training. I was at East Lansing and a tight schedule made it impossible to see her until April and she returned to Battle Creek. But we wrote to each other almost daily.

"When she first came to Battle Creek, Juanita stayed with friends Clifford and Naomi Eldridge, whom she had known in Indiana. She lived with them until she was old enough to be accepted into the nurse's training. We often met at the Eldridge's. They were very gracious and generous; I ate many a meal at their home. Naomi was a southern Indiana cook and her meals were delicious. By May the first, 1931, Juanita and I knew we were in love."

To be continued...



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The following Bread Recipe is a suggestion to new patrons
POTATO YEAST BREAD
Like Mother Used to Make
Three medium sized potatoes, 2 tablespoons flour, 1 tablespoon sugar, 1 tablespoon lard, 1 tablespoon salt, 1 quart boiling water.
Put sugar, lard and salt in a mixing bowl, put the cooked mealy potatoes in hot and mash all together; stir in flour and add the quart of boiling water slowly, stirring until smooth; when cool or lukewarm add ½ cake of Yeast Foam. This is sufficient yeast for warm weather. In cold weather use a whole yeast cake. Make this at noon and let stand until morning. Then stir thick with flour, let get light, and then stir stiff with flour and knead well for ten or fifteen minutes, or until the dough does not stick to the board. Let rise again, then make into four bar loaves; let rise until double in size; put in hot oven to bake; bake one hour, reducing heat of oven to finish baking. Bread made from French's Flour will be light, white, moist and tender, and will have a delicious flavor.
Makes Fine Pastry
R. T. FRENCH
Middleville - - - - Mich.

A recipe by R.T. French for potato yeast bread.

-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.



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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)

GO ONLINE TO HASTINGSBANNER.COM

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)

SYNOPSIS
Hastings Charter Township
Regular Meeting
March 11, 2025

Meeting called to order at 6:31 p.m.
All board members present
Approved agenda / consent agenda
Discussed Mercy & BIRCH contracts,
office remodeling, cemetery work day
Approved payment of bills
Dept. reports received and put on file
Motion to adjourn 8:41 pm

Submitted, David J. Olson – Clerk

Attested to by Jim Partridge – Supervisor

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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

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS
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.

(1) Use Service Body Pick-up w/Crane and PTO Air Compressor

The board reserves the right to reject any or all proposals or to waive irregularities in the best interest of the Commission

PRAIRIEVILLE TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

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

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing will be held on April 10, 2025, commencing at 7:00 p.m. at the Prairieville Township Hall, 10115 S. Norris Rd., Delton MI, 49046 within the Township, as required under the provisions of the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act and the Zoning Ordinance for the Township.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that, In addition to participation during an public hearing, members of the public may also provide comments for the Planning Commission's consideration by emailing or mailing those comments to the Planning Commission for receipt prior to the meeting, in care of the Township Zoning Administrator, Mark Thompson (mthompson@pcimi.com) or by leaving a phone message prior to the meeting with the Township Zoning Administrator, Mark Thompson at 269-948-4088.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the item(s) to be considered at said public hearing include, in brief, the following:

1. A request from builder Dylan Steele on behalf of property owner, Kim Kromdyk, 4402 Zion Rd, Garland, Texas 75043, for a Special Land Use/Site Plan Review to allow for construction of an accessory building on an otherwise vacant property and failing to meet location requirements pursuant to provisions in Section 4.20"Residential Accessory Buildings" of the Prairieville Township Zoning Ordinance. The subject site is located at 11693 Breezy Point Dr, Plainwell, MI 49080, Parcel # 08-12-160-007-00 and is currently zoned R2-Residential.
2. Such other business as may properly come before the Planning Commission

The Prairieville Township Planning Commission and Township Board reserve the right to make changes in the above-mentioned proposed amendment(s) at or following the public hearing.

All inerested persons are invited to be present at the aforesaid time and place, or, if an electronic meeting is held, to participate via the electronic meeting.

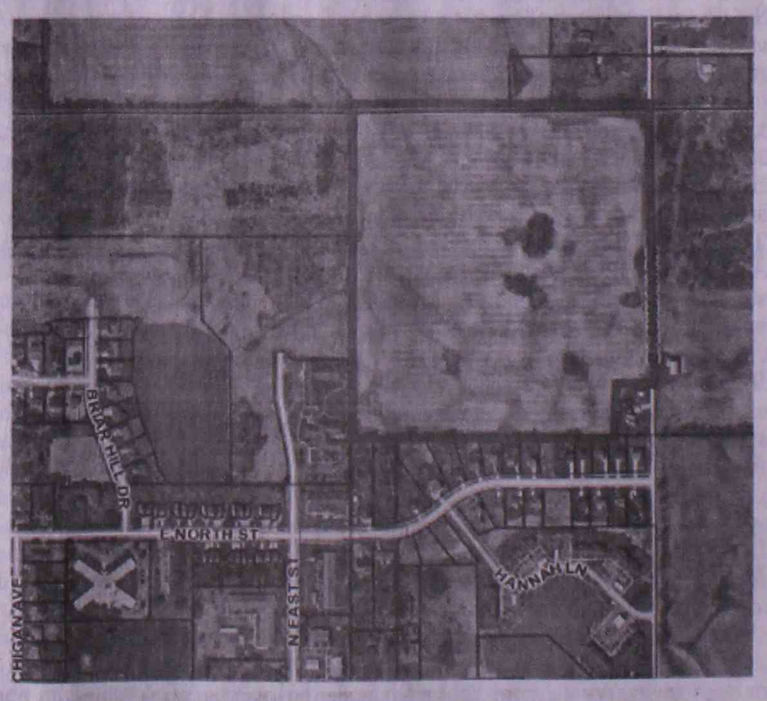
Prairieville Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, to individuals with disabilities at the hearing upon four (4) days' prior notice to the Township Clerk. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Township Clerk at the address or telephone number listed below.

