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TK superintendent search narrows after candidate withdraws



Thornapple Kellogg Schools superintendent finalist Troy Reehl interviews for the position earlier this month. Reehl withdrew his name from consideration this week, leaving finalists Rob Pouch and Bill Crane still in contention. **File photo**

Hunter McLaren
Contributing Writer

The search for a new Thornapple Kellogg Schools superintendent is now down to two candidates.

Superintendent candidate Troy Reehl withdrew himself from consideration for the position Monday. TK Board of Education President David Smith read a statement regarding the search during Monday's board meeting.

"Earlier today, Mr. Troy Reehl withdrew from consideration to become our next superintendent, citing his desire to pursue other active opportunities that are a better fit for him and his talents," Smith said. "We wish Mr. Reehl the very best in his professional pursuits and are looking forward to continuing the process with Mr. Bill Crane and Mr. Robert Pouch."

The board held first-round interviews with four candidates earlier this month: Troy Reehl, retired Hillsdale Intermediate School District superintendent; Robert Pouch, Morrice Area Schools superintendent; Dan Scoville, Director of Human Services and Elementary Academic Services at Cedar Springs Public Schools; and Bill Crane, Kent City Community Schools superintendent.

The four were chosen from 15 total applicants, with the board inviting Reehl, Pouch and Crane to attend a second round interview. The district plans to carry on the interview process with Pouch and Crane starting at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, April 29 at TK Schools Early Childhood Center, 3316 Bender Road. The district said members of the public are strongly encouraged to attend. Pouch and Crane will tour the district and participate in a community meet and greet the day before from 4:30 to 5:30 on Monday, April 28. The location of the meet and greet remains to be determined.

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.

Yankee Springs officials reflect on journey to establish stand-alone fire station



The Yankee Springs Township Fire Department fire barn at 1425 S Payne Lake Road was formerly run by the Wayland Fire Department. In 2025, it became a stand-alone station operated by the township. **Photo by Jayson Bussa**

Jayson Bussa
Contributing Writer

Plenty of change, growth and evolution has happened at the Yankee Springs Township Fire Department, and Dan Miller has been there to witness most of it.

Miller came to the department in October 2015. At that time, he was a member of the Wayland Fire Department, which had just signed a contract to provide service at the Yankee Springs fire barn.

"I started with doing some inventory out there," recalled Miller, whose 50-plus-year career as a first responder includes stretches in both law enforcement and fire/EMS. "We knew the contract was going to go through so the township board had me out there doing inventory and whatnot."

Nearly 10 years later, Miller is still with the Yankee Springs department and even has the same title of deputy fire chief. However, the dynamic at the department is a lot different after a major milestone that came about earlier this year.

In March, the Yankee Springs Township Fire Department became its own, stand-alone fire department, no longer under contract with Wayland Fire Department. And, earlier this month, Yankee Springs severed its con-

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Lake Odessa receives 11 applications for new deputy manager's post

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer



Gregg Guetschow

The Village of Lake Odessa fell just one shy of an even dozen applicants who beat the April 18 deadline to apply for a new deputy manager's position.

The Lake Odessa Village Council voted to post the position as of March 28 as part of its most recent search for a permanent, full-time manager.

According to previous discussions by council members, the deputy manager will serve under the current interim manager, Gregg Guetschow, who would help train and mentor that individual for up to a year. If successful, the deputy manager would then be promoted to manager.

Guetschow provided an update on the hiring search at the council's regular meeting Monday, April 21, after having "very briefly" reviewed the 11 applications.

"We had several that came in on Friday," Guetschow said. "I was hoping for more, but 11 is a good number."

However, while 11 applicants responded, he added that number

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SCOUTS TAKE TIME TO HELP TEND COMMUNITY GARDEN
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AREA CELEBRATES EASTER

The Easter Bunny kept busy last weekend, hopping all over the area attending local Easter events and egg hunts. Kids and adults got some quality time with Easter's mascot at the annual Lakewood Area Chamber of Commerce Easter Egg Hunt at the Lake Odessa Village Park on Saturday, April 19. **Courtesy photo**

Musical takes center stage in Nashville May 2-4

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

The frightening, yet funny musical tale of Beetlejuice Jr. will take center stage for three performances at the Crown Revue Theatre in Nashville on Friday through Sunday, May 2-4.

The musical production will feature 50 members of Three Crowns Academy's community children's theater group that includes youngsters kindergarten through eighth grade, according to the show's director, Amanda Smith.



Bentley Justice takes on the role of Beetlejuice during rehearsal Tuesday, April 22, for the Three Crown Academy's community theatre group production of Beetlejuice Jr. at the Crown Revue Theatre, which is set to include performances May 2-4 in Nashville. **Photos by Dennis Mansfield**

Beetlejuice Jr. is an adaptation of Beetlejuice the Musical, with music and lyrics by Eddie Perfect, that debuted in 2018 and hit Broadway the following year.

The musical itself was an offspring of the 1988 movie, Beetlejuice, a comedy horror that featured Alex Keaton, Gina Davis and Alec Baldwin.

"I thought the kids would love it," Smith said of why she chose Beetlejuice Jr. "It's so fun and the music is great."

Performances are slated for 7 p.m. on May 2, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. on May 3, and then a final show at 3 p.m. on May 4 at the theatre at 301 S. Main St. in Nashville.

"These kids are working so hard and they are super funny," Smith added. "It's a blast, and a great way to support your community and have a great time doing it."

Tickets are $10 for adults, and $8 for seniors and students, and may be purchased online at therevuenashville.seatyourself.biz or for $2 more at the door. Those planning to attend should note that the theatre is upstairs and lacks wheelchair access, though volunteers will help persons navigate the stairway.

For more information, persons may contact Smith by calling or texting 616-902-4193.



Marshall Townsend and Molly McCaul, who take on the roles of Adam and Barbara Maitland, respectively, react to movers – played by Anna Halanski and EmmaLee Gilbert – taking their belongings after they die, leading them to "hire" the mischievous Beetlejuice to help scare away the new owners of their home at a recent rehearsal for musical comedy, Beetlejuice Jr.

Scouts take time to help tend community garden

Leila Wood
Contributing Writer

Hastings Cub Scout Pack 3175 heeded the call of spring and got outdoors Monday, April 21, helping clean up at the Nashville Community Garden and prepare for this year's crops.

"We just wanted to give back for Earth Day, and we knew that the community garden needed to be cleaned up," said Scout leader Ashley Brown.

Brown said she first

See **SCOUTS** on 4



Cub Scout Pack 3175 leader Ashley Brown stands with a group of kids who helped with cleanup at the Nashville Community Garden on Monday, April 21. **Photos by Leila Wood**

STATION

Continued from Page 1

tract with Wayland for ambulance service, opting instead to use Thornapple Township Emergency Services.

The moves signify a new era in Yankee Springs Township emergency services, one where the township has full ownership over all elements of the related services.

Miller walked through the timeline of Yankee Springs becoming a standalone fire station, with conversations sparking nearly two years ago.

"We had a fire committee and we talked to the fire committee and it sounded pretty good that we could go on our own and sustain the (leadership) structure we had," Miller said.

