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VOL. 170, NO. 51

THE HASTINGS BANNER

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Nashville hearing on repealing marijuana ordinance draws large crowd, opposition



About 50 people packed into the Castleton Township Hall on Thursday, April 10, for a public hearing regarding the possible repeal of Nashville's ordinance prohibiting marijuana dispensaries within the village limits. **Photo by Leila Wood**

Leila Wood
Contributing Writer

About 50 people crowded into the Castleton Township Hall on Thursday, April 10 for a Nashville Village Council public hearing regarding the possibility of repealing the village's ordinance prohibiting marijuana dispensaries.

The council chose to meet at the Castleton Township Hall, which has a more spacious meeting room than the Nashville Village Hall, in anticipation of a large crowd.

About 25 people spoke and 14 letters, including one signed by 18 people, were received by the council and read during the hearing, with an overwhelming majority opposing the repeal of the ordinance.

During the hearing, individuals raised concerns that easier access to marijuana could lead to an increase in local people using such projects which, in turn, could lead to an uptick in impaired driving and traffic accidents, such as the one that claimed the lives of two Amish people in Maple Grove Township in 2023. Also, people were concerned about an increased nuisance to marijuana smokers' non-smoking neighbors, who might find the smell highly offensive.

Yet another concern was that second-hand smoke might also pose a health risk to those living in close proximity to someone who smokes marijuana, especially children.

See **MARIJUANA** on 3

Cyclists take over Hastings, Barry County for 16th Annual Barry-Roubaix



Cyclists enter the extensive network of gravel roads on the southwest fringe of Hastings on Saturday morning as part of the annual Barry-Roubaix. **Photos by Jayson Bussa**

Jayson Bussa
Contributing Writer

Like most people in his situation, Larry Hayes makes a mental note of what day the Barry-Roubaix falls on. He knows that, on that day, if he's going to leave the house, it might be a little slow going.

"I can manage to get out of my driveway if I need to. I actually have 110 acres and I can drive across and come out on M-43 if I have to," he said with a smile. "I just know it's coming through and, if I have to leave for something, I work around the schedule. It's not a big deal."

Hayes lives on Yeckley Road, where it transitions from the pavement of State Highway 43 to dirt. It's also along the route of the Barry-Roubaix, which overtakes the City of Hastings and portions of Barry County on race day.

In fact, with the 5,675 cyclists that were registered for this year's event, it is safely the largest gravel road race in the entire world.

Standing at the foot of Hayes's driveway on Saturday sounded like a beehive as cyclists from all over the country whizzed by on their route as part of the 16th Annual Barry-Roubaix.

Hayes watched as they went by. In the background, cars started to line up on M-43 as members of local law enforcement held them up to allow cyclists to pass — one of the disruptions that local residents or passersby have to contend with on race day.

"I haven't really spoken to anyone around here that doesn't like it," Hayes said. "I tend to think most of us like seeing it. It's nice to have something like this in the commu-

See **CYCLISTS** on 2

TTES strikes agreement with Rutland, latest in a growing list of partnerships

Move spells uncertainty for future of Mercy Ambulance

Jayson Bussa and Molly Macleod

Thornapple Township Emergency Services will now provide ambulance service to Rutland Township after an agreement was struck between both entities.

At Monday's Thornapple Township Board meeting, Bill Richardson, chief of TTES, spoke with the board as he looked to have trustees sign off on the measure. They did so unanimously.

The agreement stems from discussions between Richardson and Rutland Township administrators.

"We showed (Supervisor Marti Mayack) our service and talked about how our operations worked and I had already pulled their call volume," Richardson explained.

Richardson found that Rutland's needs clocked in at around 150 calls a year, with the vast majority of them in the northern portion of the township, which is near TTES's headquarters at 128 High Street in Middleville.

"The call volume isn't going to be inundating to the department," Richardson assured.

The contract starts on May 1 of this year and ends on June 30, 2026. The contract between the

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LIONS STILL TRYING TO BUILD CONFIDENCE IN BATTER'S BOX
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County plans to sell former DesignWear property in Middleville



County officials are closing in on a deal to sell the former DesignWear property on Middleville's riverfront. File photo

Molly Macleod
Editor

Barry County is closing in on selling a property it "accidentally" acquired late last year.

Demolition crews from Pitsch Companies tore down the former DesignWear building at 118 W. Main St. in September 2024. The DesignWear building was once attached to the former Baby Bliss building, which was torn down earlier last year. The Barry County Land Bank Authority received funds from the Michigan State Land Bank Blight Elimination fund to pay for the demolition work.

Barry County Administrator Eric Zuzga said during Tuesday's Barry County Board of Commissioners Committee of the Whole that the county is closing in on a deal to sell the property on Middleville's riverfront.

"We have an offer on the property in Middleville that we acquired by accident," Zuzga said with a smile on Tuesday. "This property was acquired during the demolition of the Baby Bliss facility. It had a shared wall, if you all remember that. It's been taken down, it's been cleared."

Zuzga said the offer of $60,000 for the property from Nate and Jillian Otto would clear the county of the remaining debt taken on from taking over the property and its demolition.

"Looking at this, I thought $60,000 was very low for a riverfront parcel, but it's also a very, very tiny parcel. It isn't really buildable and it does have some issues with the river being right there, and some stabilization things, that we've been talking about this for quite some time," said Board of Commissioners chair Dave Jackson.

"And we did advertise," Zuzga said. "We put (the property) on our website, the Chamber pushed it, and this was the only offer we received. That being said, we recommend selling the property to the Ottos."

"This clears the debt out that we took on when we accidentally acquired the building, so we are going to move forward with that," said Jackson.

The Committee of the Whole recommended approval of the sale at the commissioners' next regular meeting.

Weekend crash claims life of Hastings man

Molly Macleod
Editor

A Hastings man is dead after a fatal crash Saturday evening.

According to the Barry County Sheriff's Office, officers responded to a one-vehicle fatal crash on Woodlawn Road near Becker Road in Hastings on Saturday, April 12, around 5:55 p.m. The driver, a 79-year-old male from Hastings, was pronounced dead at the scene.

Investigators say they determined the male was traveling eastbound on Woodlawn in his truck before leaving the roadway and striking a tree.

The crash is currently under investigation.

In addition to BCSO deputies, Barry County Central Dispatch, the Hastings Fire Department, Mercy Ambulance and the Barry County Road Commission assisted on the call.

CYCLISTS

Continued from Page 1

nity. I'm glad it comes by my place. I enjoy watching it. I don't always come out and sit out here, but I do occasionally."

The weather for the Barry-Roubaix is always a roll of the dice. In the last few years, participants have had to contend with everything from frigid, whipping winds and sleet to unseasonably warm temperatures that had them gulping down a record amount of water to stay safe.

With chilly, early-morning temperatures giving away to sunshine later in the day, cyclists on Saturday tackled race courses of 18, 36, 62 and 100 miles, which zig-zagged through the county, lingering in the Barry State Game Area for much of it.

Hayes said that, even when it isn't race season, he spots many cyclists who are riding the course in preparation for the early spring event.

As is tradition, the Barry-Roubaix overtook the City of Hastings on Saturday with the start/finish line positioned on Green Street and music thumping from the city center all morning long.

The race was not always the largest in the world. In fact, it started with humble beginnings and used to be confined to the Gun Lake area before it was welcomed into downtown Hastings.

Hastings Mayor Dave Tossava stood at the start/finish line on Saturday to watch all the action. In fact, he was one of the early risers that wanted to be there for it all.

"It was quarter after 6 (a.m.) and I was leaving and my wife asked where I was going. I said that I had to go up there and I wanted to welcome the 100-milers to Hastings and get that going," Tossava said. "I really enjoy this."

While the 100-milers kick off early in the morning, the rest of the morning sees races start and finish, eventually leading into a large after-party. The downtown area remains packed with people, many of which are visitors.

While the city, county and its residents have embraced this event over time, there is still a contingent of residents who may not like the busyness that comes with it. Still, over the decade-and-a-half, the city has adopted this event as its own.

"I challenge anyone in Hastings — especially the naysayers — to come up here and stand on this corner and feel the energy from these people," Tossava said. "You can talk to any of these bike riders and they really appreciate the city of Hastings allowing this to have it here."

A big part of what has made the Barry-Roubaix a success is the event's organizers, who work closely with city officials and first responders throughout the county to ensure an event that does not overwhelm their resources. Organizers have slowly grown the event's capacity by about 5 percent each year, carefully watching for any problems that might crop up.

"This group that runs this, they're great people," Tossava said. "They sit down with the City of Hastings and the police department — we get the state involved because they allow us to shut these streets down. We talk about issues that we may have had this year that we're going to improve on next year. So, every year we've had this year, it's improved."



This year's Barry-Roubaix featured a field of over 5,600 cyclists, who came to Barry County to participate in the largest gravel road race in the world.



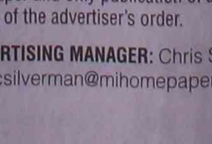
Larry Hayes (left) stands at the foot of his driveway, watching cyclists in the Barry-Roubaix go by his Yeckley Road home. He said that he enjoys the fact that the City of Hastings and Barry County hosts the annual event.

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Kids Easter Egg Hunt: 9:30 a.m.

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AGREEMENT

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two entities will not automatically renew, but both parties can take the necessary steps to extend it.

Rutland Township will contribute $6,500 to Thornapple Township toward the cost of providing these services to its residents. The timing is advantageous for Richardson and his department as they just received the go-ahead from the township to hire two full-time paramedic firefighters to take the place of three outgoing part-time members of the department.

Rutland Township's contributions will help further defray the cost of those additions to the department.

Thornapple Township Emergency Services already has similar agreements in place with both Irving and Yankee Springs Township. The agreement with Yankee Springs is still in its infancy. Last Thursday, Yankee Springs Township opted to sever its agreement with Wayland EMS.

Yankee Springs Supervisor Rob Heethuis told The Banner that he and the board were impressed with TTES's service and infrastructure and that the department's proximity to Yankee Springs Township made them a better fit than Wayland EMS.

Mercy's future uncertain

Rutland's shift to contracting with Thornapple comes after a request from Mercy Ambulance for a subsidy of $274,992.00 from the five Barry County townships that currently contract with them, plus the City of Hastings, through the end of 2026. The subsidy, if agreed to, would be split between the city and the townships: Rutland, Baltimore, Carlton, Hastings Charter and Hope townships.

Mercy requested the subsidy citing increasing costs and staffing challenges. The future of the service could be in jeopardy if its current financial trends continue.

Rutland was the first municipality from the group to reject the subsidy request so far. The City of Hastings approved the subsidy at Monday's city council meeting. Several townships have yet to vote on the matter.

Mercy's proposal calls for the subsidy to be split between the municipalities that contract with them based on usage. The City of Hastings will take 34 percent of the extra costs, or $93,492 over the next year for emergency services. Rutland was requested to pay $52,250 over the next year, a stark difference from the $6,500 charged by Thornapple Township. Hastings Charter and Hope Township were asked to contribute an extra $38,500 over the next year. Carlton Township was asked to pay an extra $30,250 and Baltimore Township was asked for an additional $22,000 through January of 2027.

"The one thing I always think back on all the time when I started this job is 'What's best for the residents of this township?' and 'We have to be good stewards of this township's tax dollars,'" said Mayack. "… and I'm not 100 percent sure that paying Mercy is going to fill those two voids. On the other side of it, I went to other services to see what they would provide. Thornapple has the ability to provide service to our area and some other surrounding areas as well for far less, for far less money."

Mayack said he felt welcomed by his discussions with Richardson and TTES.

"They really wanted to serve the area; they were excited that I was there. And the discussions with Mercy are more on the side of they feel like they are down and out. And I get it — I mean, it's hard to come up and ask all these townships for this kind of money," Mayack said.

Though the move to TTES will spell a significant cost savings, Rutland township board members spent nearly an hour at last week's township board meeting discussing the pros and cons of the move. Concerns with increased response times at some points in the township were raised, along with concerns about supporting neighboring municipalities.

Brad Carpenter, Carlton Township supervisor, spoke during the public comment portion of last week's Rutland Township meeting.

"Carlton Township needs you guys as much as we need Hastings Township. We don't have potential options like you do if we another ambulance service that's generally in the vicinity like you guys have," said Carpenter. "I was a fireman for 10 years, a first responder, and I can tell you that response time is critical. A matter of minutes, and sometimes seconds, really matters."

After much debate last Wednesday, the Rutland Township Board agreed to contract with TTES in a 6-1 vote, with Gene Hall voting in dissent.