PRAIRIEVILLE TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
By: Fritz Bork, Chairperson
Prairieville Township Hall
11015 S. Norris Rd.
Delton, Michigan 49046

City of Hastings

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
REGARDING BACHMAN FIELD PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT AND FINAL SITE PLAN APPROVAL

The Planning Commission for the City of Hastings will hold a Public Hearing for the purpose of hearing written and/or oral comments from the public concerning Bachman Field Planned Unit Development and final site plan approval for property located at 900 Bachman Rd. parcel #08-55-135-001-02. The Planning Commission will review and consider final site plan approval for the development and construction of 119 detached residential site condominiums. The public hearing will be held at 7:00 PM on Monday April 7, 2025, in the City Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall, 201 East State Street, Hastings, Michigan 49058.



A copy of the proposed site plan and map are available for public inspection from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM Monday through Friday at the Office of the Community Development Director, 201 East State Street, Hastings, Michigan 49058. Questions or comments can be directed to Dan King, Community Development Director, at 269.945.2468 or dking@hastingsmi.gov.

The City will provide necessary reasonable aids and services upon five days' notice to the City Clerk at 269.945.2468 or TDD call relay services 800.649.3777.

Linda Perin
City Clerk

ALL-BARRY COUNTY WINTER 2024-25

Local guys compete on state's biggest stages

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Every MHSAA varsity wrestling team in Barry County had at least one wrestler at the Individual State Finals at the end of the 2025 season.

Of the five teams, four had state medalists with eight guys overall from the group finishing on the state medal stand.

That included three-time state medalist senior Joel Simon and first-time state medalist sophomore Bryson Boucher from Lakewood who wrestled their way to the championship matches in their respective Division 3 weight classes at the Finals at Ford Field this season. Both guys finished as state runners-up.

Those performances came on the heels of the Vikings matching their best team state finish this season as they took district and regional championships to get back to the state finals at Wings Event Center in Kalamazoo for the second season in a row. Lakewood took down Whitehall in the state quarterfinals before bowing out against Yale in the semifinals the final Saturday in February.

There were successes all around. The Thornapple Kellogg team won a Division 2 District Championship and then won a thriller over Harper Creek to get into the regional finals where the Trojans were downed by the perennial state champs from Lowell.

Hastings had its winningest wrestler ever finish off a career with a fourth trip to the individual state finals the same season that it had a freshman set a program record for wins by a ninth grader – and that freshman wasn't the only youngster from the area doing great things.

Here are the 2024-25 All-Barry County Wrestling First and Second Teams.

All-Barry County
Wrestling 2024-25
First Team

106 - Hunter Sutfin, Hastings: Sutfin is the first freshman to ever win more than 50 matches for the Hastings varsity wrestling team. He put together a record of 51-7 and placed fourth in Division 1's 106-pound weight class at the end of the season.

"Hunter really stepped in as a leader in the room and competition as a freshman," Hastings head coach Jason Slaughter said. Sutfin led the Saxons in both wins and take downs this season.

113 - Troy Hokanson, Hastings: A senior, Sutfin concludes his time with the Hastings varsity with an overall record of 153-28. He was a four-time all-conference honoree in the Interstate-8 Athletic Conference.

Hokanson went 34-6 in his senior season. "Troy was really a team player this year, and focused on the team's success and what he could do for that," coach Slaughter said.

120 - Christien Miller, Thornapple Kellogg: Miller closed his senior season as an OK Gold Conference champion and a regional qualifier. He put together a record of 35-10 this season.

He was a two-time state qualifier in high school and a state medalist at the end of his sophomore campaign.

126 - Vincent Stamm, Lakewood: Stamm placed seventh in his weight class at the MHSAA Individual State Finals for the second season in a row as a sophomore this winter.

Stamm put together a record of 38-6 this season and was also first team all-conference in the CAAC White.

132 - Gauge Stampfler, Delton Kellogg: A three-time state placer, Stampfler was seventh in Division 4's 132-pound weight class at the Individual State Finals this winter.

He wrestled his way to a record of 36-8 this season and was a conference runner-up at his weight in the Southwestern Athletic Conference.

138 - LJ Rogers, Lakewood: Signed to continue his wrestling days at Albion College after graduation, Rogers was 39-13 as a senior this winter.

Rogers was second team all-conference in the CAAC White and placed fifth at the All CAAC Tournament at the end of the regular season.

144 - Filip Nowak, Maple Valley: A senior exchange student from Poland, Nowak wrestled his way to a spot in the Individual State Finals at Ford Field. He put together a 36-12 record this season.

Nowak had a number of runner-up finishes throughout the season, including at districts, and was the Big 8 Conference champion at his weight class.

150 - Bryson Boucher, Lakewood: A two-time state qualifier as a sophomore, Boucher wrestled his weight to the 150-pound championship match in Division 3 this season finishing as the state runner-up.

Boucher was 50-8 on the season and earned first team all-conference in the CAAC White.

157 - Keegan Sutfin, Hastings: A senior captain, he battled through a shoulder injury all season long to earn all-state honors for the second year in a row. He placed sixth in Division 1's 157-pound weight class at the state finals.

"Keegan was the guy that everyone on the team looked to this season," coach Slaughter said. "He worked hard in the room and competed hard all season. He was also a really supportive teammate whenever he was out, cheering on and teaching other guys on the team."

165 - Blake Bossenberger, Thornapple Kellogg: Bossenberger was a regional qualifier and a conference champion as a senior for the Trojans.

He closed his year with a record of 36-10.

175 - Jayce Curtis, Thornapple Kellogg: Curtis earned all-state honors for the first time as a senior this season placing eighth in Division 2's 165-pound weight class at the state finals. He was a three-time state qualifier.

Curtis closed his season with a record of 41-15. He was the OK Gold Conference champion at his weight class this season.

190 - Jackson Burpee, Maple Valley: A junior, who was a state qualifier as a sophomore, Burpee now has 92 varsity victories in three seasons. He was 33-9 this winter.