Township officials started to take the necessary steps to become a stand-alone station. It was not quick or easy work and there's still more to do.

The department consists of 19 firefighters who are paid, on-call with one person serving on a duty shift. The department tapped Hastings Fire Chief Mark Jordan to serve as its interim fire chief, a temporary measure intended to leverage Jordan's credentials to obtain a fire department ID and other measures to establish the station.

Currently, Yankee Springs Township Fire has officers who have finished Fire Officer 1 training and are wrapping up Fire Officer 2 training.

Yankee Springs also tapped into the knowledge base of Bill Richardson, chief at Thornapple Township Emergency Services and the state fire marshal as they embarked on the process.

The township board drafted and passed a fire and emergency ordinance earlier this year, which was also essential to operating a station on its own. Once it's able, the board will seek to promote someone from within to the fire chief position.

"We just offer our sincere appreciation to the Yankee Springs Township board members for their vision and leadership in making the important decision to establish our own stand-alone fire department," Miller said. "Their support has laid the foundation for a safer, stronger community."

Rob Heethuis, township supervisor, said becoming a stand-alone station was a logical move for the growing township.

"Obviously we looked into it and there are a lot of concerns any time you deal with emergency aids of any kind," Heethuis said. "So it was looked at and there was no reason we couldn't. We had everything that it takes. We have an excellent fire barn, we have different types of fire trucks, we would do everything we needed."

"We looked at the financial side of it and what that would look like," he added. "We only have one millage in Yankee Springs for emergency services for fire and EMS, and we were worried about what it looked like financially. But what we discovered is that, while we have to do some things first, it will tuck under the millage much better anyway."

The homegrown department will take on the challenges that come with the unique demographics of the township which includes 5,000 acres of state land and numerous homes located on lakes.

Miller added he appreciated all those who are set to serve the township, now that it has established its own fire station.

"We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the dedicated firefighters who faithfully serve the citizens of Yankee Springs Township, as well as those passing through during time of need," he said. "Their commitment, courage and willingness to help at a moment's notice truly embody the spirit of service. We are here to help and we are proud to serve."

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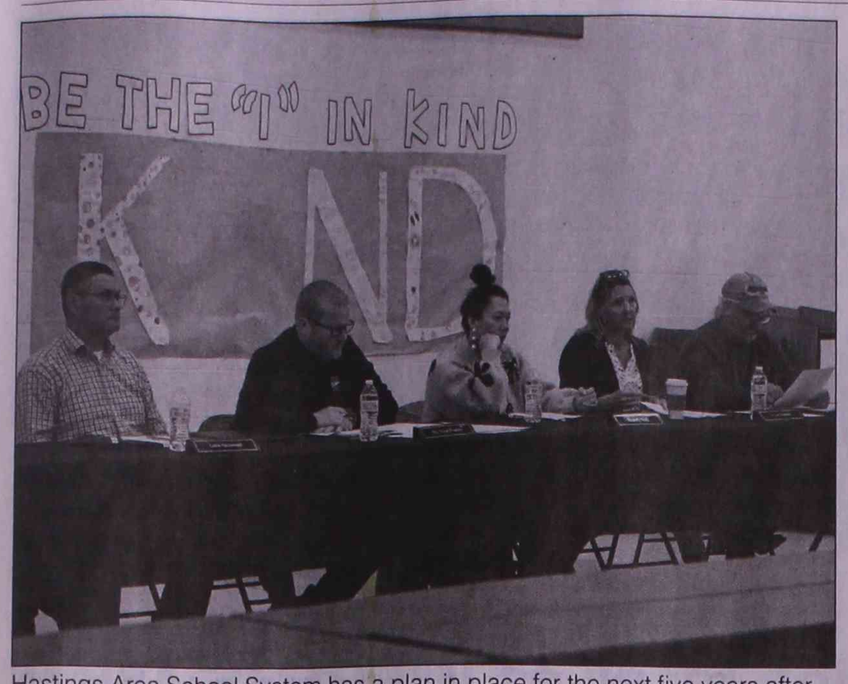
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Hastings Area School System has a plan in place for the next five years after adopting a new strategic plan on Monday. From left: Board President Luke Haywood, Superintendent Nick Damico, Brandy Nofz, Valerie Slaughter and Brad Tolles. **Photo by Molly Macleod**

Hastings Area Schools adopts strategic plan

Molly Macleod
Editor

Hastings Area School System is looking to the future after board of education members approved the district's strategic plan for 2025-2030. The plan will guide the district and its goals over the next five years.

"Hastings Area School System is proud to present a comprehensive five-year strategic plan designed to guide the district's growth, improvement and innovation from 2025 to 2030. The plan is the result of a collaborative, inclusive process that engaged a wide range of stakeholders, including staff, students, parents, administrators, community members and members of the board of education," said HASS Superintendent Nick Damico at Monday's HASS Board of Education meeting.

"Facilitated by Andy Ingall from Michigan Leadership Institute, the planning process included surveys, focus groups and strategic planning sessions that aid to identify the district's strength areas for growth and shared vision for the future. The resulting plan reflects the collective priorities and aspirations of the Hastings community and is grounded in a commitment to student achievement, staff support, community partnership and fiscal responsibility," Damico added.

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

"The engine that gets those going are our six C's — so we have communication, culture, creativity, classrooms, critical thinking and caring," said Damico when introducing the draft strategic plan last month.

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

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

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

Following a suggestion from board member Brad Tolles, Assistant Superintendent of Achievement Beth Stevens recapped the goals on Monday of the district's most recent strategic plan, adopted in 2020. Stevens noted which goals were achieved over the last five years and which are still a work in progress, incorporated into the new plan.

"The strategic plan is something … we're not always going to complete the task, but we've moved in that direction. And I think it's really important for the community to understand that success doesn't always mean completion," said Tolles.

One goal still in progress Tolles pointed to was growing the district's fund balance. Improvements have been made to the fund balance over the last five years, but inflation and economic concerns have slowed that growth.

Details of the plan adopted on Monday can be found on the district's revamped website, hassk12.org. The plan will be implemented inside Hastings schools this fall.



Three youngsters join Mustang Band of Grand Rapids during a performance at last year's street dance in downtown Hastings. Live music will again be featured during this year's events. **Photo by Chelsey Foster**

'Rock the Block Party' returns to Hastings Social District this summer

Molly Macleod
Editor

Get ready to boogie. A series of three open-air block parties will return to downtown Hastings this summer for a second year after "Rock the Block Party" received approval from the Hastings City Council at its meeting April 14.

Sponsored by the Hastings Downtown Business Team, these events are intended to introduce the public to the Hastings Social District, a part of the Central Business District where walkable adult beverages are available.

This year, the block party/street dances will be held on the second Saturdays of May, July and August from 6 to 10 p.m.

This is a change from last year, when the parties were held June through August. Hosting a party the second Saturday of June would have conflicted with the Rock the Country music festival descending upon Hastings June 13-14. So, organizers moved June's block party to Saturday, May 10.