The Rutland Township Board agreed to contract with Thornapple Township Emergency Services beginning May 1. The move comes after the township board rejected a subsidy request from Mercy Ambulance. **Photo by Molly Macleod**

Three finalists interviewing later this month for TK supe job

Molly Macleod
Editor

Residents in the Thornapple Kellogg Schools district are one step closer to knowing the identity of the district's next superintendent. TKS Board of Education members interviewed four candidates for the position this week, selecting three of the four interviewees to move on to the next round of interviews.

The three finalists include retired Hillsdale Intermediate Schools Superintendent Troy Reehl, Morrice Area Schools Superintendent Rob Pouch and Kent City Community Schools Superintendent Bill Crane.

The finalists interviewed along with Cedar Springs Public Schools Director of Human Services and Elementary Academic Services Dan Scoville on Monday and Tuesday this week in front of the board of education and a packed audience of TK administration, staff, students and parents.

TK BOE members took turns asking the candidates a list of 20 identical questions over an hour and a half each. Candidates fielded questions on their experience, leadership styles, how they plan to immerse themselves in the community and more.

The finalist interviews will be held on Tuesday, April 29 at TK's Early Childhood Center, 3316 Bender Road in Middleville. The public is strongly encouraged to attend.

Crane kicks off interviews at 5 p.m., followed by Pouch at 6:30 and Reehl at 8 p.m. The finalists will tour the district before the interviews.

Crane has served as the superintendent of Kent City Community Schools since 2022. Prior to that, he served as assistant superintendent at Kent City from 2020 to 2022.

Pouch has served as the superintendent of Morrice Area Schools since 2021. Previously, he served as principal at Linden Middle School from 2017-2021.

Reehl most recently served as

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MARIJUANA

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According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, marijuana smoke contains many of the same toxic and cancer-causing chemicals as tobacco smoke, as well as THC.

Among those who spoke against repealing the ordinance were two young members of FoxView's staff, Jolina Steury and Dakota Martin, both students at Maple Valley High School.

Steury said she spoke for the entire staff of FoxView, who are opposed to allowing a dispensary in Nashville for a variety of reasons, not least of which is the potential negative impact on Nashville's family friendly local culture and quaint rural image.

"Weddings, receptions and related events often rely on a sense of local charm and the preservation of the community's atmosphere to attract customers," she said. "A report from Michigan Weddings shared stories from several wedding venue owners in small Michigan communities with newly opened dispensaries who experienced loss of business, particularly from couples who felt uncomfortable hosting their event in an area where marijuana use is heavily marketed or prevalent."

She also cited a statistic from The Wedding Report that found as much as a 10 to 15 percent drop in wedding-related spending in small towns with dispensaries.

"While proponents of marijuana dispensaries often point to potential economic benefits, such as tax revenue, their examples are not based on a town the size of Nashville, with only 1,600 residents and just one dispensary," Martin said. "For a nearly equal comparison, we only need to look at Reed City, Michigan, a small town of just over 2,000 residents, where a dispensary opened in 2019.

"Nearby businesses, including a grocery store, restaurant and retail shops experienced significant declines in customer traffic," Martin added. "According to reports from Cadillac News, local businesses saw a 15 to 20 percent drop in sales within a year of the dispensary's opening."

According to Martin, a study published in the Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization in 2019 found that the tax revenue generated from marijuana sales in low income areas has been insufficient and does not adequately offset the increased cost for public health services and law enforcement.

These are concerns that could be heightened in a rural village, like ours, where healthcare and social services are already limited," he said.

Council member Bonnie White commended Steury and Martin for their comments.

"I thought those young adults put a lot of effort into that research, and I was very proud of the product of our high school," White said.

Scott Fouse was the only person to speak in favor of repealing the ordinance, as he had hoped to open a dispensary in a building he owns across the street from Good Time Pizza, located at the north end of the village's downtown district. However, after hearing the outpouring of opposition at the hearing, he thanked everyone who was present.

"Me and my wife are not the devil," Fouse said. "This was just an idea. I brought it to the board. They brought it to you. I'm taking your feedback for what it is.

"I really, honestly expected to have at least one person stand up here and have something on my side to say," he added. "So what I would like to stand here and ask everyone in this room ... give me an idea. I want to do something with that house. I want to put a business in there."

Several people threw out suggestions, such as an arcade, laundromat, kayak livery, skateboard shop or bike shop.

Council members said they were pleased to have such a good turnout for the public hearing.

"I tell you, I really got my mind swayed on this marijuana thing tonight," said Johnny Hartwell. "I mean, we saw what the public wants.

"That's why we have public hearings."

The council is expected to make an official decision on the matter during their May 8 meeting.



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Find the best ways to pay down debt

Are you concerned about debt? It's important to recognize this, but, at the same time, you may have more ways of gaining control of your debt situation than you had realized.

To begin with, not all debts are bad — after all, your mortgage provides you with a place to live, a car loan provides transportation, and student loans may have helped you get the career you wanted. In fact, the wise use of debt can be a key part of your overall financial strategy.

Nonetheless, if you're worried about what you owe, you've certainly got company. Nearly 60% of Americans say they are struggling with debt, according to a recent study by WalletHub, an online personal finance site.

How can you ease these struggles? It may help to follow these steps:

• **Know your debt**. Create a list that includes your mortgage, auto loans, student loans, medical debt, credit card debt and any installment purchases you've made. Then, add up the total amount you owe and calculate your debt-to-income ratio by dividing your total monthly debt payments by your gross monthly income. (For revolving debt, such as credit cards, use the minimum payments in this calculation.) Ideally, you'd like to have a debt-to-income ratio below 35% if you have a mortgage, or 20% if you don't.

• **Look for restructuring opportunities.** By restructuring debt, you may be able to pay it down more quickly. You can do this by refinancing debts, perhaps by transferring credit card debt to a new card with a low introductory rate or by replacing your mortgage or auto loan with one that carries a lower rate. You might also consider swapping debts, possibly by using secured debt, such as a home equity loan or securities-based lending, to pay off higher-rate unsecured loans. Or you could consolidate debt by using secured debt to pay off several high-interest debts or transferring multiple credit card debts into one new card with a lower rate and minimal transfer fees.

• **Determine how much money will go to debt payments.** You do have some latitude as to how much money you'll devote to paying debts each month. To avoid incurring late fees or other penalties, you'll need to make the minimum payments, which means a flat amount for some loans, such as your mortgage, and a percentage of the outstanding balance on other debts, especially your credit cards. After you've paid the minimum, though, you can choose to pay more, which can shorten the life of the debt and reduce total interest charges, or you can use the money for other goals, such as saving for your retirement or your children's education.

• **Prioritize your debts**. If you can make extra payments on your debts, it's helpful to prioritize them. You could choose the "avalanche" method by paying the debt with the highest interest rate first, or you could instead follow the "snowball" method by first tackling the debt with the lowest balance. The avalanche technique can help you minimize interest payments, while the snowball approach can give you a psychological boost by reducing the overall number of debts you're carrying, although it could result in your paying more interest over time.

Debt may be a fact of life — but if you manage it wisely, life can be a lot less stressful.

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

Developers share updated information as Green and Market streets project looms

Molly Macleod
Editor

Developers shared updates with city officials this week as a major road project that will overhaul sections of Green and Market streets in downtown Hastings draws nearer.

Ryan Arends, representing engineering firm Moore & Bruggink, provided information regarding updated plans for the project at Monday's Hastings City Council meeting.

"These are basically total reconstruction projects," Arends said on Monday. "So your street surface is going to go away. The infrastructure underneath – your storm sewer, your sanitary sewer, your water main – they're all going to be replaced.

"And then, the services to the home — so the water service, the sanitary sewer lateral, those will all be replaced as well. After all the underground work is complete, the road is reconstructed. So new concrete, curb, and gutter, sidewalks, drive approaches, and then a new asphalt roadway."

Though two different roads are being overhauled, the city and developers are thinking of the two projects as a whole.

"The projects are essentially two projects that are going to be one large project," Arends explained.

The Green Street project will overhaul the road from Fish Hatchery Park to Broadway. Construction on Market Street will span from Green Street to State Street, Arends said.

Bids on the project will be accepted in May. Two construction windows are being considered for the project, depending on which contractors have the ability. Construction on the project could begin between April and November of this year, continuing April through July of 2026. Otherwise, the project could begin construction in the spring of 2026, wrapping up in November.

"The reason we're going to do that is many contractors have expressed the fact that they are already full for this construction season. So to get more competitive bids, we would open the window up to complete it. We would give the contractor the same amount of days, so if they chose to start it this year, the completion date would be July of '26. If they chose to start it next year, the completion date would be November of '26," said Arends.

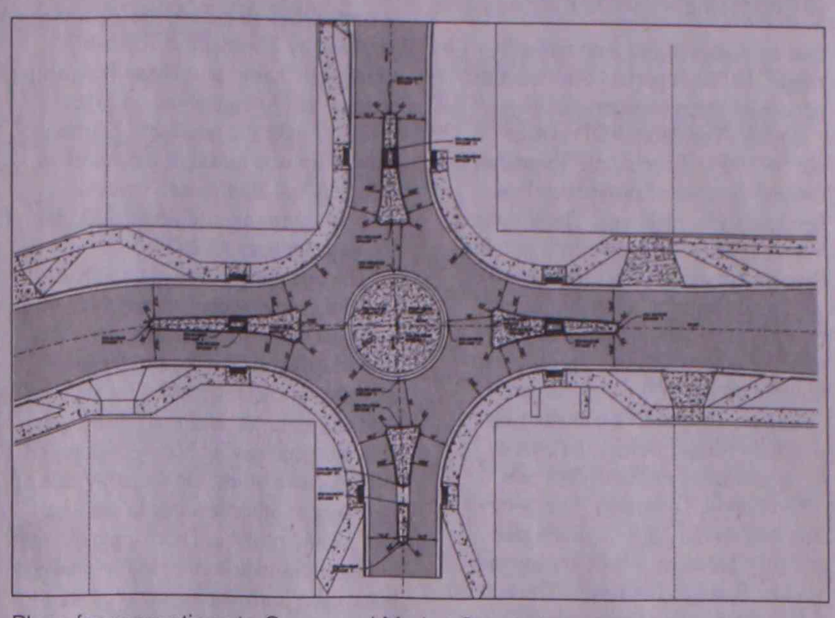
The project is being taken on primarily as a means to remove and replace water utilities to comply with state lead and copper standards. The city has opted to include some street infrastructure updates in the project to cut down on costs and construction time.

Arends said construction is expected to take place in four phases to maintain access to Corewell Health Pennock Hospital and local residences throughout the project's timeline.

Crews will begin work on Market Street before continuing from the easterly portion of Green Street from Market Street to Broadway. Phase three will cover from Market Street to the hospital before finishing construction in phase four from the hospital past Fish Hatchery Park.

"The reason we would do it in stages like that is to maintain access at all times to the hospital, which is a very important thing. Basically, we want to not have everything all ripped up at one time," Arends said.

Residents along Green and Market streets will have access to their homes at all times during the project.



Plans for renovations to Green and Market Streets have laid out a mini-roundabout at the intersection, aiming to both improve traffic flow and act as a traffic-calming feature. **File photos**

Crews will dig up both streets to access water utilities underneath, replacing sanitary and storm sewers, lead water services and private sewer laterals within the public right of way. Market Street will have its water main replaced, although Arends said the Green Street water main already meets state standards and remains in good shape.

When utility work is completed and roads are repaved, there will be several changes coming to Green Street aimed at improving traffic flow and pedestrian safety. A mini-roundabout is set to be installed at the intersection of Green and Market Street, which will fit within the currently existing right of way.

"The curb in the center island is mountable, so truck traffic can still navigate it," said Arends. "But it does act as a traffic-calming measure, and it helps kind of relieve congestion, keep traffic moving."

The street is also set to be widened from its current 26-foot width to 30 feet, allowing for the addition of two, 4-foot marked bike lanes on each side of the street. Market Street will also change from 36 feet to 39.5 feet wide. Bike lanes will be installed on Market as well.

A pedestrian island on Green Street will be added near the hospital, along with button-activated signs to alert drivers without heavily impeding traffic.

Festival committee seeks grand marshal nominations

A new grand marshal – or grand marshals – will be honored during the 52nd Delton Founders Festival, which is set for Aug. 8-10 in Delton.

But before any parade and waving to the crowds occurs, the 2025 grand marshal first needs to be selected. And, festival organizers are now seeking nominations to help with that process.

According to festival organizers, nominations must be in writing and identify why the individual or couple should be considered. Nomination letters should include the nominee's ties to the Delton area, how long they have been residents, volunteer work in the community and the positive impact they have made in the Delton area.

Letters must also include the contact information for the nominee and for the individual submitting the nomination.

The new grand marshals will be selected by a committee of previous grand marshals and will be honored Aug. 8 and featured in the Delton Founders Festival parade on Aug. 10.

Nominations from previous years will be included in this year's list of candidates.

