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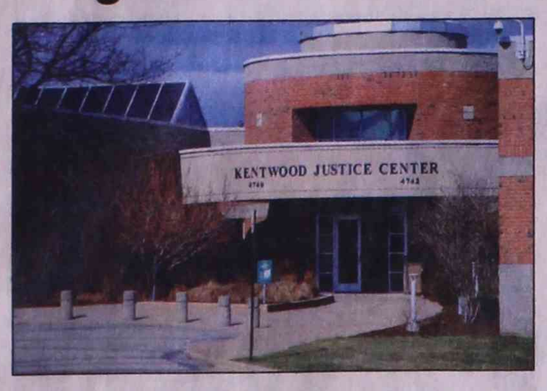
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Judge dismisses case in storage unit death, calling it a 'tragic accident'



A judge dropped the charges of involuntary manslaughter and unlawful imprisonment against 32-year-old Morgan Wingeier for the death of Corinne Abosamra, whose body was found badly burned, padlocked inside a Kentwood storage unit that caught fire on Nov. 7. **Photo by Karen Turko-Ebright**

Karen Turko-Ebright
Contributing Writer

A judge dropped the charges of involuntary manslaughter and unlawful imprisonment against 32-year-old Morgan Wingeier for the death of Corinne Abosamra, whose body was found badly burned, padlocked inside a Kentwood storage unit that caught fire on Nov. 7.

In court on Thursday, March 20, Wingeier buried her face in her hands, wiping her eyes, when she heard the verdict read by Kentwood District Judge Amanda Sterkenburg.

Public Defender Jordan Safie said his client was sad because she lost her friend.

Wingeier listed a Delton address on court documents.

She told police she did not want her mother to find out that Abosamra was in the storage unit, so she intentionally locked her in unit 454 at the Broadmoor Self Storage facility.



Morgan Wingeier

"These are tragic circumstances. Choices made out of limited resources and poor life conditions but that is all," Sterkenburg said.

Wingeier explained to detectives that her original plan was to return to the storage unit a couple of hours later and unlock it, but she never did because she had some things to attend to that took longer than expected.

Sterkenburg said the death was a "tragic accident" and both women made "poor choices."

During Wingeier's preliminary exam on Jan. 23, Kent County Chief Medical Examiner Stephen Cohle testified he performed an autopsy on Abosamra. The toxicology report showed a lethal level of methamphetamine

See **DEATH** on 3

Barry County United Way eclipses $1 million with fundraising campaign

Jayson Bussa
Contributing Writer

The Barry County United Way and Volunteer Center celebrated a milestone year with a milestone total raised via its annual fundraising campaign.

Last Friday, members of the community gathered at Leason Sharpe Hall for the organization's victory celebration, a time to break bread with one another and reveal how much money the United Way was able to raise from its 190-day campaign.

This year stood as the organization's 90th anniversary, and to mark the occasion, the Barry County United Way and Volunteer Center was able to eclipse the $1 million mark with $1,133,789.

"Congratulations. Barry County, united we really gave," exclaimed Lani Forbes, Executive Director of the Barry County United Way and Volunteer Center following the final reveal of the sum.

Every year, the organization sets a new, higher goal in front of it in order to continue funding the many agency organizations that it works alongside, in addition to providing services of its own.

This year, that goal was $800,000 — a number that that community sailed behind with its $1-plus million in giving. The community has a track record of pushing the United Way beyond its goal and did the same this year.

When Forbes spoke, she underscored the importance of those donations by highlighting exactly how often the services of the United Way and its partner agencies are utilized out in the community.



Members of the community gathered in Leason Sharpe Hall last Friday for the Barry County United Way and Volunteer Center's victory celebration. **Photo by Jayson Bussa**

"Over 68,000 times, people accessed the service of the United Way and our partner agencies. You, the donors, made that happen," Forbes said. "Today, we are here to celebrate you and the great work you support in our community."

Forbes and her team handed out a series of awards and recognitions, which highlighted various levels of giving by both individuals and companies throughout the county. After each set of awards, Forbes highlighted the work of some of the United Way's partner agencies and how they are making a difference in the community.

This included Habitat for Humanity, which is now building a home on Broadway in Hastings to accommodate a mother and her four children.

While corporate giving is certainly helpful for the United Way, one feather in the organization's cap is that it is able to solicit donations from so many individuals in the community. Giving this year included 166 donors who donated at least $1 per day and 98 individuals who chose to give gifts over $1,000 for the campaign.

Each year, the United Way selects members of the community to chair the campaign. This year, those chairpeople included Maggie Coleman, Cahssie Augustein and Lauren Tripp, who are descendants of Florence Tyden Groos, who founded what is now the Barry County United Way 90 years ago to ensure youth programs were better funded during the Depression.

See **UNITED WAY** on 2

Commissioners vote to join PACE program

Molly Macleod
Editor

Developers bringing housing to Barry County now have another financing "tool" in the toolbox after commissioners voted this week to establish a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program in the county.

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.

Commissioners voted unanimously, 8-0, in favor of establishing the PACE district after weeks of research and debate.

Though developers are now invited to apply for PACE financing, PACE projects must still seek final approval from the board of commissioners.

"We first started talking about PACE six to seven weeks ago," said board chair Dave Jackson on Tuesday. "So this has been on our agenda, I think this is the third time this has been on our agenda… So commissioners have had a chance to dive in. Commissioner (Jon) Smelker had a lot of skepticism about this going forward. I don't know if Commissioner (Bob) Teunessen did or if Callton did. They both looked into this as we have done more in-depth research in how this project actually works. And there is very little downside or risk to this as far as to the county.

See **PACE** on 4

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Construction underway at Fish Hatchery restrooms



Masons were seen working this week at Fish Hatchery Park in Hastings on the park's new bathrooms. Hastings City Council members voted this week to approve a change order for $11,100 which will allow for the refeeding of electrical to the bathrooms. The old bathroom's existing electrical connections were discovered to be inadequate for the new bathroom's usage. ARPA funds are being used for the project. **Photo by Molly Macleod**

UNITED WAY

Continued from Page 1

"It has been a pleasure during our 90th campaign to work with incredible descendants of Florence Tyden Groos. Her dedication to our community shines through in each of you," Forbes said. "In honor of them, we didn't get them another award for their shelves. They have chosen to invest in an issue that will impact families beginning April 1 with the change in car seat laws."

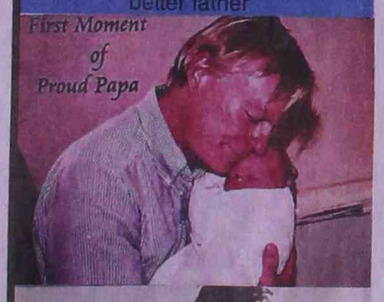
On May 1, the United Way will host a car seat event at the Thornapple Fire Department where residents can get their old, outdated car seats replaced and installed in order to keep them in compliance with the changing law.



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Local first responders train for grain bin entrapment

First responders from Barry, Allegan, Eaton, Kent and Ionia counties attended a grain engulfment training hosted by the Delton Fire Department last Saturday, March 22.

Attendees learned about grain engulfment emergencies and rescue methods, taught by the Barry County Training Committee and Mike Harp of Safety & Technical Rescue Associates (SATRA).

Several brave first responders, including Byron Township Fire Department's Alice Olsen, volunteered to experience grain entrapment and be rescued as part of the training.

Participants were directed on the proper use of the plastic cofferdam, a temporary enclosure that provides stability around the victim, and removal of the grain the victim is trapped by. Something as simple as a shop vacuum can be used for grain removal from inside the cofferdam. Once the grain level is lowered enough, the victim can climb out, or be helped out the top of the plastic ring.

Corn from Delton's Osborne Farms was used in the grain entrapment training. Barry County Farm Bureau also helped fund the event. — *MM*



Local first responders trained for grain entrapment at the Delton Fire Department last weekend. Here, Byron Township firefighter Alice Olsen volunteers to be temporarily entrapped in grain for training purposes. **Photos by George Hubka/MG News Service**



Barry County Farm Bureau provided funds for the Barry County Training Committee to allow first responders from five counties to attend grain engulfment training sessions on March 22 at the Delton Fire Department building.



Mike Harp of Safety & Technical Rescue Associates led the grain engulfment training last weekend. Much of the training took place inside and on top of his company's semi-trailer.

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City council approves Woodlawn Meadows PUD amendment

Molly Macleod
Editor

Hastings City Council members voted on Monday to adopt an ordinance amending the Woodland Meadows planned unit development. The amendment allows for developers to construct 32 multi-family detached units at the site in Hastings — a departure from the apartments originally planned for the next phases of the project.

Councilmembers passed the ordinance unanimously, 9-0, after its second reading on Monday. There was no discussion before the vote.

The move will allow for 32 multi-family detached units to be built on the 9.28-acre parcel on the north end of town. This is a reduction from the original plans for the site, which would have made way for multi-unit, dense housing. A representative from Exxel Engineering, Inc., who prepared the PUD amendment proposal, said in December the original use for the property would have made for much denser housing than the proposed 32 single-family site condominiums.

The Woodlawn Meadows PUD was originally approved in 2001 as a three-phase project. The first phase, which was completed, included the construction of four, 20-unit specialized care buildings. The next phases, which were never completed, would have called for the construction of a 24-unit two-story independent apartment building and 12 single-family condos consisting of three buildings with four units each.

New owners bought Woodlawn Meadows in 2020 and had no desire to develop the next phases of the project. Woodlawn Meadows Retirement Village II stepped forward, requesting the modification of the PUD to make way for the 32 proposed single-family homes.

At a December public hearing on the issue, some residents spoke out against the PUD amendment.

Amanda Mattson, who lives across from the existing retention pond in the neighborhood, raised concerns about the project on Monday. She and her neighbors banded together to express their opposition to the development.

"Our main opposition to this is that, again, it was based off of something from 2001. Our houses actually did not exist at that point that we're aware of. It hadn't been developed. So, the population density in the area would significantly increase," said Mattson.

Mattson also raised concerns about drainage issues in her neighborhood. Flooding has been a recent concern.

"Now when a significant rain comes, or spring melt-off, our lawns flood, the retention pond is overflowing, and also the neighborhood around those two new houses, because of the grading, the street floods. So we have concerns about the ability of that pond to own any more water after development," said Mattson.

She also brought up concerns about property values and the impact on wildlife.

Exxel representatives countered by pointing out the new PUD use will actually lead to fewer units being made available in the neighborhood than originally planned. Additionally, the retention pond was built with the intention of serving the original uses of the PUD. Any drainage or other structural problems will be addressed during the early stages of the project.

Prairieville man dies in weekend house fire

Karen Turko-Ebright
Contributing Writer

Prairieville Township Firefighters entered a burning house Saturday morning to save an 80-year-old man trapped inside. Despite the heroic effort, the man did not survive the blaze.

However, a young woman and child managed to escape the burning house.

Neighboring fire departments assisted in controlling the fire near Gilkey and Burchette Roads.

According to Prairieville Township Fire Department (PTFD) officials, several neighboring fire departments joined to extinguish the fire.

The Delton, Orangeville Township, Hickory Corners, Richland, and Prairieville Township fire departments all responded to the scene and successfully put out the fire, with no injuries to the firefighters.

The house suffered extensive damage, according to the Prairieville Township Fire Department.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

HPL hosting town hall on ranked choice voting next month

Molly Macleod
Editor

Ranked choice voting will be the topic at an upcoming town hall hosted at the Hastings Public Library next month.

Sam Kale, a representative for Rank MI Vote, a nonpartisan organization promoting ranked choice voting in Michigan, spoke during the public comment portion of Monday's Hastings City Council meeting.

Kale said the group is hosting a town hall on ranked choice voting, a voting system that allows voters to rank candidates in order of preference, next month on Wednesday, April 16, at 5:30 p.m.

The town hall will take place in the library's community room.

Kale said the group will "discuss the problems stemming from our current voting system and how a simple change to our ballots can give us a healthier democracy."

Kale said his group hopes to bring a ballot initiative to the polls in 2026 that would institute ranked choice voting in Michigan.

More information on Rank MI Vote and ranked choice voting can be found at RankMIVote.org.



Sam Kale, a representative for Rank MI Vote, a nonpartisan organization promoting ranked choice voting in Michigan, spoke during the public comment portion of Monday's Hastings City Council meeting. **Photo by Molly Macleod**

Council approves changes to purchasing procedures

Molly Macleod
Editor

After weeks of development, feedback and adjustments, the City of Hastings's new purchasing procedures were approved this week by a unanimous council vote. Though little discussion on the matter was had on Monday, council members worked with City Manager Sarah Moyer-Cale for weeks on the new procedures.

Under the new ordinance, purchases amounting to $1,000 or less can be made by city employees with the approval of their applicable department head. Purchases equal to $1,000 and under $15,000 can be made in the open market, but purchases of $5,000 or more must first be approved by the city council. Purchases equal to or greater than $15,000 must be approved by the city council. Sealed bids are required for anything $15,000 or more.

According to Moyer-Cale, the city's purchasing ordinance hadn't been amended in 30 years. She said the outdated ordinance created headaches at times for city employees.

"The primary issue with the ordinance that I wanted to revise was that department head purchases over $300 have to be approved by the City Manager," wrote Moyer-Cale in a memo to the council in January. "I want to increase that to at least $1,000."

"I also want to change the threshold for sealed bids being required which is currently $5,000… The sealed bidding process is more complex than what contractors want to involve themselves in for projects/equipment of that small size, leading to reduced participation," she added.

In other business on Monday, council members approved a resolution that increases maximum driveway widths within the city. The maximum width has been extended from 20 feet to 24 feet, allowing more room for residents with two-stall garages.

Council members also gave the Hastings Downtown Business Team the OK to go ahead with Girls' Night Out, scheduled for Thursday, May 1, from 5 to 8 p.m. in downtown Hastings.

DEATH

Continued from Page 1

in her system.

After reviewing Cohle's testimony from the preliminary exam, Sterkenburg said the following during the notice of review hearing on Thursday.