Burpee took championships at the Jesse Snow Memorial Tournament, the LH Lamb in Hastings, at Fennville and at the Big 8 Conference Championship this season.

215 - Isaac Friddle, Hastings: With a four-year varsity record of 186-38, Friddle concludes high school as the Saxons' all-time wins leader, and he holds the school record for pins with 169. That career mark for pins is sixth all-time in the MHSAA, and only three Saxons have more wins overall than Friddle does pins.

He was a four-time state qualifier and a three-time state placer. Friddle was 47-7 in his senior season.

285 - Joel Simon, Lakewood: A four-time state qualifier and a three-time state placer, Simon had his best finals finish as a senior wrestling his way to the championship match in Division 3's 285-pound weight class.

Simon was first team all-conference in the CAAC White this winter and closed the year with a record of 52-5.

285 - Mitchell Swift, Delton Kellogg: Now a two-time state medalist, Swift placed third in Division 4's 285-pound weight class at the Individual State Finals as a junior.

Swift was 37-7 this season and won the heavyweight title at the SAC Championship. He was also fifth at the state finals as a sophomore

All-Barry County
Wrestling 2024-25
Second Team

106 - Dakota Harmer, Lakewood: A freshman, Harmer wrestled his way to a 42-17 record this winter.

Harmer was a regional qualifier this season and placed sixth at his weight class at the All CAAC Tournament in February.

113 - Stephen Aldrich, Lakewood: Another Viking freshman lightweight, Aldrich put together a record of 33-19.

Aldrich won his weight class at the Lakewood Invitational in January and was a perfect 5-0 in his team's annual trip to the U.P. Aldrich reached the blood round of districts before bowing out of the individual state tournament.

120 - Evan Stampfler, Delton Kellogg: Stampfler was a state qualifier as a freshman this winter.

He put together a record of 30-16 and placed third at this weight class at the SAC Championship.

120 - Reyd Zoerman, Hastings: A regional qualifier as a freshman this winter, Zoerman put together a record of 41-10. He had the third most wins of any Saxon this winter.

"Reyd jumped right into varsity this year and made the spot his. He won a few big matches over state placers and showed that he could really compete with anyone," coach Slaughter said.

126 - Jordan Humphrey, Hastings: A senior with 130 career wins, he was 33-20 this winter. Humphrey was a two-time regional qualifier and a team captain for the Saxons this season.

"Jordan stepped up as a leader for the team this year, and finished out a great career losing in the blood round at regionals," coach Slaughter said.

132 - Kade Boucher, Lakewood: Boucher was a regional qualifier this season and earned second team all-conference honors in the CAAC White.

Boucher put together a record of 48-7 this season. He was a state qualifier as a junior last season.

144 - Austyn Lipscomb, Delton Kellogg: A senior, Lipscomb put together a 31-13 record this winter.

Lipscomb won his weight class at the Burton Richards Memorial tournament in December and closed the year in February by winning his way to the blood round at districts.

144 - Liam Renner, Hastings: A regional qualifier as a sophomore this winter, Renner put together a record of 35-13 and was honorable mention all-conference in the I-8.

"Liam saw a huge improvement this year which is a credit to his work ethic," coach Slaughter said. Renner had just nine wins as a freshman.

150 - Mendon Phillips, Delton Kellogg: A sophomore, Phillips was a regional qualifier this season.

Phillips put together a record of 37-18 this season and was a district runner-up.

157 - Griffin Grummet, Thornapple Kellogg: The OK Gold Conference champion at 150-pounds this winter, Grummet put together an overall record of 30-18.

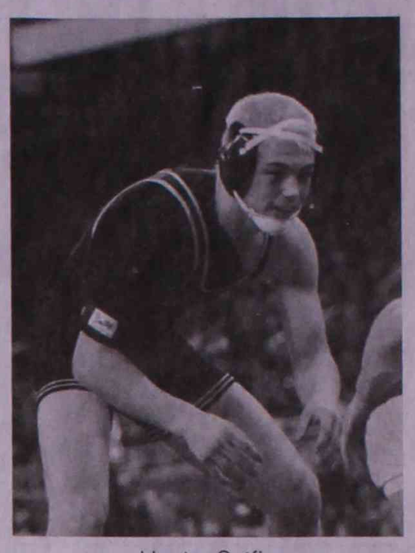
Grummet had wins that clinched the Trojans' team victories in the team state tournament, in the district finals against Gull Lake and regional semifinals against Harper Creek.

175 - Matthew Shults, Hastings: A junior with 73 varsity wins. He went 34-13 this season and earned honorable mention all-conference in the I-8.

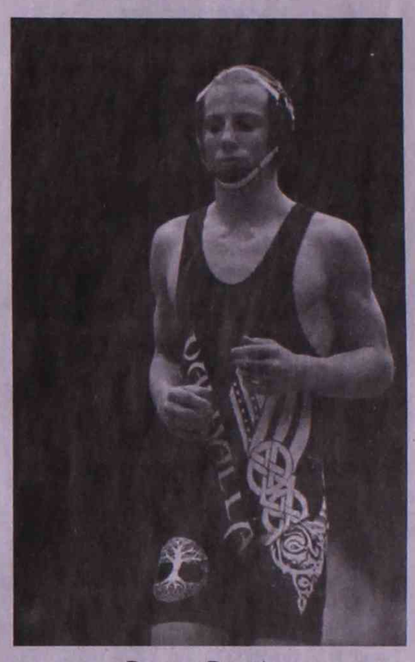
Coach Slaughter said Shults was another one of his guys who saw a lot of improvement this year.

190 - Tate Warner, Hastings: Warner closed out his senior season with a record of 39-9. That puts him at 94 varsity victories for the Saxons overall.