Nominations are due by May 3 and should be mailed to the Delton Founders Festival, P.O. Box 444, Delton, MI 49046. — *DM*

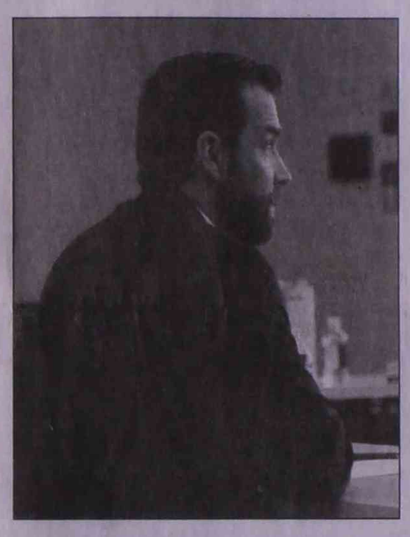
FINALISTS

Continued from Page 3

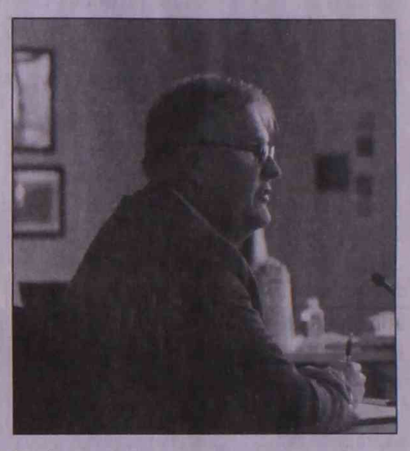
superintendent at Hillsdale Intermediate School District from 2019 to 2024. Previously, he served as superintendent at Cheboygan Area Schools from 2016 to 2019.

TK Schools has been searching for its next superintendent since former superintendent Craig McCarthy retired at the end of last year. In the meantime, Tom Enslen has served as TK Schools' interim superintendent.

The Michigan Leadership Institute has helped the district in its executive search. The four candidates selected for first-round interviews came from a pool of 15 applications, with candidates' experience ranging from current and past superintendents, principals and central office staff.



Rob Pouch is one of three finalists selected to interview later this month for TK's superintendent job.



Retired Hillsdale Intermediate Schools Superintendent Troy Reehl fields questions from Thornapple Kellogg Schools Board of Education members during superintendent interviews on Monday. **Photos by Molly Macleod**

Support center receives grant to help bring families together

The Family Support Center of Barry County has been awarded a $2,000 Beacon Grant for the 2024–25 cycle to fund a new initiative aimed at strengthening local families.

The grant, awarded through the Elks National Foundation, is hoped to support the creation and distribution of free "Family Fun Night" kits throughout Barry County, according to an announcement of the grant by FSCBC officials.

The kits, designed to provide families with simple and engaging activities to enjoy together at home, will be available at area libraries during the month of April. Each kit will include games, conversation starters, and creative supplies that promote quality time and bonding between family members.

Bill Mattson, executive director of the Family Support Center, said the project is rooted in research that shows how shared, positive family experiences can serve as a powerful protective factor against behavioral health challenges.

"When families connect through laughter and shared experiences, they build trust and communication skills that support emotional well-being," said Mattson. "These kinds of moments can reduce stress, foster resilience and help prevent issues like anxiety, depression and substance misuse – especially in youth."

By making these kits freely available to families throughout Barry County, Family Support Center officials hope to remove barriers to quality time, encourage healthy family routines, and promote long-term emotional wellness in the community.

The Beacon Grant is part of a national program that supports impactful community projects led by local Elks lodges. The Family Support Center is partnering with the Barry County Substance Abuse Task Force and the Hastings Elks Lodge No. 1965 BPOE to make the initiative possible. — *DM*

HASTINGS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Professional Events

DIVA Jazz Orchestra
Fri, 4/25 | 7:30 pm

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

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
Thornapple Wind Band Concert | Sun, May 4 | 3:00 pm
HS Spring Band Concert & Awards | Tue, May 6 | 7:00 pm
MS Spring Band Concert & Awards | Thu, May 8 | 7:00 pm

Program focuses on managing concerns about falls

The fear of falling for some individuals can hurt before they even take a step, leading people to turn down chances to see family or friends, or to skip their favorite activity.

People who develop this fear often limit their activities, which can result in severe physical weakness, making the risk of falling even greater. Many older adults also experience increased isolation and depression when they limit their interactions with family and friends.

For those individuals, the Michigan State University Extension and Corewell Health Pennock are partnering to offer "A Matter of Balance: Managing Concerns About Falls" to help people improve their quality of life and remain independent.

The free class is being offered on Tuesdays and Fridays, May 2-May 27, from 10 a.m. to noon at Corewell Health Pennock (Care Center B Entrance) in Hastings. A workbook is provided and refreshments are served. The class is limited to 15 participants.

A Matter of Balance is designed to reduce the fear of falling and increase activity levels among older adults. Participants learn to set realistic goals to increase activity, change their environment to reduce fall risk factors, and learn simple exercises to increase strength and balance.

For more information or to register, persons may contact Laura Anderson by calling 269-908-9803. — *DM*

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BUILDING BRANDS

Three tips to help you adapt as fast as a first grader



EMILY CASWELL
ecaswell@mihomepaper.com

There are many perks to my job, one of them being that every so often I'm invited to speak at a career day or a teacher will ask me to speak to his or her class about what it's like to work at a newspaper.

Two weeks ago, I was invited by a first-grade teacher at Chatfield School in Lapeer to do just that. I think first graders are the youngest group I've ever spoken to, so I wasn't sure how much they'd grasp. I've known this teacher for years, so I was comfortable asking for some advice. She suggested I talk about the various jobs at a newspaper. I prepared remarks, packed up some pencils, notepads and newspapers (swag is a must in any school) and headed to my speaking engagement.

Standing in front of 49 first graders is intimidating. Their energy is so high I worried I'd struggle to capture their attention, but they seemed to be hooked on my every word. What was helpful is that my arrival was perfectly timed during March is Reading Month when the entire school focused on reading newspapers. The school's musical this spring — Newsies — was even tied into the theme. When I was done speaking, I asked for questions.

The first graders had a lot of great questions. I especially loved the student who asked about the clothing options for each career choice. A girl after my own heart. The questions eventually turned into storytelling. I was getting lots of great info like, "This one time my brother was in the newspaper." "My dad gets a newspaper about cars." I enjoyed learning a bit more about the students, but understandably the teachers wanted to encourage more questions and said "remember, you are asking questions, not telling stories."

The students didn't miss a beat and almost immediately found a way to tell their stories in the form of a question. "Did you know my brother was in the newspaper once?" "Why does my dad get a newspaper about cars?" I loved it! The students had adapted incredibly quickly. How smart!

The entire experience had me thinking about adaptability and how important it is to all of us and our brand. For better or worse, the pandemic proved that we can all be adaptable if we have to be, but five years later where do you rank on an adaptability scale? Changes in technology, personnel changes or even a career change can be just around the corner. Can you adapt as fast as a first grader?

A *forbes.com* article on the topic notes that "adaptability in the workplace is the 'top skill of the moment,' according to LinkedIn's report, The 2024 Most In-Demand Skills … McKinsey predicts that eight of the top 10 skills future workers will need are soft skills — like adaptability … Adaptability is the capacity to adjust quickly and easily to changes in your work environment. 'Adaptability is the best way to have agency right now,' says Aneesh Raman, VP, Workforce Expert at LinkedIn. Raman adds, 'at the core of managing change is building that muscle of adaptability.'"

Keeping that is in mind, here are three tips to help you adapt:

Don't take it personally: Be like the first graders, who clearly didn't see the instruction to ask questions instead of telling a story as a personal slight. They simply adapted and found a way to make it work for them. If you don't waste time taking changes personally, it'll be easier and faster to see the change as a positive.

Practice Deliberate Calm: This is a new concept to me that I'd like to do more research on, however, what I initially read in a Harvard Business Review article on the topics has me intrigued. From the article, "New, high-pressure situations often create a level of anxiety that triggers the very reactions that tend to limit us, stifling innovation. This is the adaptability paradox … 'Deliberate Calm' is a solution to the adaptability paradox. It enables leaders to act with intention, creativity, and objectivity, even in the most challenging circumstances, and it helps us to learn and adapt to novel challenges when the stakes are highest. 'Deliberate' refers to the awareness that you have a choice in how you experience and respond to a situation. 'Calm' refers to rationally considering how best to respond, without being governed by old habits."

Remind yourself you've done this before: We have all adapted at some point in our lives, and the world hasn't stopped turning. Remind yourself that no matter the change or the challenges it brings, you can do it!

What skills do you use to adapt to changes? Email me at *ecaswell@mihomepaper.com.*

Emily Caswell is the Brand Manager for VIEW Group, the branding division of View Newspaper Group.

Kiwanis honors young citizens

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

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

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

Central – Jayden Morris (student of Jeremiah Morris and Misty Lake) and Andre Ortiz (student of Julio and Ashley Ortiz).

Northeastern – Cate Sporer (student of Jon and Kelly Sporer) and Josie Palova (student of Jakub Pala and Maranda Ruegsegger).

Southeastern – Chloe Snow (student of Jacob and Sara Snow) and Eleanor Bontrager (student of Logan and Amy Bontrager).

Star – Breslin Jiles (student of Fred and Laura Jiles) and Kayden Jarman (student of Garth and Anne Jarman).

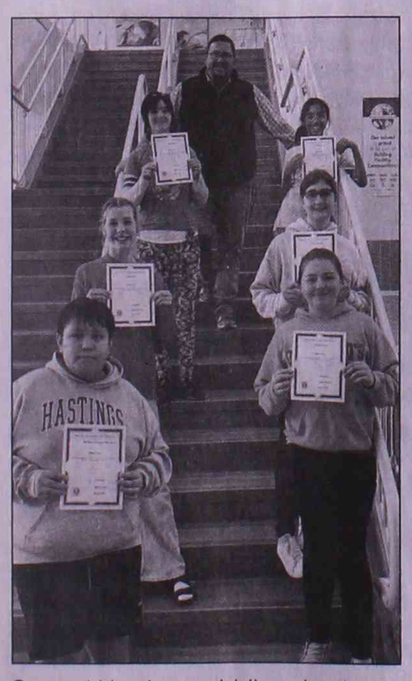
Hastings Middle School — Sixth graders Delaney Rickett (student of Shawn and Bambi Ricketts) and Kaitlynn Snyder (student of Steven and Lindsey Snyder); seventh graders Eliysha Stratton (student of Kevin and April Stratton), Sophie Pohja (student of Kyle and Amy Pohja) and Allison Bosworth (student of Josh and Rebecca Bosworth); eighth grader Sebastian Hernandez-Hernandez (student of Remigio Hernandez and Laura Hernandez-Virgilio).



Southeastern's Citizens of the Month for March are Chloe Snow and Eleanor Bontrager.



Jayden Morris and Andre Ortiz are Central Elementary's Citizens of the Month. **Photos provided**



Several Hastings middle schoolers were recently named citizens of the month. They include sixth graders Delaney Rickett and Kaitlynn Snyder; seventh graders Eliysha Stratton, Sophie Pohja and Allison Bosworth; and eighth grader Sebastian Hernandez-Hernandez.

KNOW SOMETHING INTERESTING?
We'd love to hear about it!
mmacleod@mihomepaper.com
THE HASTINGS BANNER
VIEW Newspaper Group

DO YOU REMEMBER?

IRVING CHARLTON PRESERVED LOCAL HISTORY

This undated photo shows Historic Charlton Park founder Irving Charlton atop his 1884 Westinghouse steam engine. The steam engine is still in the park's possession today, and it performs demonstrations each summer at Historic Charlton Park's annual Antique Gas and Steam Engine Show in July. Historic Charlton Park was established in 1936 by Charlton, who donated the property to Barry County. **Courtesy photo**





Cate Sporer and Josie Palova are Northeastern Elementary's Citizens of the Month.



Kayden Jarman (left) and Breslin Jiles are Star Elementary's January Kiwanis Citizens of the Month.

NEWSPAPER ADVERTISING DEADLINES

AD-VISOR & CHRONICLE
Monday at 4 p.m.

BATTLE CREEK SHOPPER NEWS
Monday at 5 p.m.

THE HASTINGS BANNER
Tuesday at Noon

THE REMINDER
Wednesday at Noon

THE SUN AND NEWS
Wednesday at Noon

VIEW Newspaper Group
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Lincoln Meadows Apartments

Annual P.H.P. Plan and 5 year plan will be available for viewing
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Middleville, MI 49333

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OBITUARIES

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E. Lynn Beadle



E. Lynn Beadle, age 90, passed away January 23, 2025 in Methodist Hospital, Houston, TX.

Lynn was born in Hastings, MI, attended Hastings High School, and graduated in 1952. He attended University of Dayton and Western Michigan University where he graduated in 1956 with a BBA.