"The medical expert Dr. Stephen Cohle identified the cause of death of the decedent as an accident, specifically a methamphetamine overdose. Her body was badly burned, but she had only about 11 percent of carbon monoxide in her lungs, leaving the expert to opine that at best she may have survived ten minutes after the fire began," Sterkenburg said and continued with her review.

"He (Cohle) testified, so my approach would be well she has a lethal level of methamphetamine. She does not have a competing cause of death; therefore, it's quite reasonable to opine that methamphetamine toxicity is the cause of death," Sterkenburg said. "Had she been able to exit the storage unit, Ms. Abosamra very likely would still be deceased to the toxic level of methamphetamine in her body."

Wingeier explained in a 34-minute video played at the preliminary exam that she and Abosamra were homeless. She told detectives that her mother did not want her to hang around with Abosamra or the storage unit anymore. Wingeier said that if her mother found out Abosamra was in the unit, she would have kicked her out.

"The cause of the fire is unknown. It could have been an attempt by Ms. Abosamra to keep warm, but we know that she had blankets, and there's no evidence that she previously tried to light a fire," Sterkenburg said. "It is equally possible that the pipe she smoked methamphetamine out of fell from her hand and caught the unit on fire as she overdosed."

Kent County Prosecuting Attorney Christopher Becker stated that his department has not yet decided to file an appeal at this time.

"The defendant made a poor choice locking her friend in the storage unit. Though most of us will never be in a situation where that is a choice we would have to consider," Sterkenburg said. "Is it better to leave a friend in the wind with no roof over her head, or would that make her worse off?"

"We need to look at her (Sterkenburg) full opinion and make a decision based on a review of that," Becker stated in an email to *The Banner.* He noted that if his office chooses to file an appeal, it will be to the 17th Circuit Court.

"These ladies were both in a season that appears to be plagued by drug use and scarcity and that Ms. Abosamra died of it is a tragic accident," Sterkenburg said. "But I believe the criminal charges are unsupported, and I am dismissing this case at this time."



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Don't lose track of financial accounts

For years, people save and invest in 401(k) plans, IRAs and other financial accounts. They wouldn't lose track of this money, would they?

You might be surprised. About 1 in 7 people has unclaimed cash or property, totaling billions of dollars, according to the National Association of Unclaimed Property Administrators.

People lose track of their money for a variety of reasons: They change jobs and forget about their retirement accounts; they move and leave no forwarding address; they change names and don't notify former employers; or their employers go out of business or merge with another company.

Whatever the reason, losing tabs on accounts that could be worth thousands of dollars is never a good thing. What can you do to avoid suffering this type of loss?

Here are a few suggestions:

• *Maintain good records.* Keep records of all your financial, investment and retirement accounts — and let a family member know where these records are kept.

• *Keep a manageable number of financial accounts.* The fewer bank and brokerage accounts you have, the easier it will be to keep track of everything. You might even want to consolidate accounts when possible.

• *Report your change of address.* Whenever you move, contact your financial services providers and any former employers with whom you may have retirement accounts.

• *Report name changes.* If you change your name, notify new and old 401(k) plan administrators, banks, brokerages and any other institution connected to your money.

• *Manage retirement accounts when you change jobs.* If you leave your job, you might be able to leave your 401(k) behind with your old employer. But if you do, keep track of it. On the other hand, you could roll your old plan into your new employer's plan or into an IRA.

• *Inform your financial professional about all your accounts.* If you work with a financial professional, they can help you track your accounts, so inform them of all past and present IRAs and 401(k)s or similar employer-sponsored plans.

So far, we've looked at ways you can prevent losing track of financial accounts. But can you do anything if you suspect you've already left some money behind?

If you think you've lost tabs on an IRA, you can check old tax returns and bank statements to help you track your contributions and find the name of the financial provider that held your account. If it's a 401(k), you can contact your old employer's plan administrator.

You can get some help from other sources, too. The Department of Labor recently launched a retirement savings lost-and-found database (lostandfound.dol.gov) that can help you find pension or 401(k) plans connected to your Social Security number. For a stray IRA, you can check unclaimed.org, the website of the National Association of Unclaimed Property Administrators. And for various other sources of money — including uncashed checks from corporations and financial institutions, inactive brokerage accounts and unclaimed safe deposit boxes — you can check MissingMoney.com, the unclaimed property website of the National Association of State Treasurers.

These sites offer no guarantees of finding your lost or missing accounts or other sources of money, so you still may have to do your own sleuthing. But as the old saying goes, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" — which, in this case, means you'll help yourself greatly by tracking your accounts from beginning to end.

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

Updated laws provide extra protections for children

Car seats and booster seats are life-saving devices. And motorists in Michigan will need to learn the rules regarding the usages of such devices, with updates to the state's child passenger safety laws set to go into effect April 2.



The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that correctly used child restraints reduce traffic crash fatalities by 71 percent for infants younger than 1 year old and by 54 percent for children 1 to 4 years old in passenger cars. Unfortunately, vehicle crashes remain the leading cause of death for young children.

Updated child passenger safety laws provide improved precautions to help protect child passengers, according to the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning.

Under the updated laws, children must be secured in a car seat that is appropriate for their age, weight and height as indicated by the car seat's manufacturer. These updates include:

• Infant to two years – A child must be in a rear-facing car seat until they reach the maximum weight or height allowed by the car seat's manufacturer or the child is 2 years old.

• Two to five years – The child can then move into a forward-facing car seat until they reach the maximum weight or height allowed by the car seat's manufacturer or the child is 5 years old.

• Five to eight years – The child can then move to a belt-positioning booster seat using a lap-and-shoulder belt until they are 4 feet 9 inches or 8 years old.

• All children under 13 years – Must ride in the rear seat of a vehicle if the vehicle has one available.

The updates also require:

• Children younger than age 4 to ride in a car seat in the rear seat (if the vehicle has a rear seat). If all available rear seats are occupied by children under 4, then a child under 4 may ride in a car seat in the front seat. A child in a rear-facing car seat may only ride in the front seat if the airbag is turned off.

• Children must be properly buckled in a car seat or booster seat until they are 8 years old or 4 feet, 9 inches tall. Children must ride in a seat until they reach the age requirement or the height requirement, whichever comes first.

"These new standards, along with following manufacturers' guidelines, will ensure children are safely secured in their car seats and better protected if a crash occurs," said Katie Bower, MOHSP director. "We encourage parents to recheck all their car seats and booster seats to make sure they meet the necessary requirements and are fitted properly for each child's height and weight."

For information on child passenger safety recommendations, including car seat check locations, visit OHSP's Child Passenger Safety web page at Michigan.gov/carseats. — *DM*

'Cabin Fever' event March 29 to benefit local vets



The Barry County Acts of Kindness is celebrating its "Cabin Fever" fundraiser this Saturday, March 29. Onager will be on hand, performing live music during the event. **Courtesy photo**

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

With Mother Nature slowly releasing her grip on wintery weather, the Barry County Acts of Kindness is set to celebrate the coming of spring by hosting its annual "Cabin Fever" fundraiser at the Barry County Expo on Saturday, March 29.

BCAOK, a local nonprofit organization, was formed by former members of the Hastings Elk Club with a focus on serving Barry County veterans.

"We wanted to specialize," said Don Converse, BCAOK president. "We wanted all of the money (raised by the group) to go to the veterans."

And, Converse added, money raised by BCAOK goes to help local veterans in need.

"Only Barry County," he said. "All our funds stay here for Barry County veterans."

According to Converse, the Cabin Fever event is the group's largest fundraiser of the year and is set for 6 p.m. until midnight on March 29.

The event includes a "happy hour" and then dinner that includes a choice of either a pulled-pork sandwich or fried chicken, with sides and dessert options. Tickets for the dinner are $15. The Delton Moose Lodge will provide a cash bar.

If that isn't enough, there will be a raffle with a trio of grand prizes including two kayaks, a 36-inch griddle and two-night stay at a Bay Pointe resort. Raffle tickets are $1 for one or six for $5. And, live music will be provided by Onager.

"They really rocked it last year," Converse said, adding that last year's fundraiser drew more than 200 people. "We're hoping to have a good push and go over 300 this year."

For more information on BCAOK or the Cabin Fever fundraiser, visit the group's website at barrycountyaok.org.

PACE

Continued from Page 1

"Commissioner (Dave) Hatfield, he did a very eloquent job of explaining the banking world and how that works, how that benefits the county and the county is actually first in line to receive funds if something would go south. We're in a priority position for any loan amounts that are being made there. There's a lot of security with this as well that is structured in favor of the county," Jackson said.

Last month, Mary Freeman of Lean & Green Michigan provided information on 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 was also on hand on Tuesday for questions concerning PACE.

Freeman explained 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.

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. The extra financing option can 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.

Greg Taylor, senior development specialist with CopperRock, spoke during Tuesday's public hearing in favor of Barry County establishing a PACE district.

"I'm here today to speak in favor of the PACE financing initiative that Mary (Freeman) and others have put before you. And I come to you to let you know from a practical perspective that it's a very practical tool. And it's one that we're planning to utilize for the Riverwalk Lofts project after going through multiple rounds of financing, multiple appraisals, multiple rounds of incentive work at the state level. We've found that the PACE program would be a good fit," said Taylor.



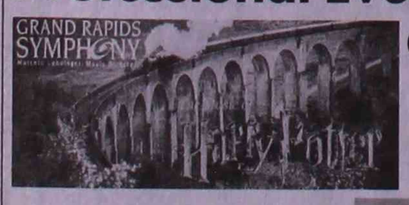
The Barry County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously this week to establish a Property Assessed Clean Energy program in the county. Here, county board chair Dave Jackson (right) and vice chair Dave Hatfield discuss the program. **Photo by Molly Macleod**

Some commissioners saw the move on Tuesday as a move in the right direction for the county to attract more housing.

"I, too, had lots of reservations when this first came about, as we should have as commissioners on anything that's new and we are not familiar with, but as we, as you've (Commissioner Jackson) said, we've worked on it for six or seven weeks. We've dug into some things. I've got some answers to many of my questions. I like, for sure, the idea that this doesn't lock us in in any way…," said Commissioner Bruce Campbell. "But I see 135 apartments there that's at stake. But our risk is so minimal on this, if there's risk at all. To turn it down would be a failure of our jobs to try to provide some housing in this county. And, hopefully, it'll be a step in the direction that we can provide even more housing."

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

DID YOU **SEE?**



WAITING FOR SPRING

This pair of deer was seen observing Fall Creek during snowy conditions earlier this month. Photographer Del Bachert speculated the duo is looking forward to sunny skies and warmer temperatures. **Photo by Del Bachert**

National Wild Turkey Federation teaching new hunters at PCCI next month



Fledgling turkey hunters are invited to learn from experienced mentors at Pierce Cedar Creek Institute next month. Courtesy photo

New adult hunters can learn to hunt wild turkeys next month from experienced mentors at Pierce Cedar Creek Institute in Hastings.

The event, sponsored by the National Wild Turkey Federation, is one of many events it is sponsoring next month aimed at educating new turkey hunters.

Hunters will gather at Pierce Cedar Creek Institute in Hastings from Friday, April 25 through Sunday, April 27.

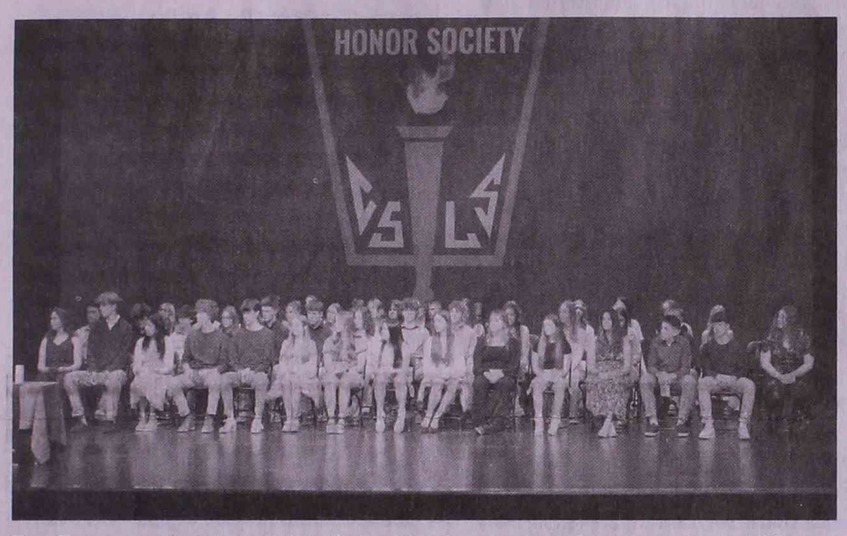
The cost is $225, which includes two nights' lodging, Friday evening dinner, breakfast snacks, Saturday lunch and Saturday evening wild game sampling.

This event is limited to eight new hunters (two hunters per mentor) and is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Registration can be found at your.nwtf.org/events/login/.

For more information, contact Jen Davis at jdavis@nwtf.net or 734-680-6049. —*MM*

TK National Honor Society inducts 55 new members



The Thornapple Kellogg High School National Honor Society inducted 55 new members last week. Courtesy photo

The Thornapple Kellogg High School Elizabeth Thurber Chapter of National Honor Society inducted 55 new members at a ceremony last Thursday night, March 20. The new members include eight from the class of 2026 and 47 from the class of 2027, bringing the total number of members to 95.

NHS Advisor Barb Maring welcomed the students and guests. "As you can tell, these 55 students deserve to be called the best of our student body. Let us remember that the National Honors Society is more than a cord worn at graduation, more than a certificate, or a line on a resume. These talented students understand this, and they know they're about to make a commitment to use their gifts and talents to better the lives of others in their community through their involvement in the NHS. Let us remember that the NHS is a lesson in how to live a life as an active member of society – a lesson for a lifetime," said Maring.

NHS members must meet several criteria for membership. Students must have a 3.5 GPA and provide evidence of their leadership and service. Students submit a written essay describing how they portray the four pillars of the NHS — character, service, leadership and scholarship. A five-member faculty council determines which students should be invited to NHS.