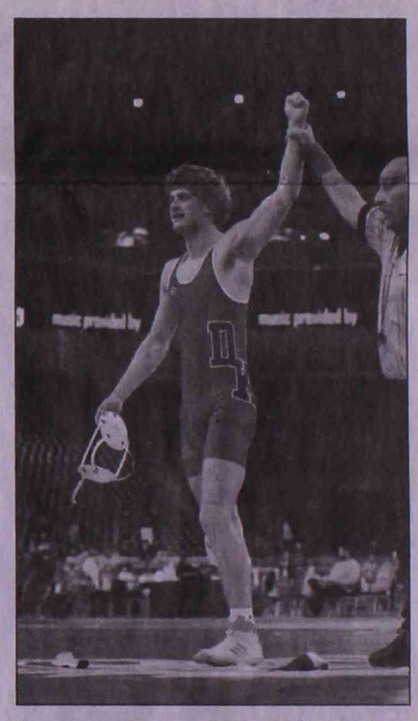
Warner earned all-conference honors in the Interstate-8 Athletic Conference this season.



Hunter Sutfin



Bryson Boucher



Gauge Stampfler

Photos by Brett Bremer

215 - Jacob Everett, Lakewood: A regional qualifier as a freshman, Everett lost out in the blood round at regionals finishing one victory shy of a spot in the state finals.

Everett put together a record of 35-12 and was second team all-conference in the CAAC White as well as a district runner-up.

HASTINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY SCHEDULE

Thursday, March 20 – Novel Ideas Book Club discusses "Birnam Wood" by Eleanor Catton, 1 p.m.; Movies, Memories and Milestones watches a 1932 film starring George Raft, 5 p.m.

Friday, March 21 – Friday Story Time 10:30 a.m.; Poetry Contest begins (all day).

Saturday, March 22 – PAWS for Reading, 9 a.m.; Rockin' Tots: Movement and Music, 10:30 a.m.; Speed Friending: Parent Edition, noon.

Monday, March 24 – Crafting Passions, 10 a.m.; STEAM at the Library, 4 p.m.

Tuesday, March 25 – Baby Cafe, 10 a.m.; mahjong, 2 p.m.; chess, 5 p.m.

Wednesday, March 26 – Itsy Bitsy Book Club, 10:30 a.m.; tech help, 2 p.m.; PAWS for Reading, 3:30 p.m.; Watch Your Waste recycling educational event, 6:30 p.m.

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

ONLINE AUCTION
Tuesday, April 8



RON DINGERSON
RETIREMENT LIQUIDATION
1243 Woodland Rd, Woodland, MI



Inspections:
Tues, April 1 & Mon, April 7 (12-1pm)
Load Out:
Wed, April 9 (10am-1pm)

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STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
BARRY COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Trust
CASE NO. and JUDGE 2025-30036-DE
Court address: 206 West Court Street, Ste. 302, Hastings, MI 49058
Court telephone no.: 269-945-1390
Estate of Judith Ann Green. Date of birth: July 27, 1942.
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, JUdith Ann Green, died January 15, 2025.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to William F. Green, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 206 West Court Street, Ste. 302, Hastings, MI 49058 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: 03/13/2025
Stephanie S. Fekkes P43549
607 N. Broadway, Ste. A
Hastings, MI 49058
269-945-1921
William F. Green
c/o Rhoades McKee, 607 N. Broadway, Ste. A
Hastings, MI 49058
269-945-1921

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
BARRY COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Trust
CASE NO. and JUDGE 2025-30038-DE
Hon. William M. Doherty
Court address: 206 West Court Street, Hastings, MI 49058
Court telephone no.: 269-945-1390
Estate of Lloyd Herman Simmons. Date of birth: 10/05/1944.
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Lloyd Herman Simmons, died 01/11/2025.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Randi L. Sanderson, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 206 West Court Street, Hastings, MI 49058 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
Date: March 13, 2025
Stephanie S. Fekkes P43549
607 N. Broadway, Ste. A
Hastings, MI 49058
269-945-1921
Randi L. Sanderson
c/o Rhoades McKee, 607 N. Broadway, Ste. A
Hastings, MI 49058
269-945-1921

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)

ALL-BARRY COUNTY WINTER 2024-25

Growth continues for area girls' wrestling programs

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

High school girls wrestling took another step forward with the growth of team duals and a team state championship at the end of the 2024-25 season.

The Thornapple Kellogg girls scored an 11th-place finish in the team scoring at the MHSAA Individual State Finals at Ford Field in Detroit at the end of the season as Thornapple Kellogg and Hastings both put a few girls on the state medal stand.

Lakewood was also represented at the state finals.

Hastings High School once again hosted a massive girls' tournament in January, a week after the guys annual LH Lamb Tournament, and then the Saxons also had the chance to host one of the state's first ever girls' district tournaments as the numbers in the girls' ranks rose enough to necessitate another round of the state tournament this season.

Here are the 2024-25 All-Barry County Girls' Wrestling First and Second Teams.

All-Barry County
Girls' Wrestling 2024-25
First Team

Chloe Aicken, Hastings: A junior wrestling at 155 and 170 pounds, Aicken won 16 bouts this season.

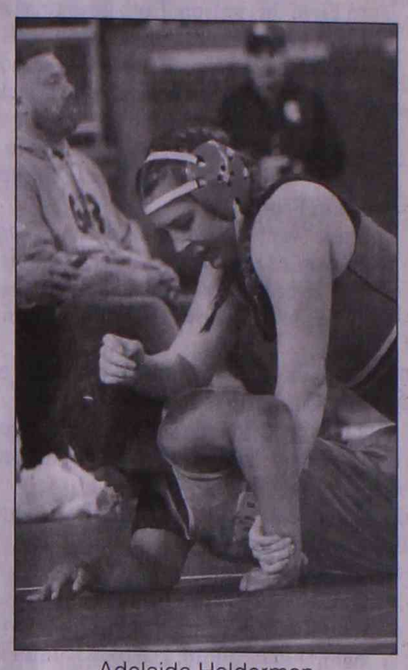
A former cheerleader, she made the move to wrestling and was a regional qualifier this year. She placed third at districts and had a couple runner-up finishes at tournaments throughout the season.

