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THE HASTINGS BANNER

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DK band fundraising for third Pearl Harbor trip

Karen Turko-Ebright
Contributing Writer

Marching with the Delton Kellogg High School band in the Pearl Harbor Memorial Parade in 2017 remains a memory that one Delton Kellogg alumnus holds dear to her heart. It was the band's first trip to Hawaii, and Carly Mursch went as part of the color guard.

"While I was in Hawaii, what stood out the most and still stays with me years later is the fact that our small band was known to individuals who lived thousands of miles and an ocean away," Mursch told The Banner. "Having the opportunity to honor our veterans and having the community behind us to help fund the effort was truly amazing to experience."

The surprise attack on a major United States naval base by the Imperial Japanese Navy on Dec. 7, 1941, holds monumental significance because it was a decisive event that pushed the United States into World War II.

The DK band, under the leadership of band director Sara Knight, was invited back to Pearl Harbor for the third time this year to participate in the remembrance ceremony honoring veterans. The trip will cost $3,500 for each student.

"We plan to take at least 40 students, so that would put the total needed at about $140,000," Knight said. "It is a joy to perform with them in such an important event to honor veterans."

See **BAND** on 3



Pictured here is the Delton Kellogg High School marching band practicing last fall. The band was invited back to perform at Pearl Harbor for a third time. **Courtesy photos**

Dozens of Middleville homeowners forced to pay water, sewer bills they did not accrue



Some property owners in the Village of Middleville will be forced to pay the balance of unpaid utility bills left behind by previous owners. **File photo**

Jayson Bussa
Contributing Writer

Unpaid water and sewer bills for addresses in the Village of Middleville will be tacked on to each respective property owner's 2025 taxes in an effort to make the village's fund whole.

This means that property owners are left to pay the balance on unpaid utility bills that were left behind for them by the previous owner.

This was the conclusion that the village council arrived at during Tuesday evening's regularly scheduled meeting, where it addressed the issue that has smoldered since last month. The discussion turned heated as Village President Kevin Smith railed against the idea that property owners would be stuck paying a bill that wasn't theirs.

"I'll be honest, if I was on the receiving end of this, I would not…" Smith trailed off, shaking his head. "There's just no way."

The conundrum the village finds itself in lies in unpaid water and sewer bills that date back to 2022, which means the funds for these systems are short. There are $588.01 in unpaid utility bills from 2022, $5,019.16 from 2023 and $677.75 from 2024.

Most of the unpaid balances are below $200, but a few are above, including one property that has a balance of $979.35.

In many cases, a bill was not issued to the property owner before they moved, therefore, when the bill arrived, they were no longer at that location and the unpaid bill was never addressed during the property transaction process, leaving it unpaid.

The village, by law, has to collect the unpaid sums, so the current property owners are left on the hook for it, as they will be added to the 2025 tax roll.

During a March 25 meeting, the council asked staff to apply this ordinance to only non-owner-occupied properties and attempt to collect the balance through a collection agency or some other method. Village Manager Craig Stolsonburg spoke with the village's attorney to learn that the method was not legal. The attorney pointed to an ordinance that spelled out how the village should address this situation.

The ordinance states: "The water/sewer rates and charges shall be a lien on the respective premises served by the system. Whenever water/sewer rates and charges shall be unpaid for six months or more, they shall be considered delinquent to the tax assessing officer of the village, who shall

See **WATER** on 3

Local residents pack Odessa Twp. meeting, express concerns over proposed wind power project

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

Local residents may have lost the battle at the Odessa Township Board of Trustees meeting Monday, April 7, but they might have found their rallying cry in fighting the proposed Tupper Lake wind generation project.

Board members were split, 2-2, on a vote over a permit application submitted by the Canadian-based company Cordelio Power for a wind testing tower **(see related story, page 2)**. Though, many of those in attendance had larger concerns – the proposed wind generation project to be located in Odessa, Campbell, Sebewa, Boston and Berlin townships.

"Wind power farms are not on the agenda tonight," said Gary Secor, township supervisor. "As a board, we won't be discussing wind power farms.

"We'll be reviewing the application. We'll be voting on that application."

But that didn't stop several area residents among those packing the meeting room at the Odessa Township Hall from voicing their opposition to the Tupper Lake project which dates back more than two decades.

TCI Renewables installed the first "met" tower to measure wind patterns and collect related data in 2007. The project was then purchased by Leeward Renewables in 2018 and later by

See **POWER** on 2

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LPS BOND COULD IMPACT COUNTY'S HOUSING NEEDS
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State Rep. Gina Johnson, R-78th District, speaks to a standing-room-only audience at the Odessa Township Board of Trustees meeting Monday, April 7. Many of those in attendance expressed their concern and opposition to the Tupper Lake wind generation project, even though it was not an agenda item. **Photo by Dennis Mansfield**

POWER

Continued from Page 1

Cordelio in 2024.

According to Cordelio officials, the company already secured leases for about 12,000 of the estimated 17,000 acres needed for the project. And, currently, plans call for construction to start in the third quarter of 2027, with the project becoming operable in late 2028.

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

Odessa Township resident Dan Goodemoot said the wind generation stations will be a major visual distraction, with one station being visible from distances as far away as 12 miles. According to Goodemoot, that would mean residents in Hastings, Ionia and Vermontville could see the structures, depending on where they are.

"And that's just one windmill," he added. "In short, it's a terrible idea.

"We should do anything we can to stop it."

Another resident, Kip Geldhof, said the construction of the Tupper Lake project could potentially have a negative impact on the quality of life of local residents and erode the investment by those who've decided to locate around Jordan Lake and the surrounding area.

"What's that going to do to their property values?" Geldhof said. "People come to Lake Odessa to retire.

"Is this going to kill our town? Is this going to shut our town down?"

With some local businesses already struggling, Geldhof said the wind farm could impact tourism, as well as deter those who might camp or hunt in the area.

"No one is going to want to come and live here," she said. "That's very sad. Lake Odessa is a very beautiful place to be."

Michal Koscielniak said he and his family recently moved to Odessa Township, but added he may consider moving again if Cordelio is allowed to move forward with the wind farm. He said it could also stop other young families from coming to the area.

"This is exactly what's going to stall that," he said. "This is a massive burden, a massive eye sore."

Not everyone at Monday night's meeting opposed the proposed wind farm.

Midland resident Peter Sinclair, who was video recording the meeting for Wind101.info, said the money from lease agreements could be beneficial for local landowners.

"It turns out the news is good," he said. "For many farmers, they see this as a way to diversify and stay on their land."

And, Mike Buza of the Michigan Chapter of the Sierra Club, said the township and county could benefit from the added tax revenue the Tupper Lake project would generate, helping fund road improvements and other public services.

"Yes, there are some concerns about these things. Buza added. "But there can also be benefits. You need to balance these things out."

Cordelio representatives hosted a forum on the Tupper Lake project March 6 at the Hughe House in Lake Odessa. Stephanie Buway, senior director for development with the power company, said additional meetings will be held in the future to help answer questions and address the concerns of local residents.

"We're going to be hosting more of them," Buway said. "We're committed to having these meetings going forward.

"We'll promise to do that."

Still, state Rep. Gina Johnson, R-78th District, said now is the time for local residents to get organized and begin fighting such projects, as well as fight against the state wrestling control in such matters away from local governmental boards.

According to officials, the Michigan Public Act 223 of 2023 preempts any local ordinance and designated authority to the MPSC in such matters. Also, state mandates call for Michigan's energy sources to be 60 percent carbon-free by 2035 and 100 percent by 2040.

Johnson said two House bills, No. 4028-4028, were introduced earlier this year and restore local control to municipalities for energy project siting. The bills are set for hearings before the House Energy Committee on April 22.

"The state should not govern in these matters," Johnson said. "It's really your time to stand up.

"No matter what, you stick together."

Paul Opsommer, a former state representative who now works with Johnson, echoed her statements that local residents must get organized and must get involved, if they are to have any chance of stopping projects such as the Tupper Lake wind farm.

"You need to start reaching out," Opsommer said. "There are a lot of small groups, (but) they're not organized.

"Don't stop. Whatever you do, don't stop," he added. "You have to get involved. … It's really your job."

Besides supporting the House bills, Opsommer said people also need to attend upcoming Michigan Public Service Commission meetings, with most of its members already supporting projects like the Tupper Lake, as well as "nag" members of the Michigan Republican Party to make local control a key issue in future elections.

"This is a big card," he said. "It's an ace."

Many of those attending Monday's meeting seemed to understand the future fight over green energy will be in Lansing, not locally.

"We understand you're doing all you can," Goodemoot said. "I'm not trying to say anything negative about this board.

"Obviously, the fight is at the state level," he added. "That's where we'll have to take it."

And, Johnson said residents need to support their local board members in the upcoming fight.

"These folks definitely aren't the enemy," she said. "You have to organize. You have to work with them.

"They can vote no … (but) they're still going to have to battle the state."

Before the meeting was adjourned, one audience member lauded the board, specifically Secor, for the handling of the issue.

"I do appreciate you all coming," Secor responded. "This is what local government is all about."

New jail discussions continue, stakeholder committee established

Molly Macleod
Editor

The plans for a new Barry County Jail could soon come into focus as county officials embark on the planning stages for the project. As a first step, an initial stakeholder committee for the new jail was established by the Barry County Board of Commissioners at its Monday meeting.

"When we started drilling down on this, it made sense, in the beginning, to get a group of people together who have a vested interest in the jail who are in the jail, out of the jail, understand what's going on in there to work with it," said Barry County Board Chair Dave Jackson. "(We) grabbed a few people with experience from a few different backgrounds in there to pull this all together. But in the beginning, when we're working on the results of (the jail feasibility study), I wanted to see people that have some relevant experience to go on there that can offer guidance as to how we can create this vision for what we want."

Jackson asked commissioners to suggest names to sit on the stakeholder committee. Members of the initial stakeholder committee established on Monday have varying expertise on the jail, ranging from corrections officers to court staff to those with building and finance experience. The committee includes, in no particular order:

-Board Chair Dave Jackson
-Commissioner Marsha Bassett
-Commissioner Bob Tuenessen
-Commissioner and former state Rep. Mike Callton
-Barry County Administrator Eric Zuzga
-Barry County Deputy Administrator Luella Dennison
-Barry County Sheriff Dar Leaf
-Barry County Undersheriff Kevin Erb
-Judge Michael Schipper
-Trial Court Administrator Inez Straube
-Barry County Prosecutor Julie Nakfoor Pratt
-Barry County Central Dispatch Director Stephanie Lehman
-Barry County Chief Public Defender Kerri Selleck
-Public defender Carol Dwyer
-Hastings City Police Chief Dale Boulter
-Prairieville Township Police Chief Mike Reisin
-Middleville Village Manager Craig Stolsonburg
-Former Spectrum Health Pennock President Sheryl Lewis-Blake

See **JAIL** on 10

DID YOU **SEE?**



FINDING A NEW PATH

Hastings motorists are finding new ways to navigate the southeast side of town this month while crews work to reconstruct E. State Street between E. Clinton Street and E. Grand Street. The three-block section of State Street has been closed to traffic since March 31. The project, which includes road reconstruction and sidewalk replacement, is expected to be completed by approximately May 23. The closure has resulted in increased traffic along E. Clinton Street. Hastings City Police are reminding residents the speed limit is 25 miles per hour on Clinton Street. HPD said it will be increasing its patrols in the area during the road closure. **Photo by Molly Macleod**

Controversial vote on Odessa testing tower ends in 2-2 tie

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

According to Odessa Township Supervisor Gary Secor, the defeat of a permit application for an already existing wind testing tower at the township's board of trustees meeting Monday, April 7, might have been a bigger defeat for the township in the long run.

The four-person township board, which remains a member short, in a 2-2 tie failed to approve the application by the Canadian-based company Cordelio Power for a temporary testing facility. Secor and Trustee Brad Barrone voted in favor of approving the permit, with Treasurer Sharon Rohrbacher and Clerk Lisa Williams opposing it.

The standing-room-only crowd at the Odessa Township Hall applauded the vote. However, Secor told the audience that the vote changes little and might actually hinder the township in the future.

"With a 2-2 vote, we have not approved the temporary permit," Secor said. "(But) now that we're at an impasse, it's not coming down.

"That doesn't mean it goes away," he added.

According to Secor, the testing tower, which was reportedly erected by Leeward Renewables in 2017 and remains operational, was previously approved by the Ionia County Building Department. Secor said the county agency apparently took action, unaware Odessa Township had adopted its own wind energy ordinance in May 2019.

Cordelio took over the testing tower when it purchased the rights to the Tupper Lake wind general project from Leeward Renewables in 2024.

"It's there," Secor said of the testing tower. "It was Cordelio who approached us about the oversight."

He added that, after consulting with the township's attorney, he was advised Cordelio's permit application met all the requirements specified in the township's ordinance.

But, after the tie vote, Secor warned the audience at Monday's meeting that Cordelio could now take its case to the Michigan Public Service Commission, a move that could render the township ordinance "null and void." According to township officials, Michigan Public Act 223 of 2023 preempts any local ordinance and designated authority to the MPSC in such matters.

"It goes all away," Secor said.

Like Secor, Barrone said it might be more advantageous for the township to work with Cordelio, than have the MPSC step in and dictate future decisions.

"We have an ordinance," he said. "If we can work with Cordelio, we have some power.

"This is much better than working with the state. That is our other option."

Despite Monday night's vote, officials with Cordelio stated the company will continue to try and work with local townships.

"We're still here," said Stephanie Buway, senior director for development with Cordelio. "We still want to work with the local community.

"Our intent has always been to work with Odessa Township," she added. "We will do that still."

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From left: Duncan Anderson, Andrew Diamond, Micah Martin, and, to the far right, Rhys Bedford participated in the flag ceremony on the USS Missouri battleship during the 2021 Pearl Harbor trip.