Though each of the three parties will be slightly different, they follow the same general format.

A section of the street will be blocked to traffic. Picnic tables will be provided for family/group dining. To-go food will be available from many nearby restaurants; adult to-go beverages for local consumption can be bought at three nearby restaurants. Each of the nearby restaurants will be highlighted during the block parties.

The Hastings Cornhole Club will concurrently host competitive cornhole tournaments during each block party, running up to eight sets of boards at a time. Live music will keep partygoers entertained.

May 10's party will highlight Kloosterman's Sports Tap, which opened in 2015. Organizers are treating the May 10 event as a sort of "birthday" for the restaurant. The first party of the year will be held at the corner of Jefferson and Court streets in Hastings.

The highlighted restaurant on July 12 is the Walldorff Brew Pub and Bistro, which opened in 2006. That party will be held on State Street, between Church and Jefferson streets.

Seasonal Grille will be celebrated during Aug. 9's party, which will also take place on State Street between Church and Jefferson.

In the event of rain, attendees are encouraged to keep the party going inside the Full Moon Saloon on Jefferson Street.

Baltimore Township New Telephone Numbers

Baltimore Township is hereby notifying their constituents and anyone desiring to contact a board member that effective immediately the main phone number for the township hall is being replaced by cell phones for each of the board members. These numbers are for all township business:

Chad VanSyckle, Supervisor – 269-320-1132
Kelli Case, Treasurer – 269-320-1285
Taxes and Accounts Receivable
Jana Bishop, Clerk – 269-378-7280
Elections, Cemetery, and Accounts Payable
Aaron VanSyckle, Trustee – 269-320-1351
Marijuana Coordinator
April Taggart, Trustee – 269-320-1634



If unsure of who to call please contact the Supervisor, Chad at the number listed above and he will direct you to the proper township representative.

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Steps to take before – and after – a divorce

Going through a divorce is emotionally painful and can disrupt one's life in many ways — but does it also have to be financially devastating?

Not necessarily. You can help yourself greatly by making a series of moves. Here are some to consider:

Before the divorce is final …

• ***Determine how you'll cover the cost of the divorce.*** To meet the costs of a divorce, which can be tens of thousands dollars, you may need to tap in to your income stream and savings accounts, or even explore alternative options, such as borrowing from your retirement plan, if it's allowed by a divorce court judge.

• ***Create a budget.*** You may want to build a temporary budget. Your divorce attorney can advise you on how long your separation period may last in a contested case.

• ***Start building separate bank and brokerage accounts.*** Consult with your divorce attorney on ways to establish independent bank and brokerage accounts without harming your spouse.

• ***Understand your retirement benefits.*** Know the value of your and your spouse's 401(k) or similar plans, IRAs, pensions, stock options and other employer benefits. Also, you might need to negotiate the splitting of retirement benefits through a qualified domestic relations order (QDRO). A tax professional and a financial advisor can help you understand how different QDRO proposals can affect your retirement goals.

After the divorce is final …

• ***Finish building your separate financial accounts.*** You may want to close any joint accounts or credit cards, change online access to financial accounts, remove your name from bills for which you are no longer responsible and complete any agreed-upon asset transfers, such as dividing retirement assets.

• ***Create a new budget.*** You can now create a longer-term budget, incorporating any spouse or child support you receive as income. You may also need to adjust your spending to reflect items in the divorce agreement, such as expenses now covered by your former spouse and court-ordered responsibilities for paying college education expenses for dependent children and possibly the attorneys' fees for a former spouse.

• ***Review your protection plans.*** You may need to review your life, homeowners and auto insurance policies. And if you were covered under your spouse's health insurance plan, you may want to apply for COBRA to stay on that plan up to 36 months or switch to your own employer's plan, if available. If you don't have access to an employer's health insurance, you may want to explore a marketplace plan from the Affordable Care Act or contact a health insurance broker.

• ***Review your estate plans.*** To reflect your new marital status, you may need to work with your legal professional to change some of your estate-planning documents, such as a will, living trust, advanced health care directive or power of attorney. Also, review the beneficiary designations on life insurance policies, IRAs, annuities and investment accounts, as these designations can likely supersede instructions on your will or trust.

• ***See your tax professional.*** You may need to consult with your tax professional on issues such as changing your tax return filing status, claiming a child as a dependent and dealing with tax implications of assets received in the divorce.

Going through a divorce is not easy — but by taking the appropriate steps before and after the divorce is finalized, you can at least help put yourself in a more secure and stable financial position to begin the next phase of your life.

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

MSP reports only 1 injured in recent crash

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

Only one person was injured in a recent two-vehicle accident that occurred during the early evening hours of Wednesday, April 16, near the intersection of M-37 and M-79, according to Michigan State Police officials.

Lt. DuWayne Robinson, public information officer for the MSP's Fifth District Headquarters in Paw Paw, said a 66-year-old Nashville woman was transported from the accident scene and treated for non-life-threatening injuries as the result of the accident that occurred shortly before 6 p.m. on April 16.

According to MSP reports, the woman was driving a Dodge minivan southbound on M-37 and attempted to turn left onto M-79, when she collided with a Ford Ranger pickup truck that was headed northbound on M-37.

The driver of the truck, a 48-year-old Freeport man, refused any medical assistance.

Robinson said the driver of the minivan was deemed at fault for the accident for failing to yield the right of way, though no citations were issued as a result of the MSP's investigation.

MSP officials were assisted at the scene by the Barry County Sheriff's Office, Hastings Fire Department and Mercy Ambulance.



Troopers from the Michigan State Police, Wayland Post, were called to investigate a two-vehicle accident during the early evening hours of Wednesday, April 16, near the intersection of M-37 and M-79, south of Hastings. MSP officials were assisted at the scene by the Barry County Sheriff's Office, Hastings Fire Department and Mercy Ambulance. **Photo by Dennis Mansfield**

Barry County Road Commission receives IMPRESS Award

The Barry County Road Commission was honored with a statewide IMPRESS Award at the 2025 County Road Association of Michigan Highway Conference held in late March in Lansing.

IMPRESS awards recognize county road agencies that demonstrate innovation on noteworthy projects in the categories of communications, operations and collaboration, with a panel of communications and operations experts from several of Michigan's 83 county road agencies judging awards submissions.

Award recipients were honored for projects that solved time constraints, labor costs, communication barriers and fostered collaboration. The BCRC received an IMPRESS Award in operations for its "Foam Injection Stabilization" project.

"Barry's work on the Foam Injection Stabilization project showcases the ingenuity and forward-thinking approach of our county road agencies," said Denise Donohue, CRA CEO. "This project is a great example of using innovative techniques to improve road stability while minimizing long-term maintenance costs."

The Barry County project used polyurethane foam to stabilize the subgrade on Green Lake Road in Thornapple Township. The technique reportedly helped address settling issues caused by weak organic soils, reducing the need for frequent patching while offering advantages including cost savings and minimized traffic disruption.