Rylee Alberts, Thornapple Kellogg: A regional qualifier wrestling at 140 pounds throughout her sophomore season, Alberts was 26-15 this season.

Alberts was a state qualifier as a freshman. This year, she was the champion at the Northview Girls Invitational at 140 pounds and the 145-pound runner-up at the Kent County Championships.

Raini Braska, Thornapple Kellogg: A two-time state qualifier, Braska completed her third straight season with at least 20 wins this winter finishing with a mark of 20-10.

See next page



Adelaide Holderman

STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF BARRY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Trust

In the matter of: The Vincent Vanasse Living Trust, dated October 3, 2024
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Vincent Vanasse, who lived at 2765 McKeown Road, Hastings, Michigan 49058, died on February 22, 2025, leaving a certain trust under the name of Vincent Vanasse Trust, Dated October 3, 2024, wherein the decedent was the Settlor and Highpoint Community Bank was named as Successor Trustee serving at the time of or as a result of the decedent's death.
Creditors of the decedent and of the trust are notified that all claims against the decedent or against the trust will be forever barred unless presented to Highpoint Community Bank, the named Successor Trustee, at Tripp, Tagg & Storrs, Attorneys at Law, 202 South Broadway, Hastings, Michgian 49058 within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
Date: March 11, 2025
Nathan E. Tagg (P68994)
202 South Broadway
Hastings, MI 49058
(269) 948-2900
Highpoint Community Bank
Jeffery Steeby, its Senior Vice President
150 West Court Street
Hastings, Michgian 49058
(269) 945-2401

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF BARRY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Trust
FILE NO. 25-30053-DE

Estate of Zachary Ryan Visser, Date of birth: 12/28/1995
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Zachary Ryan Visser, who lived at 9111 West Parmalee Road Middleville, Michigan, died 11/26/2024.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Grace Hull, named personal represenative or proposed personal represenative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Ave., N.W., Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and the named/proposed personal represenative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
Date: 03/11/2025
Jeffery A. VanMeter P49046
80 Ottawa Avenue NW Suite 301
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503
(616) 774-3020
Grace Hull
C/O 80 Ottawa Avenue NW Suite 301
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503
(616) 774-3020

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
BARRY COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Trust
CASE NO. and JUDGE 2025-30054-DE
William M. Doherty
Court address: 206 West Court Street, Ste. 302, Hastings, MI 49058
Court telephone no.: 269-945-1390

Estate of Beverly Ann Zientara.
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Beverly Ann Zientara, died January 9, 2025.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Marlene J. McGaffick, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 206 West Court Street, Ste. 302, Hastings, MI 49058 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: March 13, 2025
Marlene J. McGaffick
8226 West AB Avenue
Otsego, Michigan 49078
(269) 694-6812

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF BARRY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Trust
FILE NO. 2025-30055-DE
Hon. William M. Doherty
Court address: 206 West Court Street, Hastings, MI 49058
Court telephone no.: 269-945-1390
Estate of James Stephen Gillespie. Date of birth: 11/22/44.
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, James Stephen Gillespie. Date of birth: 02/05/2025.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to personal representative, or to both the probate court at 206 West Court Street, Hastings, MI 49058 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
Date: 03/12/2025
Nathan E. Tagg P68994
202 South Broadway
Hastings, MI 49058
269-948-2900
Philip Gillespie
5495 Center Road
Hastings, MI 49058

PUBLIC NOTICE
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
2025 BAY REGION HERBICIDE PROGRAM

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) hereby provides notice to the public, including property owners adjacent to state highways, of the 2025 Herbicide Application Program treatments for roadside rights of way within Arenac, Bay, Clare, Genesee, Gladwin, Gratiot, Huron, Isabella, Lapeer, Midland, Saginaw, Sanilac, Shiawassee, St. Clair, and Tuscola counties.

SCHEDULED DATES OF APPLICATION:
Applications will take place between April 1, 2025, and December 1, 2025.

HERBICIDES/LOCATIONS:
Non-Selective Applications: (guardrail, pavement/shoulder cracks and edges, barrier walls, concrete bridge slopes, bike/walk trails, invasive plants) ANY INDIVIDUAL OR COMBINATIONS OF THE HERBICIDES LISTED BELOW:
Roundup Pro Concentrate (Glyphosate), **Milestone** (Aminopyralid), **Escort XP** (Metsulfuron Methyl), **Esplanade 200 SC** (Indaziflam), **Method 240 SL** (Aminocyclopyrachlor), **Polaris** (Isopropylamine Salt of Imazapyr), **Aquamaster/Roundup Custom** (Glyphosate), **Telar XP** (Chlorsulfuron).

Selective Applications: (broadleaf weeds in turf areas, brush control, plant growth regulator, bike/walk trails, invasive plants) ANY INDIVIDUAL OR COMBINATIONS OF THE HERBICIDES LISTED BELOW:
Milestone (Aminopyralid), **Escort XP** (Metsulfuron Methyl), **Garlon 4 Ultra** (Triclopyr 2-butoxyethyl Ester), **Plateau** (Imazapic), **Method 240 SL** (Aminocyclopyrachlor), **Telar XP** (Chlorsulfuron), **Vastlan** (Triclopyr Choline, Acetic Acid, Choline Salt), **TerraVue** (Aminopyralid, Florpyrauxifen-Benzyl).

METHOD OF APPLICATION:
All applications will be ground or aerial applied by vehicular-mounted fixed boom or hand spray gun equipment. The herbicides will be tank-mixed or injected for each application

RE-ENTRY RESTRICTIONS:
Do not enter treated areas until the spray has dried.

CONTACT:
All applications will be made by certified pesticide applicators. For further information, contact:

Amanda Novak, Resource Specialist
Michigan Department of Transportation
5859 Sherman Road
Saginaw, MI 48604
989-233-3687

This notice is published per Regulation 637 Act No. 451, Public Acts of 1994, as amended.