IN DEEP WATER: Thornapple River levels high after heavy rainfall



Waterfowl enjoyed some extra waterfront at Rivergate Family Campground near Historic Charlton Park on Monday. According to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) data, the Thornapple River was recorded at 5.8 feet in Hastings on Tuesday — enough to reach the "action" stage before minor flooding. At this time last year, the river depth was recorded at 4.8 feet, according to NOAA. Though the river is expected to fall in depth and calm down in the coming days, a few heavy rainfalls helped it peak at 7.01 feet on Sunday, April 8. While there is no flooding threat to the area, water was seen swelling along the banks of the Thornapple throughout the week. **Photo by Molly Macleod**

BAND

Continued from Page 1

During their trip Dec. 5-11 later this year, the band will visit the USS Arizona Memorial and observe the 1,177 engraved names of those men who lost their lives on Sunday morning, Dec. 7, 1941. They will march from the USS Oklahoma to Forward Pier to perform, then enjoy a self-guided tour of the USS Missouri battleship and visit the Surrender Deck, where the Japanese and Allied Forces Representatives signed the "Instrument of Surrender," officially ending World War II.

On Dec. 7, a warm-up with the Pacific Marine Band is scheduled before participating in the Pearl Harbor Memorial Parade Opening Ceremony, followed by the parade.

After that, the group will enjoy free time on the island for the rest of the week with some planned stops, including presentations and activities. The last two days are reserved for traveling back to Michigan.

The DK Band Committee and Knight reached out to the community through a letter, asking for support by making donations and participating in several fundraisers. Sponsors are also being asked to support the trip and can fill out a sponsor form.

Email administrative assistant Tiffany Bever in the high school office at Tiffany.bever@dkschools.org to fill out a sponsor form.

Some fundraising events are already in place, but more will be added, according to school officials. Several businesses will set aside a percentage of their sales to help pay for the band's Pearl Harbor trip.

The list includes partnerships with MEI, which is donating money to each band student who volunteers at The Shack. Details are still being consolidated.

Katie & Christy's Mid-Lakes Screen Printing & Monogramming in Delton are donating 10 percent of each sale purchased from their online store at mid-lakes.net.

Another event is scheduled from 5 to 7 p.m. on April 26, featuring a spaghetti dinner at the Moose Lodge in Delton.

Culver's will host a Share Night in Hastings from 5 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, July 1.

The latest fundraising updates can be found at facebook.com/DKHSBand.

"From the parade to performing in front of the USS Missouri, it was the experience of a lifetime," Mursch said.

Graduating Senior Alyssa Larson traveled with the band to Pearl Harbor in 2021.

"Traveling in 2021 was rough, to say the least. With everything being right after the COVID-19 pandemic, we were all scared that we weren't going to be able to do the 'normal' things that students with this opportunity have done in the past. However, Mrs. Knight proved us wrong. We went on countless side trips and it was overall one of the best memories I have from the band," Larson said. "Going on hikes, and tours, and getting sweet treats with the awesome people in the band is such a fond memory and I can't wait for the younger grade levels to experience this. It brought us so much closer, and that's when I truly started believing when people said that this particular band is like family."

Donation checks to support the band's trip to Pearl Harbor can be made out to Delton Kellogg Schools and mailed to Delton Kellogg High School, 10425 Panther Pride Drive, Delton, MI 49046

A W-9 can be provided upon request by emailing Tiffany Bever at tiffany.bever@dkschools.org

"We will start marching practice in May," Knight said. Practice will also be held at band camp the last week of July. We will still be collecting donations until about October."

Micah Martin traveled with the band in 2021 and performed in concerts. He also participated in other commemorating events.

"I would say having the opportunity to fold the flag is one thing that stood out to me the most. Also, the unique experience with Hawaii's weather, buildings, and land were memorable," Martin said. "I would hope that whoever goes next can have enjoyment in Hawaii's unique opportunities."

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WATER

Continued from Page 1

enter the delinquent sewer rates and charges, interest and penalties, together with an additional penalty equal to 15 percent of the total, upon the next tax roll as a charge against the premises affected and such charge shall be collected and the lien thereof enforced in same manner as ad valorem property taxes levied against such premises."

By the attorney's summation, the village's hands were tied, and Trustee Robert Bishop echoed that on Tuesday.

"There are laws that restrict all this so there is no point in even discussing this because the decision was made above our pay grade and has to change probably at the national level," Bishop said. "So, discussing it here is just a waste of time."

The council wondered how a property owner might be able to pursue reimbursement from the previous owner who accrued the expenses. Bishop said they could pursue small claims court.

"It does cost money to do all this stuff, but that's the legal system," Bishop said. "Yeah, it sucks, but that's what we got. I don't get why we're having a discussion about something we can't change."

"Because I don't understand it and when I don't understand something, I'm entitled to be able to understand it," Smith snapped back. "I appreciate your input thus far, though, and it has been very useful. ...I'm about to cast a vote on whether someone is charged $975 on their taxes that they weren't expecting this year. I owe it to them to be able to have that conversation. Hopefully, that's clear."

"Was it not clear what the lawyer said?" Bishop asked.

"It doesn't matter, because that's an opinion," Smith continued. "There are options and I want to make sure we're exhausting them at this table with what we control. If we can control it, I would much rather it be in our hands than the hands of a lawyer. Because at some point, all of us will be asked this question, 'Why did I get $975 tacked on to my taxes?' My answer isn't going to be 'It's the system, I'm sorry, it sucks.'"

At the end of the meeting, Smith apologized to Bishop for the tense exchange and explained he was frustrated at the situation.

Holding his nose, Smith voted to approve the measure along with trustees Richard Hamilton, John Osterbaan and Bishop. Tracy Gillhespy voted no and two board members were absent.

Stolsonburg said that the village would look to take proactive measures to avoid such situations in the future, such as providing a property owner with an estimate of their final bill and escrowing the funds to ensure the bill is paid.

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How can you boost your savings?

It might not be on your calendar, but America Saves Week is observed from April 7–11. Are you saving enough? If not, how can you save more?

If you don't think you're saving enough, you're not alone. Just 22% of Americans are completely satisfied with the amount of money they've saved, according to a recent Yahoo Finance/Marist Poll survey. And the same survey showed that a third of households couldn't cover one month's worth of bills if they lost a job or other source of income.

What's behind this savings gap? Several factors are involved, including the high cost of housing. But while you can't control these external forces, you may be able to increase your savings by taking these steps:

• *Create a budget* — and stick with it. Following a budget is not everyone's idea of fun, but it can be of great use in managing your spending, which, in turn, can help you save more. You can find many free budgeting apps that allow you to track your spending and place it into categories. Once you know where your money is going, you may find it easier to cut back in certain areas, such as possibly eliminating streaming services you don't use much.

• *Pay yourself first.* Like everyone, you have a lot of bills to pay each month. But why not pay yourself first? Even if you can't put away a lot of money, any amount will help. And you can make it easier on yourself by having some funds moved automatically each month from your checking or savings account into a liquid, low-risk account — one you don't use for your everyday expenses. Over time, as your income goes up, you can increase the amounts in these automatic transfers.

• *Take advantage of "cash-back" offers.* You may already use a credit card that provides you with cash back on purchases. But did you know you can also download cash-back apps? Like cash-back credit cards, these apps give you a percentage of your spending back, helping you save money on many of your regular purchases, such as groceries and gas. You can even find apps that offer promotions that let you earn more at specific times or for buying certain items.

• *Cut down* — or consolidate — your debts. It's easier said than done, but the more you can reduce your debts, the more money you'll be able to save. You can choose to tackle the debt with the highest interest rate or get rid of the smallest debts first, but whichever method you choose, try to be as diligent as you can. You also might be able to consolidate your debts — but be careful, because not all debt consolidation offers will work in your favor.

• *Get some help.* Your employer may provide an employee assistance program that offers, among other benefits, credit counseling and other types of financial guidance. You may want to contact a financial professional who can take a holistic look at your situation and offer recommendations on saving, investing and goal setting.

It's always important to save money — but it's not always easy. However, by exploring every avenue available to you, you may be able to improve your saving skills to the point where they can make a real difference in your life.

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

Passage of LPS bond proposal could breathe new life into century-old school



The passage of a $30 million bond proposal in support of Lakewood Public Schools next month would mean the closure of the Lakewood Early Childhood Center in Woodland. However, the Barry County Chamber & Economic Development Alliance has plans for the 100-plus-year-old building that could mean new housing for the area.



Should Lakewood Public Schools pass its bond proposal in May, the Lakewood Early Childhood Center in Woodland could be transformed into new housing. **File photos**

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

The passage of a nearly $30 million bond proposal in support of Lakewood Public Schools could mean the end for the more than century-old Woodland school as an educational facility. But, it could also be a new beginning for the building originally constructed in 1924.

LPS is asking voters to pass the bond proposal during a special election set for Tuesday, May 6. The proposal would fund a variety of improvements and upgrades at three of the four current schools operated by the school district.

It also calls for the closure of the former Woodland Elementary School, currently the home to the Lakewood Early Childhood Center, and will lead to a shift of students and grade levels at LPS' three remaining school buildings, with Lakewood Elementary School then housing the district's Great Start Readiness and Early Childhood programs, special education classes, Kinderstart and kindergarten programs, as well as first and second grades. Lakewood Middle School would be the home for third- through sixth-grade classes, with Lakewood High School hosting seventh- through 12th-grade students.

Jodi Duits, LPS superintendent, said district officials would most likely seek to sell the building, if the bond is approved and Woodland is then closed.

"The district's desire is to sell the building and property," she said.

And, LPS might already have at least one potential buyer – the Barry County Chamber & Economic Development Alliance.

"We would love to convert that building to housing," Jennifer Heinzman, BCCEDA president and CEO. "We are unable to get MSHDA funding unless the property is on municipal water, so it would be a conversation about building a water tower first, and then working to see if we could acquire the building."

According to Duits, the more than 40,000-square-foot former elementary school was converted into the home of the district's early childhood center for the 2015-16 school year. It currently houses teaching stations for general education, Great Start Readiness and Kinderstart classrooms, a "sensory room," and several other classrooms, including four kindergarten classrooms.

But, Duits added, while it remains in use, the structure is also showing its age.

"Based on third-party assessment, the Lakewood Early Childhood Center building infrastructure is in poor condition," she said. "The building systems – roof, flooring, plumbing, electrical – have exceeded their useful life."

That assessment, however, isn't deterring BCCEDA officials from believing they could breathe new life into the structure.

"We have toured the building several times and think it would be transformative for Woodland to add approximately 50 new units to Woodland," Heinzman said.

And, the BCCEDA has already proven it can help transform old school buildings into new living space.

The Village of Nashville and BCCEDA recently celebrated the transformation of the former W.K. Kellogg Rural Agricultural School into residential apartments. The former school is now the home of the Village Flats Apartments, a 20-unit complex that opened earlier this year.

The conversion of the former school, built in the 1930s, was one of 12 housing projects across Michigan being funded through the Building Michigan Together Plan, with a combined total investment of $13 million.

Funding support for the developments comes in the form of tax credits. Through the federal Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program, developers who receive awards can claim credits against their tax liability annually for up to 10 years – an important initiative that helps incentivize investments in affordable housing in local communities across the state.

Of course, before anyone can consider what the former Woodland school could become in the future, voters would need to pass the proposed ballot proposal on May 6.

The upcoming special election will be the third bond request voted on by LPS voters in less than three years. Area residents voted down a $64 million bond proposal in November 2022 and, by just a 337-vote margin, defeated a $39 million proposal in August 2023.

District officials have added an informational "Bond Proposal" page to the district website, lakewoodps.org, providing a breakdown of what the ballot proposal would fund. The page also includes other information such as common questions, details on enrollment trends and a tax calculator.

Strong winds take down two barns in Maple Grove



Mother Nature has put barn engineers to the test these past few weeks. Two barns in Maple Grove Township were taken down by strong winds earlier this month. One of the barns, a century-old structure located near the western boundary of Barryville Road in Maple Grove Township, was constructed with sawed timber beams. Common in barns built in that period, the construction style proved strong enough to house hundreds of animals and provide crop storage space during its lifetime. It met its match in the recent windstorm. Another barn, a newer construction, succumbed to the same winds less than 2 miles from the century-old barn on Barryville Road. The barn's poles and cement bases, framing lumber, metal roof and siding material can be seen in a pile blown hundreds of feet from where it was built less than 10 years ago. **Photos by George Hubka/MG News Service**

Hastings library set to host pair of Earth Day events April 21-22

The Hastings Public Library is set to be the place to be for those looking to celebrate Earth Day, with the local library slated to host a pair of events on April 21-22.

On Monday, April 21, the HPL will present episodes from the series, "Weathered: Earth's Extremes," an Earth Day movie and discussion starting at 6 p.m. in the Community Room.

The Barry County Earth Alliance is recognizing Earth Day by helping to host a viewing and discussion of two episodes from the series which investigates why some believe there are more extreme weather and natural disasters than ever before, and teaches individuals how to prepare for such events.

The first episode, "Not 'Business as Usual,'" to be shown April 21 explores positive climate tipping points, what our weather will look like as our climate changes, and which communities are most vulnerable. Then, "Climate Crossroads" examines changes in ocean currents, electrification and nature's role in reaching net zero carbon emissions.

Then, on Tuesday, April 22, the HPL will literally play host to EcoPlay, a fun-filled evening of eco-friendly board games on Earth Day beginning at 6 p.m. in the Community Room.

The attending will be able to select from a collection of board games that celebrate nature, conservation and sustainability. Games are playable for individuals aged 10 years and up.

A sneak peek at some of the games available include:

Arboretum (2-4 players) – Build the arboretum of your dreams while trying to prevent your rival from doing the same;

Bosk (2-4 players) – Navigate through the four seasons and lay claim to the land with your trees and leaves;

Forest Shuffle (2-5 players) – Gather valuable trees and attract species to them for points;

Reef (2-4 players) – Grow a vibrant reef, arranging it beautifully on the seafloor to score big;

Hive (2 players only) – A strategy game where you use insects to trap your opponent's Queen Bee in a clever abstract challenge;

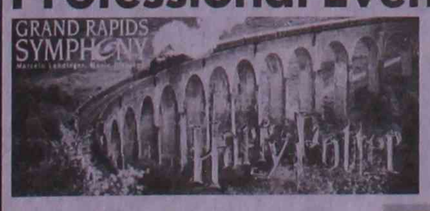
Cascadia (1-4 players) – Build the most harmonious ecosystem by puzzling together habitats and wildlife;

PARKS (1-5 players) – Hike through National Park tiles, collect memories and admire breathtaking scenery; and

Morels (2 players only) – Walk through the woods, collect mushrooms and cook them up for tasty points.