Lynn was employed by the IRS 1956-1991 and worked in seven cities in Michigan until, retirement then moved to Bradenton, FL, then to Georgetown, TX in 2007. He married Doris Sherman in 1963 which ended in divorce in 1980. He married Marion C. Barry in 1998, Marion died in 1998.

Lynn married JoNell L. Pohln in 2005, she survives along with his stepchildren, Nancy Sherman Siddall, William Sherman, Michael Beadle, Timothy Barry, Edward Barry, Lee Ann Wright and many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Lynn played basketball and baseball in High School and basketball in college. Lynn was an avid doubles tennis player 1991-2007 when he was forced to retire for health reasons. He was a member of the Chapel Hill UMC Battle Creek, Clarkson UMC, Clarkston, First UMC Kalamazoo, Central UMC Muskegon, MI, Trinity UMC, Bradenton, FL, First UMC Georgetown TX. St. Lukes 2013. He delivered Meals on Wheels 2008. In Georgetown Volunteered Caring Place 2009-2013.

Matthew Horace Rath



Matthew Horace Rath was born April 3, 1944, to Duane and Dora Rath (Hall) in Yale, Michiganligh School in Yale, MI, in 1962. He attended Spring Arbor College in 1964, where he met his love, Helen Kruscke, in chemistry class. They married in 1967. They had two beautiful daughters, whom he adored, Mary Rath Glidewell (Dewey) and Suzanne Rath Bussell (Bryan), who reside in North Carolina. He also has five wonderful grandsons, Paul Lince, Jason Lince, Benjamin Glidewell, Sam Bussell, and Jack Bussell. He also leaves behind his beloved older brother, Grant Rath of Grand Rapids, MI.

Due to some unforeseen mental health challenges, their marriage ended in divorce in 1977. Matt spent time living in Saginaw, MI, and was employed by Eaton Corporation.

Matt had many hobbies and interests and loved to talk about "anything" to anyone who would listen, as he loved people. He was especially interested in trains, ham radios, US geography, and travel. In his early years, he loved growing plants, especially his favorite orchids. Matt was also an avid student of the Bible and loved God. He would daily be found sitting in his room in his recliner with his Bible open, sitting on his lap reading.

Due to his mental health challenges, Matt spent a large portion of his adult life in group and adult foster care homes. For the last 20 years, he resided with Wayne and Patti Pumford at Cornerstone Living Center in Hastings, MI, and then most recently at Carveth Village (3 years) in Middleville, MI.

Matt was a "jokester" and loved to tell jokes and make people laugh. Everyone who knew him enjoyed his quick wit, pleasant demeanor, and ready laugh. Wherever Matt resided, he brought with him kindness and unconditional love for all that were blessed to be able to call him friend.

Matt entered his final Eternal Home April 9, 2025.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Dorothy Rath and nephew, Arthur Rath.

Memorial contributions in memory of Matt may be made to Carveth Village Memorial Fund, 690 W Main, Middleville, MI 49333.

A small memorial service is being planned for a later date at Carveth Village.

Arrangements by Girrbach Funeral Home, to leave an online condolence visit www.girrbachfuneralhome.net.

Dale LeRoy Kidder



Dale LeRoy Kidder, age 59, born January 10, 1966, in Hastings, MI, passed away April 11, 2025, at home surrounded by family, due to complications sustained following a Motor Vehicle Acciden.

Dale was the son of Leonard and JoAnn (Elliott) Kidder. He attended Thornapple Kellogg Schools. Dale was a lifelong carpenter.

Dale was raised in Freeport, MI. He would light up a room when he walked in. Dale had many friends. He was willing to lend a hand when someone in need.

Dale had a passion for fishing, whether it was on the water or Ice. He loved woodworking. He had an idea for everything. Dale loved to cook. He could make a meal out of anything, . He loved morel mushroom hunting. He loved spending time with family. The more family he was around the happier he was. He would sit for hours playing Euchre, listening to his old time rock and roll.

Dale was proceeded in death by his father Leonard Kidder; brother, Eddy Kidder; great niece, Arlo Jade Clouse, and brother-in-law, Jeffrey Tyrrell.

Dale is survived by his mother, JoAnn Kidder of Freeport; son, Brandon Kidder, of Arizona; stepson, Austin Kidder of Charlotte, MI; daughter, Maya Kidder of Caledonia and Julianne (John) Ypma of Arizona; brothers, Larry (Carol) Kidder of Hasting, Phillip (Betty) Kidder of Hastings, Morris Kidder of Hastings; sisters, Marcia Tyrrell of Wayland and Minnie (John) Anderson of Greenville. Special Friend Melanie Wyma of Caledonia. Many nieces and nephews.

Respecting his wishes cremation has taken place. A Celebration of Life Gathering will be held at a future date.

In memory of Dale donations can be made to Michigan Spinal Cord Injury Association, https://mispinalcord.org/.

Arrangements by Girrbach Funeral Home. To leave an online condolence visit www.girrbachfuneralhome.com.

Dixie Lynne Stevens



Dixie Lynne Stevens, age 88, passed away on April 5, 2025.

Dixie was born on July 9, 1936, in Grand Rapids, MI the daughter of Lester and Hazel (Hall) Marsac. Dixie was a proud graduate of Ottawa Hills High School and studied at Grand Rapids Junior College. Her career was as diverse as her interests; she co-owned Stevens Associated Enterprises for 35 years, served as a switchboard operator for Bell Telephone, became a sworn deputy of the US Marshals Office, and graced the fashion industry as a model for Gantos clothing.

Dixie's commitment to her community was evident through her service with Easterseals in Grand Rapids and her active participation in local churches. She found her spiritual homes at Cedar Creek Bible Church, Faith United Methodist Church, and was a cherished founding member of Delton Community Church. An enthusiastic member of the Thornapple Valley Dulcimer Society, Dixie also shared a love for traveling the country with her husband.

Dixie is survived by her husband of 68 years, Kent Stevens, children, Suzanne (Danny) Merrill, Cindy (Michael) Thee, and Kurt (Elaine) Stevens, grandchildren, David, Alaina, Maria, Kent (Jen), Cody, Thane, great grandchildren, Emma, Caleb, Grace, Aiden, Kane, Avery, and Audrey, many close friends and three grand pups. Dixie was preceded in death by her parents.

Dixie's family will receive friends on Friday, April 11, 2025, 5 to 7 p.m. at the Williams-Gores Funeral Home and on Saturday, April 12, 2025, 100 to 11a.m. Delton Community Church where her memorial service will take place at 11 a.m.

Memorial contributions to Delton Community Church will be appreciated.

The family would like to express their gratitude to Dr. Jim Weatherhead and Dr. Thomas Hoffman for the many years of wonderful care.

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

HASTINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY SCHEDULE

Thursday, April 17 – Novel Ideas Book Club discusses "James" by Percival Everett, 1 p.m.; Teen Advisory Board, 3:30 p.m.; Movies, Memories and Milestones watches a 1936 film starring Clark Gable and Jean Harlow, 5 p.m.

Friday, April 18 – Friday Story Time 10:30 a.m.

Saturday, April 19 – Dungeons & Dragons and Warhammer, 9 a.m.; Neighborhood Forest tree pick-up at the Barry Community Expo at Hastings High School, 520 W. South St., 10 a.m.

Monday, April 21 – Crafting Passions, 10 a.m.; Lego Club, 4 p.m.; Earth Day movie and discussion – "Weathered: Business as Usual & Climate Crossroads," 6 p.m.

Tuesday, April 22 – Baby Cafe, 10 a.m.; mahjong, 5 p.m.; chess, 5 p.m.; EcoPlay: A Smorgasbord of Earth-Friendly Games (registration required for limited seating), 6 p.m.

Wednesday, April 23 – Itsy Bitsy Book Club, 10:30 a.m.; acoustic jam session, 5 p.m.

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

Worship Together



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Hastings, MI 49058
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PIERCE CEDAR CREEK INSTITUTE EVENTS

— APRIL 18-24 —

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.

Thursday, April 24 — Dive-in Movie, 5-7:30 p.m. at the Hastings Community Education and Resource Center, 520 W. South Street in Hastings. Join the Institute and friends for a family-friendly space movie in the pool. Take a break from swimming to explore hands-on activities, books, snacks, local resources and preschool information. This event is sponsored by Barry County Great Start Collaborative, Pierce Cedar Creek Institute and Hastings Public Library. Doors open at 5 p.m.; the movie starts at 5:30 p.m. Registration is required.

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

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

'In My Time' by Robert Faulkner Part XI

BANNER SEPT. 7, 1995

JOYCE F. WEINBRECHT

Robert Faulkner purchased a store in Coloma, Mich., and moved his wife and new baby into a big, old house.

He writes:

"The first year of business, my total sales were $15,000. After paying for merchandise, this left about $4,500 for wages, rent, heat, and our living expenses. We still drove the 1930 Chevrolet with the cloth top torn across the front. So as we drove, the wind caused the cloth to rise about six inches.

"For two years, Juanita had no new clothes, and she never complained.

"I had to write Butler Brothers a financial statement. The credit manager wrote back that with only $15,000 in sales, I could not expect to succeed, but they would allow me $300 in credit. The custom in retailing is to place an order for the goods. When the goods are shipped, you are allowed a 2 percent discount if the bill is paid within 10 days and net within 30 days. Most suppliers would not accept cash advances of CODs (cash on delivery). This meant I was limited to placing orders not to exceed $300.

"Fortunately, I found a company in Grand Rapids, W.J. Dykstra Co., that could supply some of my needs. They were just starting a business and carried mostly notions.

"Mr. Dykstra had been in the business of making gunstocks. The lack of demand had forced him to close. He rented a loft in Grand Rapids and sent letters to all the five-and-tens in the area offering to sell them merchandise at 10 percent above his cost. Each merchant would have to pay a hundred dollars in advance. When that was used up, another hundred dollars was to be paid. I would drive to Grand Rapids, fill my car with merchandise, and, like as not, have $20 credit left.

"Out of the ashes of the Depression rose new business. Individuals, through their own courageous initiative, found ways not only to survive, but also to prosper and incidentally to create new jobs for others. Every small town had a five and dime, a product of the Depression.

"Fortunately for the economy, there was no minimum wage. Prices, rent and wages were free to find their own level. When minimum wages came in, many businesses went out.

"One of the frequent sights on the street in front of the store were WPA workers sweeping the streets and cleaning the gutters. They were local men who, through no fault of their own, had lost their jobs. WPA stood for 'Works Progress Administration' (and was) developed to give the unemployed some income. They worked 30 hours a week for 40 cents an hour. Some of it was 'makework' and had no real purpose.

"I thought how ironic it was that President Hoover, when he was Secretary of Commerce, had gathered a list of needed public goods to be commenced in a recession, but Congress wouldn't appropriate the $5 billion needed to fund the program. Candidate Roosevelt assailed Hoover as a spendthrift and advocated a balanced budget. Hoover was defeated and blamed for the Depression.

"And now we had a makework program, shovels and wheelbarrows replaced dump trucks so more men could be employed.

"In 1937, there was some improvement in employment. In fact, the financial newspapers noticed concern about inflation. In 1938, I bought a used Pontiac and we got rid of the battered Chevy.

"Business improved each year, but I needed more volume. A dime store in neighboring Watervliet was floundering. The owner sat in a rocking chair near the back of the store and only moved to wait on a customer or to go to the tavern across the street.

"Wince Watervliet was only two miles from Coloma, I didn't want the store to be acquired by a chain. So, I adopted a strategy of self-defense.

"I rented an empty building across the road for $25 a month. I heard that a small store in Hillsdale had gone out of business. It had all virtually new Store-Craft fixtures. I was able to buy the fixtures for $1,000. I hired a schoolboy to help and one morning, very early, we drove to Hillsdale, took the fixtures apart, loaded them on the truck, drove back to Watervliet and carried the fixtures into the store building. It was well after midnight when we arrived home. When the fixtures were reassembled after a few days, we took some merchandise from the Coloma store and put a few items in each bin on a counter and shelves and opened for business.

"I was surprised that we did enough business to cover expenses. My next move was to go to the owner of the building my competitor was in and offer to buy the building. He was afraid that he wasn't going to get his rent, and I pointed out that selling me the building would end his worries. He asked for $6,500. I offered him $500 down and $70 a month. He accepted.

"However, after buying the fixtures, I didn't have the $500. I went to the bank and talked the president into giving me an unsecured loan for $500. Now, all I had to do was wait. My competitor went out of business in December 1938.