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)

ALL-BARRY COUNTY WINTER 2024-25

Continued from Page 10

Braska placed second at districts and third at regionals to earn her spot in the state finals at Ford Field. Wrestling at 115 pounds in the regular season and 110 in the postseason, Braska won her weight class at the Plainwell Tournament in December and the Ron Russo Classic in January.

Brielle Dykstra, Thornapple Kellogg: Competing at 115 and 120 pounds throughout the season, Dynasty wrestled her way to 12 wins in her junior campaign.

She was a medalist at the Hastings Saxons Invitational at 115 pounds and reached the blood round at districts before bowing out of the state tournament.

Aryonnah Farrell, Hastings: A freshman splitting time between 125 and 130 pounds, Farrell won 17 matches this season.

Saxon head coach Mike Goggins said she was a really hard working freshman. Farrell placed third at the Grayling tournament and the Hastings Invitational this season.

Emma Gibson, Thornapple Kellogg: A three time state qualifier, Gibson finally finished on the medal stand at the state finals placing sixth in the girls' 135-pound weight class.

She was 31-7 on the season and added district and regional championships to go along with a title at the Kent County Championships and a couple other tournament titles throughout the season.

Naomi Grummet, Hastings: Grummet closed her senior season competing between 145 and 155 pounds with a record of 30-10. She is a two-time state qualifier and was a state medalist as a junior.,

Grummet took a district championship this season and then placed third at regionals to qualify for the state finals again. Coach Goggins said Grummet was a team leader.

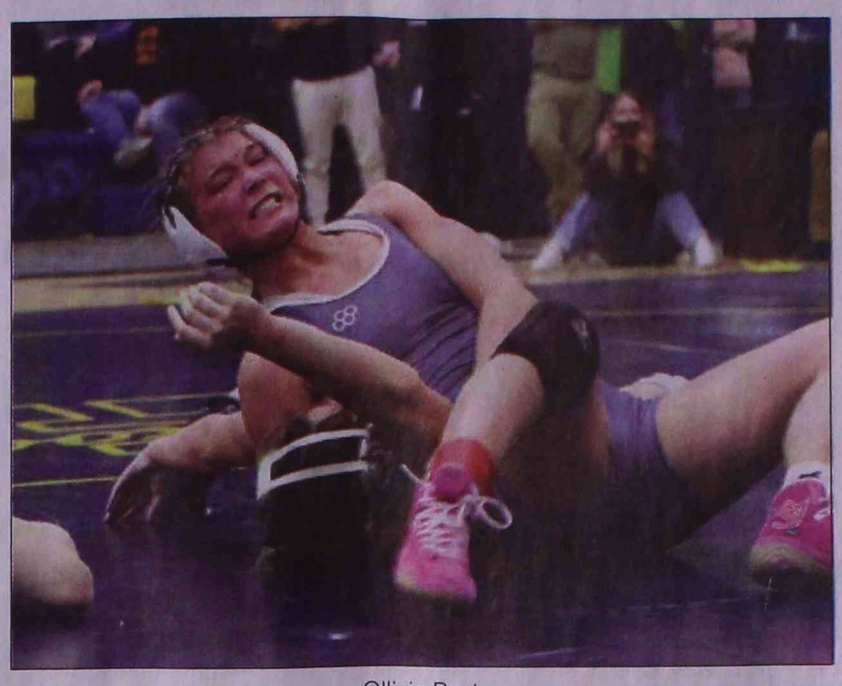
Adelaide Holderman, Thornapple Kellogg: Holderman placed fourth as a sophomore in the girls' 170-pound weight class at the state finals closing the season with a record of 32-13.

Holderman was a district and regional runner-up this season, falling only to the eventual state champion at both of those tournaments.

Kennedy Lewis, Hastings: Lewis was 16-10 on the season and reached the blood round of the regional tournament at 130 pounds this season.

Lewis placed third at districts and also had third-place finishes at the Bangor Invitational and the Don Ferguson Tournament this season.

Dezarae Mathis, Hastings: A junior, Mathis placed eighth in her weight class a the state finals for the second year in a row. She put together a record of 27-5 this season.



Ollivia Post

Mathis took a district championship this season and also won titles at the Bangor tournament and the Hastings Invitational. She was a regional runner-up.

Jordan Milanowski, Hastings: A senior who is the Saxons' first girl to qualify for the state finals three times. She earned her first state medal this year placing eighth in the 140-pound weight class at the state finals.

Milanowski had a record of 25-11 this season and was a team leader according to coach Goggins.

Olivia Post, Delton Kellogg: A sophomore, Post tallied a record of 18-8 this season while becoming the first Delton Kellogg girl to win a Southwestern Athletic Conference championship at her weight class. She had a handful of runner-up finishes at tournaments wrestling at 125 pounds.

Post, Delton Kellogg's first female stated qualifier as a freshman, was tripped up in the blood round at districts this postseason.

Julianna Taylor, Lakewood: Taylor had 16 wins on the season before an injury slowed her down a bit at districts. She was the only Viking to knock off a ranked opponent during the regular season and the only one to find a spot in the state rankings herself.

"Wrestling heavyweight as a smaller freshman was hard on her at the beginning of the year, but after learning the sport more and making the cut to 190, she excelled wrestling girls more her size," head coach Lane Allen said.

Lillian Teachworth, Lakewood: Teachworth was the second Lakewood girl ever to qualify for the state finals, and came up just shy of earning an all-state medal falling in the blood round at the finals in a match that coach Allen felt like she was dominating before getting caught and pinned.

Teachworth had 22 wins on the season, and battling back from an illness that swept through the Viking team, to finish strong.

All-Barry County
Girls' Wrestling 2024-25
Second Team

Peyton Federau, Lakewood: An Individual regional qualifier for the Vikings this winter in her first wrestling season. She split time between 155 pounds and 170 and won 16 bouts.