In addition, DayBreak, a cooperative game to decarbonize the planet and create resilient societies, will be available for demonstration. Expert gamers will be present to get you started and to answer questions.

Pre-registration is encouraged – but not required – to ensure there are enough materials for everyone. Register online at hastingspublicliblary.org or call 269-945-4263. — *DM*

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Fri, 4/25 | 7:30 pm
DIVA Jazz Orchestra
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Other Events
HHS Choir Follies | Thu, 4/17 | 7:00 pm
Senior Academy Awards | Sun, 4/27 | 5:00 pm
Elementary Musicals | Mon-Thu, Apr 28-May 1 | 6:30 pm

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HASS HEADLINES

Dr. Nick Damico



The future is now for Hastings Area School System

Here at Hastings Area School System, our new mission and vision — our why — is clear: "Exceptional schools, exceptional community, building successful Saxons."

We are embarking on a bold, forward-thinking strategic plan to place Saxon students at the heart of every decision. Our focus is on expanding what we do well, responding to community needs, and ensuring fiscal responsibility to create a thriving educational environment.

A key priority is strengthening early literacy and math. By implementing targeted programs and professional development, we will equip students with the skills necessary for success. We will build successful Saxons starting with a strong foundation grounded in the educational core.

Career and technical education (CTE) will also be expanded, providing students with real-world experiences and pathways to higher education and the workforce. Through partnerships with local businesses, we will create opportunities that benefit both students and the community. We will graduate Saxons that are ready to impact our Hastings community and beyond in positive ways.

Responding to our community needs is a core component of our path forward. We will actively seek input from families, businesses, and stakeholders to ensure our programs align with the evolving needs of Hastings. Whether through curriculum adjustments, support services, or extracurricular opportunities, we will remain adaptable and committed to serving our students and families effectively.

We are committed to revitalizing programs that directly support student achievement while ensuring internal collaboration and transparency. Community partnerships will be strengthened to foster shared responsibility for student success. Safety will remain a top priority, with continued investments in school security and mental health resources. Efforts to attract and retain high-quality educators will include competitive salaries and professional growth opportunities.

Fiscal responsibility is at the core of our plan. We will rigorously evaluate K-12 programs, focusing on those that positively impact student achievement. Programs outside our K-12 educational mission or with a negative financial impact on our general fund will be reconsidered or phased out. We will explore innovative funding sources to maintain financial stability without compromising educational quality.

With a shared vision and unwavering dedication, we are shaping a future where every Saxon student has the opportunity to thrive. Through excellence, innovation, and responsible stewardship, we will build a strong foundation for generations to come.

Hastings Area School System — where exceptional schools combined with an exceptional community work together to build successful Saxons!

DO YOU **REMEMBER?**



RELIVING HISTORY IN 'GRAND STYLE'

— BANNER OCT. 19, 1995 —

Civil War reenactors from the Michigan Light Artillery conduct a weapons demonstration at Historic Bowens Mills Sunday. The participants reenacted all aspects of life during the Civil War, including sleeping in tents, wearing authentic era clothes and conducting battles. Rain and cold temperatures kept many visitors away, but the actors were kept warm in wool cloaks and pants, part of their Union or Confederate uniforms. Other attractions at Bowens Mills included a tribute to President Lincoln, compiled by Mike Hook, with such artifacts as pictures, a replica of the gun that was used to kill Lincoln, and a lock of the president's hair.

Rep. Gina Johnsen to host community office hours in Sunfield and Ionia

State Representative Gina Johnsen will be available to meet with constituents during upcoming office hours.

The meetings are scheduled for:

Monday, April 21, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Sunfield United Brethren Church, located at 8436 W. Grand Ledge Hwy. in Sunfield.

Saturday, May 3, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. at Restore Church, located at 430 W. Main St. in Ionia.

These meetings provide residents of the 78th House District—which includes parts of Ionia, Kent, Eaton, and Barry counties—a chance to engage directly with Rep. Johnsen. Constituents are invited to discuss their concerns, ask questions, and share their thoughts on state and local matters. No appointment is necessary for attendance.



Rep. Gina Johnsen

For those unable to attend, Rep. Johnsen's office can be reached by phone at 517-373-1796 or via email at GinaJohnsen@house.mi.gov. — *MM*

Officials confirm Kent County's first measles case in over a decade

The Kent County Health Department, in partnership with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, recently confirmed a case of measles in a Kent County resident.

This diagnosis is the county's first confirmed measles case since 2013 and Michigan's second case of the year.

"Measles is a highly contagious disease that continues to circulate both in the U.S. and globally," said Dr. Adam London, KCHD health officer. "This case is a reminder of how quickly measles can spread and the importance of vaccination. We urge residents to check their immunization status and to get vaccinated, especially if planning to travel internationally or into areas with active measles outbreaks."

The infected adult recently traveled abroad before returning to the U.S. and traveling between Michigan and New Jersey. Individuals who were present at the following locations on the specified dates and times may have been exposed to measles.

Measles spreads easily through the air when an infected person breathes, coughs, or sneezes. It can stay in the air for up to two hours after an infected person leaves, continuing to infect others.

Symptoms typically begin 7–14 days after exposure, though they can surface as late as 21 days after exposure, and may include:

- High fever (may spike to over 104°F)
- Cough
- Runny nose
- Red, watery eyes (conjunctivitis)
- Tiny white spots on the inner cheeks, gums and roof of mouth (Koplik Spots) 2-3 days after symptoms begin
- A rash that is red, raised, blotchy; usually starts on face, spreads to trunk, arms and legs 3-5 days after symptoms begin

People who were at the above locations during the specified times should monitor for these symptoms for 21 days after exposure. Anyone experiencing symptoms is urged to call their healthcare provider before seeking in-person care to prevent further spread. "Measles can lead to serious complications, especially in young children, pregnant individuals, and those with weakened immune systems," said Dr. Kristin Oldenberg, KCHD medical director. "Fortunately, the measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine is safe and highly effective at preventing measles. Two doses of the vaccine provide 97 percent protection against the disease."

For more information on measles, visit the MDHHS website. — *DM*

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Bachman Field PUD, final site plan OK'd by planning commission

Molly Macleod
Editor

The City of Hastings is one step closer to seeing a new housing development built on the northeast end of town after the Hastings City Planning Commission reviewed and approved the Bachman Field planned unit development (PUD) and final site plan on Monday. Now, the plan goes to the city council, where it will consider whether to approve the site plan and PUD.

Green Development Ventures LLC and Allen Edwin Homes have proposed building 119 detached single-family homes on a 38.25-acre parcel at 900 Bachman Road. The development, which would be built in four phases depending on market saturation, will consist of a combination of ranch-style and two-story homes. The Bachman Field development would be adjacent to the existing Woodlawn Meadows planned unit development.

Mike West of Allen Edwin Homes spoke on the project on Monday. He said he and his team worked to incorporate suggestions from the planning commission that came from last month's preliminary PUD review in the new plan presented on Monday. One significant change was the widening of some lots that were initially too narrow to adhere to city standards.

Rebecca Harvey, the city's planning consultant, pointed out that while the lot sizes in the site plan reviewed on Monday now meet the city's requirements for width, the depth of some lots are still under what is required.

West admitted there was some confusion when it came to adjusting lot sizes.

"Our understanding was we were to increase the lot widths to 75 feet so the meet the R-1 standard, not necessarily the lot size. The depth of those lots is somewhat constrained," West said. "… What we did do, along the south side… we lost two units and distributed that width across units one through 10. So all those meet the underlying R-1 standard."

The smallest lot proposed in the final site plan on Monday is 8,250 square feet.

Should the PUD and site plan be approved by the full city council, the Bachman Field developers will have more flexibility with traditional zoning requirements, like minimum lot sizes.

Planning commissioners approved the PUD and site plan on Monday, recommending them to the city council with variances granted for lot depth and a review of sidewalk connectivity.

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OBITUARIES

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Marzella Zook



Marzella Zook, age 95, of Middlebury, formerly of Lake Odessa, MI passed away at 2:15 a.m., on Saturday, April 5, at her residence.

She was born on December 9, 1929, in Clarksville, MI, to Norman and Erma (Birkey) Kauffman. On August 1, 1948, in Clarksville, MI she married Dale Zook, he died January 9, 2016.

Surviving are two sons, Daryl (Maxine) Zook of Middlebury, Duane (Kathy) Zook of Sarasota, FL; daughter, Susan (Mark) Thomas of Middlebury; son-in-law, Lloyd (June) Weaver of Darby, MT; 14 grandchildren; 33 great grandchildren; two great-great grandchildren; two brothers, Dale (Elizabeth) Kauffman of Middlebury, Calvin (Nola) Kauffman of Elkton, MI; two sisters, Donna (Ron) Sape of Statesville, NC, Carol (Sam) King of Forest City, NC.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; daughter, Marilyn (Lloyd) Weaver; and sister, Pauline Kauffman.

Marzella was a farmer's wife who lived in Lake Odessa, MI, for 60 years before moving to Middlebury, IN. She was a homemaker, who enjoyed cooking, cleaning, cutting blocks, sewing, and quilting, leading her to create hundreds of quilts and comforters for family, friends, church, and missions' organizations. You would often find her in the fields and barn helping Dale with crops and cows.

She was passionate about the Lord, and you would often see her read the Bible. Marzella was a member of Bowne Mennonite Church in Alto, MI where she taught Sunday and Bible School and oversaw the sewing for many years. She attended Riverview Christian Fellowship, White Pigeon, MI. She loved her family and enjoyed the many visits on Sunday nights.

Her family will miss her greatly.

Visitation will be from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. on Monday, April 14, 2025 at Miller-Stewart Funeral Home, 1003 S. Main St. Middlebury. There will be a private burial service prior to the 11 a.m. memorial service on Tuesday, April 15, at Riverview Christian Fellowship, 69212 US 131 South, White Pigeon, MI. Services will be conducted by Pastor Glen Gingerich.

Memorial contributions can be made in Marzella's memory to Water for Life or Urban Ministries. Online condolences may be offered at millerstewartfuneralhome.com.

VIEW OBITUARIES ONLINE AT HASTINGSBANNER.COM

Hands-Free Law, roadway safety the focus of National Distracted Driving Awareness Month

In support of National Distracted Driving Awareness Month, police agencies throughout Michigan are teaming up with the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) for a high-visibility enforcement effort during April.

Throughout the month, police officers across the state will remind drivers about the dangers of distracted driving while enforcing Michigan's Hands-Free Law, which took effect on June 30, 2023. The goal of this initiative is to reduce traffic crashes caused by distracted drivers, ultimately preventing injuries and deaths associated with mobile device use and texting while driving.

According to Michigan Traffic Crash Facts, in 2023, there were 15,136 motor vehicle crashes involving a distracted driver in Michigan, which resulted in 5,889 injuries and 59 fatalities. In 2022, there were 15,441 crashes involving a distracted driver, resulting in 5,905 injuries and 57 fatalities.

"While we are encouraged by a decrease in the number of distracted driving crashes and injuries, we must also acknowledge the increase in fatalities," said Katie Bower, OHSP's director. "This should be alarming to all roadway users and amplifies the need to encourage safer driving behaviors. Officers will be stepping up enforcement and on the lookout for anyone who is texting or committing other Hands-Free Law violations while driving."

Distracted driving has become a deadly epidemic on our roads. Cell phone use — specifically, texting, talking, and social media use — has become the most common distraction. Other risky actions include adjusting the radio or GPS, applying makeup, eating and drinking. Any activity that takes your eyes off the road and your hands off the wheel is extremely reckless and can have devastating consequences.

Research shows the most common crash type for distracted-driving crashes in 2023 was rear-end crashes, which accounted for 48.7 percent of all distracted-driving crashes in 2023.

"One traffic fatality is too many and often preventable, if people focus on the roadway rather than be distracted," said Col. James F. Grady II, director of the Michigan State Police. "Through our partnership with OHSP and educational initiatives influencing driver behavior, we're making a safer Michigan by reducing roadway crashes, injuries and fatalities."

Bower pointed to some meaningful data from Cambridge Mobile Telematics (CMT) that shows since the Hands-Free Law took effect on June 30, 2023, Michigan has seen a 10.5 percent decrease in mobile-device distraction.

CMT, a Massachusetts-based technology company, utilizes safe-driving programs that help drivers save on insurance and better understand their risk. Drivers voluntarily enroll in the programs, which generate data that CMT uses to track and analyze driver behavior on Michigan roadways, such as smart-phone-related distractions, with the goal of reducing risky-driving habits.

"These vital indicators translate into lives saved," Bower said. "While we are making gains, it's crucial that all drivers and passengers be aware of the dangers of distracted driving and how it impacts all roadways users."

Of the 15,136 crashes involving distracted driving in Michigan in 2023:

5,490 crashes (36.3 percent) occurred at an intersection.

2,940 crashes (19.4 percent) involved a lane departure.

2,558 crashes (16.9 percent) involved a distracted driver aged 20 or younger.

Violating Michigan's Hands-Free Law can be costly: For the first offense, a $100 ticket and/or 16 hours of community service; for the second offense, a $250 ticket and/or 24 hours of community service; and for a third offense within a three-year-period, the driver must complete a driving-improvement course.

For more information about Michigan's Hands-Free Law, visit michigan.gov/DistractedDriving. — *MM*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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HASTINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY SCHEDULE

Thursday, April 10 – Movies, Memories and Milestones watches a 1959 film starring Tony Curtis and Cary Grant, 4:30 p.m.

Friday, April 11 – Friday Story Time 10:30 a.m.