High School Principal Tony Petersen said being in the NHS is an honor. "I would like to be among the first to congratulate you. It is an honor to serve as your principal and I'm proud of each of you for the hard work, dedication, leadership service, and the impeccable character that each of you has displayed. You're among the best and the brightest at TKHS and I look forward to seeing the legacy that you continue to build as a member of the National Honor Society," said Petersen.

Chiya Collantes, the NHS Chapter President, gave a little more insight into NHS and how it was founded.

"In 1921, the National Association of Secondary School Principals passed a resolution to form the National Honor Society, which created a National Organization whose objectives were to create an enthusiasm for scholarship to stimulate service to promote worthy leadership and to encourage the development of character in the nation's secondary school students," she said.

The TKHS National Honor Society was founded in 1958 by Elizabeth Thurber, a language arts instructor. At the first ceremony, seven students were inducted.

The roll call of new members was read by Josalyn Cramer, NHS secretary, and Valerie Tamez, NHS treasurer. Petersen greeted each member before they received their certificates from Collantes and Kyle Hoebeke, who serves as the NHS vice president. Collantes then had all new members recite the NHS pledge and formally welcomed them into the NHS.

Students inducted are:

CLASS OF 2026

Shaelyne Bennett, Mark Gielincki, Miller Juarez, Oliver Lietz, Benjamin Postma, Lilian Rubert, Kara Smith and Gracyn Traub.

CLASS OF 2027

Molly Alden, Rian Allen, Avery Bushman, Raegen Chapman, Caleb Chatman, Mason Chivis, Saige Clous, Mark Cuison, Parker Dahley, Jalen DeVore, Madelyn Eitel, Alexander Evans, Elijah Frazer, Grady Galaviz, Mary Gaudreau, Logan Goggins, Austin Hansford, Peyton Hardy, Ellie Harmon, Julia Hart, Adalyn Henry, Alexander Hildabrand, Alexa Hoeksma, Adelaide Holderman, Jacob Koster, Addyson Lambert, Leighton Leslie, Alaina McCrumb, Callie Middleton, Gage Novak, Isabelle Piering, Carmen Reynolds, Reece Ritsema, Marissa Rowley, Katelyn Scobey, Taylor Seif, Paige Sheely, Meghan Skidmore, Lily Stanard, Ethan Strait, Charles VanDuine, Brandan Velting, Alexis Watson, Emma Weeber, Chloe Yates, Alyvia Zolinski and Parker Zube. — *MM*

City council sets timeline for filling vacancy

Molly Macleod
Editor

The Hastings City Council set its plan for filling a vacancy this week after First Ward Councilman Bill Nesbitt completed his final meeting on the council on Monday.

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

Nesbitt announced his resignation from the council earlier this month, citing health concerns. His last meeting was Monday. His resignation will be official at the end of March.

According to city charter, the council must appoint someone to fill the seat within 45 days of Nesbitt's official end date on the council. If the council fails to appoint someone after 45 days, a special election will be held.

Hastings City Manager Sarah Moyer-Cale presented a timeline for filling the vacancy to council members on Monday. A notice informing residents of the council vacancy will be published in the Thursday, April 3, edition of The Banner. Monday, May 5, at 4 p.m. is the deadline for letters of interest to be given to the city clerk. Council members will host a workshop for interviews on Monday, May 12, at 6 p.m. The workshop will be followed by the regular council meeting, where Moyer-Cale said council members could appoint someone — three days before the May 15 deadline. If all goes to plan, the new appointee will be sworn in at the Monday, May 27 meeting.

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Colleen Reed



Colleen Reed, beloved by many for her spunky spirit and quick wit, passed away on March 19, 2025, at the age of 81. Colleen was born on June 10, 1943 in Delton.

Colleen worked as a project manager for McCormick Enterprises in Delton for over 20 years. She found peace and happiness on the water boating, and treasured the moments spent sitting on her deck. Colleen was a longtime active member of the Delton Moose Lodge.

Colleen's sense of humor and love for life were as memorable as her love for her cat, Shadow, who was a constant source of comfort and companionship. Colleen's lively character and kind heart will be dearly missed, as she leaves behind a legacy of laughter, love, and an unforgettable presence.

Colleen is survived by her daughter, Rhonda (Terry) Wier; siblings, Karen (Robert) Gifford and Bob McCormick, several grand and great grandchildren.

Colleen was preceded in death by her parents, loving husband, Randy Reed, children, Jeff Mol and Cheryl Mol, and sister, Diane Sample.

She will be missed by many caring friends and neighbors, especially Rick and Stephanie Hendricks.

A memorial service will be conducted at a later date. Please visit www.williamsgoresfuneral.com to share a memory or to leave a condolence message for Colleen's family.

Deanne Lee Shriver (Bristol)



Deanna Lee Shriver (Bristol) passed peacefully March 10, 2025, in the presence of family following a long battle with pulmonary fibrosis. She was a fighter and defeated the odds, surviving much longer than expected. She was very ready to move on to the presence of her Lord and Savior.

Born February 23, 1941, in Battle Creek, MI to parents, Lyle and Kathryn (Saunders) Bristol, Deanna lived a full life filled with family and adventure. Her trust in the Lord began at an early age and she was a great example to family and those around her. Her faith sustained her and enabled her to grow through many challenges in life.

She lived her first 18 years in Hastings. At 14 years old, as she was walking home from school, a work truck with a board extended to the side came around a corner hitting her in the head and causing a severe concussion. Fortunately, she recovered well but did have some minor difficulties from this later in life.

She started her family at the young age of 16, marrying Charles Meier, Jr. from Lansing and giving birth to her first son, Charles Meier III and moving to Wacousta, MI. Brothers, Christopher and Rex soon followed. Life was good with a growing family until an unfortunate deer hunting accident took Charles' life at 31, leaving her a widow with three boys at 26.

Soon after, Deanna reconnected with a childhood friend, Alfred Samuel Shriver (Sam), who was widowed with four children (Sam, Paul, Robert and Carmen). Within a year they were married and moved back to Hastings with the purchase of Brookside Motor Inn Motel as owner/operators. Life was very busy managing the Motel with seven children. A year later, Sam had a serious accident at E. W. BLISS resulting in permanent back injury that prevented him from returning to work.

To help with income and expanding her property management skills, Deanna took Enrichment courses through Michigan State University. Upon completion, she was able to secure a position at Ed Rose and Sons, Inc. as Leasing Agent, Assistant Manager and Resident Manager. This led to a move to Shell Point, FL in 1988, where she continued in Real Estate Sales and Management. She earned her FL real estate and brokerage licenses which led to her own real estate brokerage, Shell Point Realty. Sam assisted her as the business grew and they invested in properties, primarily to assist people with buying their own homes. Sam went home to be with his Lord at the VA Hospital in Gainesville, FL December 18, 2010, after a brief battle with cancer.

In 2013, Deanna was encouraged to try a social media networking site where she met Ervin Gaskill, also from Hastings, with many common connections. They met and were soon married January 2014. With Erv's passion for fishing, Erv joined Deanna in Florida. She began having some health issues with the fibrosis so in 2021 they decided to move back to Michigan to be near family.

Deanna loved people and consistently demonstrated a caring heart. Her drive and commitments were a tremendous inspiration to her family and anyone who knew her. She will be greatly missed.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Lyle and Kathryn Bristol; sister, Marilyn (Bristol) McWhinney; husband, Charles Meier; husband, Samuel Shriver; and sons, Christopher Meier, Rex Meier and Robert Shriver. She is survived by sisters: Linda Bristol, Barbara (Bristol) Palmer and Sharon (Bristol) Bromley; brother-in-law, Bruce McWhinney; husband, Ervin Gaskill; sons: Charles Meier III, Samuel Shriver II, Paul Shriver; Robert Gaskill and Gorden Gaskill; and daughter, Carmen Shriver.

A graveside service will be held at Hastings Township Cemetery on Saturday, April 19, 2025, at 11 a.m. There will be a luncheon and time of fellowship immediately following the graveside service at the Daniels Funeral Home in Hastings, conveniently located at 1401 North Broadway, Hastings, MI.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made in Deanna's name to Corewell Hospice and Palliative Care.

Funeral arrangements are entrusted to the Daniels Funeral Home - Hastings, conveniently located at 1401 North Broadway, Hastings, MI. For further details, please visit our website at www.danielsfuneralhome.net.

HASTINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY SCHEDULE

Thursday, March 27 – Movies, Memories and Milestones watches a 1954 film starring William Holden and Barbara Stanwyck, 5 p.m.

Friday, March 28 – Friday Science Story Time 10:30 a.m.

Monday, March 31 – Crafting Passions, 10 a.m.; Native Plant Gardening Workshop: On the Road! With Pierce Cedar Creek Institute, 2 p.m.; Before #VanLife: 90 Nights in a Van — An Alaskan Road Trip, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, April 1 – Baby Cafe, 10 a.m.; mahjong, 2 p.m.; chess, 5 p.m.

Wednesday, April 2 – Itsy Bitsy Book Club, 10:30 a.m.; Digital Literacy workshop: Michigan eLibrary (MeL) — your 24/7 digital resource hub, 6 p.m. (registration required).

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

Worship Together



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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The Lakewood Area Choral Society celebrates its 40th season this year. The semi-professional choir is seeking new members. File photo

Lakewood Area Choral Society celebrating 40 years, seeking new members

The Lakewood Area Choral Society is celebrating its 40th year of bringing choral music to the area. The choir is under the direction of Dr. Robert C. Oster, who founded the group in 1986 to provide adults an opportunity to participate in a large choir. Over those many years, more than 560 singers have joined or are current members.

With a varied repertoire including sacred and secular music, Oster says members gain new knowledge at every rehearsal.

In the fall of 1985, Oster sent out notices to the various Lakewood communities that he wanted to start a community choir, hoping for maybe 40 people. To his surprise, 80 people showed up. Since that time, the choir has not dropped below that mark.

As part of the celebration of the 40th anniversary, LACS produced a promotional and recruitment video, "Come Sing with Us," to give prospective new members a sample of what is like to sing in this semi-professional choir, as well as to promote the choir and its artistic impact on the surrounding communities.

"You could be the next new member!" said LACS publicist Terri Trupiano Barry.

The five-and-a-half-minute video can be found at the choral society's website: lacsmusic.org. The video link will appear on the home page.

Membership is open to anyone with choral experience who loves to sing and is willing to be dedicated to the LACS family. There is also a link on the website that prospective new members can use to make an initial inquiry regarding membership. The 2025 rehearsal and concert schedule and a copy of the member handbook will be sent following the inquiry.

The first choral society rehearsal for the 2025 season takes place Monday, March 31, from 7 to 9 p.m. in the choir room at Lakewood High School, 7223 Velte Rd, Lake Odessa.

A full slate of concerts is set for this 40th anniversary season: June 8—Sacred Concert at Eaton Rapids United Methodist Church; June 22—Sacred Concert at the First Presbyterian Church in Ionia; September. 28—Pops Concert at the Hastings High School Performing Arts Center, and December 21—Christmas Concert with the Thornapple Wind Band again at the Hastings High School Performing Arts Center. — MM

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

'In My Time' Part VIII

BANNER AUGUST 24, 1995

JOYCE F. WEINBRECHT

Robert E. Faulkner was born in 1910 and grew up in Barry County in the villages of Delton and Middleville. He shares with our readers his memories of those early years. He writes:

DETROIT 1931-1932

"Driven by a cold November wind, dust devils swirled around Detroit's Woodward Avenue. I pulled my overcoat close around me to protect myself from the biting cold. Across the street, I noticed a hatless man dressed in summer-weight pants that we called ice cream pants, and a thin jacket. He was bent into the wind and obviously suffering from the cold. He looked as though his clothing was made up of rejects from the Goodwill store. After a moment, I recognized him as a man I had met in September while looking for a room to rent.

"I had come to Detroit in September of 1931 to enroll in Detroit City Law School, now part of Wayne State University. A room advertised for rent in the want ads led me to a pleasant street of nice homes.

"A well-dressed man of about 35 years old answered the door. He invited me into his lavishly furnished den. It even had a bear rug, complete with head, in front of the fireplace. He seemed to want to talk and told me about himself. He had worked as a salesman for the American Radiator Company and had averaged $500 a month. (Editor's note: In 2025, this would amount to $10,381.74 a month). He showed me a large closet full of fine clothes, silk neckties, suits that appeared to be tailor-made, Florsheim shoes and expensive shirts.

"'I don't know what I'm going to do, I have no income. I can't pay the mortgage,' he said.

"We never got to discussing room rent. In fact, I never saw the room. He obviously wasn't going to have a room to rent for very long.

"He was the man that I saw on Woodward Avenue on that cold November morning. In two months, the Depression had reduced him from upper middle class to the status of a pauper. He was just one of millions of Americans who could no longer support themselves.

"I found a room and enrolled in night classes, hoping to work days. A couple of weeks after enrolling, I met a fellow student from Grand Rapids. We decided to get a one-room apartment together where we could cook our own meals. (On) weekends, I hitchhiked to Battle Creek and he hitchhiked to Grand Rapids.

"He always brought back a paper sack of cracked wheat which he obtained from his father who worked in a grain mill. Usually, my roommate cooked the wheat for breakfast.

"One morning, he slept in, so I looked into the bag of wheat. To my horror, it was full of maggots. I emptied it into the garbage can. When my roommate arose, he asked where the wheat was, and I told him about the bugs. I was astounded by his reply. He was indignant. 'Where do you think I got the wheat? My father sweeps the mill. We've been eating the floor sweepings all the time and you never complained before. A few maggots won't hurt you.'

"Soon after that, he moved in with a girl who paid the rent. Fortunately, two other students were searching for a third to share an apartment on Garfield Street just off of Woodward, within easy walking distance of school. The total rent was $40 a month, including heat and electricity. It had two bedrooms, a living room, kitchen and one bath.

"One of my roommates was a self-confident, sophisticated and high-strung man from across the river in Canada. My other roommate was a pleasant, but very intensive socialist. Despite our differences, we got along well.