Barry County Road Commission officials (l-r) Dylan Kennedy, Jake Welch, Dave Liddell and Brian Donnini show off their IMPRESS Award for the road commission's "Foam Injection Stabilization" project. The BCRC was presented with the statewide honor at the 2025 County Road Association of Michigan Highway Conference held in late March in Lansing. **Courtesy photo**

According to BCRC manager Jake Welch, the injection process has been previously used by the Michigan Department of Transportation on state road projects but, to his knowledge, not at the county or local level.

"The project we did was awesome," Welch said. "We're constantly trying new stuff to see if it works."

Welch added the issues with the road bed on Green Lake Road have been "an ongoing problem" with other potential solutions, such as digging up and replacing the existing road bed, estimated to cost as much as $1.3 million.

"For about $100,000, we injected foam under the road," he added. "I can tell you it's holding up nice, so far."

However, Welch also said it could be a year or more before BCRC officials know whether the foam injection stabilization process solved the problem.

Staff writer Dennis Mansfield contributed to this story.

POST

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dropped to just nine, with two applications being "incomplete."

According to Guetschow, he will forward the resumes and video cover letters of the nine complete applications to council members for their review. The council scheduled a special meeting for 5:30 p.m. on Monday, May 5, to discuss the applicants and determine the next steps in the hiring process.

"Maybe we could do what we did before – rate them," said Karen Banks, village president. "Some we could eliminate."

Guetschow added the applicants ranged in experience, as well as background, and included one internal candidate.

"There's an interesting mix of candidates," he said, adding that none of the candidates requested confidentiality during the initial review process. "There's some interesting backgrounds."

The village has been without a full-time manager since December 2023. That's when council members agreed to a separation agreement with then Village Manager Ben Geiger less than seven months after his accepting the job in May of that year.

They thought they had filled the position in July 2024, when council members were set to approve a negotiated contract with Jacob VanBoxel, the director of planning and neighborhood services in Coldwater at the time. But, they failed to approve the agreement by a 3-2 vote against, with two members absent.

And, the council's most recent effort ended in December after interviewing two finalists but members failing to make either an offer and instead reaching a consensus to restart the hiring process once again.

After ending its most recent hiring search for a new manager in December, council members focused on the creation of the deputy manager's position, which was suggested by Guetschow, as a way to increase the potential number of applicants for the manager's position.



The group including members of Hastings Cub Scout Pack 3175 work to tend and clean up the Nashville Community Garden on Monday, April 21.

SCOUTS

Continued from Page 2

learned about the garden through contacts at the local library and then reached out to Mike Callton, a local business owner, Barry County Commissioner, and one of the leaders of the garden project, to set up a time for the pack to go and spend an hour or so helping out.

A group of six Tiger Scouts, along with several parents and younger siblings, pulled weeds and spread composted leaves.

They were also joined by two neighbor kids who came over to get in on the fun.

Callton said that it was like a scene from Tom Sawyer, with the kids seeming to enjoy digging in the dirt, pulling weeds and playing on the pile of composted leaves, as they helped to shovel them into a wheelbarrow and spread them in the garden beds.

He added he was surprised just how much work they were getting done.

"It helps to have their dads come with them and moms," Callton said. "So, we're getting a lot of free labor here."

According to Brown, the Scouts will each earn a community service project belt loop for their work at the garden.

Also, Brown said they try to regularly participate in a variety of community service projects. Some of the Scouts' other recent projects have been sending Veterans Day cards to veterans and sending valentines to retirement home residents.

According to Callton, the garden team is excited to have three youth groups involved with the garden this year, including Cub Scouts, the Putnam Library Summer Program and the Maple Valley High School shop class, which he said will be building a farm stand to offer free ready-picked produce to the community.

"We're going to pay for the wood and they're going to build the farm-stand," he said.

With the help of MSU horticulturalist LilyRose Arriaga, Callton said the library is starting seedlings for the garden.

A picnic table donated by Blue Zones Activate Barry County will be placed in the garden. Callton said that will allow the summer program group to hold their classes at the garden.

And, he said the garden group will continue to look for more opportunities to work with local organizations, encouraging more community and youth involvement with the garden.

"It started out as just neighbors who didn't have enough sunlight or room over by where I live," Callton said. "But then it became a community garden, where everyone is welcome to pick, everyone is welcome to help. There's not family plots. It's everybody's.

"A lot of what lower socio-economic communities suffer from is lack of fruits and vegetables," he added, saying it's important to teach kids of all ages how to grow things, teach them to appreciate gardening, and include more fresh fruits and vegetables in their diets.

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SEN. ALBERT: Michigan must sharpen focus on improved outcomes for students

Senator Thomas Albert

The overall academic performance of Michigan students continues to falter. There may be multiple reasons for this, but a lack of money is not one of them.



State Senator Thomas Albert

Our state is spending 29 percent more on public K-12 schools this year than it did five years ago, and 50 percent more than a decade ago. Despite this increased spending, results have worsened. Clearly, something is not working, and alternative solutions are needed.

Even Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, after six years in office, recently admitted that what we've been doing isn't good enough. In her State of the State address, the governor noted "hard truths" including that in Michigan "we invest more per-pupil than most states and achieve bottom 10 results." This sentiment is reflected in her recent budget proposal which included new accountability and transparency efforts. It seems the governor finally put the "MEA" in mea culpa.

I agree with the general sentiment that we must do more to help our kids. There is no shortage of ways we can work to make things better and improve outcomes for students.

First, we should start by ensuring kids are actually in the classroom learning. This sounds like an oversimplification, but it is a massive problem. Here are several key improvements we could make right away:

Schools must address the biggest disruption of classroom learning for many of our kids — cellphones. Rather than mandating a one-size-fits-all statewide policy, we should incentivize districts to adopt policies that best meet their communities' needs in consultation with parents.

Chronic absenteeism needs to be brought back down to pre-pandemic levels, at a minimum. Last academic year, roughly 30 percent of Michigan students missed 10 percent or more of the school year. We can get students back in class through targeted support and accountability.

We need to roll back changes made in recent years that allowed more virtual learning days and exemptions for professional development days. State Superintendent Michael Rice was correct to point out this problem to the Legislature. I agree that students as a whole would be better served learning in their classroom.

Secondly, we should focus on helping students in failing schools. The governor was on the right track when she proposed targeted resources for intervention services such as tutoring and requiring that parents be notified about how targeted schools are performing and spending money. But her plan can be improved.

If a failing school gets extra resources, then parents should be notified about how Michigan's school of choice law works and other educational options in their communities. On top of that, if a school continues to fail despite getting extra funding, then start-up grants should be made available for public charter schools to locate nearby. Families should no longer be beholden to a failing school that is given every chance to succeed, and a school should no longer go unchallenged in the face of persistent failure.

Lastly, we must restore common-sense policies to improve student outcomes. In the last legislative term, Democrats gutted a state law designed to ensure third graders knew how to read, stripping it of accountability measures. They repealed a school evaluation system that assigned a letter grade to every school, eliminating an easy-to-understand performance evaluation tool. Democrats also weakened the teacher evaluation system and made it less dependent on student achievement, while weakening collective bargaining laws to help unions instead of students.

We must return the focus to improving outcomes for students. If we don't, spending more money on schools won't matter.