Monday, April 14 – Crafting Passions, 10 a.m.; Stories & Snacks, 4 p.m.

Tuesday, April 15 – Baby Cafe, 10 a.m.; mahjong, 5 p.m.; chess, 5 p.m.; Why Homestead? To Tackle Today's Challenges, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, April 16 – Itsy Bitsy Book Club, 10:30 a.m.; Writers' Night, 6:30 p.m.

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

PIERCE CEDAR CREEK INSTITUTE EVENTS

– APRIL 11-17 –

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

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.

Saturday, April 12 — Trail Kick-off Hike, 10 a.m.-noon. Join the Institute for the first social hike of the year as staff officially unveil the redesigned trail map.

Monday, April 14 — Bird Brains with the Barry County Bird Club, 9-10 a.m. Join Pierce Cedar Creek Institute and the Barry County Bird Club for a social birding hour.

Tuesday, April 15 — Cedar Creek Book Club, 10 a.m.-noon. This month, the club will discuss "Buzz, Bite, Sting: Why We Need Insects" by Anne Sverdrup Thygeson.

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

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

'In My Time' Part X

BANNER AUG. 31, 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 continues:

"Juanita graduated from Battle Creek School of Nursing in September 1932. She then took the state board exam and passed it with the highest marks of anyone taking the exam. I was, of course, very proud of her. She continued to work at the sanitarium, and sometimes as a private duty nurse. The sanitarium paid her 40 cents an hour for regular duty, 50 cents an hour if she worked in the mental ward.

"I was anxious to find a job in Battle Creek so I could be near her. As we entered the fifth year of the Depression, there was no improvement. Some 20 million people were still unemployed. In spite of this, the Kellogg cereals company business held up. From March to September, the plant was busy, but in the winter, business was slow. I had put in my application and the first of March I was called to work.

"For years, the Kellogg Company had operated three, eight-hour shifts seven days a week. As the Depression deepened, they changed to six-hour shifts in order to alleviate unemployment. We worked six days a week for 36 hours total. The pay was good, (and) with bonus I earned around $35 a week. When I got my first paycheck, I asked Juanita to marry me. She agreed and we set the date for April 11. I couldn't afford an engagement ring, and Juanita didn't have a diamond until we had been married many years.

"We were married at my folks' house in Delton. Mother decorated the living room with flowers and the local Methodist minister performed the ceremony. Juanita's attendants were her roommates, Dot Mulder and Ruth Robbins.

"After the wedding, we went to the house that we had rented in Level Park just west of Battle Creek. Sometime before, I had bought Aunt Bessie's Chevrolet for $120.

"I had very little money and had to borrow $20 from Juanita to buy a suit for the wedding. The day after the wedding, I had to go back to work. That morning, I awoke with pink eye, which Juanita also came down with a day or two later. We were very poor, but Juanita worked when there was work and we planted a garden. The house rent was $25 a month.

"Juanita kept track of our grocery bills and in the first year, we spent $104, or two dollars a week on groceries. Our most expensive entertainment was an occasional ice cream soda for 15 cents. Otherwise, we visited friends or they visited us. When we both had a day off, we would frequently drive to Delton, to visit or play a popular card game of the time called "500" with my folks.

"The summer was hot and dry, as we were in the midst of a great drought that engulfed most of the nation's midsection. The lakes had dropped to their lowest levels ever, and one lake that I fished as a boy actually dried up. This was the time of the Dust Bowl. Nature added to the suffering of the Great Depression. The nation was in a somber mood. Gloom and despair were everywhere.

"We moved to Wattles Park, which was east of Battle Creek and closer to work. The rent was the same. The furniture we had was all secondhand, donated by the Eldridges and my folks. Juanita cooked on a two-burner kerosene stove.

"One night, she started supper and we had gone into the living room. When we returned to the kitchen, the stove was in flames. 'Open the back door,' I said. I picked up the kerosene stove and threw it outside. My hands and arms were burned but I had no lasting scars.

"We had to have a stove. We found a Westinghouse electric range for $87. I paid $10 down and $11 a month. This is the only item, other than real estate, that I ever bought on the installment plan or on credit.

"In the Democratic landslide of 1932, the whole county of Barry had for the first time gone Democratic. My father was determined to win back the seat of the State House of Representatives for the Republicans. He declared himself a candidate and campaigned all summer and fall. He won easily for the next 10 years and was the Barry County representative in Lansing.

"In late August, a foreman from Kellogg's came to me one hot, humid afternoon and said 'Take the rice dryer.' The man who attended the dryer had just been carried out with heat prostration.

"The dryer consisted of slated baffles from ceiling to floor. This slowed the rice so that the hot air blowing up would have time to dry the rice. The temperature in the room was rumored to be at least 130 degrees. There wasn't even a fan for the worker's comfort.

"On this particular day, the humidity caused the rice to run wetter than usual. The wet rice would clog up the dryer and my job was to take a poker and break up the clogs. It meant constantly facing the hot air and walking back and forth in front of the dryer. I was determined not to be carried out like my predecessor. I would walk once in front of the dryer then go over to the open window to get some cool, 95-degree air from outside. It wasn't long before the foreman came in and barked, 'You aren't keeping the rice coming.'

"I went back to work, but continued to take my breaks. That night, the foreman informed me that I was no longer needed.

"Juanita worked part-time at the sanitarium and I struggled to find some way to earn money. My father had an old multigraph machine and type that was never used. A multigraph is different from a mimeograph. Type was set in slots, as a drum rotated with a crank. The type was inked by roller and sheets of paper were fed in by hand one at a time.

"I decided to see if I could get some business making handbills for grocery stores. I got an order for a thousand copies from one grocery. I charged them $2. I went to a paper supply house and they cut a ream of paper to the size that I needed. I encountered no problems.

"They did have a picture of one item. It was a small copper plate mounted on a piece of wood. I was puzzled as to how I could use this with the multigraph. However, I discovered that I could remove the metal from the wood, bend it over the drum and clip it on. Luckily, it was just the right thickness to work with the type.

"The next job I got I will never forget. It was an order from Brown and Johnson Grocery for 2,000 at two dollars per thousand.

"The first problem I encountered was that my type font had only two large O's. I made a cast of the O in plaster of Paris. Then, I melted some old type in the furnace and cast an O. It was the right thickness, but only about half the O printed. I didn't know what I was going to do. Juanita suggested building up the lower half of the O with nail polish. This worked fine. Next, I took the Good Luck Margarine and pried it off its wooden base and tried to bend it as I had with the last order. The plate broke in two. It was made from type metal instead of copper. I replaced the plate on the wood and decided to stamp each sheet by hand. It seemed that everyone went wrong that could, but the worst was still to come.

"It was one of those nights when everything seems to attract static. When I fed a sheet of paper into the machine, it would stick and wrap around the drum. I had to pull the paper through with one hand and crank with the other. Juanita volunteered to grab the sheet as it came through so it wouldn't stick to the drum.

"At one point, I became so frustrated I picked up the machine and started for the window. Juanita stopped me, as I supposed that I hoped she would, and we went back to work. It was long after midnight when we finished and I still had to stamp each sheet with the Good Luck Margarine plate. Of course, many of the pictures were crooked or not evenly printed. I did what any good farmer would do, and put the best sheets on top of the stack. I delivered them on time and collected my $4. But I gave up the printing business.

"Juanita was about seven months pregnant and unable to work, so we were without any income. There was no unemployment insurance in 1934. Dad was quite concerned. A week or two after I was fired, Dad told me that the Brach candy salesman who lived in Delton had said that there was a five- and 10-cent store for sale in Coloma. I was considerably less than excited. When Arnold heard about it, he laughed and said, 'Are you going to be selling bras and panties?' This more or less reflected my own feelings.

"Looking at the map, I found that Coloma had less than 800 residents. However, I had no other prospects and on Oct. 9, 1935, Dad and I went to Coloma. We looked at the store and then drove around the countryside. There were orchards of pears, apples, peaches and cherries everywhere. Then, we drove north from Coloma a couple of miles and discovered Paw Paw Lake. This was a beautiful resort lake with pavilions, dance halls and restaurants. I realized that the Coloma trading area was several times as large as the town itself. That afternoon, we went back to the store.

"'If we can take possession right now, we will take the store,' he told Mrs. Grant, the owner. She and her husband owned a larger store in South Haven. He gave her $3,500 for the store and put $200 in the bank for my store account.

"As Mrs. Grant prepared to leave, I said, 'But she is taking all the change out of the cash register.' Dad said, 'She is entitled to it. Go to the bank and get $20 in change for the cash register.' 'But I don't have $20.'

"So, Dad gave me $20, and at 4 p.m., I was the owner and manager of the store. I signed a 5 percent loan to Dad and he left me alone in my new, strange world.

"One girl worked in the store full time, which was 50 hours. Her pay was $8. The store rent was $30 a month. There was a coal stove in the back for heat. The heat and lights were my responsibility.

"The store opened at 7:30 a.m. and closed at 6:30 p.m. On Saturdays, we were open until 10.

"The store was sparingly stocked, probably not over $1,500 worth. The fixtures were handmade. The day of the five- and 10-cent store was a holdover from earlier times. Most of our items were five cents to one dollar and some more expensive. We had an extensive penny candy section. The candy case contained chocolates and chocolate-covered peanuts, chocolate drops (35 cents a pound), jelly beans, gum drops and other items (mostly 25 cents). Other items included school supplies, cosmetics, stationery, small hardware, toys, thread and other notions. And, yes, panties and bras, as well as overalls and so forth.

"When I took over the store, there were Halloween napkins, candles, and jack-o-lanterns in stock. Sales were slow during the week, but when I counted up Saturday night, I had $93 from Saturday's sales, all in one-dollar bills. We had not taken in any larger bills. This was more money than I had ever had in my hands at one time.

"After the store closed, I drove my 1930 Chevrolet to Delton where Juanita was staying with my folks and proudly displayed my roll of money. Everyone was glad to see me so optimistic. The store's major supplier was Butler Brothers. I placed a small order with them on Monday. But there was a problem with credit. It took about three weeks to get the order shipped. This was probably a good thing, because it took me time to build up my bank account.



Robert and Juanita Faulkner circa 1932.

"On the 25th of October, my folks called to tell me that they had taken Juanita to the hospital in Battle Creek. Juanita had wanted me to go in the delivery room with her, which I did. Frankly, I didn't enjoy the experience, but I thought the baby was the most beautiful child that I had ever seen.

"Juanita had chosen a doctor she had worked with at the sanitarium and had great confidence in. As luck would have it, the doctor was called away by the sudden illness of his wife while visiting in Wisconsin. So, his assistant took over. He was a brash young doctor who was better suited to be a plumber than a doctor. He used forceps to pull the baby out. You can still see the forceps mark in front of one ear.

"We named the baby David. I was a proud father and took endless movies of him with the movie camera my father no longer used. All of the pictures were in black and white, as there was no color film in 1935 and 1936.

"Back in Coloma, I rented a big, old house on a shady lot for $25 a month. I moved Juanita and David in just before Thanksgiving. The Eldridge family came to have Thanksgiving with us. Juanita's delivery had been hard, and she was still not very strong. She insisted on doing everything for her guests. I was worried about her health.

"Of course, Juanita's parents came to see the new baby boy as soon as they could. They operated a filling station and restaurant in Sandborn, Ind. They worked from 5:30 in the morning until 8 or 9 at night. They were fine, hard-working, self-reliant people.

"Juanita's father, Burt Mitchell, was from West Texas. His family moved to Texas from Kentucky. Burt was a cowboy for a time and then a blacksmith. He was an excellent horseman.

"Juanita's mother was born Mae Green. Her family moved to Indiana from West Texas when she was a girl. This is where Burt and Mae met and married. When Mae's family decided to move back to Indiana, they (Burt and Mae) decided to go with them. Mae's brother, Ray Green, and his wife, Bonnie, went with them.

"Ray Green and Burt Mitchell bought a coal mine, which was called a wagon mine, and operated it until it burned. They had no insurance and lost almost everything.

"Juanita had two sisters, Ella Mae and Mattie Lou, and a brother, James. Ella and Juanita were born in Texas. Juanita was 4 years old when they moved to Indiana. She was the only one in the family to attend college.

"Juanita's father was outgoing and warm. He was obviously very fond of her. Her mother was more reserved and kept her emotions bottled up. Like many reserved people, she indubitably felt very deeply, but she didn't show her emotions. She was a very good businesswoman. Burt would have given the shirt off his back to a friend. Mae was the balance which he needed."

To be continued...