"The Canadian said, 'I'll do all the cooking, but you two will do all the dishes, potato peeling and so forth.' I rather resented his giving us orders, but since neither my other roommate or I could cook, we didn't object. We had even less objection when he frequently brought fresh eggs from his uncle's farm near Windsor. He never asked us to pay for the eggs. We had little money, and I had not been able to find a job anywhere.

"I saw an ad for cards for 50 boxes of aspirin for 50 cents a card. I asked Dad for $25 and bought 50 cards. Each box of aspirin retailed for 10 cents. I would put a few cards under my arm and contact every store within walking distance. I would say something like, 'Buy a card for $2 and get $5 back.' If I had a good day, I would sell one or two, usually for a dollar or a dollar-and-a-half.

"One day, I went into what appeared to be a cigar store. The store was about 8 feet deep and had one cigar case. I noticed a door behind the cigar case with a peephole covered by a sliding piece of wood. I knew I had stumbled on a blind pig, a place selling liquor, which was still illegal.

"'Two dollars will bring you five,' I said to the man behind the cigar case. He reached into the cash register and handed me the two dollars. He never said a word, nor did his face change expression.

"Then, I realized that if I could find enough blind pigs, I could make a little money. I sensed that it would not be good to go back in the same place twice. I ran out of the stores within walking distance and with all my work, I just about recovered my investment.

"We lived 45 blocks from downtown Detroit, so when it was necessary to go downtown, we took the streetcar. It cost us five cents and a transfer cost of two cents. We found that we could transfer to a line that came within five blocks of our apartment. The three cents we saved was important, because we had very little money.

"We had little entertainment but frequently we could go to a movie on Woodward on Wednesday night. This movie theater ran continuously for 24 hours a day. The shows changed at midnight on Wednesday. Since the price of admission was only 10 cents, quite a few homeless persons who had been able to get a few dimes panhandling spent the night there. The theater ran double features so on Wednesday nights we saw four movies for 10 cents.

"I walked down Woodward on a March day. The newsboys were crying, 'Extra! Extra! Lindbergh baby kidnapped!' Later, the body was found dead. The murder served to thicken the gloom that engulfed the country.

"Nothing seemed to go right in 1932. There was a march by unemployed workers at the Ford plant. Guards shot several of the mob.

"A few days later, as I was coming out of our apartment on Garfield, I heard a loud noise on Woodward Avenue. I walked toward the corner and saw a huge parade of men and women marching in ranks that stretched clear across the street. The ranks were about six feet apart, moving down the street in a fast walk. As they walked, they sang 'The Red Flag' and 'The Communist International.' Between songs, they shouted in unison, 'We want bread, not bullets! We want bread, not bullets!'

"It was over an hour before the last of the marchers passed Garfield Street. The papers played down the incident. The next morning, the Free Press had a little item down on the bottom of the front page headed 'Five Thousand Communists March.'



Charles Augustus Lindbergh Jr., taken just a short time before he was kidnapped in 1932.

"Around the first of April, my Canadian roommate said that he could get me a job at the Plymouth car plant. His brother worked in the office and had a friend who was superintendent. The hourly rate was 50 cents, plus bonus. The bonus usually amounted to 25 cents per hour. The plant worked nine hours a day, five days a week.

"At first, I had several soft jobs, such as working the kick press and cleaning the nuts and washers from the floor sweeping. However, after a few days, the foreman told me to swing axles on the line. The differentials were assembled to the axles on two tables next to the room where the differentials were assembled. The differentials came out of the room on a belt. The men at the near table could reach the belt, but I had to carry the differentials from the belt to the table. I swung the axles on the main assembly line with block and tackle. I had to swing 120 axles per hour, two a minute, on the belt and carry 60 differentials. There was a place on the belt for each axle, and if I missed filling one, all the men on the line would holler at me, as this could cut the bonus. As we approached quitting time, I would wonder if I could last out the day.

"As we got into May, the business picked up and, frequently, at a few minutes to quitting time, the foreman would come out with two fingers raised, meaning that I would be working two hours of overtime. Somehow, I managed to last the 11 hours.

"To get to the plant by 7 a.m., I had to catch a streetcar at 5:30 (a.m.). After a relatively short ride, I had to change cars. I can still hear the conductor shouting 'Baltimore, Milwaukee, Grand Belt East and West.'

"One day, soon after I got off the streetcar coming home from work, a bum came up to me and said, 'Brother, can you spare a dime?' I replied, 'I'm working this side of the street, you get on the other side.' Without any hesitation, he crossed the street.



The Faulkner Family, taken in the 1920s. Standing are (from left) Paul, Earl and Robert, seated are Ellis, Grace and Arnold.

"By June, the 11-hour day had become routine. This left me no time to study and with exams coming up, I told the superintendent I was quitting. He asked me why and I told him. He told me I wouldn't have to work overtime until after exams.

"I was not prepared for this, (and) was sick of the city. I wanted to get back to Middleville with its shady streets and friendly people. I just couldn't imagine spending the summer in Detroit. I had put a little money in the bank, and I still resent the fact that the bank charged me 50 cents to withdraw my $87. My decision to quit a good job with the Depression getting worse probably didn't make much sense. The chances are though that if I had stayed in Detroit and put money in the bank, I would have lost all or most of it when the banks failed.

"The summer of 1932, I resumed my job as greenskeeper on Dad's golf course. The course was losing money. I don't recall if it was that summer or the next that Dad closed the course for good. Even though I had found little time to study for my law school exams, I managed to pass all my courses, which included criminal law and contracts. However, I had neither the money or the inclination to continue in school. It would have required three more years, and I wanted to start earning some money.

"So, in the fall of 1932, I went back to Battle Creek looking for work. There were more unemployed than ever, but I managed to find a temporary job. The A & P grocery chain was getting ready to open a store in Battle Creek. I was one of five or six men who were hired. We put up stock, washed windows, carried 100-pound bags of sugar on our backs and did whatever else was needed to be done. We worked 10 hours a day for a dollar-and-a-half a day, nine dollars for a 60-hour week. There were no coffee breaks.

"The manager said the best workers would be offered a steady job in the new store. Through a back window of the store, we could see a trash can behind a restaurant. The sight of a man going through the trash looking for discarded food inspired us to work harder.

"Before we finished our work, a day or two before the store was open, the man in charge of the meat department said he had a job for me if I wanted it. He said that the store would open at 7:30 a.m. and close by 6:30 p.m. My job would be to come in one half-hour before the store opened and fill the meat case, work in the meat department until closing time and stay after closing to put the meat back in the cooler and clean the case and pans. 'In Bay City, I had two men doing this job and they were paid seven dollars a week. But if you can handle it by yourself, I'll give you eight dollars.'

"I might make eight dollars, cover my room and meals, but I wouldn't have a cent for anything else. Of course, I turned the job down."

To be continued...

PIERCE CEDAR CREEK INSTITUTE EVENTS

— MARCH 28 - APRIL 3 —

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.

Friday, March 28 — Science Story Time at the Hastings Public Library: Signs of Spring, 10:30 a.m.

Saturday, March 29 — Native Plant Gardening Workshop: On the Road, 9-10 a.m. at the Vermontville Township Library.

Monday, March 31 — Native Plant Gardening Workshop: On the Road, 2-3 p.m. at the Hastings Public Library.

April 1-30 — Michigan Frogs and Toads. Can you hear a "peeper?" Michigan is full of interesting frogs and toads. "Jump" into a hike and learn about these unique species. The Michigan Frogs and Toads hike is free and self-guided on the Lupine Trail.

April 1-30 — April Storybook Walk: "Frog vs. Toad" by Ben Mantle. Frog and Toad want to eat the same fly! Soon, their constant arguing wakes a hungry alligator. Follow the trail to find out where this surprising story ends. After your storybook adventure, stop by the Visitor Center to pick up an activity sheet. The Storybook Walk is free and self-guided on the Black Walnut Trail.

Tuesday, April 1 — Plan, Plant and Grow: A Native Plant Gardening Workshop, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Join the Institute for an informational program on native plant selection and garden planning, planting and maintenance.

Thursday, April 3 — Nature Playdates in the Play Space: Signs of Spring, 10-11 a.m.

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

CITY OF HASTINGS

PUBLIC NOTICE

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 628

The undersigned, being the duly qualified and acting Clerk of the City of Hastings, Michigan, does hereby certify that:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND DIVISION S-V-S, ARTICLE II, OF CHAPTER 2 OF THE HASTINGS CODE OF 1970 TO ESTABLISH THE PURCHASING AND CONTRACTING PROCEDURES FOR THE CITY OF HASTINGS.

Was adopted by the City Council of the City of Hastings at a regular meeting on the 25th of March 2025.

A complete copy of this Ordinance is available for review at the office of the City Clerk at City Hall, 201 East State Street, Hastings, Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Linda Perin
City Clerk

CITY OF HASTINGS

PUBLIC NOTICE

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 627

The undersigned, being the duly qualified and acting Clerk of the City of Hastings, Michigan, does hereby certify that:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 90 OF THE HASTINGS CODE OF 170, AS AMENDED, BY AMENDING THE FOLLOWING: ARTICLE 90-VII-5-WOODLAWN MEADOWS PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT, SECTION 90-721

Was adopted by the City Council of the City of Hastings at a regular meeting on the 25th of March 2025.

A complete copy of this Ordinance is available for review at the office of the City Clerk at City Hall, 201 East State Street, Hastings, Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Linda Perin
City Clerk

Synopsis
Hope Township
Budget Public Hearing & Regular Township Board Meeting
March 17, 2025

Meeting opened at 6:30 pm
Amended agenda approved
Budget Public Hearing opened at 6:31pm
Public hearing closed at 6:32 pm
2025-2026 Budget adopted.
Regular meeting opened at 6:36 pm
Approved:
Consent agenda
Cemetery contracts
Groundskeeper contract
Resolution 2025-2 Depositories for Hope Township public monies
Resolution 2025-3 Designate Primary Bank Depository
Resolution 2025-4 Treasurer's Tax Motions
Resolution 2025-5 2024-2025 Township Board Meeting schedule
Resolution 2025-6 General Appropriations Act
Library Grant 2025-2026
Payment of bills through March 31, 2025
Zoning Board of Appeals appointments
Planning Commission resignation
Planning Commission appointments
Adjourned 7:12 pm
Submitted by:
Deborah Jackson, Clerk
Attested to by
Doug Peck, Supervisor

CITY OF HASTINGS

PUBLIC NOTICE

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 629

The undersigned, being the duly qualified and acting Clerk of the City of Hastings, Michigan, does hereby certify that:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 90 OF THE HASTINGS CODE OF 1970, AS AMENDED, BY AMENDING THE FOLLOWING: ARTICLE 90- IX, DIVISION 90-IX-5, SECTION 90-883 (B)(4).

Was adopted by the City Council of the City of Hastings at a regular meeting on the 25th of March 2025.

A complete copy of this Ordinance is available for review at the office of the City Clerk at City Hall, 201 East State Street, Hastings, Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Linda Perin
City Clerk

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 11:00 A.M. April 9, 2025 for the following items.

Specifications and additional information may be obtained at the Road Commission Office at the above address or at our web site at www.barrycrc.org.

Asphalt Paving – Road Widening

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

BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF BARRY

David Solmes	Chairman
Jim James	Vice Chairman
Jamie Knight	Member

NOTICE TO THE RESIDENTS OF BARRY COUNTY

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

Case Number V-06-2025 - Martha L Engle (Applicant/ Property Owner)

Location: 248 E Hickory Rd, Battle Creek in Section 29 of Johnstown Township.

Purpose: Request a dimensional variance to construct an addition with side yard setback of 2.9 ft. The side yard setback in RL (Recreational Lake) zoning district is 10 ft.

Meeting Date: April 14, 2025. Time: 7:00 PM

Place: Tyden Center, Community Room, 121 South Church Street, Hastings, Michigan 49058

Site inspections of the above described property will be completed by the Zoning Board of Appeals members before the hearing. Interested persons desiring to present their views upon an appeal, either verbally or in writing, will be given the opportunity to be heard at the above mentioned time and place. Any written response may be mailed to the address listed below, faxed to (269) 948-4820, or emailed to Barry County Planning Director Jeff Keesler at jkeesler@barrycounty.org.

The variance application is available for public inspection at the Barry County Planning Department,

220 West State Street, Hastings, Michigan 49058, during the hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday - Friday. Please call the Barry County Planning Department at (269) 945-1290 for further information.

The County of Barry will provide necessary auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon ten (10) days notice to the County of Barry. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the County of Barry by writing or calling the following: Eric Zuzga, County Administrator, 220 West State Street, Hastings, Michigan 49058, (269) 945-1284.

Sarah VanDenburg, Barry County Clerk

Southwest Barry County Sewer Authority

Meeting Schedule for 2025-2026
Third Tuesday of Each Month @ 6:30 PM

2025		
April	15	2025
May	20	2025
June	17	2025
July	15	2025
August	19	2025
September	16	2025
October	21	2025
NO NOVEMBER MEETING		
December	16	2025
2026		
January	20	2026
February	17	2026
March	17	2026

All meetings are located at 11191 S M43 Hwy., Delton, MI 49046
Call 269 623 3401 for information

THIS NOTICE IS POSTED IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT.
PUBLIC ACT 267 ON 1976 AS AMENDED
ALL MEETING DATES AND TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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 May 1, 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): Brandon L. Eberly, a single man and Danielle M. Dewey, a single 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): TH MSR Holdings LLC f/k/a Matrix Financial Services Corporation

Date of Mortgage: May 18, 2015

Date of Mortgage Recording: May 22, 2015

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $48,445.26

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Baltimore, Barry County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 2 of Cappons Country Acres, according to the recorded plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 5 of Plats on Page 52.

Common street address (if any): 4565 S M 37 Hwy, Hastings, MI 49058-9380

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

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

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

This notice is from a debt collector.