State Sen. Thomas Albert represents the 18th District, which includes Barry County and portions of Allegan, Calhoun, Kalamazoo, Kent and Ionia counties.

Annual festival to fill downtown Hastings with the sound of jazz April 24-26



The 21st Annual Thornapple Arts Council Jazz Festival is set to take place throughout Hastings on Thursday through Saturday, April 24-26, filling the venues of downtown with the sounds of live music and, more importantly, music education. **File photo**

The 21st Annual Thornapple Arts Council Jazz Festival is gearing up to be another record-breaking event in downtown Hastings, with more than 120 performances at 12 venues over three days, according to organizers.

The local festival, presented by Corewell Health, is set to take place throughout Hastings on Thursday through Saturday, April 24-26, filling the venues of downtown with the sounds of live music and, more importantly, music education.

"We started the jazz festival with music education at the heart of it," said retired Hastings Area Schools band director Joe LaJoye, the festival's founder and chairman. "There are a bunch of music educators – current and retired – working on this event, and we make sure that music education is at the forefront of the festival.

"We love the performances, but education is at the heart of it."

LaJoye said the festival continues to be a high-quality music and educational experience for the many Michigan middle and high school bands that participate in the festival.

"As the jazz festival has continued to grow, we have been able to highlight different components of jazz music and music education," added Megan Lavell, executive director of the Thornapple Arts Council. "We have a great mix of groups from both local and distant Michigan schools coming this year."

Returning to the festival this year will be a presentation by Grand Rapids-based jazz musician Edye Evans Hyde, focusing her talk on women in jazz music. This presentation at noon on Friday, April 25, in the Hastings Public Library community room is free and open to the public.

Lavell said something else that the Jazz Festival planning committee has added in the last few years was an emphasis on post-high school performing arts.

"We made the decision to open the festival schedule to adult regional semi-professional groups to show students that there is musical life after high school," said LaJoye, himself a retired band director and leader of local big band The Thornapple Jazz Orchestra. "Kids need to know that they can keep being musicians and keep learning after they leave the classroom."

According to LaJoye, the Thornapple Arts Council Jazz Festival is the largest non-competitive educational jazz festival in the state.

"Middle and high school bands often attend festivals to compete against other school groups," he said. "We wanted something different here.

"This festival provides a great opportunity for students to learn, but also to support one another and just enjoy the day as musicians. They don't need to worry about scores and ratings."

Each school group that attends the festival performs in front of a professional musician, who clinics their performance. Each group goes home with a recording of their performance, as well as the clinicians' notes to help them improve once they return to school.

Lavell said the upcoming festival receives financial support from a number of local sponsors and grant support from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs and the National Endowment for the Arts.

The Thursday night feature performance will be by local big band, the Thornapple Jazz Orchestra, directed by LaJoye, with the performance set to start at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 24, at the First Presbyterian Church of Hastings. Evans-Hyde will be a guest vocalist and a free-will offering to benefit the orchestra's scholarship fund will be taken.

Friday's headlining performance will be at 7:30 p.m.at the Hastings Performing Arts Center and will open with the Jazz Festival All Star Band under the direction of Caledonia High School Band director Kyle Wellfare. The night's performance is set to conclude with Sherrie Maricle and the DIVA Jazz Orchestra, an ensemble of 15 versatile, multi-generational musicians.

For more information about the festival, persons may visit thornappleart.org or call 269- 945-2002. To get tickets to the DIVA Jazz Orchestra performance, visit hastings.ludus.com. — *DM*

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MS Spring Band Concert & Awards | Thu, May 8 | 7:00 pm
MS Spring Choir Concert | Tue, May 13 | 7:00 pm
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BEDHD investigating possible measles case in Eaton

The Barry-Eaton District Health Department is investigating a potential case of measles in an Eaton County resident and is alerting the public about potential exposure while test results are pending, according to a statement released by the agency on April 18.

Measles is a highly contagious spread by direct person-to-person contact and through the air. Infected people can spread measles before noticing symptoms, including from four days before through four days after the rash appears, health officials stated.

"We are acting out of an abundance of caution to notify the public as quickly as possible," said Dr. Julie Kehdi, BEDHD medical director. "Measles spreads easily and can have serious health consequences, especially for children and people with weakened immune systems.

"We encourage anyone who may have been exposed to take action right away and check their vaccination status."

BEDHD officials stated there were two potential exposure sites related to the pending case, including people who visited the following locations:

- The King Ocean Crab restaurant on Miller Street in Lansing from 6:30 -10 p.m. on April 12; and
- Bad Brad's BBQ on South Baldwin Road in Orion Township 4:30-7:30 p.m. on April 13.

Anyone potentially exposed should monitor themselves for symptoms for 21 days from the date of exposure, according to the recent statement by the BEDHD.

Symptoms include fever, cough, runny nose or rash. Individuals are asked to call the local health department if they develop such symptoms or go to the nearest hospital emergency room if the symptoms are severe. If seeking treatment at a health care provider's office, urgent care or ER, persons should first call ahead to avoid exposing others.

If it's been less than six days since any potential exposure, persons may be able to receive post-exposure treatment that could prevent illness. They should contact their health care provider, pharmacy, or local health department for vaccination and guidance.

BEDHD officials added that individuals with two appropriately spaced doses of the measles vaccine are considered protected. And, adults born before 1957 or who have evidence of prior measles illness are also considered immune.

For more information about measles, including a link to download individual immunization records, persons may go online and visit the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services measles information page. — *DM*

OBITUARIES

VIEW OBITUARIES ONLINE. **HASTINGSBANNER.COM**

Trudy Ann Shade



Trudy Ann Shade, age 80, of Lake Odessa, MI passed away on Tuesday, April 15, 2025. Trudy was born in Hastings, MI to Ralph and Ruth (Winslow) Weaver. She was a lifelong area resident and was a caregiver to the elderly before her retirement.

She will be dearly missed by her family and friends.

According to her wishes cremation will take place and a Celebration of her life later this summer and will be announced when planned.

Thank You



The family of

Dolores Ost

would like to thank everyone for the flowers, cards, food, and comforting words during the loss of our sweet mother.

The generous donations to St. Jude's were very much appreciated.

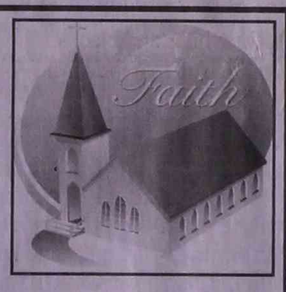
Love in Christ - The Ost Family

Celebration of Life
Daniel R. Greer



Please join us for a memorial service to celebrate the life of Daniel R. Greer. We will gather together on **April 26, 2025**, at the Delton Moose Lodge located on M-43 south of Delton, to remember our wonderful brother, uncle and friend who will be greatly missed. Time is at 12:00 p.m. There will be a luncheon. Please bring your fondest memories of Dan to share with family and friends.

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 PUBLIC LIBRARY SCHEDULE

Thursday, April 24 – Thornapple Arts Council Jazz Festival performances, all day.