"Peyton is a girl that does all the right things. She is extremely coachable," coach Allen said. "170 and up is sort of the cut off for wrestling a different style than other girls. When she made the drop to 155, it was an adjustment for her, but whatever we told her she did … she was the lone source of true leadership on our team and was the glue that held everyone else together."

Madison Gruber, Delton Kellogg: A sophomore in her first season of high school wrestler, Gruber raced out to a 14-2 start wrestling at 125 and 130 pounds, and she won her weight class at the Bangor Invitational before her season was cut short by an injury.

Gruber also had a runner-up finish at her weight class at the Northview Invitational.

Korin Mitchell, Lakewood: Mitchell had 27 wins on the season wrestling between 120 and 130 pounds. Of those 27 wins, 26 came by fall.

"For a first-year wrestler as a senior, no one carried our team more. She was the main reason we were able to be successful as a team this last season. As a first-year wrestler, she was never able to break through and knock off one of the top five opponents in the state that were continuously in her brackets, but she rebounded and medaled."

Shaylynn Myers, Thornapple Kellogg: A freshman competing at 145 pounds for TK, Myers won 11 matches this season.

Myers wrestled her way to the blood round of the girls' district tournament in Hastings at the end of the season.

Sydney Patterson, Hastings: A freshman, Patterson went 14-6 this season competing at 145 pounds. She had a runner-up finish at the Bangor tournament and was fourth at the Saxons' Hastings Invitational.

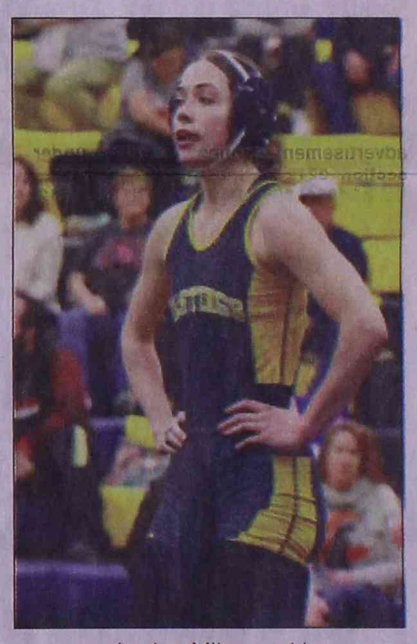
Coach Goggins said Patterson is a very technical wrestler for a freshman.

Aubrey Sines, Thornapple Kellogg: Sines had 11 victories during her sophomore season competing at 140 pounds.

She will look to bounce back after a junior after a tough exit from the state tournament falling to her teammate Alberts in the blood round of the district tournament in Hastings.

Allison Teachworth, Lakewood: Competing between 130 and 145 pounds, Teachworth picked up 19 wins on the season. Coach Allen said for most of the season Teachworth was his team's best wrestler. "The thing that set her apart was the combination of toughness and heart. For new wrestlers, wrestling three periods is extremely difficult. Between getting out of position and pinned, not being in good enough shape, and mentally being ready to do so, it is a lot to ask. Alli had the heart and toughness to do so from the beginning of the year."

Illness and injury slowed down Teachworth's season a bit at the end.



Jordan Milanowski

Photos by Brett Bremer

2025 Michigan fishing licenses now available

With Michigan's new fishing license and regulation season beginning Tuesday, April 1, anglers wanting to hit the water will need to purchase a new fishing license. The 2025 fishing licenses are available for purchase now and are valid through March 31, 2026.

All anglers ages 17 and older are required to purchase a fishing license to fish in Michigan; these licenses are good for all species, though additional reporting requirements apply to some species and fishing methods. Anglers can purchase:

An annual fishing license at $26 for Michigan residents or $76 for non-residents (both carry an additional $1 surcharge).

A daily fishing license for $10 per day.

An optional youth fishing license, which is available for only $2 for anglers ages 16 and younger.

Fishing licenses can be purchased at Michigan.gov/DNRLicenses or by downloading the Michigan DNR Hunt Fish app and purchasing through the app.

There is the option to make future online fishing license purchases more convenient by selecting auto-renew at online checkout or in the Auto Renewals section of the Michigan DNR Hunt Fish app to automatically buy future licenses as they become available.

The statewide trout opener and the Lower Peninsula inland walleye and northern pike seasons all open Saturday, April 26.

In Upper Peninsula waters, the walleye and northern pike seasons open Thursday, May 15.

Michigan's muskellunge possession season on all Great Lakes, inland waters, the St. Marys River, Lake St. Clair and the St. Clair and Detroit rivers opens Saturday, June 7. (Remember that catch-and-release fishing for muskellunge is open all year.)

The catch-and-immediate-release season for largemouth and smallmouth bass is open all year on nearly all waters (unless otherwise closed to fishing — check the current Michigan Fishing Regulations for specifics).

The possession season for bass opens statewide Saturday, May 24, except for Lake St. Clair and the St. Clair and Detroit rivers which open Saturday, June 21.

The 2025 Michigan Fishing Regulations and Inland Trout & Salmon Maps are available online, along with other helpful resources, including fishing locations, "how-to" tips and species identification. Visit the DNR website at Michigan.gov/Fishing to access these resources and the most up-to-date information. For fishing license questions, contact DNR licensing staff at MDNR-E-License@Michigan.gov or call 517-284-6057.

— *BB*

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



Freshman Van fraction of a second from medal

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

An impressive freshman season for the Grand Rapids Gars' Gabriel Van concluded with a 17th-place finish in his preliminary heat of the 100-yard butterfly Friday at the MHSAA Lowe Peninsula Division 1 Boys' Swimming and Diving Finals.

Van set a new personal record with his time of 53.44 seconds cutting almost a quarter of a second from his seed time at the Holland Aquatics Center.

That time put Van just 14 hundredths of a second behind the last of the 16 qualifiers for Saturday's finals. The top 16 all earn state medals.

The Grand Rapids Gars team is the varsity boys' swimming co-op comprised of Thornapple Kellogg, Unity Christian, Hopkins, West Catholic and West Michigan Aviation Academy.