Date of notice: March 27, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1556727 (03-27)(04-17)

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)

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Notice of foreclosure by advertisement.
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Barry County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM on APRIL 3, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Heather Anne Barton, an unmarried woman, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for MB Financial Bank, N. A., Mortgagee, dated October 12, 2016 and recorded October 18, 2016 in Instrument Number 2016-010472 and Loan Modification Agreement recorded on February 19, 2019, in Instrument Number 2019-001257, and Loan Modification Agreement recorded on October 17, 2023, in Instrument Number 2023-008173, Barry County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by Fifth Third Bank, N. A., by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Two Hundred Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty-Nine and 43/100 Dollars ($207,769.43).
Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public vendue at the place of holding the circuit court within Barry County, Michigan at 1:00 PM on APRIL 3, 2025.
Said premises are located in the Township of Thornapple, Barry County Michigan, and are described as:
That part of the Southeast 1/4 of Section 36, Town 4 North, Range 10 West, described as: Beginning at the East 1/4 corner of said Section 36; thence South 89 degrees 50 minutes 30 seconds West 625.0 feet along the North line of said Southeast 1/4; thence South 45 degrees 09 minutes 30 seconds East 575 feet, more or less, to the centerline of Thornapple River; thence Northeasterly along said centerline 295 feet, more or less, to the East line of said Section 36; thence North 00 degrees 00 minutes West 215 feet, more or less, to the Place of Beginning.
7101 W Loop Road, Middleville, Michigan 49333
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.
Dated: March 6, 2025
File No. 25-003062
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400

NOTICE OF COURT PROCEEDING

Attn: Ronald James Rose

The following Complaint for Paternity has been filed in the Barry County Circuit Court:

Tiffany Leigh Papesh v. Ronald James Rose

Case No. 2024-782-DP

Hon. Vicky L. Alspaugh

You have 28 days to file a written answer with the Court and serve a copy on the other party, or take other lawful action.

If you do not answer or take other action within the time allowed, judgment may be entered against you for the relief demanded in Plaintiff's complaint.

Please contact attorney John M. Danian with any questions at (616) 560-5980

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
BARRY COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. and JUDGE 2025-30064-DE
William M. Doherty

Court Address: 206 W. Court St., Hastings, MI 49058
Court Telephone: 269-945-1930

Estate of Heidi Kristen Mausolf. Date of birth: 09/19/1987.

TO ALL CREDITORS: *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Heidi Kristen Mausolf, died 02/15/2025.

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

Date: 03/19/2025
Nathan E. Tagg P68994
202 South Broadway
Hastings, MI 49058
269-948-2900
Shawn Jenkins
14981 North Uldriks Drive
Battle Creek, MI 49017
269-598-9442

ALL-BARRY COUNTY WINTER 2024-25

Cheer teams remain some of the best around

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

It was a tremendous season of improvement for the girls on the 2024-25 Barry County area varsity competitive cheer teams, but one with some heartbreaking endings.

The Thornapple Kellogg and Hastings varsity competitive cheer teams won conference championships this season, with the Saxons winning the Interstate-8 Athletic Conference championship and the TK ladies taking the title in the OK Gold Conference.

Lakewood was in a battle all season long in the Capital Area Activities Conference White Division with Charlotte, but couldn't quite overtake the Orioles. Maple Valley in the Big 8 Conference and Delton Kellogg in the Southwestern Athletic Conference Division 4 competition both put together solid league showings.

Thornapple Kellogg and Lakewood, two state finals teams from 2024, couldn't quite get back to the final day of the cheer state tournament as they were just short of the scores they needed at their respective regional tournaments.

Hastings, Delton Kellogg and Maple Valley were all right on the cusp of advancing to the regional round.

The girls on the 2024-25 All-Barry County competitive cheer teams have won all kinds of all-conference, all-district, all-region, academic and team awards for their performance on and high above the mats this winter.

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



Jaidyn Seese
Photos by Brett Bremer

All-Barry County Competitive Cheer 2024-25 FIRST TEAM

Skylarr Anderson, Lakewood: A sophomore base who has been a key member of the Viking squad since she stepped on the mat with the varsity as a freshman.

Anderson was named first team all-conference, first team all-district can honorable mention all-region this season.

Taylor Carpenter, Lakewood: A junior backspot, Carpenter was first team all-conference, first team all-district and second team all-region this season and a team captain.

Carpenter was an all-state cheerleader a year ago.

Payton Gater, Thornapple Kellogg: A returning all-state performer from TK's 2024 state finals squad, she made the move to back spot to fill team needs after being a base in each of her first two seasons. She was named all-conference and all-district this year.

"Payton always proves to be a dynamic asset to the team in any way needed," TK head coach Madelynn Lula said.

Mia Hilton, Thornapple Kellogg: a junior flyer for the Trojans, Hilton was named all-conference, all-district and an all-region award winner this season.

"Mia is a returning flyer with talent that continues to grow beyond our expectations. She has a very decorated reputation in the cheer world already and will continue to chase being an all-conference, district, and region athlete in her senior year," coach Lula said.



Claira Kovich

Harlie James, Hastings: A sophomore in all three rounds for the Saxons this season, she was named all-conference in the Interstate-8.

A side base in what coach Linsey Jacinto called the Saxons' strongest stunt group, she learned several spots in round one throughout the season to fill in as needed.

Violet Kokx, Delton Kellogg: A three-year varsity veteran on the DK team, Kokx was named first team all-conference in the SAC this season and second team all-district. Kokx also was named an individual academic all-state honoree.

Kokx has been a three-round cheerleader for all three of her varsity season with good tumbling skills who did a great job as a back spot according to head coach Zoe Reynolds who called her a "valuable asset to the teams the last three years."

Claira Kovich, Thornapple Kellogg: A junior who earned all-conference, all-district and all-region honors for the second season in a row.

"Claira is also a returning flyer with talent and heart that is unmatched by many," coach Lula said.

Lilly McKeown, Thornapple Kellogg: A senior backspot for TK in her third year competing at TK and her tenth year in a competitive cheer program. She was named all-conference in the OK Gold this winter.

"Lilly is a dedicated athlete who fought hard through an injury this season without missing a step," coach Lula said.

Addison Mesecar, Lakewood: A sophomore base for the Viking team.

Mesecar was named first team all-conference and first team all-district this season.

Maelynn Miller, Hastings: A senior who filled spots in round three as a main base, side base, front spot and flyer throughout the season, coach Jacinto said she played a pivotal role in the Saxons season.

Miller was named first team all-conference in the Interstate-8 and second team all-district this season.

Jaidyn Seese, Lakewood: A senior base, Seese was also a team captain for the Vikings this season.

See was named first team all-conference and first team all-district.

Emily Reitz, Maple Valley: A four-year varsity cheerleader at Maple Valley, Reitz participated in all three rounds and was the Lions' main flyer this season. She was named first team all-conference in the Big 8 and an all-district cheerleader too.

"She is hard working, determined and always wants to give her best for her team," coach Sarah Huissen said. "She works well with all her team members and show support for her team when learning new material and stunts."

Sophia Rose, Maple Valley: A four-year varsity cheerleader who participated in all three rounds. She was a back spot in round three this winter. Rose was named first team all-conference in the Big 8 and second team all-district.

"She is hard-working, shows great leadership and has a great love for the sport," according to coach Huissen. "She works well with all her teammates and shares her knowledge of stunting with her team."

Gracie Wilson, Hastings: A junior, Wilson worked to gain the skills to compete in round two with the Saxons this season while continuing to be a powerhouse base in round three according to coach Jacinto.

Wilson was a team captain, was named the team's MVP this season, earned all-conference honors in the I-8 and honorable mention all-district, and coach Jacinto called her a "leader through and through."

All-Barry County Competitive Cheer 2024-25 SECOND TEAM

Caysen Andersen, Delton Kellogg: A three-year varsity cheerleader, Andersen was named her team's MVP and won the Panthers' Ironwoman Award for not missing a practice or a meet this season. She was named first team all-conference in the SAC.

"Caysen had huge growth this season. She has been a round one starter in past seasons. This year she became a three-round starter," said coach Reynolds.

Brynlee Babbitt Smith, Delton Kellogg: Babbitt Smith was named honorable mention all-conference in the SAC this season after being honorable mention all-district last year.

Babbitt Smith has proven to be a valuable member of the team according to coach Reynolds. She has been a three-round cheerleader in each of her varsity seasons. Coach Reynolds said she is one of the team's top tumblers and a good flyer.

Riley Burgess, Lakewood: A sophomore flyer for the Vikings this season.

Burgess was named first team all-conference and second team all-district.

Brooklyn Burpee, Maple Valley: A freshman in all three rounds for the Lions, she was her team's main base in round three. She was named honorable mention all-conference in the Big 8 and second team all-district this season.

"She is hard working, highly motivated to learn new skills and is a great teammate to her peers," coach Huissen said.

Laurelye Carter, Lakewood: A sophomore base or the Lakewood squad.

Carter was an all-conference honorable mention cheerleader in the CAAC White and earned second team all-district.

Kaylee Clarke, Thornapple Kellogg: A junior, Clarke was named all-conference and all-district this winter. A front spot as a freshman, she just spent her second season as a flyer.

""Kaylee has grown as an athlete far beyond what we ever could have expected when we first met her. She continues to prove to be abundantly coachable, selfless and is full of raw talent," coach Lula said.

Esther King, Hastings: A three-round cheerleader for the Saxons who worked hard to earn her spot in round two, King was named honorable mention all-conference in the I-8 this winter.

"She was a steady constant for her team and stayed positive through the entire season," coach Jacinto said.



Sophia Rose

Makayla Lutz, Delton Kellogg: A two-year varsity cheerleader, she was named her team's most improved cheerleader last year and this year earned honorable mention all-district as well as academic all-state honors.

"Makayla came in as a very green freshman last season. She works hard every day and has made huge strides this season," according to coach Reynolds. She became a top flyer on the team this season.

Jaden Marble, Hastings: A three-round cheerleader who swapped positions from fly to base this winter, coach Jacinto said she did an amazing job with that transition.

See **CHEER** on 11

ALL-BARRY COUNTY WINTER 2024-25

Trio of county boys' teams had double-digit wins

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The varsity boys' basketball season had its highs and lows throughout the 2024-25 season.

The Delton Kellogg varsity boys' basketball team and the Maple Valley boys both reached district finals, and Lakewood, Thornapple Kellogg and Hastings all won at least one state tournament game.

The Barry County Christian boys, playing outside the MHSAA, and another outstanding season too winning the GL6 Regular Season Championship and then went on to reach the championship game of the Michigan Christian Schools Athletic Association Tournament.

The Eagles won a total of 19 games this winter. In MHSAA competition, Thornapple Kellogg and Delton Kellogg were tops in the county with 13 wins apiece overall.

Along the way each of the county's teams had stand-out performances.

Here are the 2024-25 All-Barry County Boys' Basketball First and Second Teams.

All-Barry County Boys' Basketball 2024-25 FIRST TEAM

Troy Acker, Lakewood: An all-conference guard in the Capital Area Activities Conference White Division this winter, Acker averaged 11 points and 4.2 rebounds per game and shot 30 percent from behind the three-point line.

An explosive athlete, Lakewood head coach Jason Solgat said "he can score at will. He shows those moments, 'just give me the ball and watch this, I am getting to the rim.' He can also do the same thing rebounding. He's got size. He can shoot and not a lot of people are as explosive as him. When he was on, he was on."

Jett Barnum, Hastings: A senior with plans to play football at Saginaw Valley State University next year, he used the athleticism and size that made him a stand-out on the football field a stand-out on the basketball court too.

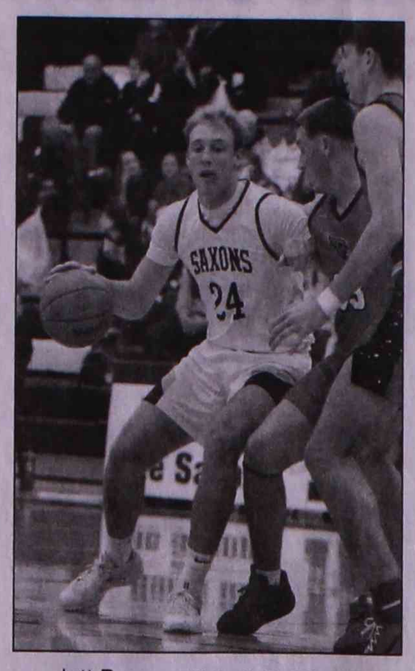
Barnum closed the year averaging 13 points and 9 rebounds a game. He shot 54 percent from two-point range this season. He was named honorable mention all-conference in the I-8.

Trey Hilton, Thornapple Kellogg: A junior forward, Hilton led TK in rebounding with 4.8 points with 4.8 per game.

Hilton was tied for second in scoring on the Trojan team with nine points per game and capable of scoring inside and out.

Tyler Howland, Delton Kellogg: A junior guard, Howland averaged 11.4 points, 3.5 assists, 2 steals and 5 rebounds per game for the Panthers.

"Tyler is one of those players that is a joy to coach and gives it everything he has when he steps out on the floor," coach Jason Howland said.



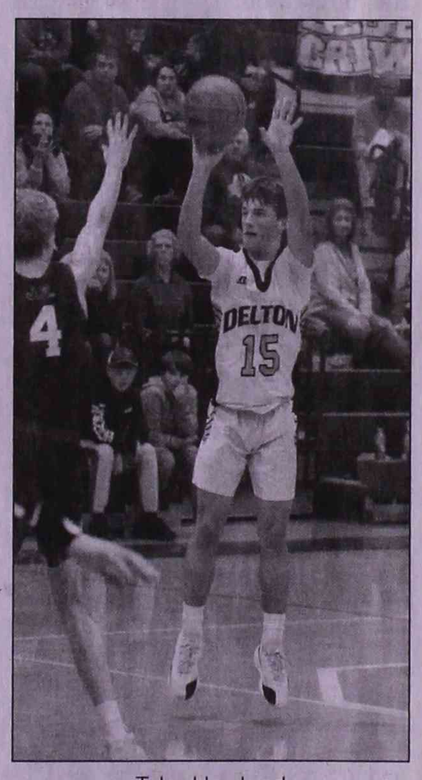
Jett Barnum **Photos by Brett Bremer**

"He has played varsity for three seasons now and continues to grow as a player and person. Tyler leads both on and off the court, the passion and love for the game shows every time he steps out on the court."