Friday, April 25 – Science Story Time, 10:30 a.m.; Jazz Festival, all day.

Saturday, April 26 – Jazz Festival, all day.

Monday, April 28 – Crafting Passions, 10 a.m.; STEAM at the library, 4 p.m.

Tuesday, April 29 – Baby Cafe, 10 a.m.; mahjong, 5 p.m.; chess, 5 p.m.; The Healing Power of Poetry with poet and spoken word artist Thomas Walk, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, April 30 – Itsy Bitsy Book Club, 10:30 a.m.; tech help, 2 p.m.; Writers' Night, 6:30 p.m.

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

PIERCE CEDAR CREEK INSTITUTE EVENTS

— AUGUST APRIL 25-MAY 1 —

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.

April 26-28 — City Nature Challenge. Be part of a nationwide nature scavenger hunt. First, find any "wild" plant or animal. Second, take a picture of what you find. Third, share your observations. Visit the Institute to participate in this community science project and learn about how to get involved in our other projects. Information will be available by the Visitor Center's southside entrance. The challenge is free and self-guided.

Monday, April 28 — Frog Home Trail celebration, 6:30-8 p.m. Join the Institute on "Save the Frogs Day" for a new primitive trail dedication on the Institute's Frog Home parcel, gifted to the Institute in 2021 by Mary Pierce in memory of her late husband and first Institute director, Dr. Gary Pierce. The trail highlights a mosaic of natural communities, including high-quality swamps and forests that border Cedar Creek, and is home to many amphibians and reptiles. The new trail is located at the southern edge of the property. Attendees should be prepared to walk approximately 2 miles round trip.

May 1-31 — May Storybook Walk: "Diary of a Fly" by Doreen Cronin; illustrated by Harry Bliss. Each day is a new adventure for a fly! Follow Fly's journey through her first day of school, and all the things she learns about herself. 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.

May 1-31 — Spring Wildflower Walk. Michigan has many ephemeral wildflowers. Learn about many of these spring beauties and celebrate National Wildflower Week with this "wild" hike. The wildflower walk is free and self-guided on the Lupine Trail.

Thursday, May 1 — Nature Playdates in the Play Space: Monarch Migration, 10 a.m. The playdates are aimed for children 6 or younger, accompanied by an adult caregiver.

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

ASK DR. UNIVERSE

Germ trapping

Why is snot green?
— William, 7, United Kingdom.

Dear William,

There are lots of unpleasant things about being sick. Leaking slimy green snot is near the top of my yuck list.

I talked about it with my friend Linda Eddy. She's a nurse for kids. She runs the nursing program on the Vancouver campus of Washington State University.

She told me that snot is normally clear. It turns yellow or green when our bodies fight germs that can make us sick.

Snot is also called mucus. It's a thin, slippery liquid that covers many of the surfaces inside our bodies. You can find mucus in your nose, mouth and eyes. It also lines your stomach, intestines and lungs.

One reason we make mucus is to keep the moist linings of some body organs and openings nice and wet. That keeps them from drying out or sticking together.

The other reason we make mucus is to help keep us healthy. Green mucus is a clue that your body is doing that job.

"Mucus is really sticky," Eddy said. "That's good because when irritants like allergens, viruses or bacteria get into our nose, mouth or eyes, the sticky mucus traps them."

If something that can bug you, like dust or pollen, gets into your body, your mucus traps it. You might even sneeze or cough it out. Sometimes germs—also called viruses or bacteria—get in. Your mucus traps those, too. That keeps germs from getting further into your body.

Some germs get past the sticky mucus. So, your body makes white blood cells to find and destroy those germs.

There are always white blood cells hanging out in your mucus. When your body is fighting germs, extra white blood cells rush to your mucus to help out.

"Sometimes those white blood cells are covered with a green protein," Eddy said. "The more white blood cells with those green proteins, the more green our snot is."

The protein looks green because it contains iron—and iron looks green when it's in a mucus-y environment. That green protein has a big germ-killing job.

When a white blood cell finds a germ, it latches onto it. Then it changes its shape to surround the germ. You can imagine the white blood cell wrapping itself around the germ, so the germ is trapped in a little bubble inside the white blood cell. Then the green protein digests the germ. It breaks it down and destroys it.

Eddy told me the best thing to do when we're sick is drink lots of water. Mucus is mostly water, so sipping it helps your body make thin, slippery mucus so the white blood cells can do their germ-fighting job.

I guess it s-not so gross after all.

— Dr. Universe

Do you have a question? Ask Dr. Universe.
Send an email to Washington State University's resident scientist and writer at Dr.Universe@wsu.edu or visit her website,askdruniverse.com.

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

'In My Time' by Robert Faulkner Part XII

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 there.

He writes:

"In 1940, Dad (Ellis Faulkner) was elected to his fourth term in the House of Representatives. The legislature met in the odd-numbered years. Rural representatives controlled the legislature. The farmers wanted to get home in time to get in their crops. Even though they were sanctioned only every other year, they were paid for each day of their term, but only $3 a day.

"Our store in Coloma was located in the first block north of the railroad tracks on the west side of the street. The four stores in the short block were Stowe's Grocery, A & P to the north of us, and Kolberg's Grocery to the south of us. This was an ideal location as every mother who shopped in Coloma had to come within 50 feet of our store.

"In 1940, Al Kolberg moved his grocery. Both our store building and Kolberg's were owned by the Masonic Lodge. Its lodge room was upstairs. The Masons agreed to rent both stores to me for $75 a month, heat included. I opened two archways between the rooms. Later, they put in a new storefront. We had a handsome increase in business.

"The Army needed officers and made an offer to all reserves. They could take their rank in the regular Army. My brother Arnold became a first lieutenant and was sanctioned at Fort Monroe, Va.

"At Thanksgiving time, 1940, we visited Arnold, Lila and Ann at Fort Monroe. Aunt Bessie accompanied us on our trip. Arnold and family lived in a big antebellum house with fireplaces in virtually every room. The ceilings were 10 feet high. The walls were so thick that we imagined them containing secret passages. By this time, Arnold had already been promoted to captain.

"One day our son, David, was playing outside with several boys from the fort when Lila overheard a conversation that went something like this: 'My father is a captain,' one boy said. 'My father is a major,' another bragged. Not to be outdone, the third boy said proudly, 'My father is a colonel.' David remained silent until one of the boys turned to him and asked, 'What's your father?' Embarrassed, David replied hesitantly, 'My father? My father isn't — he isn't anything.'

"My enjoyment of Thanksgiving was diminished by a boil on the back of my neck. When we got home, one appeared on the end of my nose. Later, another started up on my neck. I was desperate and took sulfadiazine. Four hours after the first tablet, the pain disappeared. I suddenly felt food. The boil didn't grow anymore and I never had a boil again. Sulfa drugs were the first antibiotics. Penicillin was not yet available to the public.

"My folks visited us often in Coloma and we frequently drove to their home in Delton. We were very close. Mother and Dad liked Juanita and she liked them. It added a lot to our lives in those days.