"The store in the building I had bought was much bigger than mine. I measured the store and drew out a detailed counter arrangement. I engaged a couple of local men to help build fixtures. They were designed so the counters from my old store would exactly fit. I had the counters laid out with glass bins and placed



A view of the Delton Post Office and the Ellis Faulkner drugstore in the 1920s.

one item in each bin. I hired several men to help.

"After we closed the store at 10 on Saturday night, Jan. 28, 1939, we carried the counters across the street. Sunday, I brought a couple of girls from Coloma. We spent Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday morning laying out the store.

"We had planned a nine-cent sale for our grand opening on Feb. 4. But we were ready Friday noon and I said, 'Why don't we open up' The girls were as eager as I to start business. That afternoon, without an announcement, we took in $50. I knew the store would be a success. It wasn't long before the Watervliet store sales were about the same as Coloma's.

"Hitler invaded Poland on Sept. 1, 1939, and Europe was again at war. The United States began a huge military buildup. Men and women were being called back to work. By 1940, the Depression was over. It had been a hard 10 years, but the 1940s were to be even harder for many people. People asked why it took a war to end the Depression.

"Late in 1940, I believe it was September, a man from South Haven stopped in to see me. He wanted to buy the Watervliet store for his son-in-law. After some bargaining, we settled on a price. He bought the building inventory and fixtures for a little over $16,000. I had a lawyer I knew in Paw Paw handle the legalities.

"He spent a half-day in Coloma. When the deal was finished and I had the certified check in my hands, the lawyer said almost apologetically, 'Bob, I'm going to have to charge you $25.'

"Now Juanita could buy some new clothes and some things for the house. But the first thing I did was go to the Chevrolet dealer and buy my first new car. It cost me just over $600. The next day, Juanita, David and I drove to Delton to see Mother and Dad. After five years of struggling, I was going home in triumph. I savored every moment. It was one of life's great pleasures.

"When we drove up in a car, I knew what Dad's reaction must be. I could imagine him saying to himself, 'He still owes me $3,700 and buys a new car?' When I handed him a check for the amount I owed, he said, 'What did you do, rob a bank?'

The War Years

"1940 proved to be an eventful year. Juanita for some time had suggested that we should buy a home instead of paying rent. I think that she was the better businessman. Now that we had a little money, I agreed.

"We found two houses that we liked, both on Church Street. One was on a brook and the other up the street was on higher ground. The one by the stream was $4,000. The other was $3,500 and was on a large lot. We chose the latter.

"It was a story-and-a-half with a full basement. The first floor consisted of a kitchen, a dining room, living room and bedroom. There was another bedroom in the upper half story. The house was heated by a coal furnace in the basement. We paid $500 down and had payments of $40 a month, including interest of 5 percent. Later, we bought two lots, one on each side of us, from the same people, for $250 per lot. This gave us four acres with an abandoned inner urban right of way behind us.

"Germany was overrunning France, Belgium and Holland and driving the British toward Dunkirk. Austria had already been annexed to Germany and a large part of Poland divided between Germany and Russia. The rearmament of America was proceeding at a hectic pace, and for the first time since World War I, all men between 18 and 45 were required to register for the draft. As we signed up, we joked about becoming soldiers, little realizing that many of us would be fishing in Europe, or the Pacific before this terrible conflict ended.

"In August of 1940, Juanita, David and my nephew Jim Faulkner and Juanita's brother, Jim Mitchell and I went to Patton Lake, Canada for a vacation. Jim Faulkner was 14 and Jim Mitchell was 16.

"Patton Lake is located north of Bruce Mines, about 40 miles northeast of Sault Ste. Marie, Canada. It is or was a beautiful spot, with nearby lakes hardly touched by humans.

"The two Jims and I decided to take an overnight trip to Solar Lake. We rowed across Patton Lake, portaged to Chipmon Lake, rowed the length of Chipmon Lake, portaged to Steward Lake, rowed to the end of Stewart and then struck out on foot for the Solar River.

"We had no compass and there were no trails so we traveled by dead reckoning. We intended to walk along the river to Solar Lake, but the forest was too dense so we walked in the river. The river bottom was covered with stones, most of which seemed to be three to five inches in diameter. We kept slipping on the wet stones until we came to a beaver dam. We could no longer wade, but fortunately the forest was a little less dense and it was only about a half-mile further to the lake.

"There was no place to camp at the end of the lake, so we made our way through the brush and trees to the north end of the lake where the river came in. There was a sandy area at the mouth of the river where we could camp.

"We gathered wood for a campfire and while looking for wood, discovered a patch of blackberries. But our dream of having blackberries for supper was soon shattered. Bears had been ahead of us, and only a few scattered berries remained.

"We'd each brought a casting rod and we waded out into the lake and cast our red and white spoons as far as we could. But (on) almost every cast, we got a strike, and soon had six nice pike. Jim Faulkner volunteered to fix dinner. He filleted the smallest pike. Hungry as we were, it was all that the three of us could eat. We thought that it was the most delicious fish we had ever eaten.

"By now, it was getting dark, so we lit our campfire. We had each brought a blanket, which we now rolled up in. Just then, it started to rain and it turned very cold. We shivered all night in our wet blankets. Jim Faulkner had the worst of it. Only later did we discover that he had a cotton blanket whereas Jim Mitchell and I had woolen blankets.

"We broke camp at daylight and started a long, wet trip home. We had intended to take the pike home with us, but they were too heavy. I took the two largest but by the time we got home seven hours later, we were afraid that they were spoiled.

"When we came to Patton Lake, the wind was blowing hard and the waves were high. We had a round bottom metal boat. Jim Faulkner volunteered to row and we set off across the treacherous lake. There were some frightening moments, but thanks to Jim's coolness and skill, we made it back to our cottage."

To be continued...

The buck stays here!

Spend it here. Keep it here.

Invest In Your Community.

VIEWspaper Group

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

GO ONLINE TO
HASTINGSBANNER.COM

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)

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: 5030695658.

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

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 15, 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): Juilene Chilton, a married woman, as her Sole and Separate Property

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

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC

Date of Mortgage: January 29, 2021

Date of Mortgage Recording: February 9, 2021

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $287,660.37

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Assyria, Barry County, Michigan, and described as: A parcel of land in the Southeast 1/4 of Section 28, Town 1 North, Range 7 West described as follows: Beginning at the South 1/4 post of Section 28, Town 1 North, Range 7 West; thence North 00 degrees 12 minutes 48 seconds East, along the North and South 1/4 line of Section 28, a distance of 962.01 feet; thence South 89 degrees 47 minutes 12 seconds East, at right angles to said North and South 1/4 line, 594.42 feet; thence North 70 degrees 51 minutes 18 seconds East 113.00 feet; thence South 16 degrees 11 minutes 32 seconds East 84.15 feet; thence South 07 degrees 05 minutes 51 seconds West 129.11 feet; thence South 27 degrees 02 minutes 05 seconds West 176.43 feet; thence North 77 degrees 25 minutes 58 seconds West 114.51 feet; thence South 30 degrees 09 minutes 59 seconds West 399.26 feet; thence South 16 degrees 06 minutes 37 seconds West 156.43 feet; thence South 20 degrees 44 minutes 37 seconds East 159.14 feet; thence South 21 degrees 45 minutes 25 seconds East 11.60 feet to the South line of said Section 28; thence North 90 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds West, along said line, 337.17 feet to the place of beginning. Subject to and together with a non-exclusive easement for ingress, egress and public utilities over a strip of land 66 feet width, the centerline of which is described as follows: Commencing at the South 1/4 post of Section 28, Town 1 North, Range 7 West; thence South 90 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds East, along the South line of said Section 28, a distance of 337.17 feet; thence South 21 degrees 45 minutes 25 seconds East 208.40 feet; thence North 88 degrees 08 minutes 44 seconds East 35.10 feet to the true place of beginning of said centerline; thence North 21 degrees 45 minutes 25 seconds West 231.86 feet; thence North 20 degrees 44 minutes 25 seconds West 231.86 feet; thence North 20 degrees 44 minutes 32 seconds West 148.29 feet; thence North 16 degrees 06 minutes 37 seconds East 121.90 feet; thence North 30 degrees 09 minutes 59 seconds East 327.86 feet; thence North 86 degrees 10 minutes 49 seconds East 90.76 feet; thence North 27 degrees 02 minutes 05 seconds East 246.64 feet; thence North 07 degrees 05 minutes 51 seconds East 129.11 feet; thence North 16 degrees 11 minutes 32 seconds West 84.15 feet; thence South 70 degrees 51 minutes 18 seconds West 113.00 feet; thence North 21 degrees 20 minutes 31 seconds West 168.54 feet; thence North 40 degrees 14 minutes 40 seconds East 130.44 feet; thence North 82 degrees 52 minutes 52 seconds East 213.48 feet; thence South 76 degrees 55 minutes 51 seconds East 104.49 feet; thence North 68 degrees 45 minutes 24 seconds East 112.30 feet to the centerline of Day Road and the point of ending Barry County, Michigan

Common street address (if any): 14950 Loon Lake Dr, Bellevue, MI 49021-8228

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 17, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1558730
(04-17)(05-08)

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 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)

HOPE TOWNSHIP ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

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

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Hope Township Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a meeting and public hearing on Thursday, May 8th, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. in the Hope Township Hall, 5463 South M-43, Hastings, Michigan 49058 within the Township, to consider the following variance request:

Champion Windows/Great Day Improvements, on behalf of Garry and Molly Nesmith, is requesting relief from Sections 8.4, 10.2, 16.6, and 19.3 of the Hope Township Zoning Ordinance to construct an 11-foot by 11-foot enclosed porch addition to an existing nonconforming single-family dwelling within the required front yard (lakefront) on a nonconforming lot of record located at 5963 Keller Road, Delton, MI 49046 (parcel number 08-07-017-016-00). If granted, the variance request would allow the enclosed porch to encroach fifteen (15) feet into the thirty (30) foot required setback (described in detail below). The Hope Township Zoning Ordinance requires that buildings and structures be set back fifty (50) feet from the front (lakefront) lot line on lots in the RL, Residential Lake zoning district, which can be reduced by fifty (50) percent on lawfully nonconforming lots, except that a building shall not be any closer to a lakeshore than a straight line connecting the nearest building on each side of the lot. In this case, the required setback is greater than the fifty (50) percent minimum due to the location of adjacent buildings.

A copy of the Hope Township Zoning Ordinance and the application is available for review at the Hope Township Hall, 5463 S. M-43 Hwy, Hastings, Michigan 49058, during regular business hours 9:00 a.m. through noon and 1:15 p.m. through 3:00 p.m. on Wednesdays. The Hope Township Zoning Ordinance is also accessible at www.hopetwp.com. Written comments will be received from any interested persons by the Hope Township Clerk at the Hope Township Hall during regular business hours up to the time of the hearing and may be further received by the Zoning Board of Appeals at the hearing. Oral comments will be taken at the meeting.

This notice is posted in compliance with PA 267 of 1976 as amended (Open Meetings Act) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Hope Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed material being considered at the hearing, to individuals with disabilities at the hearing upon seven (7) days' notice to the Hope Township Clerk. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Hope Township Clerk at the address or telephone number listed below.

HOPE TOWNSHIP ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
Hope Township Hall
5463 South M-43
Hastings, Michigan 49058
(269) 948-2464

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): 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)

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)

NOTICE OF SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING

The City Council of the City of Hastings will hold a special workshop at **6:00 PM on Monday, April 28, 2025** in the second floor Council Chambers at City Hall, 201 East State Street, Hastings, Michigan 49058. The purpose of the workshop will be the presentation of the draft municipal budget FYE 2024/2025.

The City will provide necessary aids and services to individuals with disabilities upon five days' notice to the Clerk of the City of Hastings. Individuals requiring these services should contact the City of Hastings at 269-945-2468, or via email at mpeacock@hastingsmi.gov.

Linda Perin
City Clerk

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
BARRY COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. and JUDGE 25-30046-DE
William M. Doherty

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

Estate of Sarah J. Nichols. Date of birth: 7-3-1954.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Sarah J. Nichols, died 10-14-2023.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to James P. Nichols of 1589 N. Yankee Springs Road, Middleville, MI 49333, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 206 West Court Street, Hastings, MI 49058 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: 04/09/2025
Michael J. McPhillips P33715
121 West Apple Street, Suite 101
Hastings, Michigan 49058
269-945-3512
James P. Nichols
1589 N. Yankee Springs Road
Middleville, MI 49333
616-893-5621

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
BARRY COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. and JUDGE 2025-30084-DE
William M. Doherty

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

Estate of Ado Floreani. Date of birth: May 7, 1937.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Ado Floreani, died December 27, 2024.