Isaiah Lamphere, Barry County Christian: A junior guard, Lamphere led the Eagles with 24 points per game, 7 assists, 3 steals, 3 rebounds and .5 blocks. He surpassed 1,000 varsity points for the Eagles this season and broke the school's single game scoring record with 53 points in a win over Marshall Academy.

Lamphere was chosen the Eagles' top offensive player while earning first team all-conference honors in the Great Lakes 6 and first team all-tournament in the MCSAA Tournament.

Grant McArthur, Delton Kellogg: A senior guard who averaged 11.8 points, 2 assists and 2.5 steals per game and played in all 22 Panther ballgames this season.



Tyler Howland

"Grant stepped up as a senior this year. He went from averaging less than three points last season to becoming the leading scorer for our team this year," coach Howland said.

Teegen McDonald, Maple Valley: A sophomore guard, McDonald averaged 19.0 points, 5.1 rebounds, 2.5 blocks and 2.1 assists a game, leading his team ins coring, steals and blocks and finishing second in those other two categories. He scored at least 20 points in 13 games and 30 in three games with a season-high 36 in a ballgame with Bronson. He was an all-conference player in the Big 8 Conference.

"Teegen took on more of a leadership role this year as a sophomore and playing point guard. Teegen is very tough to guard with the ball in his hands. He has a great ability to get the ball to the basket and find ways to score," head coach Ryan Nevins said.

Jude Webster, Thornapple Kellogg: A senior guard for the Trojans, Webster led his team in scoring at 13 points per game with his ability to hit from outside and get to the rim.

Webster was named first team all-conference in the OK Gold this winter.

All-Barry County Boys' Basketball 2024-25 SECOND TEAM

Logan Faulkner, Lakewood: Faulkner averaged 7.6 points and 3.4 assists from his guard spot for the Vikings playing on a torn ACL all season long. He shot 30 percent from the three-point line.

"He is the best teammate of all of them on the team," coach Solgat said. "He is the most even keeled, and he started every game this season for me."

Noah Lilley, Barry County Christian: A senior for the Eagles, he averaged 11.5 points, 3.5 assists, 3 steals, 6.5 rebounds and 1.5 blocks per game and was named the Eagles' MVP by his teammates.

Lilley was a three-year captain for the Eagles and was named first team all-conference in the GL6.

Dre Mathis, Hastings: The Saxons' senior point guard, Mathis averaged 5 points per game while playing 29 minutes a game.

Mathis added 2.5 steals and 2.6 deflections per game.

Grady Matteson, Delton Kellogg: A sophomore sharp-shooter, Matteson averaged 10.8 points, 2 steals and 5 rebounds per game. He set a school record with 9 threes in a game.

"He was asked to play a lot this year and stepped up to the challenge," coach Howland said. "He gets it done on and off the court, fits the definition of a student-athlete. He has a joy for the game which every coach hopes to have within our players."

Jake McDonald, Maple Valley: A senior guard, McDonald averaged 7.1 points, 6.3 rebounds and 2.5 assists a game. He led the Lions in rebounds, both offensive rebounds and defensive rebounds, and was his team's leader in assists and deflections. He was named honorable mention all-conference in the Big 8 this season.

"He was also our best defender this year and was tasked with guarding the other team's best player regardless of which position they played," coach Nevins said. "Jake was a great team leader this year and did anything he was asked to do."

Lucas Ploeg, Thornapple Kellogg: A junior guard/forward, Ploeg tied for second on the TK team with 9 points per game this season.

Ploeg averaged 3 rebounds per game for the Trojan team while being a physical presence inside and out.

Bryer Poll, Lakewood: A freshman center, Poll averaged 5.3 points and 6.7 rebounds a game as well as .7 blocks.

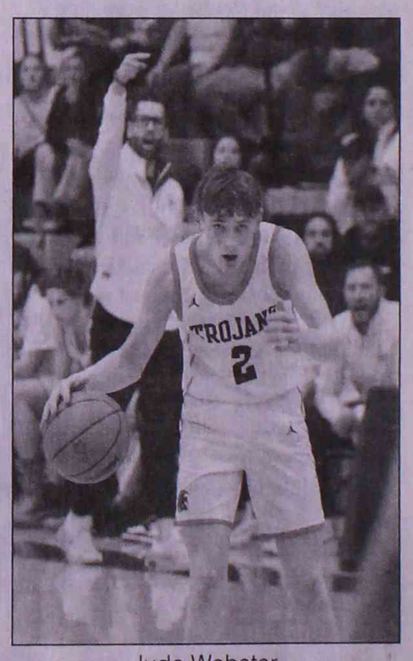
"At the end of the day, Bryer played with confidence," coach Solgat said. "He walked in as a freshman mentally and he left as an upperclassmen mentally. He used his physicality and his size and he started knowing he was stronger than most of the guys around him. Not only is he a big guy, he is an athletic big guy. His feet can move. He is quick."

Keygan Robinson, Barry County Christian: A senior, Robins averaged 8.5 points, 3 assists, 2.5 steals, 5.7 rebounds and 1.4 blocks per game.

He was honored with a spot on the MCSAA all-tournament team, and was a team captain this year and voted his team's best defensive player.

Jack Webb, Hastings: A sophomore guard capable of handling the ball and scoring, Webb averaged 8 points per game this season and shot 35 percent from behind the three-point line.

Webb added 3.2 rebounds and 2 steals per game. He was named honorable mention all-conference in the I-8.



Jude Webster

Hope Township Board Meeting Schedule for 2025-2026 Fiscal Year

Monday,	April 14, 2025	6:30 pm
Monday,	May 12, 2025	6:30 pm
Monday,	June 9, 2025	6:30 pm
Monday,	July 14, 2025	6:30 pm
Monday,	August 11, 2025	6:30 pm
Monday,	September 8, 2025	6:30 pm
Monday,	October 13, 2025	6:30 pm
Monday,	November 10, 2025	6:30 pm
Monday,	December 8, 2025	6:30 pm
Monday,	January 12, 2026	6:30 pm
Monday,	February 9, 2026	6:30 pm
Monday,	March 16, 2026...Budget Hearing	6:30 pm

All meetings held at the Hope Township Hall, 5463 S M-43 Hwy, Hastings MI 49058.
Office phone: 269-948-2464. Meeting minutes available at the Township office.

This notice is posted in compliance with PA267 of 1976 as amended (Open Meetings Act), MCLA 41.72a (2) (3) and the Americans with Disabilities Act. (ADA). The Hope Township Board will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting upon 7 days notice to the Hope Township Board. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Hope Township Board by writing or calling the following:

Deborah Jackson
Hope Township Clerk
269-948-2464

STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF BARRY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Trust

In the matter of: THE ROBERT G. AND CAROL S. BENDER TRUST, dated September 17, 2013
TO ALL CREDITORS: *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedents, Carol S. Bender and Robert G. Bender, who lived at 197 Mill Pond Drive, Middleville, Michigan 49333, died on July 19, 2024 and March 7, 2025, respectively, leaving a certain trust under the name of ROBERT G. AND CAROL S. BENDER TRUST, dated September 17, 2013, wherein the decedent was the Settlor and Gregory R. Bender 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 Gregory R. Bender, the named Successor Trustee, at Tripp, Tagg & Storrs, Attorneys at Law, 202 South Broadway, Hastings, Michigan 49058 within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date March 11, 2025
Nathan E. Tagg (P68994)
202 South Broadway
Hastings, MI 49058
(269) 948-2900
Gregory R. Bender
6178 Singletree Lane
Williamsburg, MI 49690
231-590-2102

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF BARRY
PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING
FILE NO. 25-030060-DE

In the matter of Marl Steinbach.

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including: The Unknown heirs of:Donald Jay Kinnucan, Rex Eugene Kinnucan,Vera I. Kinnucan, Donna Ellen Atkinson and Heather Reid or her unknown heirs, Eric Atkinson or his unknown heirs, Dellia Cascagnette or her unknown heirs, Holly LeNeve or her unknown heirs whose address(es) is/are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:

TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on Wednesday, April 23, 2025 **via Zoom ID 5030695658 at 2:15 p.m. at 206 West Court, Suite 302, Hastings, MI 49058 before Judge William M. Doherty P41960 for the following purpose: Petition for Probate.

Date: 3-198-2025
David H. Tripp P29290
202 South Broadway
Hastings, MI 49058
269-948-2900
Sarah Fox
2142 Bayne Road
Hastings, MI 49058
616-893-4414

ALL-BARRY COUNTY WINTER 2024-25

Youngsters earn their place among county's top cagers



Reese Ritsema



Rachael Hewitt, **Photos by Brett Bremer**

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

There is a strong group of freshmen and sophomores filling spots on the 2024-25 All-Barry County Girls' Basketball First and Second Teams.

With a lot of youngsters playing key minutes for teams across Barry County, there were highs and lows throughout the season as one would expect, but ever team in the county was better at basketball by season's end than it had been when they started getting together for practices back in November.

Between November and March, the Thornapple Kellogg girls had more wins than anybody else in the county with ten. None of the county's five MHSAA member schools were able to finish the season with a winning record.

Hastings scored seven wins and Delton Kellogg and Lakewood had six each. Delton Kellogg had a couple of regular season wins and then a hard-fought postseason win over the Maple Valley girls who closed their season with three total victories.

Some outstanding seniors closed their varsity playing days in the district tournaments at the end of the season and at least one has collegiate basketball ahead.

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

All-Barry County Girls' Basketball 2024-25 FIRST TEAM

Johanna Duits, Lakewood: Duits led Lakewood with 6.5 points and 8.3 rebounds a game while also adding one steal and .7 blocks a game. She had seven games in double figures scoring this season and three double doubles. She twice had 17 rebounds in a ballgame.

"Overall great kid who plays hard, lots of effort and hustle," coach Luke Farrell said. "Very quick for a center and a force inside that makes it tough for teams to both guard and beat."

Rachael Hewitt, Hastings: A three-year varsity ballplayer, Hewitt averaged 16 points per game and 7.8 rebounds a game this winter as a senior. She signed recently to continue her playing days at the University of Olivet.

Hewitt led the Saxons in scoring, rebounds, three-pointers made, blocks, steals and minutes played this season, and was third on her team in assists, while playing in all 22 games. She was first team all-conference in the I-8.

Reece Ritsema, Thornapple Kellogg: A sophomore forward, Ritsema averaged a double-double with 10.1 points and 11 rebounds per game. Her combination of size, skill, speed and aggressiveness make her a beast around the basket.

She was named all-conference in the OK Gold this winter.

Lydia Schilthroat, Thornapple Kellogg: Honorable mention all-conference in the OK Gold during her senior season at point guard for the Trojans.

Schilthroat averaged 6.7 points, 4.2 rebounds and 2 steals a game.

Addie Stampfler, Delton Kellogg: A junior guard who drew a box-and-one defense against her in the district tournament, Stampfler led DK with 11 points per game this season to go along with 4.2 rebounds, 4.7 steals, 4.8 deflections and 2.1 assists a game.

She had one of the top three seasons in steals all time at Delton Kellogg this winter and nearly had a triple double against Watervliet with 21 points, 9 rebounds and 9 steals.

Josie Williams, Delton Kellogg: A senior capable of playing nearly any position on the court, Williams averaged 9 points, 9.9 rebounds, 1.7 steals and 1 block per game this winter.

She entered the state tournament as Delton Kellogg's all-time blocked shot leader with 119, and holds the Panthers' single season record for blocked shots. She is ninth all-time at Delton Kellogg in scoring, sixth in free throws made, and second in rebounds.

All-Barry County Girls' Basketball 2024-25 SECOND TEAM

Heidi Carter, Lakewood: The Vikings' primary ball-handler as a freshman this season, coach Farrell said she was his team's floor general and she handled a lot of defensive pressure. "With her heart and love for the game she worked hard to jump into this role," coach Farrell said.

Carter led the Lakewood team in throughout the season was on the defensive end. Bella matched up with the other team's best guard every game, and was regularly able to hold them below their season average," Wilson said. She closed the season with 22 assists.

Ana Grant, Lakewood: A sophomore guard, Grant averaged 8.2 points, 1.2 rebounds, 2.2 steals and 1 assist a game. She led the Vikings with 29 made threes.

"Ana led the team in points per game this year, but also was one of our best defenders on the outside against guards," coach Farrell said, adding that she is a quick and smart guard who is aggressive on defense. She also had a season-high 18 points in a ballgame with Harper Creek.

Kalli Koning, Hastings: A senior guard in her third varsity season, she played through injury and illness to average nearly 30 minutes a game. She averaged 2.6 points, 2.8 rebounds and 2.7 assists a game.

Coach Wilson called her a "pass first point guard who played really strong defense, boxed out, played physical and handled defensive pressure to pace our team." She led the Saxons in assists and was third on the team in three-pointers made.

Taylor Lloyd, Thornapple Kellogg: The Trojans' leading scorer with 13.9 points per game as a freshman this winter.

Lloyd was able of attacking and getting to the basket and also an outside threat who set a school record with eight three-pointers in a January win over Grand Rapids Union in Middleville.

Liz Markwart, Lakewood: A hard-nosed junior who started most of the season for the Vikings who coach Farrell said improved tremendously this season. She had a season-high 15 points in a win over Hastings. She averaged 5.5 points and 3.8 points a game while shooting 80 percent from the free throw line.

"She also played big inside for her size and was often defending a larger opponent," according to coach Farrell, adding that her mental and physical toughness were critical to his team's defense. She's the kind of ball player willing to get on the floor to get to loose balls.

Maddie Peake, Hastings: The Saxons' second leader scorer she averaged 4 points per game and was second on her team in three-pointers made as a junior. She played half of her sophomore season on the Saxon varsity too.

"Maddie is a strong defender who steadily improved her offensive game as the season went on. She had some of her best offensive games at the end of the season."

Aubree Roth, Maple Valley: A sophomore guard/forward, Roth averaged about 4 points and 4 rebounds per game this season while being one of the Lions' leaders in minutes played.

She started becoming a leader on the floor according to coach Wilkes.