FORECLOSURE NOTICE

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Barry County, starting promptly at 01:00 PM, May 1, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Samantha M Tobias, A Single Woman to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Chemical Bank, A Michigan Banking Corporation, its successors and assigns , Mortgagee, dated September 2, 2010, and recorded on September 17, 2010, as Document Number: 201009170008639, Barry County Records, said mortgage was assigned to U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION by an Assignment of Mortgage dated September 21, 2020 and recorded September 21, 2020 by Document Number: 2020-010005, , on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Fifty-Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty-Four and 68/100 ($57,724.68) including interest at the rate of 4.50000% per annum. Said premises are situated in the City of HASTINGS, Barry County, Michigan, and are described as: Lot 87 and the West 1/2 of Lot 86 of Hastings Heights, according to the Plat thereof, filed in Liber 3 of Plats, Page 41, records of Barry County, State of Michigan. Commonly known as: 205 E NORTH STREET, HASTINGS, MI 49058 If the property is eventually sold at foreclosure sale, the redemption period will be 12.00 months from the date of sale unless the property is abandoned or used for agricultural purposes. If the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241 and/or 600.3241a, the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of sale, or 15 days after statutory notice, whichever is later. If the property is presumed to be used for agricultural purposes prior to the date of the foreclosure sale pursuant to MCL 600.3240, the redemption period is 1 year. Pursuant to MCL 600.3278, if the property is sold at a foreclosure sale, the borrower(s) will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages are, if any, limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Dated: April 3, 2025 Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C. Attorneys for U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION 43252 Woodward Avenue, Suite 180, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302, (248) 335-9200 Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Case No. 25MI00224-1
(04-03)(04-24)

STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF BARRY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
FILE NO. TRUST
Trust

In the matter of: THE MICHAEL R. NORRIS AND CAROLE A. NORRIS REVOCABLE TRUST, dated August 16, 2016

TO ALL CREDITORS: *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Michael R. Norris, who lived at 442 Stauffer Drive, Hastings, Michigan 49058, died on March 14, 2025, leaving a certain trust under the name of MICHAEL R. NORRIS AND CAROLE A. NORRIS REVOCABLE TRUST, dated August 16, 2016, wherein the decedent was the Settlor and Andrew R. Cove 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 Andrew R. Cove, 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: 4-2-2025
NATHAN E. TAGG (P68994)
202 SOUTH BROADWAY
HASTINGS, MI 49058
(269) 948-2900
ANDREW R. COVE
4115 DEWBERRY DRIVE
MIDDLEVILLE, MI 49333
616-889-4711

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

In the Matter of Frederick 0. Wurm and Marian K. Wurm Trust

Date of Birth: Frederick 0. Wurm - 02/23/1931

TO ALL CREDITORS: *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Frederick 0 . Wurm - surviving Trustee , died 03/20/2025 leaving the above Trust in full force and effect. Creditors of the decedent or against the Trust are notified that all claims against the decedent or trust will be forever barred unless presented to Phillip Wurm, Trustee, within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: 04/04/2025
Rhoades McKee PC
Stephanie S. Fekkes P43549
607 N. Broadway, Ste. A
Hastings, MI 49058
(269) 945-1921
Philiip Wurm
c/o Rhoades McKee, 607 N. Broadway, Ste. A
Hastings, MI 49058
(269) 945-1921

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

Regular meeting called to order and Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Hawthorne, Greenfield, Watson, Bellmore, Mayack

Absent: Hall-excused, James-excused

Approved the Agenda

Approved the Consent Agenda

Monthly Treasurer's Report

Monthly Clerk's Voucher/Payroll Report

Motion to approve Resolution #2025-308 Roll Call Vote – All Ayes, motion passes

Motion to approve the Hold Harmless Agreement for fireworks tent Roll Call Vote – All Ayes, motion passes

Motion to approve the Hold Harmless Agreement and for fireworks display for music festival Roll Call Vote – All Ayes, motion passes

Adjournment 7:16 pm

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

GO ONLINE TO HASTINGSBANNER.COM

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

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

Estate of Russel Paul Minehart, deceased.
Date of birth: April 17, 1958.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Russel Paul Minehart, deceased, died July 31, 2024.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Jeffrey M. Minehart, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 206 West Court Street, Ste. 302, Hastings, MI 49058 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
Date: 3-26-25
William B. Millard P39054
211 E. Water St., Ste. 401
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007
(269) 343-2106
Jeffrey M. Minehart
5101 N. Sheridan Road
Chicago, Illinois, 60640
(269) 501-2708

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF BARRY
PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING
FILE NO. 2025-030078-GA

In the matter of Jacob Kraft, a protected person.

To all interested persons including: Angela Rybitski 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 April 23, 2025 (via Zoom) at 3:15 p.m. at Room FC01, 206 W. Court St., Suite 302, Hastings, MI 49058 before Judge William Michael Doherty 41960 for the following purposes:

Petition on appointment of guardian of incapacitated individual, "Zoom Instructions." Desktop PCS and Laptops: Go to Zoom website (zoom.us). Click on "join a call." Join using meeting ID: 5030695658 Tablets and Phones (Apple and Android): Install the zoom app from the app store or play store prior to the call. At the time of the call launch the zoom app and join using meeting ID: 50306795658.

If you require special accommodations to use the court because of a disability, or if you need a foreign language interpreter to help you fully participate in court proceedings, please contact the court immediately to make arrangements.
Date: April 7, 2025
Darren Findling P51350
414 W. Fifth Street, Royal Oak, MI
248-399-3300
Jamie Smith
12 Little Long Lake Rd., Hickory Corners, MI 49060
269-200-7853

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF BARRY
PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING
FILE NO. 25-030091-GA

In the matter of Ronald George Mclelland.

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including: any and all children/heirs of Ronald George McClelland, including Ronald P. McClelland and Patrick McClelland 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 4-30-25 at 2:30 p.m. at 220 W. State St., Hastings, 49058 before Judge William M. Doherty P41960 for the following purpose: Petition for Appointment of Guardian of Incapacitated Individual.

Date: 3/20/2025
Lebenbom & Rothman, P.C.
Michael J. Lebenbom P48775
2701 Troy Center Drive, Suite 450
Troy, MI 48084
(248) 362-9699
Lashawna Monts on behalf of
Clearstream Rehabilitation and Nursing Center
240 East North St.
Hastings, MI 49058
(269) 9045-9564

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
BARRY COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

The Barry County Road Commission is offering for sale (8) 2024 GMC 2500HD Crew Cab SLE pickups.

Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Barry County Road Commission, 1725 West M-43 Highway, P.O. Box 158, Hastings, MI 49058, until 10:30 AM, Monday, April 14, 2025 for the following items. Please mark outside of bid envelope with truck number i.e. #240020 or #240080. Specifications and additional information may be obtained at the Road Commission Office at the above phone number or at our website www.barrycrc.org., please make an appointment for all viewings of the trucks.
NOTE: All trucks are sold as is.

(8) 2024 GMC 2500HD Crew Cab SLE Pickups
4WD Duramax Diesel, Allison Transmission
Air, Cruise, PW & Locks, Remote Start, Heated Mirrors

1-Titanium Rush #240040 – Orange Title – approx. 6,200 Miles – Minimum Bid $59,500
1-Thunderstorm Gray Truck #240010 – Green Title – approx. 26,000 Miles- Minimum Bid $59,500
1-Cardinal Red Truck #240060 – Orange Title – approx. 15,000 Miles – Minimum Bid $59,500
(#240060 includes color matching fiberglass truck cap)

1-Thunderstorm Gray Truck #240050 – Orange Title – approx. 16,500 Miles – Minimum Bid $59,500
1-Sterling Metallic Truck #240120 – Orange Title – approx. 21,170 Miles – Minimum Bid $59,500
1-Black Onyx Truck #240140 – Orange Title – approx. 17,500 Miles – Minimum Bid $59,500
1-Summit White Truck #240300 – Orange Title – approx. 8,300 Miles – Minimum Bid $59,500
1-Sterling Metallic Truck #240310 – Orange Title – approx. 8,600 Miles – Minimum Bid $59,500

NOTE: All mileages are approximate – trucks are being driven until they are sold.

ORANGE TITLES are MUNCIPAL TITLES.

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

CAREER POSTING

Barry County Road Commission
Operations Superintendent

Are you an experienced leader in road maintenance and infrastructure operations? The Barry County Road Commission is seeking a highly motivated **Operations Superintendent** to oversee and manage our daily road maintenance activities, ensuring safe and efficient transportation for our community and a consistent, engaging, and safe environment for our road warriors.

Why Join Us?

- Competitive salary range: **$82,000 - $100,450**
- Full-time, exempt management position
- Opportunities for professional development
- Paid Holidays, Vacation Time, Competitive Insurance Package, 401K
- Work in a dynamic environment where your contributions make a tangible impact on the community

How to Apply:

Interested candidates should submit a resume and cover letter to Brandy Casey, HR Coordinator (bcasey@barrycrc.org) by **April 21, 2025.** For more information, visit www.barrycrc.org click "Employment" on the homepage.

Join us in shaping the future of Barry County's roadways!

NOTICE TO THE RESIDENTS OF BARRY COUNTY
Notice is hereby given that the Barry County Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing for the following:

TABLED

Case Number: SP-02-2025 - Cherish VanderVoord (Applicant); Craig & Cherish VanderVoord (Property Owner)
Location: 7841 Marsh Rd, Plainwell MI in Section 20 of Orangeville Township
Purpose: Request to operate a dog kennel per section 2343, of the Barry County Zoning Ordinance, that will train rescue dogs to be service dogs.

Case Number: SP-07-2025 - Mark Kauffman; (Applicant/Property Owner)
Location: 203 W Dowling Rd, Dowling MI in Section 30 of Baltimore Township.
Purpose: Request to operate a sawmill facility in the RR (Rural Residential) zoning district in Baltimore Township, per Section 2368 of the Barry County Zoning Ordinance 2008.

Case Number: SP-08-2025 - Denice Cook (Applicant); Denice Cook and Heidi Morehouse (Property Owner)
Location: 7911 Keller Rd, MI in Section 13 of Orangeville Township
Purpose: Request to construct an ADU (accessory dwelling unit) in the RR (Rural Residential) zoning district per Section 2305 of the Barry County Zoning Ordinance 2008.

Case Number: SP-09-2025 - Todd Porritt (Applicant/Property Owner)
Location: 11320 M 43 Hwy, Delton MI in Section 7 of Barry Township.
Purpose: Request to convert a commercial building into a restaurant and event center with food sales and live music in the RR (Rural Residential) zoning district per Section 2328 of the Barry County Zoning Ordinance 2008.

MEETING DATE: April 28, 2025. TIME: 7:00 P.M. PLACE: Tyden Center Community Room, 121 South Church Street, Hastings, Michigan 49058

Site inspections of the above described properties will be completed by the Planning Commission 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 place and time.

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 special use applications are 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 audiotapes 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 call the following: Eric Zuzga, County Administrator, 220 West State Street, Hastings, Michigan 49058, (269) 945-1284.

Sarah VanDenburg, Barry County 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 24, 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.

Selective Guardrail Brush Treatment - County Wide

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 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): Amy Landhuis, an unmarried woman

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

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Lake Michigan Credit Union

Date of Mortgage: November 27, 2017

Date of Mortgage Recording: December 12, 2017

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $106,835.93

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Village of Woodland, Barry County, Michigan, and described as: A parcel of land in Southeast 1/4 of Section 16, Town 4 North, Range 7 West, described as commencing 30 rods West of the Southeast corner of said Section 16; thence North 271.8 feet; thence West 82.5 feet; thence South 271.8 feet; thence East 82.5 feet to the place of beginning.

Common street address (if any): 178 W Broadway St, Woodland, MI 48897-9709

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

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

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

This notice is from a debt collector.

Date of notice: April 3, 2025

Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1557462
(04-03)(04-24)

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)

RESOLUTION 2025-9
SCHEDULE OF REGULAR MEETINGS
PRAIRIEVILLE TOWNSHIP BOARDS
APRIL 2025 to MARCH 2026

Prairieville Township Board~ Regular scheduled meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday at 6:30 P.M. unless otherwise posted:

April 16	October 15
May 21	November 12
June 18	December 17
July 16	January 21
August 20	February 18
September 17	March 18

Planning and Zoning Commission~ Regular scheduled meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7:00 P.M. unless otherwise posted.

April 10	October 9
May 8	November 13
June 12	December 11
July 10	January 8
August 14	February 12
September 11	March 12

Park Commission Regular scheduled meetings are held on the 4th Monday of each month at 6:30 P .M. unless otherwise posted:

April 28	October 27
May 19	November 24
June 23	December 15 or 22
July 28	January 26
August 25	February 23
September 22	March 23

Zoning Board of Appeals: Meetings are held on the 1st Wednesday of the month at 7:00 P.M. when necessary:

April 2	October 1
May 7	November 5
June 4	December 3
July 2	January 7
August 6	February 4
September 3	March 4

Library Board: Meets the second Tuesday of each month at 1 :30 P.M

City of Hastings

Notice of Intent to Fill City Council Vacancy

The City of Hastings seeks candidates who are residents of the **First (1st) Ward** for appointment to the Hastings City Council. The appointment will be for a partial term ending December 31, 2026. Ward maps are available on the City's website at www.hastingsmi.gov.

Interested persons are encouraged to apply for appointment by completing an application form available on the City's website (The PDF application can be found on City of Hastings "I Want To", under "To Apply for a Board or Commission" or at Hastings City Hall. Applications must be completed and returned to City Hall, 201 East State Street, Hastings, MI 49058, by May 5, 2025, at 4:00 PM. For any questions, please call 269.945.2468 or email lperin@hastingsmi.gov.

Linda Perin
City Clerk

STATE OF MICHIGAN
IN THE BARRY COUNTY TRIAL COURT - CIRCUIT DIVISION
25- 1 74 -CZ
ORDER TO ANSWER
HON. VICKY L. ALSPAUGH

THE CONSERVATORSHIP OF
DWIGHT H. WESTER,
Plaintiff,
V.
LISA EVILSIZER and
SCOTT R. MUGRIDGE,
Defendants.

David H. Tripp (P29290)
Tripp, Tagg & Storrs, Attorneys at Law
202 South Broadway
Hastings, Michigan 49058
(269) 948-2900
Attorney for Plaintiff

TO: LISA EVILSIZER
SCOTT R. MUGRIDGE

Based on the pleadings filed in the above entitled case, it is ordered that Defendants, Lisa Evilsizer and Scott R. Mugridge, file a Notice of interest in the real property located in the Village of Middleville, County of Barry, State of Michigan, described as:

LOT #3 OF BLOCK 3, OF THE RECORDED PLAT OF THE VILLAGE OF MIDDLEVILLE, BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN, ACCORDING TO THE EASEMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS OF RECORD.

Commonly Known As: 309 E. Main Street, Middleville, MI 49333

At least 3 days prior to the hearing dated noted below to assert any interest in the above described property. If the Defendants, Lisa Evilsizer and Scott R. Mugridge, fail to do so that shall constitute a default in the above entitled matter, and on the 28th day of May, 2025, at 9:30 o'clock in the forenoon, this Court shall take proofs and shall terminate whatever interest Lisa Evilsizer and Scott R. Mugridge, have in and to the above described property unless a Notice of Interest in the Real Property is filed or unless Defendants or their representatives appear on that date and time.