"On Saturday, Dec. 6, 1941, they came for the weekend. Dad thought that we should get into the war and I thought that we should stay out. Sunday night, our argument became quite heated and we went to bed a little miffed at each other. Monday morning, I turned on the radio beside the bed to get the morning news. Suddenly, I was wide awake. I hurriedly dressed, rushed downstairs and yelled through my folks' bedroom door, 'We're at war! Pearl Harbor's been bombed by the Japanese!' We hadn't turned on the radio all day on Sunday. I lost the argument. Dad had been right all of the time.

"Soon, merchandise was in short supply and suppliers put us on allotment. Gasoline and foods were rationed. An A stamp would allow you four gallons of gasoline a week, a B stamp twice as much and a C stamp for persons whose driving was considered essential were given unlimited gasoline. T stamps for farmers and truckers allowed them to have all the gas they wanted. Red stamps were for meat.

"Dad, being in the legislature, was given a C stamp for unlimited gasoline. As I was in business, I was allowed a B stamp. Other stamps were for sugar. Price controls were imposed. A black market grew up in meat, gasoline and other rationed and allotted items.

"On Sept. 1, 1942, I heard that the Shell's Dollar Store in Berrien Springs was for sale. I took a look. It was run down with old inadequate display fixtures, but they had a lot of hard-to-get merchandise.

"Mr. Shell offered to sell at retail inventory less 40 percent with no charge for fixtures. I had estimated the inventory to run $5,000, went to Mr. Monroe, president of the Watervliet Bank, and asked him for a $5,000 loan. He said that he was sure it would be OK, but it had to be approved by the board of directors. He assured me that in my case this would only be a formality. So, I went back to Mr. Shell and signed the papers, agreeing to buy.

"We were closed for a few days for inventory, whatever that came to. To my surprise, chagrin and anger, when I went back and asked for the $5,000, Mr. Monroe told me that the board had voted against the loan. In desperation, I went to the Coloma Bank. They said that I would have to get a chattel mortgage on my stock and fixtures in Coloma for the loan. I had no choice, even though I knew this would impair my credit.

"Then I got another surprise. It was obvious that the inventory was going to run way over $5,000. People kept trying the locked door. This made the storekeeper, Mr. Shell, nervous. He couldn't stand to see his customers locked out, so he suggested that we finish inventorying the shelves and countertops and then open up. We would keep track of any sales from under the counters or in the stockroom. This was fine with me and after we opened, I proceeded to drag my feet in counting the merchandise so we could take in as much money as possible.



Main Street (South Street) in Coloma circa 1995.

"Together with scraping up every penny I could find and borrowing from Juanita's meager savings, I was able to pay for the more than $7,500 worth of merchandise.

"Mr. Shell had stacks of boxes of dollar linen handkerchiefs, which I considered luxury goods and never handled. He had dozens of boxes of men's socks and many other items that were becoming hard to get. Surplus merchandise I took to Coloma. By Christmas, I was able to pay back the bank and cancel the chattel mortgage.

"By 1943, Arnold was stationed at Camp Stewart near Savannah, Ga. He and Lila lived in Statesboro. In April, Arnold called me to ask if Juanita and I would come to Statesboro and drive Lila, Ann and Tom to her folks near Berrien Springs. He had decided to live on the base.

"When we got to Atlanta, we had to take a bus to Statesboro. About midnight, we stopped at a roadside restaurant for a rest stop. Only the whites were allowed inside the restaurant. The kitchen had a window open to the outside. I could see black faces at the window but no one offered them anything until the bus driver said, 'I can give you coffee.'

"There were separate toilets for whites and blacks. The entrances were from the outside so that the blacks wouldn't have to come into the restaurant.

"In September 1943, the man from South Haven to whom I had sold the Watervliet store in 1940, came in to see me. He said his son-in-law had been drafted, so he was going to have to sell. Soon after buying the Berrien Springs store, I was poorly prepared to pay cash for the store and store building. Dad and Mother agreed to take the mortgage on the building and I managed to get the rest together.

"Now we had three good stores close enough together so that we could use the Coloma store basement as a supply point for the other two. Factory shipments came into Coloma and went down a conveyor from the truck to the checking table. There, the goods were checked off the invoice and repacked and sent back up the conveyor to the sales floor or to the store van for shipment to Watervliet and Berrien Springs.

"Buying direct from our factory saved money and our distribution system was very efficient. We were able to compete in price with Woolworth and Kresge in Benton Harbor and St. Joseph.

"My draft classification was 3-A, which designated that I was married with at least one child. I had little fear of being drafted because they would first take the single men and then the married men without children, so it was like a bombshell when one dreary morning in January 1944, out of the blue, without any warning, I received an order to report for a pre-induction physical in Chicago.

"The bus was full of Coloma men who had also received notices. There was a joke going about, that said that the doctors thought you were warm you were acceptable. There were buses from all over, loaded with draftees.

"We were ordered to remove all of our clothes and stand in line for a physical. After getting dressed again, we were sent to a psychiatrist to see if we were mentally and emotionally suitable for military service. This exam was more for form than substance. Unless you were an obvious idiot or a homosexual, your chances of being rejected were virtually nil.

"About the last thing that I was asked by a recruiter was 'Which branch of the service do you prefer?' I answered, 'Army.' The recruiter stamped Navy on the back of my hand and on my papers. I was ordered to report for induction into the United States Navy in two weeks.

"Naturally, I was apprehensive. I had three stores to run. Someone had to load and unload freight and take it to the other stores. It was heavy work, and I was the only man in my organization and it was impossible to hire a man, as most had either been drafted or gone to work in defense factories.

"I felt quite a lot of pride in the thought of becoming a member of the United States Navy, but I intended to delay. I went before the draft board in Benton Harbor, explained my situation, and asked for 60 days to get my affairs in order. They didn't seem at all sympathetic, so I was surprised when a few days later I got a notice that I had been given a six-month deferral. Before the six months were up, the armed forces manpower needs dropped and I was automatically deferred indefinitely.

"I had been told that in the early part of the century, a Dr. Baker had built a private water works beyond the south end of Church Street, which was the street on which we lived. There was an open field containing springs. Dr. Baker had laid a tile from the springs to the creek behind the house that we'd first considered buying. He had pumped the water with hydraulic rams. The rams were no longer here. An eight-inch tile ran on my side of the street and a good stream of water still flowed into the stream.

"In the fall of 1943, I dug down and found the tile which was under the sidewalk. It was encased in 40-year-old concrete as hard as stone. With hammer and chisel, I broke through the concrete and the tile and cemented in a four-inch clay tile.

"I then engaged a man with a bulldozer to scoop out a pool. He then pushed the dirt to the low sides, making a dike. I then went to the low end of the lot and again dug down and chiseled through the concrete. I blocked off the water so it would have to come out at the other opening. I laid tiles back into my lot and brought the end up to the level I wanted the pond to be. The pond filled with spring water in just a few days. I then got some small trout and dumped them in. They grew fast and by spring were eight to 10 inches long.