In the end Saturday, it was Saline senior Diego Valdes on the top of the butterfly medal podium with a finals time of 49.15 seconds. He was more than a second ahead of the runner-up, Ann Arbor Pioneer junior Edward Zhang who touched the wall in 50.37.

Van was an all-conference swimmer in the OK Rainbow East Division this winter winning the 100-yard butterfly at the conference meet and finishing second in the 200-yard individual medley.



Grand Rapids Gars freshman Gabriel Van takes off at the start of his heat of the 100-yard butterfly prelim's Friday during the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 1 Boys' Swimming and Diving Finals. Van placed 17th in the preliminary race with a personal record time. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

Saline and Ann Arbor Pioneer were 1-2 in the weekend's final team standings too, with Saline capturing the state championship with a final point total of 291.5. Ann Arbor Pioneer was second with 263 points ahead of Northville 224, Zeeland 176, Detroit Catholic Central 175, Grandville 134, Milford 111, South Lyon 101, Bloomfield Hills 95 and West Ottawa 85 in the top ten.

Pioneer beat out Saline by 35 points a year ago for the D1 championship.

Valdes' win in the 100-yard butterfly was one of three individual championships for the Saline boys. Sophomore Issac Adanin won the 200-yard individual medley in 1 minute 48.24 seconds and the 100-yard breaststroke in 56.23.

It is the first swim state championship for the Saline boys since 2013.

Ann Arbor Pioneer had victories in the 200-yard medley relay and the 200-yard freestyle at the meet.

Detroit Catholic Central sophomore Camren Turowski matched Adanin's two individual wins. He took the 50-yard freestyle in 20.41 and the 100-yard freestyle in 44.64.

Mohn recognized with 2025 Jack Johnson Award

A move across Barry County from Delton Kellogg High School to Hastings High School didn't dull the respect around the state for first-year Hastings High School athletic director Mike Mohn.

The Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators announced last month that Mohn is the recipient of this year's Jack Johnson Distinguished Service Award And he was among the honorees at last weekend's MIAAA Annual Conference in Traverse City.

The Jack Johnson Award is presented annually to an individual inside or outside the field of interscholastic athletic administration who has, over the years, demonstrated a service to the high school athletes of the state and/or MIAAA.

Mohn spent 24 years in the social services field with Holy Cross Children's Services before entering a career in education. He was a treatment specialist coordinator at the Holy Cross Clinton Campus for nine years before opening up a supervised independent living office in Kalamazoo for 15 years, working with adjudicated youth, children that aged out of foster care, abuse-neglect children and children that had successfully completed a residential placement..

After moving into education, Mohn served as the athletic director and dean of students at Delton Kellogg for 14 years before taking on the athletic director role at Hastings beginning this school year. In addition, Mike also coached basketball for 27 years at Delton Kellogg, including 12 seasons as a varsity boys coach and 14 as a varsity girls coach.

Jim Hogoboom, principal at Delton Kellogg, writes, "Mike is a man of integrity, good character, and a model of professionalism. A tireless worker, Mike goes above and beyond the already ridiculously busy job of leading an athletic department. When you coach under Mike's leadership it doesn't matter what sport or what level you are at, he has the same expectations, gives the same level of support and serves your program, your coaching staff and your student athletes with the attitude and effort to help you be successful. I know Mike's passion and commitment to the MHSAA, MIAAA and the CAP training program are all grounded in his desire to serve and find ways to help those organizations in a way that impacts not just our programs, but those all across the state."

Mohn is a member of the Two Century Win Club for varsity basketball through BCAM and was named MIAAA Region 5 athletic director of the year in 2021. During his time as an athletic director, Mohn has taken on a number of leadership roles throughout the MIAAA. He currently serves as the co-chair of the Educational Athletics and Sportsmanship committees and as a member of the Strategic Planning Committee.

In addition, Mohn is the MIAAA representative to the MHSAA for Basketball Rules Committee and served as the MIAAA Region 5 representative for five years. Mike has earned his MHSAA CAP Masters Elite certification and is now a CAP instructor along with being an LTI instructor and a presenter at the MIAAA annual conference.

Mohn is married to Jackie and has two daughters, Kristen and Samantha, who he coached during his tenure at Delton Kellogg.

— *BB*



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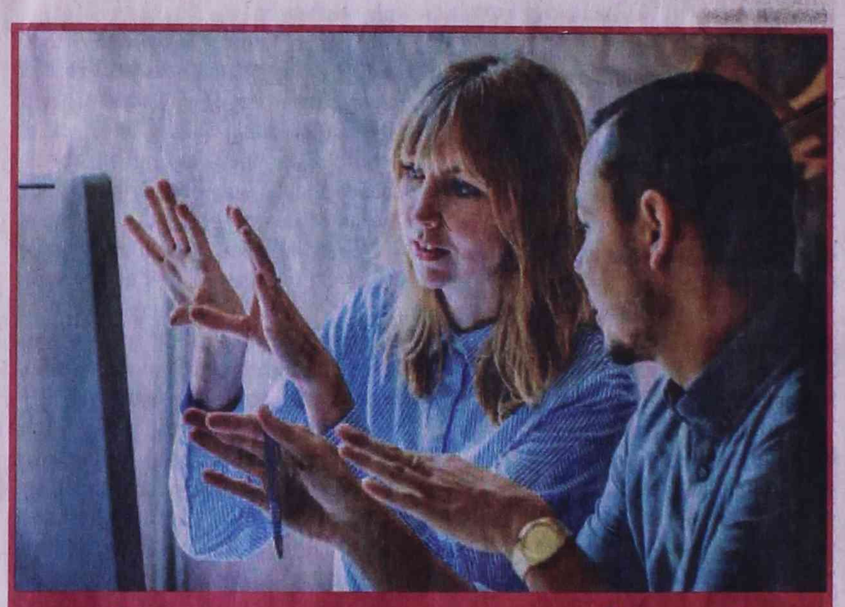
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