Dated: March 26, 2025
Vicky L. Alspaugh (P42572)
Drafted by: David H. Tripp (P29290)
Tripp, Tagg & Storrs, Attorneys at Law
202 South Broadway,
Hastings, Michigan 49058
(269) 948-2900

FORECLOSURE NOTICE

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Barry County, starting promptly at 01:00 PM, May 1, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Arden F Burd and Virginia J Burd, Husband and Wife to Fifth Third Mortgage Company , Mortgagee, dated April 13, 2015, and recorded on April 20, 2015, as Document Number: 2015-004008, Barry County Records, said mortgage was assigned to Fifth Third Bank, National Association, successor to Fifth Third Bank, as successor by merger to Fifth Third Mortgage Company by an Assignment of Mortgage dated December 09, 2015 and recorded December 10, 2015 by Document Number: 2015-011927, , on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Fourteen Thousand Six Hundred Eighty-Five and 86/100 ($114,685.86) including interest at the rate of 4.25000% per annum. Said premises are situated in the Township of Maple Grove, Barry County, Michigan, and are described as: A parcel of land located in the Southeast 1/4 of Section 6, Town 2 North, Range 7 West, described as follows: Commencing at the Southeast corner of said Section 6, Town 2 North, Range 7 West; thence North 00 degrees 19 minutes 12 seconds East along the East line of said Section 1329.33 feet to the Northeast corner of South 1/2 of the Southeast 1/4 of said Section; thence North 88 degrees 56 minutes 30 seconds West along the North line of said South 1/2 of the Southeast 1/4, 575.00 feet to the place of beginning; thence South 00 degrees 19 minutes 12 seconds West parallel with said East Section Line 396.00 feet; thence North 88 degrees 56 minutes 30 seconds West parallel with said North line of the South 1/2 of the Southeast 1/4 300.00 feet; thence North 00 degrees 18 minutes 12 seconds East 396.00 feet to said North Line; thence South 88 degrees 56 minutes 30 seconds East along said North line 300.00 feet to the place of beginning. Commonly known as: 5850 BIVENS RD, NASHVILLE, MI 49073 If the property is eventually sold at foreclosure sale, the redemption period will be 6.00 months from the date of sale unless the property is abandoned or used for agricultural purposes. If the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241 and/or 600.3241a, the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of sale, or 15 days after statutory notice, whichever is later. If the property is presumed to be used for agricultural purposes prior to the date of the foreclosure sale pursuant to MCL 600.3240, the redemption period is 1 year. Pursuant to MCL 600.3278, if the property is sold at a foreclosure sale, the borrower(s) will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages are, if any, limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Dated: April 3, 2025 Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C. Attorneys for Fifth Third Bank, National Association, successor to Fifth Third Bank, as successor by merger to Fifth Third Mortgage Company 43252 Woodward Avenue, Suite 180, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302, (248) 335-9200 Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Case No. 23MI00269-1

(04-03)(04-24)

SYNOPSIS
PRAIRIEVILLE TOWNSHIP
Regular Meeting March 21, 2025

Called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Stoneburner, DeVries, Doster, Goebel, Pence

Agenda and Minutes approved

Public comments were received.

Department Reports were received.

Approved: Payment of bills

Adopted: Mutual Aid Agreement

Budget amendment

Computer upgrade

Budget Public Hearing

Public Comment

Adopted: Res. 2025-2 General Appropriations Act

Res. 2025-3 Investment Policy

Res. 2025-4 thru 7: Board salaries

Res. 2025-8 Pay Schedule

Res. 2025-9 Meeting Schedule

Res. 2025-10 Office closed calendar

Public and Board comments were received.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by:
Rod Goebel, Clerk

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

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

This firm is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information we obtain will be used for that purpose.

Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Barry County, Michigan, starting promptly at 1:00 o'clock in the afternoon on Thursday, May 15, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.

The mortgage was made by JOHN HINKLE and PETRA HINKLE, husband and wife (collectively, "Mortgagor"), to HASTINGS CITY BANK, now known as HIGHPOINT COMMUNITY BANK, a Michigan banking corporation, having an office at 150 West Court Street, Hastings, Michigan 49058 (the "Mortgagee"), dated September 24, 2018, and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for Barry County, Michigan on October 1, 2018, as Instrument No. 2018-009466 (the "Mortgage"). By reason of a default under the conditions of the Mortgage, the Mortgagee elects to declare and hereby declares the entire unpaid amount of the Mortgage due and payable forthwith. Mortgagee is the owner of the indebtedness secured by the Mortgage.

As of the date of this Notice there is claimed to be due for principal and interest on the Mortgage the sum of Nineteen Thousand Two Hundred Seven and 83/100 Dollars ($19,207.83). No suit or proceeding at law has been instituted to recover the debt secured by the Mortgage or any part thereof.

The premises covered by the Mortgage are situated in the Township of Rutland, County of Barry, State of Michigan, and are described as follows:

The South 300 feet of Lot 31, Algonquin North Shore Subdivision, Rutland Township, Barry County, Michigan, according to the recorded plat in Liber 3 of Plats, Page 50.

Together with all the improvements now or hereafter erected on the real estate, and all easements, appurtenances, and fixtures a part of the property, and all replacements and additions.

Commonly known as: 1615 Pleasant View Road, Hastings, Michigan 49058

P.P. #08-13-080-020-00

Notice is further given that the length of the redemption period will be one (1) year from the date of sale, unless the premises are abandoned. If the premises are abandoned, the redemption period will be the later of thirty (30) days from the date of the sale or upon expiration of fifteen (15) days after the Mortgagor is given notice pursuant to MCLA §600.3241a(b) that the premises are considered abandoned and Mortgagor, Mortgagor's heirs, executor, or administrator, or a person lawfully claiming from or under one (1) of them has not given the written notice required by MCLA §600.3241a(c) stating that the premises are not abandoned.

If the premises are sold at a foreclosure sale, under MCLA §600.3278 the Mortgagor will be held responsible to the person who buys the premises at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the Mortgagee for damaging the premises during the redemption period.

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

Dated: April 10, 2025

HASTINGS SAVINGS BANK, now known as HIGHPOINT COMMUNITY BANK
Mortgagee
Elisabeth M. Von Eitzen
WARNER NORCROSS + JUDD LLP
150 Ottawa Avenue NW, Suite 1500
Grand Rapids, MI 49503-2487
(616) 752-2000
32274393

DKHS duo has college soccer plans all set

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Delton Kellogg senior goalkeeper Johanna Houtkooper hopes her favorite high school soccer moment is one yet to happen.

The Panthers won their way into the district semifinals a year ago in the Division 3 state tournament and Houtkooper hopes the DK/Martin team can take another step or two in the state tournament this spring.

No matter how far the DK/Martin girls go this spring, there is more soccer ahead for Houtkooper and at least one of her senior teammates. Houtkooper signed her National Letter of Intent to join the NCAA Division 1 University of Wisconsin Green Bay Women's Soccer program next season April 1 at Delton Kellogg High School. Fellow DK senior Teagan Hamlin signed on with the Lawrence Technological University Women's Soccer program back in December. Both girls are four-year varsity players at DKHS.

Houtkooper got connected with the UWGB program through her participation in Shutout goalkeeper camps.

"I talked with the coaches and then eventually went on a visit and I just fell in love with it and kind of knew that was my spot," Houtkooper said. "I visited, and talked to other schools. I was kind of waiting for that feeling like that I could see myself there. It's a very nice area. It's very youth friendly and just people friendly in general which I liked a lot. The coaches were nice. I met some of the girls and I got along great with them and then I was like, okay, I can see myself here. It's not too far away from home in my opinion. Just enough where I can still like see my family and still have my own space away from them."

She had two big brothers who played soccer at Delton Kellogg. Gavin Houtkooper wrapped his senior season as a keeper at Kalamazoo College last fall where he led the Comets in saves in all four of his seasons.

Johanna didn't make the transition to being a full-time keeper until high school, when she had to make a decision for club ball and was starting to think about playing collegiately. She said she just feels like she has more control over a game as the goalkeeper than she ever did on the field where an opponent can throw a number of defenders at one player and take them out of the game.

Houtkooper started her soccer journey chasing getting drug along to her big brothers' contests, and then rolled through a slew of clubs over the years most recently participating on a TKO Premier team and with the Midwest United program out of Grand Rapids.

Soccer started as a family thing for the senior midfielder Hamlin too.

"I played AYSO as soon as I could. As soon as I could" Hamilton said. "Then my mom and Claire and Avery Barker's mom coached me in AYSO for a little bit ... I have an older sister and she got put in soccer. My mom (Autumn Hamlin) has played soccer her whole life," Hamlin said. "She has been to World Cups. She has played in Ireland. Like, she's been a lot of places to play soccer, and I think her love for that, and us growing up watching her play kind of like rubbed off on me a little bit. I grew my love for the sport when we were forced to go watch her games for indoor or that she coached. During halftime we'd always go out on the field and mess around. have to be forced to go to her games that she'd play in for indoor, so that she'd coach and during half time we'd always go out in the field the best around."

She's felt blessed to be a part of the Dan Bulley Soccer School club program in recent seasons.

Hamlin is looking forward to studying graphic design and marketing at Lawrence Tech, but also was on a hunt for a school where she could keep playing soccer. She is not ready to give that up yet.

Hamlin returned from an ankle injury to score the opening goal in the DK/Martin team's playoff win over Parchment a year ago, and she too is really looking forward to a senior season that includes a bit of an extended postseason run. She has loved building bonds with her teammates from Delton and Martin over the years, and said winning team Rookie of the Year and MVP awards has been a highlight too.

Houtkooper plans to study mechanical engineering at Green Bay.



Delton Kellogg senior Teagan Hamlin is joined by DK/Martin varsity girls' soccer coach Alan Mabie (right) and assistant coach Ashly Wilson as she celebrates signing on with the Lawrence Tech University Women's Soccer program for next season.



Delton Kellogg senior Johanna Houtkooper signs her National Letter of Intent to join the University of Wisconsin Green Bay Women's Soccer program at Delton Kellogg High School April 1. **Photos provided**

Jiles headed north to continue soccer playing days

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

He liked it in the summer.

He liked it in October.

He likes to snowboard.

The Wildcats have courses of study he's really interested in there in Marquette in the Upper Peninsula and a spot on the soccer team for him might have been the biggest draw of all.

Hastings senior McKinney Jiles signed his National Letter of Intent to join the Northern Michigan University Men's Soccer program next season inside the Hastings High School gymnasium March 21.

"I went up there during the summer to go to one of their camps," Jiles said. "I talked to the coach at a camp, I met him down at Michigan, and then went up there and he was super nice. I loved it up there in the summer time, then I went back up there in October to do a thing with all the players and stuff. I liked the players' vibe, and I got to meet the head coach (Alex Fatovic) for a second time and he was a good guy. I liked his attitude towards his program and what they were offering.

"[Fatovic] is really involved in it and he is pushing all the players every day to be better. The school is also growing up there, and I feel like I can grow with the school as well as the soccer program. I am either going to do construction management or I am going to do cyber security and defense. I haven't decided yet."

Jiles has played a lifetime of soccer already. He led the Hastings varsity boys' team with 14 goals in 2024 and earned all-district and First Team All-Barry County honors as a senior while also being an important member of the Hastings varsity football team as its kicker. Jiles also was a member of the Hastings varsity boys' basketball team in high school.

"I have played at the lowest with the YMCA, and I have also played in the top leagues with the MLS programs for years," Jiles said. "It has always been a passion that I have had and I have always enjoyed doing it since I was a kid."

He knows moving up to the college level he'll need to continue to work on his touches, and he said he also has to make sure he's physically at his best to compete in the NCAA Division II level.



Hastings senior McKinney Jiles is surrouned by family members in their green and gold swag as he signs his National Letter of Intent to join the Northern Michigan University Men's Soccer program in Marquette, Mich., next season. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

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 8, 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): Carmen Pirok and Jason Pirok, husband and wife

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

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Freedom Mortgage Corporation

Date of Mortgage: April 14, 2021

Date of Mortgage Recording: April 23, 2021

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $224,989.80

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Charter Township of Rutland, Barry County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 111 in Pine Haven Estates No. 4, according to the Plat thereof recorded in Liber 6 of Plats, Page 55, Barry County Records.

Common street address (if any): 1879 Pine Blf, Hastings, MI 49058-8128

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

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

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

This notice is from a debt collector.

Date of notice: April 3, 2025

Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515

1557359
(04-03)(04-24)

JAIL

Continued from Page 2

-Ron Neil

-Barry County Community Mental Health CEO Rich Thiemkey

-Barry County Jail Administrator Pete Nevins

-Corrections Sgt. Kellie Smith

-Hastings City Council member and corrections officer Jon Rocha

Also represented on the initial stakeholder committee are representatives from Abonmarche Byce, a consulting firm conducting a feasibility study for the jail; SecureTech; the county's attorneys and other financial consultants working for the county.

"I've talked about safer communities, I've talked about the need just to look at this as a broader aspect — not just as incarceration, but as rehabilitation and as we move forward with this, how do we set this up so that we have something that makes sense to our community, that financially makes sense to our community, that works for all the different parties involved from the prosecutor to our corrections staff to our sheriff to the people who are out there to our 911 responders to our community mental health people, there's a whole lot of input that needs to go into developing this plan," Jackson said.

While Jackson said plans for the new jail will begin with the stakeholder committee, the community will soon be directly involved with the process.

"To start with, we're using a bit of a stakeholder committee. That committee will eventually evolve into a community committee with more community people involved with it once we get to that point," said Jackson.

In February, commissioners voted to approve a proposal from Kalamazoo-based consulting firm Abonmarche Byce to conduct a jail feasibility study, which would essentially jump-start the local government's attempts to finally address the outdated Barry County Jail.

Barry County will pay the firm $42,000 for the process, which will provide insight on how to most effectively move forward with the project. The extensive study is expected to take from four to six months, giving commissioners and the new stakeholder committee this important information already this year so they can use it to hatch a plan to bring to voters.

The study will probe the feasibility of a few different scenarios: building a new jail at a new site, building a new jail on the existing site, renovating the existing jail at its current site, renovating and expanding the existing jail at its current site and other alternatives that may arise during the study.