CHEER

Continued from Page 9

Her coach added that she has beautiful skills in round two and amazing prevision and presence in round one. Marble was named all-conference in the I-8

Sienna Schalk, Thornapple Kellogg: A junior, Schalk earned all-conference and all-district honors for TK this winter. A returning base for the Trojans, she competed in all three rounds.

"She was able to learn how to back spot overnight to help her team during a time of sickness on the team," coach Lula said. "Sienna has been competing in cheerleading for most of her life and has settled into a very comfortable leadership role this year."

Emma Syswerda, Thornapple Kellogg: A freshman who earned all-conference honors in the OK Gold. She took over a spot as a base for TK with some middle school experience before getting to the varsity.

"Emma quickly took to the intensity of our program and gained all of the necessary skills to compete in all three rounds," coach Lula said.

Whitley Wolfe, Lakewood: A freshman flyer for Lakewood this winter.

Wolfe was named first team all-conference in the CAAC White and second team all-district.



Ines Sanchez

Ines Sanchez, Maple Valley: Head coach Landon Wilkes said Sanchez was his team's floor general. A senior exchange student from Spain, she ran the point for the Maple Valley girls and stepped outside her comfort zone a bit to be the team's top scorer as well as a distributor.

She averaged 13 points, 4 steals and 5 rebounds per game. She led the Lions in points, rebounds, steals and assists.

assists with 4 a game and steals with 2.6 a game. She also added 4.23 points and 2.8 rebounds per game while averaging 30 minutes a game.

Tealy Cross, Thornapple Kellogg: Injury stymied her junior season a bit, but the junior guard still managed to contribute 3 points, 2.9 rebounds and 2 steals a game.

Offensively, Cross uses her speed to get to the basket and score in transi-

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: 11/22/45.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, James Stephen Gillespie, died 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

ALL-BARRY COUNTY WINTER 2024-25

Pair of state qualifiers among area's top bowlers

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

It was a banner year, literally, for the Hastings varsity boys' bowling program.

The Saxons will add a conference championship to their banner in the high school gymnasium for the first time after winning a share of the Interstate-8 Athletic Conference title for the first time this season led by some outstanding senior leadership and a freshman state qualifier.

Hastings and Lakewood both had guys earn spots in the state singles finials this season.

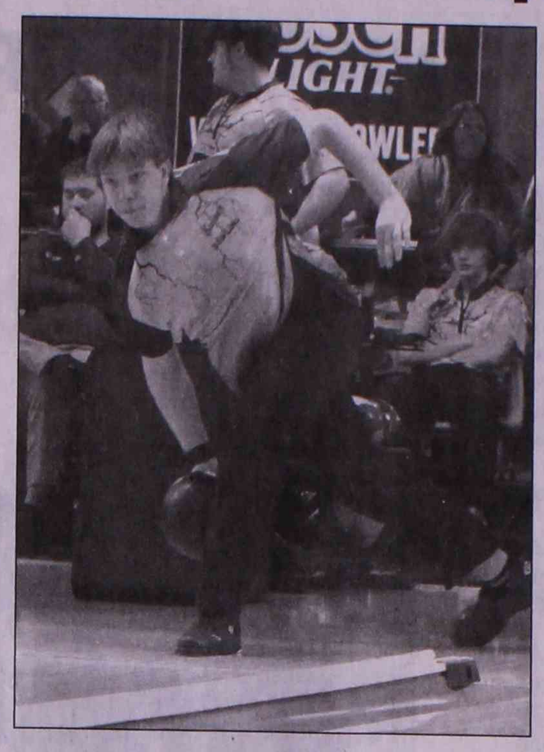
It was the start of a rebuilding process for the Thornapple Kellogg team that had three sophomores and three juniors in its regional line-up at the end of the season.

Among the honorees this winter are a conference singles champion and a conference singles runner-up, as well as a number of guys capable of rolling over 200 in any given game.

Here are the 2024-25 All-Barry County Boys' Bowling First and Second Teams.



Andrew Barton **Photos by Brett Bremer**



Hunter Pennington

All-Barry County Boys' Bowling 2024-25 FIRST TEAM

Andrew Barton, Hastings: A two-handed rolling Saxon freshman, Barton qualified for the MHSAA Division 2 Singles Finals this season with a high game of 238 at regionals.

Barton placed 46th in qualifying at the state finals and closed the season with a 179 average.

Lucas Beard, Lakewood: Beard closed out his senior season by placing 41st in the qualifying at the MHSAA Division 3 Boys' Bowling Singles Finals. He was playing in the state finals for the second season in a row.

Beard rolled to an average of 205 for the season and capped off the Capital Area Activities Conference season by winning the championships at the league singles tournament.

Justin Edwards, Lakewood: A senior, Edwards put together a 198 average for the season.

He had a high game of 223 during the Vikings' regional tournament and finished 21st in qualifying.

Hunter Pennington, Hastings: A senior anchor for the Saxon varsity boys' bowling team, Pennington put together a 180 average for the season.

Pennington had a high game of 253 this season.

Jacob Stoneman, Lakewood: A senior, Stoneman put together a season average of 185.

Stoneman was the Vikings' number two at regionals with a 13th-place finish in qualifying and a high game at the tournament of 217.

See **TOP** on 13

Regional champs lead all-county girls' bowling team

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Girls' bowling kept growing in the area this winter with the addition of a Lakewood varsity girls' team for the first time.

The Vikings joined the Hastings girls and Thornapple Kellogg girls in competing in MHSAA competitions throughout the season. The Hastings girls were the last ones from the Barry County area on the lanes as the Saxons' qualified for the MHSAA Division 2 Girls' Bowling Team Finals at the end of the season by winning a regional championship at Spectrum Lanes.

The Saxons outscored runner-up Wayland by 89 pins over the course of eight Baker games and two regular games at regionals leaping in front by outscoring the Wildcats by 102 pins in the final regular game.

Hastings also had a couple individuals just shy of the last state singles qualifying spots at regionals.

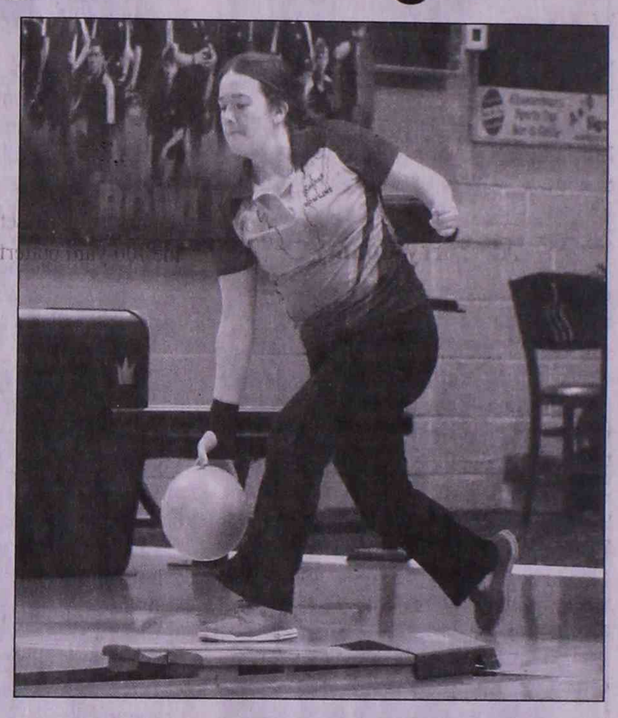
The Hastings team placed 14th in the qualifying at the D2 State Finals the final day of February.

While it was a senior filled group for the Saxons, the Trojans and Vikings worked to gain experience on the lanes.

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



Jenna Robinett



Jen Stoline **Photos by Brett Bremer**

All-Barry County Girls' Bowling 2024-25 FIRST TEAM

LeeAnn Graham, Lakewood: Graham put together a season average of 140 to lead the Viking team this winter.

She was a senior captain for the Lakewood team this winter.

Kenzie Hoogterp, Thornapple Kellogg: Hoogterp put together a 130 average this winter and rolled a high game of 179.

She earned honorable mention all-conference in the OK Gold and was the Trojans' top scorer at regionals at the end of the season.

Jenna Robinett, Thornapple Kellogg: Robinett led the TK girls with a 140 average on the season and had a high game of 183.

She earned all-conference honors in the OK Gold this season.

Heaven Simmet, Hastings: The Saxons' leader at the I-8 Singles championship this winter, Simmet placed tenth and earned all-conference honors.

She was the Saxons' leader at their D2 regional singles tournament just missing out on a state finals spot with an eighth-place finish. She had a high game at the regional of 182.

Jen Stoline, Hastings: Earned honorable mention all-conference in the I-8 this season with an 11th-place finish at the conference singles championship.

A senior who just missed out on a singles trip to the state finals this year with a ninth-place finish at regionals. Stoline had a high game at the Saxons' D2 regional of 172.

See **LEAD** on 13

Nelsons's Spray Foam LLC
FREE Estimates
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• Blown-in Attic Insulation
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-NOTICE-

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

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

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

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

STATE OF MICHIGAN
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT - FAMILY DIVISION
BARRY COUNTY
PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING REGARDING PETITION FOR NAME CHANGE
CASE NO. and JUDGE 25-30056-NC
WILLIAM M. DOHERTY

TO ALL PERSONS, including (specify non-custodial parent's name here, if applicable) whose address is unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:

TAKE NOTICE: Sierra Raine Wagner has filed a petition for name change. A name change hearing will be held on 4/9/2025 at 1:45 p.m. at 206 W. Court St., Ste. 302, Hastings, MI 49058 before Judge Hon. William M. Doherty to change the name of Sierra Raine Wagner to Weston Blakely Wagner.

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF BARRY
NOTICE OF HEARING
FILE NO. 25030010-NC

In the matter of Brandon Charles VanDrunen.

TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on 4/09/2025 at 1:45 p.m. at Barry County Trial Court, Family Division, Room FC01, 206 W. Court St., Ste. 302, Hastings, MI 49058 before Judge William Michael Doherty P41960 for the following purpose(s): Petition for Name Change.

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

Date: 2-27-25
Brandon VanDrunen
1194 W. Grey Ct.
Wayland, MI 49348
616-631-0291

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
BARRY COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. and JUDGE 25-30062
Hon. William M. Doherty

Court Address: 206 W. Court St., #302, Hastings, MI 49058
Court Telephone: 269.945.1930

Estate of Theressa Margaret Noffke. Date of birth: 09/01/1927.

TO ALL CREDITORS: *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Theressa M. Noffke, died 12/02/2024. •

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

Date: March 21, 2025
Beth A. Swagman P72724
4403 Cascade Road SE, Ste. 10
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
616.323.3443
Robert Blain
11750 Garbow Road
Middleville, MI 49333
616.890.6283

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
BARRY COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. and JUDGE 25-30058-DE
William M. Doherty

Court Address: 206 W. Court St., #302, Hastings, MI 49058
Court Telephone: 269-945-1930

Estate of Paul Thomas Norris. Date of birth: 4-29-1946.

TO ALL CREDITORS: *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Paul Thomas Norris, died 2-08-2025.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Michael Norris, 1246 Old Highway 99, Columbia, TN 38401, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 206 W. Court St., Hastings, MI 49058 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: 03/19/2025
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ALL-BARRY COUNTY WINTER 2024-25

Area has one state swimmer, everybody cuts time



Gabriel Van **Photos by Brett Bremer**



Hunter Tietz

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

They were very different seasons for the two Barry County area varsity boys' swimming and diving teams this winter.

The Delton Kellogg/Hastings squad, with a young team competing at the CERC, worked to learn the basics while a good-sized Grand Rapids Gars team, which includes swimmers from Thornapple Kellogg and a handful of other Grand Rapids area schools, chased state times and wins in the reworked OK Rainbow East Division.

That Gars team had some outstanding senior leadership and also had a talented freshman finish as the area's lone state qualifier. His Gars' team had a handful of guys earn all-conference honors.

The DK/Hastings had a handful of scorers itself at the Southwestern and Central Michigan Swim Conference (SCC) Championship.

As is the goal, nearly everyone from both teams closed out the season recording personal best times.

Here are the 2024-25 All-Barry County Boys' Swimming and Diving First and Second Teams.

All-Barry County Boys' Swimming & Diving 2024-25 FIRST TEAM

Colton Baker, DK/Hastings: Competing as a diver and a swimmer for the DK/Hastings team this winter, Baker swam his fastest 50-yard freestyle at the conference meet clocking in at 26.44 in the finals to place 13th in the SCC.

Baker had the county's top six-dive score of the year at 196.90 and top 111-dive score at 273.00.

Caden Bliek, GR Gars: **Bliek drooped** his personal best times in the freestyle sprints at the OK Rainbow East Division Championship while scoring in both races for his team.

He turned in a personal best time of 24.75 seconds in the 50-yard freestyle and 57.55 in the 100-yard freestyle.

Ty Denney, GR Gars: A top freestyle sprinter for the Gars, Denney placed third in the 50-yard freestyle with a time of 23.68 seconds at the OK Rainbow East Division Championship.

He also placed fifth in the 100-yard freestyle at the conference meet in 52.86 and was a contributor to the Gars' relays throughout the year.

Luke Hemker, GR Gars: A top breaststroke performer for his team and in his conference, Hemker set his personal best at 1:15.71 in the race while placing ninth at the OK Rainbow East Division Championship.

Hemker competed in the medley relay for the Gars throughout the season too.

Dominic Jakubowski, GR Gars: Jakubowski scored for the Gars in the 50-yard freestyle at the OK Rainbow East Division Championship with a 14th-place time of 25.98. that was anew personal best.

Jakubowski also set a personal best 100-yard freestyle time at the conference meet of 58.92.

Ethan Klopfenstein, GR Gars: Klopfenstein capped his senior season by winning the 100-yard backstroke championship at the OK Rainbow East Division Championship with a personal best time of 56.34 in the race.

He earned all-conference honors while also being one of his team's top racers in the butterfly. He set his personal best in the 100-yard butterfly at the conference meet at 55.67.

DJ Kuck, DK/Hastings: Kuck scored for the DK/Hastings team in the 100-yard butterfly and the 100-yard backstroke at the SCC Championships this year.