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

Date: April 9, 2025
Chaligian & Tripp Law Offices, PLLC
Erin L. Majka P77781
480 W. Lovell St.
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
(269) 216-4570
Derek Floreani
15385 N. High Lonesome Way
Prescott, AZ 48305
(832) 258-8797

City of Hastings

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Hastings City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday April 28, 2025, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers, second floor of City Hall, 201 East State Street, Hastings, Michigan.

The purpose of the Public Hearing is for City Council to hear comments and determine the necessity of improvements and the establishment of a special assessment district for the Downtown Parking Special Assessment District for 2025.

The City will provide necessary aids and services to individuals with disabilities upon five days' notice to the Clerk of the City of Hastings. Individuals requiring these services should contact the City of Hastings at 269-945-2468, or via email at mpeacock@hastingsmi.gov.

Linda Perin
City Clerk

CITY OF HASTINGS
BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN
NOTICE OF INTENT TO ISSUE BONDS TO ELECTORS AND TAXPAYERS OF THE CITY OF HASTINGS, BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN, SECURED BY THE LIMITED FULL FAITH AND CREDIT OF THE CITY AND THE RIGHT OF REFERENDUM THEREON

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT THE CITY OF HASTINGS intends to issue capital improvement bonds in one or more series in a maximum amount not to exceed $8,500,000.

The bonds will be issued for the purpose of defraying all or a portion of the cost of certain capital improvements along Fish Hatchery Park to Broadway Street on Green and from Green to State on Market Street, within the City, including but not limited to (i) resurfacing of such roads; (ii) construction of a mini roundabout at the intersection of Green and Market; (iii) lead service line replacements, storm, and sanitary sewer replacement on Green and Market; (iv) water main replacement on Market Street; and (v) acquiring and constructing any and all other related appurtenances and site improvements within or immediately adjacent to the road right of way (the "Public Improvements").

The bonds to be issued shall mature within the maximum term permitted by law with interest on the unpaid balance at a rate or rates not to exceed the maximum rate permitted by law. The bonds shall be issued pursuant to Act 34 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 2001, as amended ("Act 34"), including specifically Section 517 of Act 34.

SOURCE OF PAYMENT

The principal of and interest on the bonds shall be payable from the general revenues of the City and shall be secured by the full faith and credit pledge of the City within constitutional, statutory and charter limitations.

RIGHT OF REFERENDUM

The bonds will be issued without a vote of the electors unless, within 45 days from the date of publication of this notice, a petition, signed by not less than 10% or 15,000 of the registered electors, whichever is less, residing within the limits of the City shall have been filed with the City Clerk requesting a referendum upon the question of the issuance of said bonds, then the bonds shall not be issued until approved by the vote of the majority of the electors of the City qualified and voting thereon at a general or special election.

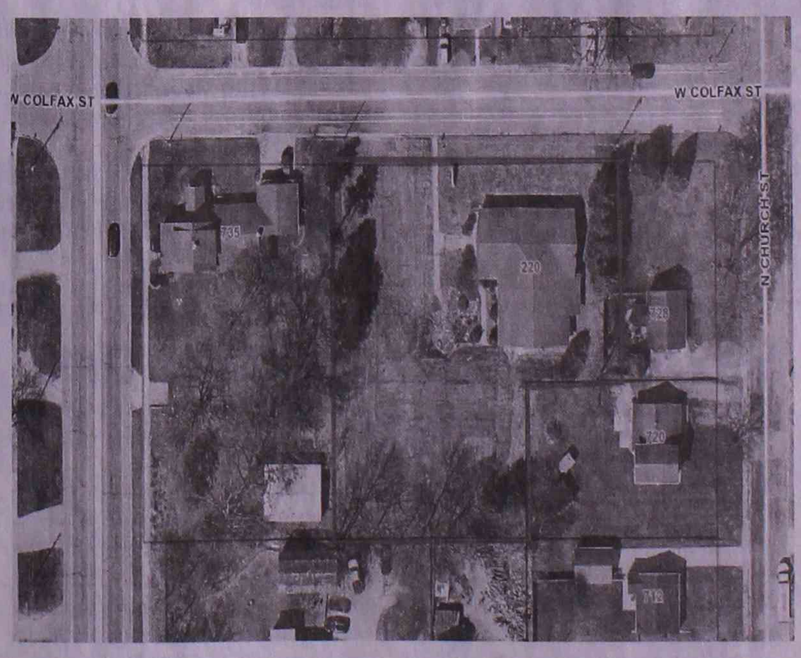
This notice is published pursuant to the requirements of Section 517 of the Act 34.

Linda Perin, City Clerk

City of Hastings

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
ON A SPECIAL USE PERMIT FOR 220 W COLFAX

The Planning Commission for the City of Hastings will hold a Public Hearing for the purpose of hearing written and/or oral comments from the public regarding the request for a Special Use Permit and Site Plan Review for conversion of an existing building to a museum at 220 W. Colfax, Hastings, MI 49058 PP# 08-55-040-014-00. The public hearing will be held at **7:00 PM on Monday May 5, 2025**, in the Council Chambers, second floor of City Hall, 201 East State Street, Hastings, MI 49058. Please check the City of Hastings website at www.hastingsmi.gov or contact City Hall at 269-945-2468 for details.



All interested citizens are encouraged to attend and to submit comments.

A copy of the plans and additional background materials are available for public inspection from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM Monday through Friday at the Office of the Community Development Director, 201 E. State Street, Hastings, MI 49058. Questions or comments can be directed to Sandy Ponsetto, Administrative Specialist at 269-945-2468 or sponsetto@hastingsmi.gov.

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

Linda Perin
City Clerk

Milers start SAC season strong for DK

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

It looked like he knew what he was doing.

Running a varsity 1600-meter race for the first time, Delton Kellogg sophomore Landon Madden hung at the back of a pack that included Galesburg-Augusta senior Carter Stevens, Constantine senior Robbie King and Constantine junior Alessandro Avila for most of 1450 meters.

When a stiff wind out of the west quit blowing in his face quite so hard coming around the final turn, Madden took off and won handily.

Madden never ran a race longer than 800-meters as a freshman last spring in a strong first varsity track and field season with the Panthers, then he qualified for the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 3 Cross Country Finals in his first high school cross country season last fall traversing 5K courses all season. Head coach Dale Grimes said he is looking forward to getting back to running the 400 and the 800 like he did a year ago on the track, but the Panthers just really needed him in that race to help out on the scoreboard Monday.

Madden turned in a winning time of 5 minutes 5.29 seconds in that 1600 Monday in a Southwestern Athletic Conference Valley Division tri with Constantine and host Galesburg-Augusta. The points helped the DK boys' team to a 1-1 day. The Panthers scored an 81-46 victory over the host Rams, but fell 83.5-44.5 to Constantine.

The DK girls were downed by both foes, falling 67.5-51.5 to G-A and 81.67-46.33 to the Constantine girls.

It was as pretty great day in the 1600-meter run for the Delton Kellogg girls too. Senior Kylie Main won the race in 6:15.51, and junior Elli Timmerman and sophomore Makayla Lutz both set new personal record times in the race while placing second and third. Timmerman clocked in at 6:56.26 and Lutz at 7:25.47.

That was the only event in which any of the three teams swept the top three scoring places.

The DK boys weren't too far off that with a great day in the sprints led by sophomores Logan Damron and Jace McPheeters who went 1-2 in the 100-meter dash. Damron turned in a time of 12.00 and McPheeters 12.05. McPheeters was second and Damron third in the 200-meter dash too, behind Galesburg-Augusta senior Levi Born who won in 25.66.

"They kind of feed off of each other," coach Grimes said of his two young sprinters. "I am seeing that develop. It is almost like a little bit of a rivalry, but a little bit of great teamwork, like let's go beat these guys kind of attitude. The two of them, they went 1-2 in the 100-meter dash. That was really exciting. They were all smiles as well after the meet. That's good to see."

Senior Myles Hatton had a win on the track for the DK boys too taking the 400-meter run in 56.64.

The 300-meter hurdles was a big race for the DK boys in the win over G-A. The Rams didn't have an entrant into the event. The DK team had freshman Ryan Sinclair second, junior Carter Lynch third and junior Nick Muday fourth in that race overall. Constantine senior Justin Hendrix won it in 46.79. Sinclair had a runner-up time of 49.46. Coach Grimes said Sinclair was another one with big smiles, and a bloody knee from nicking the last hurdle in the 300-meter race, after the meet.

Hendrix was a four-time champ on the boys' side. He won the long jump at 21-5.5 and he was a part of the Falcons' winning 4x200-meter relay team. His junior teammate Bear Geibe was a four-time winner too. Geibe took the 800-meter run and was a part of the other three Falcon relay victories.

Constantine teams won all four relay races. Delton Kellogg foursomes were second in two of those four boys' events. McPheeters, senior Cyrus Bain, Hatton and sophomore Kayden Conley had a runner-up time of 1:40.80 in the 4x200-meter relay. In the 4x400-meter relay DK got a runner-up time of 4:10.34 from the team of Bain, Sinclair, senior Miki Hovi and freshman Lane Steele.

Hovi, an exchange student, had a solid day in the field for DK too with a runner-up height of 5 feet 3 inches in the high jump. Coach Grime was really pleased with both Hovi and Madden in that high jump. DK senior Wyatt Finney was second in the long jump at 19-3.5, bumping up over that 19-foot mark after bein in the 18's at the first meet of the season.

In the throws, the DK boys were led by sophomore Evan Flesner who set a PR of 92-11 to place fifth in the discus and was third in the shot put with a mark of 35-9.

It was a solid day all around for those DK distance runners in the girls' meet. Main was the runner-up in the 800-meter run with a time of 2:48.36 behind Constantine's Kailee Jones (2:41.02). Timmerman was fifth in that race while wetting her PR at 3:12.68.

DK junior Izabelle Gruber placed second behind Constantine junior Jaedyn Herlein in the two hurdles races. Herlein won the 100-meter hurdles in 17.11 with Gruber clocking in at 18:40. In the 300-meter low hurdles, Herlein won with a time of 52.24 and Gruber was second in 55.05.

Herlein was a four-time champ on the day also taking the long jump at 16-.75 and running with the winning 4x200-meter relay team for the Falcons.

DK girls' teams were second in the 4x100-meter relay, the 4x200-meter relay and the 4x400-meter relay. Sophomore Brynlee Babbitt-Smith, freshman Alexandra Ryder, junior Lily DeVries and senior Mia Kohlen had a time of 1:01.97 in the 4x100-meter relay. In the 4x200-meter relay the DK team of Babbitt-Smith, DeVries, Ryder and Gruber was second in 2:10.49. The 4x400-meter relay team of Gruber, Ryder, senior Jillian Leclercq and Main earned a time of 5:06.68.

Senior Jaidyn Klimp won four events for the G-A girls. She took the high jump at 4-10, the shot put with a mark of 33-4, she won the 400-meter run in 1:02.22 and beat out freshman Jenisyn Klimp by almost a second to win the 200-meter dash in 27.67. Jenisyn was the 100-meter dash champ in 13.43.

Delton Kellogg junior Violet Kokx led her team in the field events. She had a runner-up throw of 71-2 inches that coach Katie Ingle was really happy to see, and Kokx also placed third in the shot put with a mark of 27-8.

Kohlen tied for second in the high jump for the Panthers by getting over the bar at 4-3.

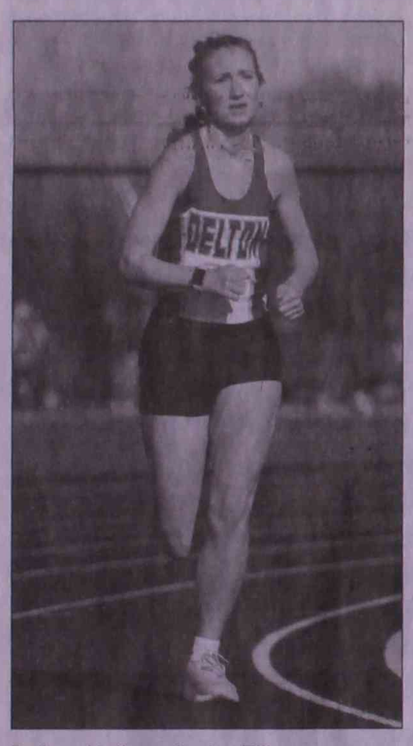
The Delton Kellogg teams were set to take on Schoolcraft and Hackett Catholic Prep in more SAC Valley contests at DKHS Wednesday, April 16. League contests continue April 23 at Kalamazoo Christian.



Delton Kellogg sophomore Evan Fleser takes a final turn in the shot put during his team's SAC Valley duals with Constantine and Galesburg-Augusta at Galesburg-Augusta High School Monday.