SPRING SPORTS PREVIEWS

DK talent balanced throughout track events

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

A few Panthers got some runs in at the Grand Valley State University Indoor Laker Challenge last month, but the Delton Kellogg varsity boys' track and field team's outdoor meets prior to spring break were postponed.

That has the Panthers, most of them anyway, rushing back from spring break to open the Southwestern Athletic Conference Central Division season at Galesburg-Augusta Monday, April 14. The DK team will also see a tough Constantine team Monday. That will be the first of two SAC meets in the week ahead as DK also plays host to Schoolcraft and Hackett Catholic Prep Wednesday, April 16.

"Our numbers are up a little bit from last year as far as the roster goes in general," Delton Kellogg head coach Dale Grimes said. "Actually, we've got a really big sophomore class. A lot of new kids. A lot of rookies. So, myself and fellow coaches we've got our work cut out for us in terms of trying to figure out who should we put where.

"I kind of jokingly said, it's going to be one of those season where at the end where we finally figure it out and go 'oh, we should have had this kid in that event all season long.'"

It would have been a great help to have a meet before break, he added.

Not everybody on the team is new to high school track though. It is a diverse group of student-athletes for the Delton Kellogg team this spring with competitors spread across the grades and across the events.

The returning senior group is powered in part by some excellence in the field events. It's a group that includes Wyatt Finney who qualified for the state finals in the long jump at the end of his freshman and sophomore seasons, Cooper Sandusky in the throws and Ezra Smith in the pole vault. Senior Chase Spaulding returns as well, and coach Grimes said he has a handful of promising seniors out for the first time this year including sprinters Myles Hatton and Cyrus Bain, and the exchange student trio of Rafa Cotta, Miki Hovi and Jaime Saura. Cotta and Saura could give the DK distance crew a boost.

The Panther team knows it has at least one stud distance runner in sophomore Landon Madden who turned in the fastest time ever on the Michigan International Speedway course at the cross country state finals in November.

"He can run distance, and quite frankly we did time trials and he had the second fastest 100-meter time in our time trials," Grime said, "and he wants to do some more field event stuff as well."

The junior group has a few stars too in track newcomer Tyler Howland in the sprints and jumps and Nick Muday, a pole vaulter who coach Grimes said is "is always the last one at practice every single day. He is intent on making it to state in the pole vault. He just missed it last year." Howland brings some athleticism coach Grimes has been trying to get into the track program for a couple of years. Howland will still be golfing with the DK/Martin varsity team has his primary sport this spring.

Coach Grimes is hoping to get Carter Lynch more involved in the pole vault where he can combine his speed and jumping ability. The DK coach is also looking for good things from juniors Deegan Castaneda in the distance runs.

The big sophomore group is highlighted by Madden, pole vaulter David LePert, sprinter Jace McPheeters, thrower Evan Fleser and newcomers Kayden Conley and Logan Damron, who ran track in Colorado as a freshman before moving to DK. Damron had the fastest 100 time in time trials for the Panthers this spring.



Landon Madden **Photo by Brett Bremer**

"I could tell just by looking at him," Grimes said of Damron. "The first time using starting blocks. He claps into those blocks like he has done it before apparently. He is quick. He just missed the finals in the 60-meter dash at GVSU."

Grimes is looking for freshman Ryan Sinclair to work to be the Panthers next strong hurdler, and hopes for contributions throughout the spring from other freshmen like distance runner Jace Hilton, middle distance runner Lane Steele who'll also attempt the pole vault, sprinter Jessey Ellard, Joseph McCoy and others.

The DK team will do its best to compete in the SAC Valley Division as it shuffles its line-up. Grimes expects a lot of tough competition. The early test against a Constantine team that went to the MITCA Team State Finals last year will be a good gauge. He knows Hackett Catholic Prep has strong sprinters and distance runners, and Lawton, Parchment and Schoolcraft could all be fairly tough.

New DK/Martin coach has team of experienced golfers

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

It's a good time for a new head coach to take over the Delton Kellogg/Martin varsity boys' golf program.

Nick Haas, a 2007 DKHS graduate has his former high school classmate Bobby Fisher as the new JV head coach, and they're taking over a program that is led by solid group of returning golfers who they also have some time to work with.

The DK/Martin team brings back four guys from its 2024 regional line-up, which competed under then head coach Jim Hogoboom. That group includes sophomore Grady Matteson and juniors Carter Brickley, Tyler Howland and Gabe Smoczynski.

Matteson was the DK/Martin leader on the scoreboard throughout his freshman season, and he had a ninth-place finish last year at the team's regional tournament last spring that left him just two strokes shy of qualifying for the lower peninsula state finals.

Matteson and Brickley have been named team captains already this spring and coach Haas has worked to get them involved in some of the program's day to day decision making – what tournaments to play in later in the season and what teammates to pair up in a Ryder Cup style event later this year and those types of things.

"I can definitely see some experience with them," Haas said of his returning group. "I can see them being competitive with each other. Thats kind of the goal too, to have them compete against each other in practice to kind of gear up for matches."

Tristan McNutt also returns to the program this spring, and there are a handful of newcomers that will work to improve their game and get into the scoring line-up like Hunter Beene, Landon Heney, Katy Watson and Jacob Monaco. Coach Haas did say freshman Jason Marshall is looking strong already and likely someone who will contribute regularly to the varsity scorecard.

So far, the Panthers got in a few weeks of indoor work with nets and practice balls, and had a handful of opportunities to get out on the course at Mullenhurst. One of the trips to the course last week was to swing yard tools rather than golf clubs as the team participated in a "Rake the Course Day" to give back to the course and the Enyart Family.

This is the first coaching opportunity for Haas, a golf lover who is looking forward to sharing all the good ways to practice he has learned over the years with the high school guys.

Haas said Matteson and Marshall are two of the guys he knew really took some time to get some swings in indoors throughout the winter, and it shows.

With a talented group back, the Panthers have some big goals. They were sixth at regionals as a team last season. The top three teams at a regional qualify for the MHSAA Lower Peninsula State Finals each season and they think they've got a real shot at making that jump.

They'll look to be competitive in the tough Southwestern Athletic Conference Valley Division too. Haas said he expects Kalamazoo Christian and Hackett Catholic Prep to be tough as usual in the SAC Valley. Those two teams both qualified for the MHSAA L.P. Division 4 Boys' Golf Finals last spring. Hackett did it without a senior in the line-up and Christian had just two seniors in its regional five.

The conference season starts before the Panthers even get back from break, this Friday, April 11, at Eastern Hills. Schoolcraft plays host to the DK boys' at Olde Mill Monday April 14. The Panthers' annual Kent Enyart Invitational is on the schedule for April 17 at Mullenhurst.



The 2025 Delton Kellogg varsity boys' golf team includes (from left) Carter Brickley, Jason Marshall, Landon Heney, Gabe Smoczynski, Tristan McNutt, Grady Matteson and Jacob Monaco. **Photo provided**

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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 25-30082-DE

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

Estate of Blanche Marie Lopez Brace. Date of birth: 05/20/1944.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Blanche Marie Lopez Brace, died March 06, 2025.

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

Date: 4/3/25
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SPRING SPORTS PREVIEWS

Delton endurance will be tested during 2025 season

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

There will be times where the Panthers' lack of depth is really tested, like a late April stretch with a Friday evening ballgame against Quincy (April 18) followed by back-to-back Southwestern Athletic Conference Valley Division ballgames at Parchment and Hackett Catholic Prep on Monday and Tuesday the following week.

The Delton Kellogg varsity girls' soccer team has a couple early season injuries and is taking on its first few opponents with 13 girls on the roster. That leaves just two subs.

It's not really new for the DK girls though, who pushed through the 2024 season with a short bench too. That DK squad won its postseason opener and closed the season with a 7-9-2 mark.

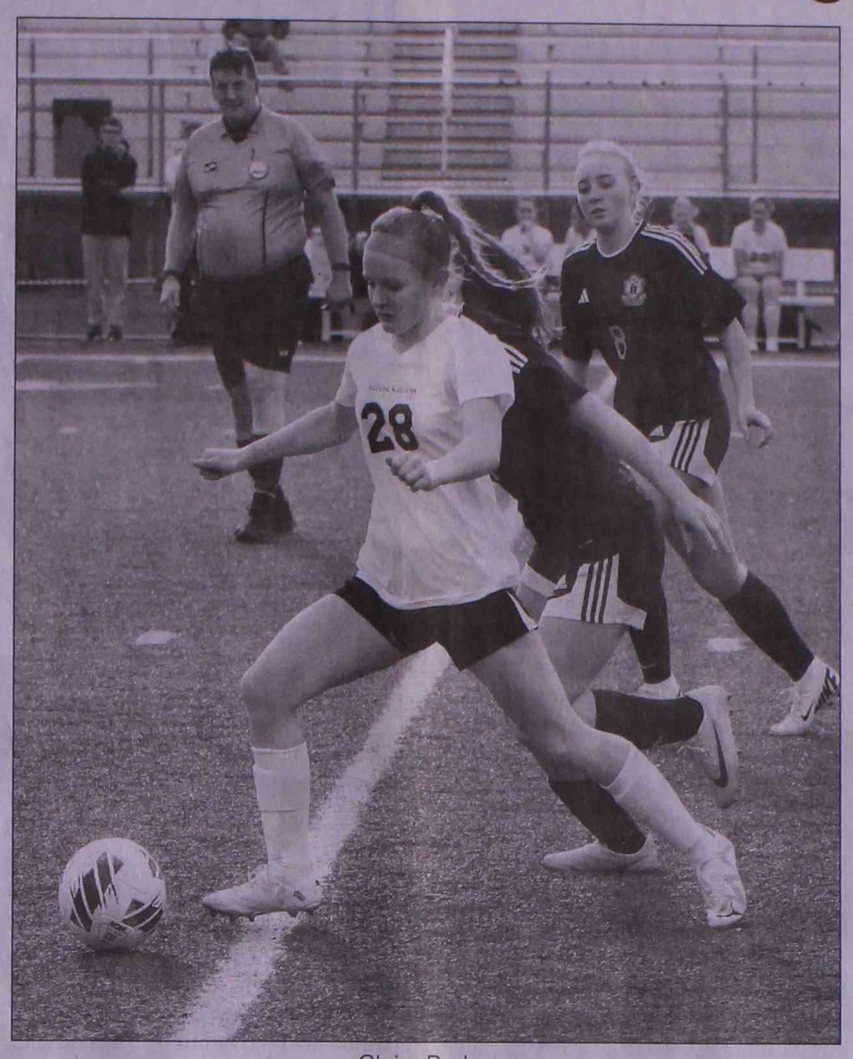
DK head coach Alan Mabie isn't going to push conditioning too hard early on in the preseason. He said he is more concerned about keeping everyone healthy.

The 2025 DK girls' team is off to a 2-0 start so far with a win over the Kalamazoo Homeschool Cougars and the Fennville girls.

So far, only the one ball has gotten by senior goalkeeper Johanna Houtkooper who recently signed on with the University of Wisconsin Green Bay program for next season, and that one came in a flurry in which she made two stops before the Fennville girls were able to put the ball in the net.

Coach Mabie would like to see a young defense get that ball out of the box quicker.

Senior Zenaida Lemus will be a leader of the defensive line as she returns for the Panthers back there in front of Houtkooper. Coach Mabie said Spanish exchange student Natalia Garcia Arrojo will be a key part of the defense too as she gets used to playing competitive soccer.



Claire Barker

"Kind of like most Europeans, she has played, but not necessarily organized," Mabie said. "She has some experience. She said it has been a little while, but you can tell she has some experience. She has the kind of attitude she just goes and doesn't stop."

A young defense has a bit of an advantage in having Houtkooper along the backline directing things. Coach Mabie said Houtkooper has the gift of being able to communicate with her teammates without it coming across as just a teammate yelling at them.

Houtkooper isn't the only really talented returning ballplayer for the Panthers. Senior Teagan Hamlin has collegiate soccer plans too and she is opening the year as a defensive midfield. Coach Mabie said he'll push her forward when the opponent and the score allows.

The team also returns sophomore attacker Claire Barker who was the team's leading goal scorer a year ago and senior Ellyse Blackburn who will play some striker and some in the midfield. Coach Mabie said that pair of girls does an excellent job of using their speed to work together.

That early back-to-back against Parchment and Hackett will really be a tough one. Coach Mabie said he expects the usual SAC Valley suspects, Hackett and Kalamazoo Christian, to be the conference's toughest teams this spring. He said the Parchment program has really been booming lately and he expects that sometime soon those numbers will really start to boost those Panthers in the conference standings.

The DK girls upset Schoolcraft a year ago, and had some losses to graduation, but Mabie expects the Eagles to be solid again in the conference too.

Delton Kellogg returns from spring break next week for a non-conference ballgame at home against Pennfield Tuesday, April 15. Quincy comes to Delton Kellogg April 18 for one last tune-up before the SAC Valley play starts.

DK girls look to improve through tough SAC season

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

There are a few solid holdovers to carry a young Delton Kellogg varsity girls' track and field squad this spring.

The Panther team, once again led by head coach Katie Ingle, has a couple young sprinters back, a solid distance crew, its top thrower from 2024 and at least one speedy young hurdler to go at the 2025 season.

The list of senior returnees is led by distance runner Kylie Main who was 12th in the mile at the 2024 Southwestern Athletic Conference Championship. The distance group for DK also brings back junior Elli Timmerman who had an eighth-place finish at the conference championships a year ago.

There were just a few underclassmen who managed top ten finishes in the SAC a year ago who are back this spring. Junior Izabelle Gruber is one who will be a top scorer for the DK girls this year. She was sixth in the conference in the 100-meter hurdles and ninth in the 300-meter hurdles as a sophomore last season.

Gruber was 20th at the early season Grand Valley State University Indoor Laker Challenge in the 60-meter hurdles, and Main had a couple top 20 finishes in the 800-meter run and 1600-meter run for the DK team there in Allendale last month.