He turned in a personal best time of 1:00.94 at the conference meet in the 100-yard backstroke to finish ninth in the conference in that race.

Sreyas Murmu, GR Gars: Murmu got into the A finals of both the 100-yard backstroke and the 100-yard butterfly at the OK Rainbow East Division Championship this season.

He turned in a personal best time of 1:06.62 in the backstroke to place seventh and was eighth in the butterfly in 1:04.16 to place eighth in the butterfly.

Nolan Send, GR Gars: A senior, Send had a top individual finish at the OK Rainbow East Division Championship of fourth in the 200-yard freestyle where he turned in a personal best time of 1:57.30.

Send also had a top ten finish in the 500-yard freestyle at the conference meet and worked to chase a state cut with the Gars' 200-yard freestyle relay team. He had some of his team's top times in the 200-yard freestyle and the 500-yard freestyle throughout the season.

Hunter Tietz, GR Gars: A senior, Tietz earned all-conference honors in the OK Rainbow East Division this season. He had the fastest time of the season in the 50-yard freestyle this season for the Gars clocking in at 23.61 seconds at the Loy Norrix Invitational.

He placed second at the conference meet in the 100-yard backstroke and third in the 200-yard individual medley while also working with the 200-yard freestyle relay team to try and chase down a state cut.

Gabriel Van, GR Gars: A freshman, Van swam to a 17th-place finish in the prelim's of the 100-yard butterfly at the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 1 Boys' Swimming and Diving Finals this season turning in a personal record time of 53.44 seconds in the race.

He earned all-conference honors in the OK Rainbow East Division, winning the 100-yard butterfly, and had the top Gars' time in the 50-yard freestyle, the 100-yard freestyle, the 200-yard freestyle, the butterfly and the 200-yard individual medley this season.

Haiden Vruggink, GR Gars: Vruggink was one of the top distance swimmers for the Gars' team this winter.

He placed seventh in the OK Rainbow East Division with a time of 2:04.52 in the 200-yard freestyle. He was eighth in the 500-yard freestyle with a personal best time of 5:43.76 in the prelim's at the conference meet.

All-Barry County Boys' Swimming & Diving 2024-25 SECOND TEAM

Gavin Bagley, DK/Hastings: Bagley raced to a personal best time in the 100-yard backstroke at the SCC Championship for his team, just missing out at a spot in the finals at the meet.

He also competed in the butterfly, freestyle races and relays for his team throughout the season.

Reese Hammond, DK/Hastings: A solid freestyle swimmer for the DK/Hastings team, Hammond set personal bests in a couple races at the SCC Championship including the 500-yard freestyle where he placed 11th.

He had both the top 200-yard freestyle and 500-yard freestyle times for his team this winter.

Caleb Kramer, DK/Hastings: One of the top freestyle sprinters for the DK/Hastings team this winter. He was number two on the team in the 50-yard freestyle and the 100 free this season.

Kramer had a top 50 free time of 25.95 at the SCC Championship and had a top 100 free time of 1:00.34.

Ethan Magnuson, GR Gars: The top diver for the Grand Rapids Gars this winter. He placed sixth at the OK Rainbow East Division Championship and was 25th at regionals.

Magnuson also competed in the 200-yard freestyle relay at times this season for the Gars.



Colton Bakier **Photos by Brett Bremer**

TOP

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All-Barry County Boys' Bowling 2024-25 SECOND TEAM

Chase Buter, Thornapple Kellogg: Buter had the top average for the TK boys of 144.

He rolled a 225 as a high game this winter.

Landen England, Thornapple Kellogg: England had a 138 average for the season.

He rolled a high game of 192.

Miles Lipsey, Hastings: A four-year varsity bowler at Hastings who qualified for the state finals during his sophomore and junior campaigns.

Lipsey had a 174 average for the season and a high game of 241 and was the runner-up at the Interstate-8 Athletic Conference Singles Championship.

Deagan Wilkins, Hastings: A four-year varsity senior for the Saxons, he closed the season with a 173 average and he had a high game of 255. He finished the season honorable mention all-conference in the I-8.

"He was one of our solid lead off bowlers, consistent on his spares," Saxon coach Verne Robbins said.

LEAD

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All-Barry County Girls' Bowling 2024-25 SECOND TEAM

Kass Harton, Hastings: A senior, she placed 28th at the I-8 singles championship.

Harton was about eight pins over the course of six games from being a state singles qualifier this year. She had a high game of 193 at regionals this season.

Casey Phillips, Thornapple Kellogg: Phillips had a 130 average on the season and got better and better as the season went on.

She had a high game of 163 late in the year.

Megan Ramey, Hastings: A junior, She placed 22nd at the I-8 singles championship.

She was 24th at regionals this season and had a high game of 158 at regionals.

Kaylin Schild, Hastings: A senior, she placed 19th at the I-8 singles championship.

Schilld placed 22nd at regionals this season and had a high game at regionals of 177.



Talented Knights take it to Lakewood in game one

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

With a little aid from a stiff, cold wind, Loy Norrix junior Madeline Chappa curled a corner kick into the Lakewood net to finish off her hat-trick ten minutes into the second half at Lakewood High School Tuesday.

Chappa had three goals and an assist to lead the Knights as they took an 8-0 win over the Lakewood varsity girls' soccer team in their season opener.

Senior midfielder Anna Courtney added a goal and two assists, senior forward Anna Miedema had two goals and junior forward Ariah Leake had two goals for the D1 Loy Norrix squad that finished last season with a winning record.

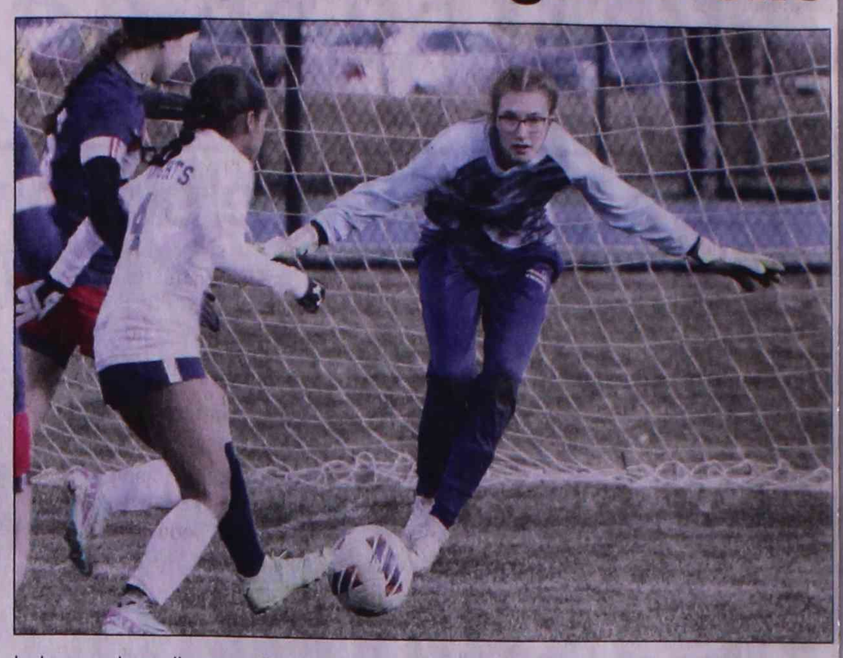
An attack with some good skill and experience was able to take advantage of a new Lakewood defense a bit. Across the back the Vikings have two returning starters, but one in a new position, to go along with two new starters including a freshman.

"The biggest thing is just the positioning defensively," Lakewood head coach Adrian Almas said. "There were times where outside backs were stepping up, but not at the right time. They were stepping up right as that offender is getting the ball, and they're giving them time to turn and getting beat. That is making our center mids get pulled out."

"A lot of it is just detail stuff, which is what we have really been hammering home the fist couple weeks, really trying to build that foundation," Almas added. "One of the things I have been telling them is I need to see what we've been working on in drills in practice, I need to see that being applied in scrimmages and games, and I saw some of that today. Not all, but I saw some of that."



Lakewood's Maylee Stewart pushes forward through the midfield with the ball during her team's non-conference match against visiting Loy Norrix Tuesday. **Photos by Brett Bremer**



Lakewood goalkeeper Emma Tidd keeps watch on Loy Norrix's Ariah Leake during the second half of their season opener at Lakewood High School Tuesday.

Loy Norrix built a 6-0 lead in the first half, and then added two goals in the first 20 minutes of the second half.

Lakewood didn't have a shot on goal, but held some possession and did a solid job of working the ball in stages up the field.

"Normally, this early it is kick ball," Almas said. "That is all they're looking to play. We had girls making runs, Mayleigh [Raffler] was dropping in, being creative. [Assistant coach] Lane [Allen] has been a big help for us coming in this year … really pushing that defensively we need to be really structured, really pay attention to details. Offensively, you're an artist. Be creative. Take some risks. And I saw a little bit of that team."

He added that he saw some of that creativity on the attack from Ana Grant and Liz Markwart as well as others.

"There were still good things from this game," Almas said. "I told them playing this team at the end of the season or the middle of the season, it is a different game. They're still better than us. I won't sugar coat that, but there were flashes of things we have been building a foundation on."

The Vikings are scheduled to visit Whitehall today, March 27. They will open the Capital Area Activities Conference White Division season at Ionia Monday, March 31 and then play host to Lansing Everett April 2 before spring break begins.

Saxon sophomores set records at GVSU indoor meet

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

It was quite a first day for a couple of Saxon all-staters.

Hastings sophomores Bella Friddle and Caroline Randall set two Hastings varsity girls' track and field team indoor records each Thursday, March 20, at the Grand Valley State University Laker Challenge.

Randall, an all-state cross country runner last fall, set the 1600-meter indoor record for the Saxons at 5 minutes 18 seconds in a ninth-place finish and set the 800-meter run record at 2:28.27.

Friddle, the state champion in the high jump in Division 2 a year ago and a state medalist in the long jump, hit indoor records in both of those events. She flew 17 feet 2 inches to set the Saxon indoor long jump record and tied the indoor high jump record at 5-2. Those marks were good for second in the high jump and third in the long jump.

Overall, the Saxon girls' team had 12 girls set new PRs at the meet. The Hastings boys were in action last Wednesday, March 19, at GVSU and had a number of PRs too. Highlights included a 19th-place time of 4:41 in the 1600-meter run by Brandon Simmons and a 12th-place mark of 11-0 in the pole vault by Maverik Peake.



Hastings sophomore Caroline Randall celebrates setting a Saxon girls' indoor record in the 800-meter run and the 1600-meter run at the Grand Valley State University Indoor Laker Challenge March 20.



Hastings sophomore Bella Friddle celebrates a pair of Saxon girls' indoor records at last week's Grand Valley State University Indoor Laker Challenge. She set the indoor school record in the long jump at 17 feet 2 inches and tied the indoor high jump record at 5-2. **Photos provided**

The Saxons were indoors last week to avoid the kind of conditions they faced outside at Harper Creek to start the Interstate-8 Athletic Conference season Tuesday – cold and windy.

The Beavers opened conference duals with a pair of victories knocking off the Hastings boys 133-29 and the Hastings girls 102-55.

Simmons had the lone win on the track for the Hastings boys with a time of 10:32.00 in the 3200-meter run. He was also the runner-up to the Beavers' Dominic Lowrie in the 1600-meter run.

Peake and Jace Acker tied for the top spot in the pole vault for the Saxons both clearing the bar at 10-0 – a height matched by teammate Isaac Lilley who was fourth overall based on attempts.

Friddle won the long jump for the Hastings girls at 17-0, the pole vault at 8-0 and the high jump at 5-4. The field events were strong ones for the Hastings ladies. Senior Zoe Watson was the runner-up in both the shot put and the discus.

On the track, Hastings got a winning time of 11:38.50 from Randall in the 3200-meter run, with fellow Saxon sophomore Alexa DeCamp second, and Randall also won the 400-meter dash in 1:11.65.

Friddle was a four-time champ, also winning the 200-meter dash in a PR of 28.57 seconds. Sophomore teammate Ember Twiss won the 100-meter dash in 14.14.



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Harper Creek baseball shuts out Vikings in opener

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Vikings managed to get their "Opening Day" ballgame in on a cold, breezy afternoon in Battle Creek Tuesday afternoon, but couldn't generate any offense against the Beavers at Harper Creek High School.

Harper Creek took a 10-0, five-inning win over the visiting Vikings.

Carter Stewart and Tanner Haight had the only two Viking hits, both singles.

Hollis Poll started on the mound for Lakewood and took the loss allowing eight runs in three innings, although only two of the runs against him were earned. Lakewood made four errors in the five innings in the field.

"I know it's early but we have to limit damage once we get two outs. We gave up seven runs in the third after we got two outs and only had on guy on base. If we can shore up a couple errors in that inning then we get out of that mess with no damage done," said Lakewood head coach Brady Tacey. "Hollis (Poll) threw great today, we need to support strong outings like that with better defense and we will. And I thought our approach at the plate was solid, we had bases loaded a couple innings there but just didn't get that timely hit. It'll come, these guys work hard and they know it'll pay off if they keep grinding."

The three guys at the top of the Beaver line-up, Brexton Liss, Maddox McCarty and Brayden Bess had two hits and one RBI each.

An RBI double by N Jackson started that two-out rally for the Beavers in the bottom of the third. An error, a walk and a hit batter pushed another run across and had the bases loaded for the top of the Harper Creek line-up. Liss, McCarty and Bess added consecutive singles to bump their team's lead to 8-0.

Poll walked five and struck out one. Lucas Steward threw two innings of relief allowing two runs on two hits and five walks. He struck out one.

Walks to Ethan Guiles and Steward sandwiched around Carter's single had the bases loaded with one out in the top of the fourth for the Vikings, the first time they'd had more than one runner on base in an inning, but a pop out and a strike out ended the threat.

Bess went on the full five innings on the mound for the Beavers striking out five and walking four.

Lakewood is scheduled to open Capital Area Activities Conference White Division play with a double header at Ionia Saturday, March 29, beginning at noon – weather permitting.