Delton Kellogg junior Izabelle Gruber races to a runner-up finish in the 100-meter hurdles Monday during her team's SAC Valley duals with Constantine and the host Rams at Galesburg-Augusta. **Photos by Brett Bremer**



Delton Kellogg junior Elli Timmerman runs to a new personal record time of 6 minutes 56.26 seconds to place second in the 1600-meter run at the SAC Valley opener Monday at Galesburg-Augusta High School.

Saxons shoot to sixth at first I-8 golf jamboree

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Host Harper Creek ran away with the first Interstate-8 Athletic Conference jamboree of the season Monday at Binder Park Golf Course.

The Beavers put up a score of 313 to outscore runner-up Marshall by 20 strokes at the 18-hole event to open conference play.

Hastings was led by junior Daniel Jensen in a sixth-place finish. He shot an 84 to finish in 12th individually. He started on number 16 and promptly birdied the par-5, 460-yard number 17. he also closed the front nine strong with four straight pars.

Marshall shot a 333 as a team to place second ahead of Parma Western 334, Jackson Northwest 342, Coldwater 370, Hastings 373 and Pennfield 416.

Freshman Andrew Barton shot a 93 for the Saxons, junior Bronson Elliott shot a 98 and senior Hunter Pennington scored a 98 too.

Harper Creek senior Colton Beard led the league with a two-over-74. His senior teammate Spencer Denney tied Western's Hayden Kim for runner-up honors as they both shot a 77.

The top five for the day included Coldwater sophomore Dracyn Foster (78) and Northwest junior Jake Brafford (79).

The Beavers' scoring group also included an 80 from sophomore Mack King and an 82 from senior Quinn Barrick.

Marshall was led by sophomore Henry Strand who scored an 81 to place eighth overall. The Redhawks also got an 83 from junior Clark Erwin, an 84 from senior Kayden Granger and an 85 from senior Xande Goss.

Pennfield's leader was senior Evan Lampert who scored a 97, and the Panthers' top four also included a 103 from senior Braden Campbell, a 106 from junior Nolan Badger and a 110 from Brenden Back.



Delton Kellogg senior Cyrus Bain gets off the blocks at the start of the 200-meter dash Monday during his team's SAC Valley duals with Galesburg-Augusta and Constantine at Galesburg-Augusta High School.

Lions still trying to build confidence in batter's box

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

There have been worse days, and there are sure to be better ones.

The Maple Valley varsity softball team was shut out by Bronson in two games of their Big 8 Conference doubleheader at Maple Valley High School on a cold, windy Tuesday afternoon.

The Vikings scored 18-0 and 22-0 wins over the Lions.

Calleigh Koontz was hit by a pitch and Payton Morawski worked a walk in game two. They were the only two baserunners for the Maple Valley team during the two three-inning ballgames.

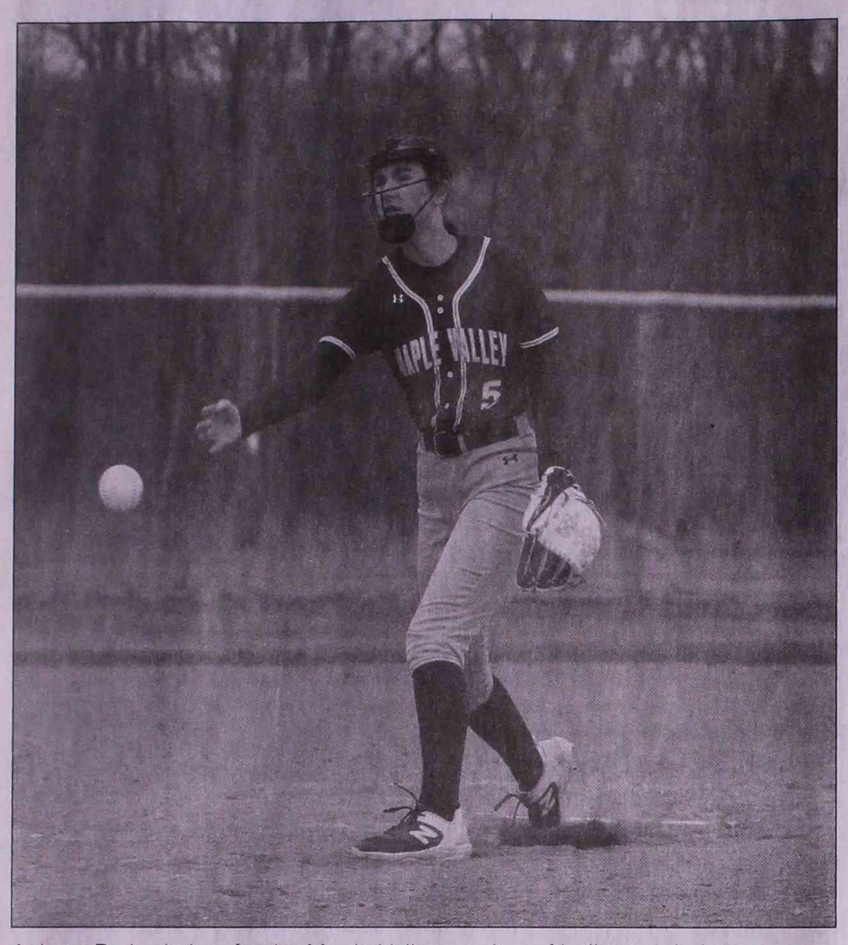
"We're still a young team, loaded with sophomores, and one senior and one junior and that's it," Maple Valley head coach Nick Blakely said. "We're still learning, but they're getting a lot better. They're hashing through knowing the mental part of the game, and believing in themselves that they can hit the ball and stuff like that."

Coach Blakely was especially pleased with the defensive effort his girls put forth in game one. There were a few errors here and there, but overall the Lions did a decent job of making the Vikings earn their runs – both with a solid defensive effort and something of an improved pitching performance from recent seasons.

Sara Hickey started at pitcher in both ballgames for the Lions, Aubree Roth closed out game two in the circle. Between the two of them they only issued five walks through the three games. Bronson had to put the bat on the ball to move around the bases.



Maple Valley's Sarah Hickey stretches off the bag at third to get a throw from home as Bronson's Aurora Deck-Phair slides safely in during game two of their Big 8 Conference doubleheader at Maple Valley High School Tuesday.
Photos by Brett Bremer



Aubree Roth pitches for the Maple Valley varsity softball team during game two of its Big 8 doubleheader with visiting Bronson Tuesday afternoon.

Braelynn Gimenez had a big game one for the Vikings knocking two home runs in and driving in four. She scored in all three of her plate appearances in game one and scored five runs in five trips to the plate overall. Her replacement in the second inning of game two, Ashlynn Harris, hit a home run too.

Lydia Wells, Delanee Carpenter, Madison Shaw and Kalyeah Shoup had two hits apiece in game two for the Vikings, and Aurora Deck-Phair was 3-for-3. In game one, Kailynne Scare and Kyra McCormick joined Gimenez in belting two hits each for Bronson.

Coach Blakely said growing confidence in the batter's box will be key to the Lions' season, really on both sides of the ball. He said he could see his defense wane a bit in game two as the struggles with the bat turned into struggles with the glove.

Ashlyn Harris threw threw the three-inning no-hitter for the Vikings in game one, and Shaw tossed the three-inning, no-hitter in game two. Harris struck out the first eight batters she faced. Shaw struck out seven total.

"That is a real good team," Blakely said. "They were on top last year. They know what they're doing over there. So do we, but it takes time. Can't build Rome in a day."

The next day for the Lions is today. They'll head to Union City for a Big 8 Conference doubleheader this afternoon, April 17. Maple Valley hosts Concord for two conference games April 22 and then will face Olivet in two at Olivet High School April 25.

Lions atop a couple field events at Mohawk Relays

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Lions had a few of the top field event performances Saturday at Morley-Stanwood's Mohawk Relays.

The Maple Valley varsity boys' track and field team had the junior duo of Andrew Phenix and Tyrese Robinson-El win the discus competition with Phenix firing off the top throw of the event at 106 feet 11 inches and Robinson-El adding a throw of 95-7.

Lion freshman Kelvin Nevins-Davis was the top individual in the long jump with a mark of 18-3 and another freshman, teammate Gavin Swift, was ninth overall in that event with a jump of 16-5. That pair also competed in the high jump for the Lions with Nevins-Davis getting over the bar at 5-10 to place third and Swift sixth at 4-10.

The top finish for the Maple Valley boys on the track came from the 1200-meter sprint medley relay team that placed third in 3 minutes .62 seconds. The Lion foursome in that race was made up of Nevins-Davis, junior Holdyn Clinkscales, Robinson-El and sophomore Quincy Page.

The Maple Valley girls were also third in that 1200-meter sprint medley relay which includes a 400-meter leg, two 200-meter legs and then a second 400-meter leg. The Lion foursome of junior Sienna Lowe, sophomore Ammira Felder, sophomore Leannah Johnson and junior Athena Morehouse earned a time of 3:35.54 in that event.

The Maple Valley girls' team also had a freshman 4x200-meter relay team of Noelle Clinkscales, Abby Harvey, Lily Diaz and Lydia Emerick place third in 2:10.02. The Lions' were fourth in the regular 4x200-meter relay with the team of Lowe, junior Izabelle Soper, sophomore Audrey Burpee and Morehouse turning in a time of 2:08.89.

Emerick teamed with Burpee, Ariel Kenyon and junior Izabelle Soper for a fourth-place time of 15:22.98 in the 4000-meter distance medley relay that included a 1200-, a 400-, an 800- and a 1600-meter leg.

Burpee was the top high jumper in the girls' meet getting over the bar at 4-8 and Morehouse cleared 4-2 for a total team height of 8-10, which matched Ithaca for the best of the day.

The Ithaca boys' and girls' teams both won championships at the meet.

Ithaca won the girls' meet with 112 points ahead of White Cloud 108, Lakeview 96, Morley-Stanwood 46, Maple Valley 38 and Reed City 25.

The boys' title went to Ithaca with 126 points ahead of Lakeview 92, Morley-Stanwood 80, White Cloud 69, Reed City 37 and Maple Valley 36.

The Lions had their Big 8 Conference opener postponed due to the weather Tuesday, and that meet was moved to Wednesday, April 16, at Concord. The Lions host the Lakewood Invitational in Nashville this Saturday and then head to Reading for a conference dual April 23.

Young Lions jump right into Big 8 golf season

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Maple Valley varsity boys' golf team got in its first round of the season at the Big 8 Conference jamboree hosted at Concord Hills Golf Course Monday.

Springport took the day's victory with an overall score of 193 ahead of Quincy 205, Stockbridge 212, Bronson 233, Concord 238, Union City 239 and Maple Valley NTS.

The Lion team did not have a team score with three golfers competing, one shy of the number needed to earn a score in the team competition.

Bradley Cushing was the Lion leader on the day with a score of 63. A par on number five was one of the highlights of his round.

The Maple Valley team also had junior Hayze Sifton and freshman Ezekiel Carney competing.

Junior Maximilian Argumedo from Springport had the day's top individual score at 39. Junior Wyatt Loso led Stockbridge with a runner-up score of 44. Quincy had junior Braylon Estlow third with a 45.

In the team victory, Springport also got a 48 from Brody Baum, a 51 from Stone Overweg and a 55 from Eli Worth.

Dave Huber is the new Maple Valley varsity boys' golf coach this spring, taking over for former leader Trent Harvey. All three Lions on the roster a new to varsity golf.

"Usually golf is a sport that you play to do better against your own score form previous rounds of golf," Huber said in the preseason. "With competitive golf the focus is beating the other opponents. It is more about playing a smart round of golf instead of always going for broke with every shot."

"The goal for this year is to gain experience and golfing fundamentals to grow the program for future seasons," he added.

Bronson is set to host the conference this afternoon, April 17, at Bella Vista Golf Club. There are conference jamborees on the slate for Monday hosted by Springport at Burr Oak Golf Club and Tuesday hosted by Stockbridge at Timber Trace Golf Club.

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
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STATE OF MICHIGAN
BARRY COUNTY TRIAL COURT - FAMILY DIVISION
PUBLICATION AND NOTICE OF FRIEND OF THE COURT ANNUAL STATUTORY REVIEW
PUBLIC NOTICE
ANNUAL REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE RECORD OF THE FRIEND OF THE COURT

Under Michigan law, the Chief Family Judge annually reviews the performance record of the Friend of the Court. The review will be conducted on or about July 1, 2025.

This review is limited by law to the following criteria:

- Whether the Friend of the Court is guilty of misconduct, neglect of statutory duty, or failure to carry out the written orders of the court relative to a statutory duty;
- Whether the purposes of the Friend of the Court Acts are being met;
- Whether the duties of the Friend of the Court are being carried out in a manner that reflects the needs of the community.