Junior Violet Kokx returns as the team's top thrower from a year ago. At her first shot put competition of the 2025 spring, the Grand Valley State University Indoor Laker Challenge, she bested her former PR by nearly three feet.

The list of returnees for DK also includes sophomore sprinters Brynlee Babbitt-Smith and Bethan ButchBaker, senior distance runner Jillian Leclercq and junior distance runner Elli Timmerman.

Senior Miah Kohlen and sophomore Madison Gruber were key contributors at the Panthers' first meet of the season this spring.

The Southwestern Athletic Conference has condensed from three track divisions to two this spring, and both sides will be tough with the DK girls competing in the SAC Valley. There were numerous freshmen standouts throughout the SAC a year ago, and it was a young medal stand overall. Only two seniors won conference titles in individual events, and only four different seniors even finished in the top three in individual events.

The DK girls open the SAC season at Galesburg-Augusta Monday taking on the host Rams and the Constantine girls. DK will be home April 16 for a conference tri with Hackett Catholic Prep and Schoolcraft.



Kylie Main

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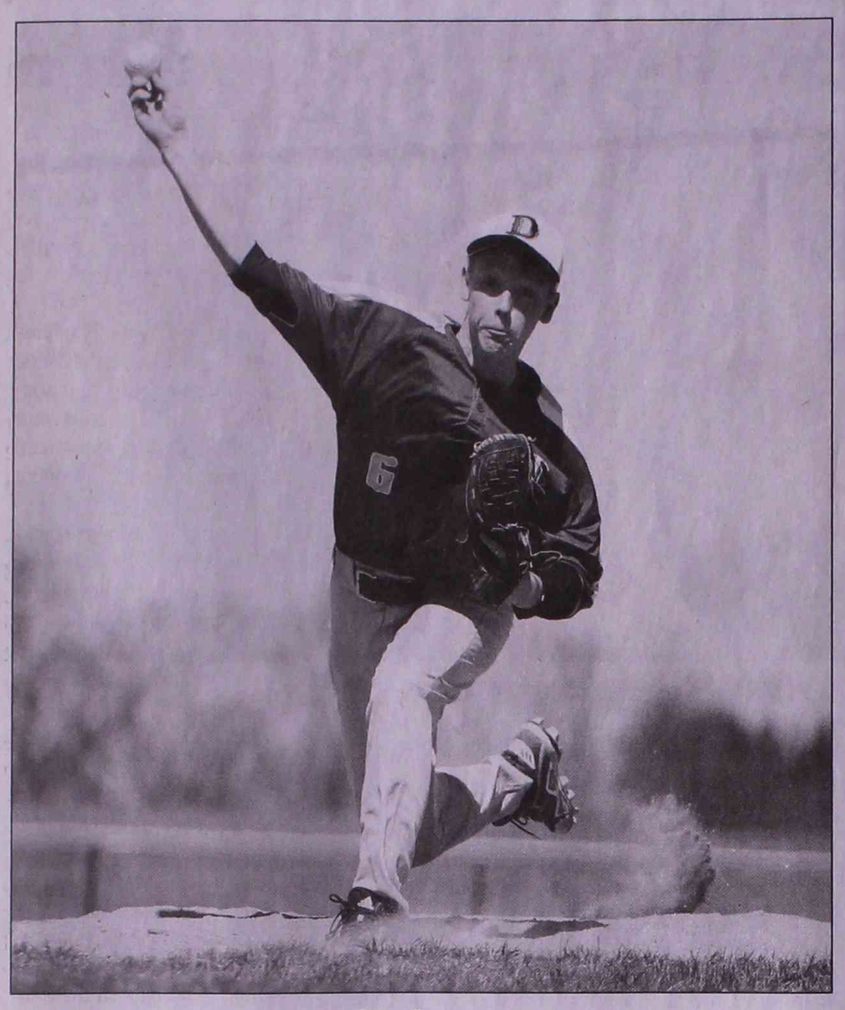
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SPRING SPORTS PREVIEWS



Elliot Rogers

Panther baseball settling in with new head coach

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

New Delton Kellogg varsity baseball coach John "Coach JP" Adams is learning he has a team that can battle through some adversity.

Adams has spent the past four seasons as a varsity baseball assistant at Schoolcraft under head coach Scott Muffley, and spends his summers as a head coach and off-season training pitchers at B45 Academy in Kalamazoo.

He's looking forward to building a championship team, a project DK head coach Brian Risner was working on before he passed away in February.

"The team has been resilient following the loss of their coach just prior to the start of the 2025 season," Adams said. "The team has been very receptive to the new program and are focused on the process of doing what needs to be done every day to be successful."

The Panther team was 9-20 overall a year ago, and back to lead the way from that squad are senior shortstop/pitcher Elliot Rogers, senior second baseman Dylan Fichtner, senior outfielder/pitcher Gauge Stampfler, junior outfielder/pitcher Keagan Hill and sophomore catcher Tucker Tack.

Coach Adams said the team is also really looking forward to the addition of first baseman Mitchell Swift, a junior, and freshman infielder/pitcher Owen Rogers.

The new DK head coach said he knows that it is a challenge for his guys to learn his new program in such a short period of time "for a game that is simple and yet as complex as baseball." As ballgames it underway he is looking for his guys to be competitive in every at-bat, pitch, and game.

The Panthers got one whole ballgame in so far, a 24-7 win over the Battle Creek Central Bearcats. The DK boys were 6-3 last season against its five opponents in the Southwestern Athletic Conference Central this spring. Holland River went on to win a district championship out of the division a year ago.

The DK boys jump right into SAC Central play as they return from spring break. They will be at Galesburg-Augusta for two ballgames Tuesday, April 15, and then visit Martin for two April 17.

The Panthers head to Middleville for the annual Barry County Invitational Saturday, April 19, and then will be home in the SAC Central for the first time April 22 hosting Saugatuck.

Solid core back to lead young DK softball team

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

A third of the Delton Kellogg varsity softball roster this spring with be freshmen.

The Panther program has 12 girls out for softball this season, and it will take time to get everybody in the right spots, but head coach Jesse Lyons expects things to be in pretty good shape by the end of the season.

Of the four freshmen, Lyons said pretty much all of them have played on travel ball teams.

"They have experience," coach Lyons said. "What I told them is that their biggest adjustment from travel ball is going to be you're jumping from playing girls the same age as you to varsity softball and competing against juniors and seniors who have also done the travel ball thing, but have also had the three or four years of high school experience."

"Even though they're going to have some failures - stay positive. Stay confident and positive and keep working hard. That is always the biggest thing with the younger kids."

He has a few really good leaders back to help the youngsters settle in. There are five back who played varsity ball for DK a year ago including sophomore catcher Olivia Post, fellow sophomore pitcher Lana Hooker and senior shortstop Jalin Lyons.

"Olivia Post behind the plate, she communicates really well," coach Lyons said. "She stays positive. Jalin, she stays really positive with them and tries keeping their heads up and that. Lana Hooker has taken on a little bit more of a leadership role now that she's a sophomore."

Hooker and senior Lillie Steele will take their turns pitching from the circle, but coach Lyons said he expects freshman Madison Muskovin to be the team's top arm.

"She has been pitching in travel ball and all that for a few years. Early on in the season we'll definitely split it up and have multiple girls pitching again," coach Lyons said. "That way we don't wear anybody out."

Hooker could see time in the outfield or at first when she's not in the circle. Paige Davis, another senior, returns to fill a corner infield spot too.

The Panthers haven't been able to get a ballgame in yet. They had a couple ballgames postponed due to weather and a couple due to having a short-handed roster.

The Panthers will have to dive right into the Southwestern Athletic Conference Central Division schedule. They have a doubleheader at Galesburg-Augusta Tuesday, April 15, and then two at Martin April 17. They follow that up with a spot in the Barry County Invitational in Middleville April 19.

Coach Lyons said he expects Gobles to be pretty strong again after sharing the SAC Central title with Martin a year ago.

"Both are gonna be pretty good teams again," coach Lyons said. "They're both well-coached. They do a good job ... I would say definitely Gobles and Martin would be the upper echelon in our division."



Olivia Post

But overall he expects it to be a pretty competitive division with Saugatuck, Galesburg-Augusta and Black River rounding out the division.

"Early on we'll focus on trying to get everybody in the proper positions and build towards the state tournament and districts and all that," coach Lyons said. "If we get that, where everyone is in a good spot we'll compete well."

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Friday April 18
Good Friday
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We proclaim the good news of salvation through Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross. Additionally, all are welcome anytime from sunrise to sunset to come walk our Labyrinth to reflect and pray.

Sunday April 20
Easter Sunday
10:00 a.m.
All are welcome to come and share in the triumphant celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus.
Easter Brunch: 9 a.m.
Kids Easter Egg Hunt: 9:30 a.m.

Vanstee one of '12 starters' for national champs

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor



Grand Valley State University redshirt junior Paige Vanstee (24), a 2021 Thornapple Kellogg High School graduate, is in the middle of the celebration as the confetti falls inside UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse in Pittsburgh, PA March 28 following the Lakers' 70-58 victory over the University of California Dominguez Hills in the NCAA Division II Women's Basketball National Championship. **Photos courtesy Grand Valley Athletics**

Nothing slowed her down after the buzzer sounded.

A sleeve and pad covered her right knee. Her trademark blonde, bubble ponytail bounced behind her as she leapt onto the court. She was the first ever Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Sixth Woman of the Year award winner in 2024. In 2025, Thornapple Kellogg High School alumnus Paige Vanstee was the first Laker off the bench to get into the scrum celebrating her Grand Valley State University Women's Basketball team's NCAA Division II National Championship.

Vanstee, a redshirt junior guard, contributed 8 points, 3 rebounds, an assist and drew a charge as the Lakers defeated the University of California Dominguez Hills 70-58 in the National Championship March 28 inside UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse in Pittsburgh, PA.

"My coach said this before, but he's had people telling the whole season that this team's gonna win the national championships, this team's going to win the national championship. So when it happened, it just didn't feel real," Vanstee said. "But the amount of work that this team has put in. It's well, well deserved."

The Lakers close the 2024-25 season with a record of 38-2. It is the fourth consecutive 30-win season for the Grand Valley State University women, a feat matched only by the South Carolina ladies who were the NCAA Division 1 runners-up to the University of Connecticut this season.

Dominguez Hills with some tenacious full-court pressure early on built a 7-2 lead, but the Lakers eventually settled in and controlled the ballgame. The Laker lead grew to 35-19 with three and a half minutes to go in the second quarter after Vanstee twice got behind the Toros' defense for a lay-up.

Vanstee also had a big semifinal match-up for the Lakers as they knocked off Pittsburgh State 67-61 in Pittsburgh. She played a season-high 22 minutes in that ballgame finishing with 11 points, 5 rebounds and 2 steals.

Despite all the success, Vanstee has yet to start a ballgame for the Lakers. And that's totally okay. The Laker bench had 44 of the team's 70 points in the national championship game, and that wasn't really anything unusual for the GVSU ladies.

"I've heard my coach say that with this team we played 12, and we had 12 starters," Vanstee said. "I guess just coming off the bench is easier for me, like nerves wise. I'm just like okay, I'm not starting the game, but like I'm gonna be in soon. I think it's easy when the first five on the floor come out knowing the second five are gonna do just as well, and we never had a gap between the play. You could interchange every player on the starting five. So, I think everybody knew that it was more of like what you contribute to the team instead of like personal stats ... it was just more like we all play and it's doesn't matter minutes or who starts. It's just like what you can do to get a win. Like how you can contribute for your team to get a win."

Vanstee was really impressed with her teammates attitude. The Laker team even had a few girls who started throughout the 2023-24 season that started coming off the bench this season, and they didn't skip a beat.

This Laker team got the chance to start building chemistry last summer with a team trip to Italy.

"It was Rome, Venice and Milan were all the places that we played," Vanstee said, "and that was just cool because everybody played and you got to see just how the team would develop throughout the year. It was just kind of like a sneak peek of what the year would be like. So that was really cool to play over there and just take in the experience. It was it was amazing."

Basketball took Vanstee and the Lakers all over the world in 2024 and 2025. Vanstee had knee surgery in the offseason and got her first game action in during an early November trip to open the season in Billings, Montana. The Lakers got to play Ohio State University in the big arena in Columbus in December. The GVSU team followed up its trip to Pittsburg for the DII Elite Eight with a quick relaxing trip to Florida before getting back to Allendale to catch up on school work.

The national title is the second for the Laker women. Current head coach Mike Williams was also an assistant on the 2005-06 Laker women's team that won its program's first NCAA DII championship. He has nurtured a program where roles are embraced and clearly everyone is treated like a starter.

"I like to be a big energy kid," Vanstee said. "I think when you can contribute all you can off the bench when you're playing it is huge. My mom showed me something today about team culture and how you can determine a team's culture based on how their bench is, and I feel like our team has great bench energy, because I think we all like to see each other succeed and we're capable of like one game somebody has a really good game but the next game, it could be a completely different person and it could be one through 12, like it doesn't matter. We all are capable of being the main scorer for that game ... so I feel like that's where I contribute is on the energy side and I always try to try to be aggressive for like rebounding or going for like the 50/50 balls on the floor, trying to be strong in those areas."

Vanstee said having knee surgery in the offseason did slow her a bit at the start of this season, but it wasn't too different from a normal year. She said through her first few collegiate seasons the Lakers have really been into GLIAC play before she's felt all the way up to speed.

Kind of like how things rolled in that national championship game. It took a little while, but once the Lakers were up to speed they were dominant. They led 38-21 at the half, and started the second half on a 9-0 run that gave them their biggest lead of the ballgame at 47-21.

The Toros got the Laker lead down to 12 points with two minutes to go, a couple Vanstee free throws helped keep the Dominguez Hills ladies at bay for a bit. The Toros did inch down to with ten points in the final minute, but the victory was never really in doubt for the GVSU ladies there before the blue and silver confetti started falling.



Grand Valley State University redshirt junior Paige Vanstee beats Dominguez Hills' Nala Williams to the bucket for two points during GVSU's victory in the NCAA Division II National Championship game in Pittsburgh March 28.



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