Members of the public may submit written comments to the Chief Family Judge relating to these criteria. Send your written comments, with your name and address, to Hon. William M. Doherty, Barry County Trial Court, Family Division, 206 W. Court St., Hastings, MI 49058.

Bronson wins battle of aces in Vermontville

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Bronson scored a run in its last at-bat to break a scoreless deadlock with the Lions in the Big 8 Conference varsity baseball opener at Griswold Field at Roger Corey Diamond Tuesday afternoon, and then a burst of hail combined with the setting sun brought an early end to game two.

A Lion error and a pair of singles off the Viking bats brought home what proved to be the winning run in game one after Maple Valley senior pitcher Jakeb McDonald no-hit visiting Bronson for six innings in game one in Vermontville.

Kamron Brackett delivered a single into right for Bronson with runners on second and third and one out in the top of the seventh.

McDonald struck out six and walked two in the complete game effort in which he gave up just the one unearned run.

Lion head coach Bryan Carpenter said that McDonald was around the plate with his pitchers, challenged the Viking hitters and kept the Lions in the ballgame.

Carson Stevens was at least as good for the Vikings. He walked two in the second inning, but that was the only time he really experienced any trouble. A one-out single off the bat of the Lions' TJ Pierce in the bottom of he fifth was the only hit for Maple Valley.

"Stevens mixed it up well, had us guessing all night instead of reading the ball out of his hand and staying back," coach Carpenter said.

Stevens struck out ten and walked three in his seven innings on the mound.

Whether or not the Lions and Vikings conclude game two will likely depend on the weather the rest of the spring and how the Big 8 Conference championship race starts to shake out. Small hail started pouring down right after a Carson Milbourn dropped down a sacrifice bunt to advance teammate Jimmy Wiggs from first to second in the top of the fifth inning with the two teams tied at 6-6.



Maple Valley's Jake McDonald takes a deep breath before stepping back into the batter's box during game two of his team's Big 8 Conference doubleheader against visiting Bronson at the Griswold Field at Roger Corey Diamond in Vermontville Tuesday. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

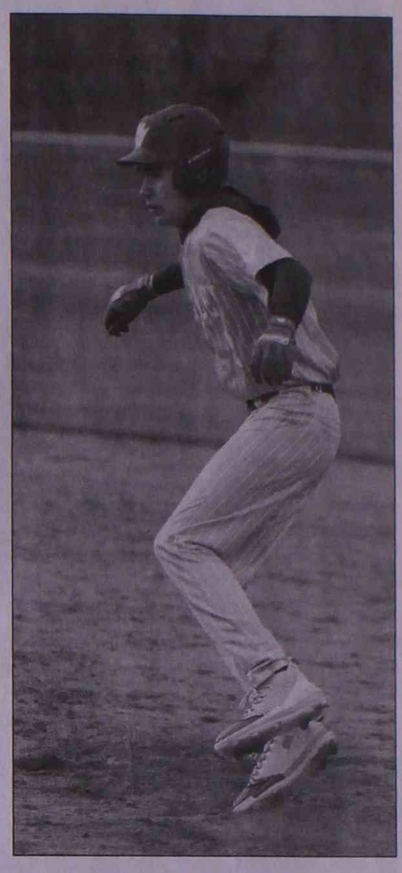
The Lions had a 6-4 lead after scoring five times in the top of the third inning of that second ballgame, but the Vikings got one back in the bottom of the third and another in the bottom of the fourth to even things up.

Nolan Hoefler, McDonald, Milbourn and James Coblentz had singles for the Lions in that one through the first four plus innings. McDonald, Bobby Bryson, Wiggs, Milbourn and Coblentz had one RBI apiece.

Teegen McDonald started game two on the mound for the Lions and allowed four unearned runs on three hits and two walks through 1.1 innings. He struck out one. Kaiden Meyers and Coblentz both threw in relief for the Lions.

Maple Valley, now 1-1 overall this season, is set to travel to Union City for another Big 8 Conference doubleheader on Thursday, April 17. The Lions host their annual Ken Beardslee Memorial Wooden Bat Invitational Saturday, April 19, in Vermontville.

League action resumes next week with the Lions hosting Concord Tuesday, April 22.



Maple Valley's TJ Pierce gets a jump of first base during the top of the third inning of game two Tuesday against visiting Bronson in Vermontville.

PRAIRIEVILLE TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

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

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing will be held on May 8, 2025, commencing at 7:00 p.m. at the Prairieville Township Hall, 10115 S. Norris Rd., Delton MI, 49046 within the Township, as required under the provisions of the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act and the Zoning Ordinance for the Township.

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

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

1. A request submitted by builder Michael Carr on behalf of property owner Robert McIlvaine for Special Land Use and Site Plan Review approval. The request pertains to the property located at 15505 S M-43 Highway, Hickory Corners, MI 49060 (Parcel ID: 08-12-036-050-00), which is zoned R-2 – Single & Two Family, Medium Density Residential.
   The applicant seeks approval to expand a legal non-conforming structure by removing and replacing the existing roof system and increasing the height of the perimeter walls by three (3) feet. This request is being considered in accordance with Section 6.16, "Non-Conforming Buildings/Structures" of the Prairieville Township Zoning Ordinance.

2. A request submitted by property owner Mario Mendoza for Special Land Use and Site Plan Review approval for the property located at 11914 Buckley Road, Plainwell, MI 49080 (Parcel ID: 08-12-090-006-00), currently zoned R-2 – Single & Two Family, Medium Density Residential.
   The applicant proposes to remove and replace an existing 9'4" x 16' section of the structure and construct an approximately 12' x 33' deck system. All proposed improvements are located on the lakeside of the home. This request is being considered in accordance with Section 6.16, "Non-Conforming Buildings/Structures" of the Prairieville Township Zoning Ordinance.

3. Such other business as may properly come before the Planning Commission

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

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

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

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

PRAIRIEVILLE TOWNSHIP ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

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

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

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

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

1. A request from property owner Mario Mendoza for a variance to allow the construction of an addition and deck system to a single-family dwelling that does not meet required setback standards. The subject property is located at 11914 Buckley Road, Plainwell, MI 49080 (Parcel ID: 08-12-090-006-00) and is zoned R-2 – Single & Two Family, Medium Density Residential.
   This request is being reviewed pursuant to Section 4.24, "Waterfront Lots" and Section 4.41, "Schedule of Lot, Yard and Area Requirements" of the Prairieville Township Zoning Ordinance.

2. Such other business as may properly come before the Zoning Board of Appeals.

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

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

PRAIRIEVILLE TOWNSHIP ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
By: Dale Grimes, Chairperson
Prairieville Township Hall
10115 S. Norris Rd.
Delton, Michigan 49046
(269) 623-2064

DK/Martin soccer girls run their record to 3-0

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Delton Kellogg/Martin kept its 2025 varsity girls' soccer record perfect with a 4-1 non-conference win over visiting Pennfield Tuesday.

Luna Lemus scored the lone goal of the second half to help the DK/Martin girls seal the victory, finishing off a corner kick from teammate Teagan Hamlin.

Sara Schipper scored once and Claire Barker tallied two goals for DK/Martin. The host Panthers led the match 3-1 at the half. Schipper's goal came just five minutes into the game as she put away an assist from Elyse Blackburn.

Barker had two quick goals later in the first half, with Hamlin earning an assist.

Pennfield cut into the 3-1 DK/.Martin lead with a goal late in the first half.

Delton Kellogg/Martin goalkeeper Johannah Houtkooper made seven saves in the win, while her team outshot the Pennfield girls 18-10 for the match.

The DK/Martin girls improved to 3-0 with the win. They will be home again Friday, April 18, to take on Quincy. Game time is set for 5:30 p.m.

They go to Parchment Monday and Hackett Catholic Prep Tuesday to start the Southwestern Athletic Conference Valley Division season.

Solid defense set to lead young Eagle soccer squad

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Barry County Christian varsity girls' soccer team is kicking its way into its 2025 spring season.

The Eagles were just under .500 a year ago, and hoping to keep adding wins in their ninth season under head coach Justin Schultz.

The Barry County Christian head coach said he likes that his team has a really strong and cohesive defensive unit with senior goalkeeper Nevaeh Stolz back in net. Protecting the goal again with her this spring are senior stopper Hope Garno, sophomore sweeper Maddy Denton and sophomore fullback Lylah Schultz.

The Eagle coach is also pleased to add freshman stopper Ava Lilly to the back line talent.

Sophomore Faith Garno is the top returning attacker for the Lions. She'll be looking to pressure opposing defenses along with freshman forward Lucy Schultz and freshman center halfback Lilliah Hamilton other key newcomers to the roster.

"We're a pretty young team and will be the next couple years," coach Schultz said. "We have seven freshman coming up next year."

He expects this to be a decent season for his squad, and the Eagles will be pushing to bump their record over the .500 mark and the program is only pointing up from there the next few years.

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Panthers chasing top three early in SAC golf season

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Delton Kellogg/Martin varsity boys' golf team placed fourth at the first two Southwestern Athletic Conference Valley Division jamborees of the season.

Kalamazoo Christian, Hackett Catholic Prep and Schoolcraft went 1-2-3 at the jamboree at Eastern Hills Friday, and those were the top three teams when the conference met up again Monday.

The Comets came out on top Friday on a fifth-score tiebreaker over the Irish as both teams put up a score of 153. Schoolcraft was third at 163 ahead of Delton Kellogg/Martin 182, Constantine 187, Parchment 208 and Lawton 219.

Finishing up spring break week Friday, DK/Martin had just four guys competing. Sophomore Grady Matteson led the way with a score of 40 that had him seventh individually. Freshman Jason Marshall and junior Carter Brickley both shot a 46 for the Panthers and junior Gabe Smoczynski added a 50.

Hackett junior Justin Tyler and K-Christian senior Ian Tuin tied for the day's individual honors with two-under-33s.

Schoolcraft senior Luke Rykse was third with a 36.

The Comet team also got a 38 from freshman Owen Adams, a 39 from sophomore Brixton Devries and 43s from senior Isaac Riggs and freshman Ian Riggs.

Hackett senior Chris Ogrin shot a 38, and the Irish added a 41 from senior Andrew Ogrin and a 41 from senior Grahm Zygadlo.

Back at it at Olde Mille Golf Club Monday, Kalamazoo Christian won with an overall score of 161 ahead of host Schoolcraft 162, Hackett Catholic Prep 166, DK/Martin 186, Constantine 191, Lawton 193 and Parchment 207.

Matteson led the DK team again with a 42 and Marshall shot a 45. Back from break, junior Tyler Howland scored a 48. DK also added a 51 from Brickley.

Schoolcraft freshman Ethan Demaso led the league with an even-par-36. Devries led the Comets with a 37 and Tyler shot a 38 to lead Hackett. They were the top three individuals at the jamboree. Matteson was the only guy not from K-Christian, Schoolcraft or Hackett to earn a spot in the top ten.

The Panthers are set to be on their home course today, April 17, for the annual Kent Enyart Invitational.

Kalamazoo Christian hosts a SAC Valley jamboree at Kalamazoo Country Club next Monday, April 21.

Eagle baseball starts with split against Crusaders

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Barry County Christian School varsity baseball team opened its 2025 spring season with a split in a doubleheader with the West Michigan Crusaders home school team based out of Grand Rapids.

The Crusaders built an 8-1 lead through three innings and held on for an 8-7 win in game one of the double header in Hastings and then the Eagles rallied for four runs in the bottom of the fourth inning for a 5-3 win in game two.

Kenen Fogt threw two shut out innings in game two and Ryan Kammenzind got the win with a perfect inning of relief for the Eagles in the fourth inning of game two.

A pair of walks and a pair of singles pushed across the first run of the bottom of the fourth of game two for the Eagles, tying things up at 3-3 and then two Eagle runs scored on a Crusader error to clinch the win in the shortened ballgame.

The two singles in the inning, by Teegen Whitmire and Nathan Loerop, were the only two hits of the ballgame for the Eagles.

In game one, the Crusaders scored six runs in the top of the first and two more in the top of the second to build an 8-1 lead, but the Eagles fought back with a run in the third, two in the fourth and then three in the bottom of the fifth to get within one run.

Fogt, Jonathan Hawkes, Whitmire and Ryan Wise had the four Eagle hits in game one, all of them singles. Cayman Joppie drove in four runs. Joppie, Fogt and Kammenzind stole two bases each.

Of the eight runs against three Eagle pitchers, only one was earned as both teams made three errors. Grant VanderWoude threw two innings of relief giving up one hit and a walk and no earned runs while striking out five for the Eagles.

Korban DeJong had a single and a double and Ethan Huizinga had two hits for the Crusaders in their win, and Huizinga got the win on the mound allowing one earned run through four innings. He gave up two hits and two walks while striking out seven.

The Eagles are scheduled to be in Williamston Saturday.

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