"The spring of 1944 was very wet. My next-door neighbor, lower down the street, had water in his basement which he blamed on me. I'm sure it was he who blocked the tile in the field where the springs are. I got the fire department to force water back up the tile and wash out the obstruction. In the fall, the tile was blocked again, and the pond dried up, killing all of my trout. But in the fall of 1944, I had other things on my mind."

To be continued...


Michigan Central Depot in Middleville circa 1915.

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)

SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - BARRY COUNTY

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement.

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Barry County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on May 22, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Robert W. Garrett and Lynette S. Garrett a/k/a Lynette Sue Garrett, husband and wife tenants by the entireties Original Mortgagee: Washington Mutual Bank, FA Date of mortgage: February 16, 2004 Recorded on February 23, 2004, in Document No. 1122601, and re-recorded via Loan Modification recorded on July 25, 2011 in Document No. 201107250007105 Foreclosing Assignee (if any): NEWREZ LLC D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: Thirty-Four Thousand Six Hundred Thirty and 82/100 Dollars ($34,630.82) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Barry County, and described as: THE WEST FIFTEEN ACRES OF THE EAST FORTY-FIVE ACRES OF THE WEST ONE-HALF OF THE SOUTHWEST ONE-QUARTER OF SECTION TWENTY-FOUR, TOWN ONE NORTH, RANGE EIGHT WEST, JOHNSTOWN TOWNSHIP, BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN. Commonly known as 4203 Mud Lake Rd, Bellevue, MI 49021 The redemption period will be 12 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing Mortgagee/ Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400
1559640 (04-24)(05-15)

Synopsis
Hope Township
Regular Board meeting
April 14, 2025

Meeting opened at 6:30 pm
Approved:
Consent agenda
Healthy Water weed control renewal request
Adjourned at 7:14 pm

Submitted by:
Deborah Jackson, Clerk

Attested to by
Doug Peck, Supervisor

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
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.

mihomepaper.com

SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - BARRY COUNTY

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement.

Notice is given under section 49c of the State Housing Development Authority Act of 1966, 1966 PA 346, MCL 125.1449c, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Barry County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on May 22, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Aaron Poritt, unmarried man Original Mortgagee: Neighborhood Loans, Inc. Date of mortgage: June 10, 2022 Recorded on August 3, 2022, in Document No. 2022-008250, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Michigan State Housing Development Authority Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Thirty-Six Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty-Three and 04/100 Dollars ($136,853.04) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Barry County, and described as: A parcel of land in the Southwest 1/4 of Section 26, Town 3 North, Range 8 West, described as: beginning at a point 1554.5 feet West of the North and South 1/4 line of said Section 26, said point of beginning being on the North line of State Highway M-79 and said point also being on the Southwest Corner of land previously deeded to school district number 2; thence West along said North line of said Highway M-79, 153 feet; thence North at right angles to said Highway M-79, 130 feet; thence East parallel with said Highway M-79, 153 feet; thence South at right angles to said Highway M-79, 130 feet to the place of beginning. Commonly known as 2987 Dusty Ln, Hastings, MI 49058 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 125.1449v, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 125.1449v(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Michigan State Housing Development Authority Mortgagee/ Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400

1559641 (04-24)(05-15)

NOTICE OF ELECTION
FOR THE SPECIAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, MAY 6, 2025

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF BARRY COUNTY, STATE OF MICHIGAN:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a regular election will be held in the following Townships/Village on TUESDAY, MAY 6, 2025. The polls will be open from 7:00 A.M. – 8:00 P.M.

At the following locations:

BALTIMORE TOWNSHIP *Baltimore Township Hall, 3100 E. Dowling Rd., Hastings*
BARRY TOWNSHIP *Barry Township Mtg. Hall, 155 E. Orchard St., Delton*
CARLTON TOWNSHIP *Carlton Township Hall, 85 Welcome Rd., Hastings*
CASTLETON TOWNSHIP *Castleton Township Hall, 915 Reed St., Nashville*
HOPE TOWNSHIP *Hope Township Hall, 5463 S. M-43 Hwy., Hastings*
JOHNSTOWN TOWNSHIP *Johnstown Township Hall, 13641 S. M-37 Hwy., Battle Creek*
ORANGEVILLE TOWNSHIP *Orangeville Township Hall, 7350 Lindsey Rd., Plainwell*
PRAIRIEVILLE TOWNSHIP *Prairieville Township Hall, 10115 S. Norris Rd., Delton*
WOODLAND TOWNSHIP *Woodland Township Hall, 156 S. Main St., Woodland*

The following precincts have consolidated with another precinct. Please see the polling locations below:

THORNAPPLE TOWNSHIP, PRECINCTS 1 & 2
Caledonia Christian Reformed Church, 9957 Cherry Valley Ave SE, Caledonia
YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP, PRECINT 2
Orangeville Township Hall, 7350 Lindsey Rd., Plainwell

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the following proposals will appear on the ballot:

DELTON KELLOGG SCHOOLS

DELTON KELLOGG SCHOOLS GENERAL OBLIGATION UNLIMITED TAX BOND PROPOSAL FOR BUILDING AND SITE PURPOSES IN THE AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED $43,000,000

Full text of the ballot proposition may be obtained at the administrative offices of Delton Kellogg Schools, 327 N. Grove St., Delton MI 49046-9701, Telephone: (269) 623-1500.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT THE BONDS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT, IF APROVED BY A MAJORITY OF THE ELECTORS AT THIS ELECTION, WILL BE GENERAL OBLIGATION UNLIMITED TAX BONDS PAYABLE FROM GENERAL AD VALOREM TAXES.

LAKEWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

LAKEWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS GENERAL OBLIGATION UNLIMITED TAX BOND PROPOSAL FOR BUILDING AND SITE PURPOSES IN THE AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED $29,950,000

Full text of the ballot proposition may be obtained at the administrative offices of Lakewood Public School District, 223 W. Broadway St., Woodland, Michigan 48897, telephone: (616) 374-8043.

CALEDONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

CALEDONIA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS OPERATING MILLAGE PROPOSAL

Full text of the ballot proposition may be obtained at the administrative offices of Caledonia Schools, 8948 Kraft Avenue SE, Caledonia MI, 49316-9411, telephone: (616) 891-8185.

WOODLAND TOWNSHIP

WOODLAND TOWNSHIP PROPOSAL RENWAL OF MILLAGE FOR FIRE, CEMETERY AND TOWNSHIP IN THE AMOUNT OF 2 MILLS

Full text of the ballot proposition may be obtained at the Woodland Township Hall, 156 S. Main Street, Woodland MI 48897, telephone: (269) 367-4915

Absentee ballots are available for all elections; registered voters may contact the local clerk to obtain an application for an absent voter ballot.

To comply with the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), voting instructions will be available in audio format and in Braille. Arrangements for obtaining the instructions in these alternative formats can be made by contacting the township clerk in advance of the election. All polling locations are accessible for voters with disabilities.

Sample ballots may be viewed at www.mi.gov/vote

SARAH M. VANDENBURG, BARRY COUNTY CLERK
on behalf of:

Baltimore Township Clerk, Jana Bishop
Barry Township Clerk, Debra Knight
Carlton Township Clerk, Amanda Carothers
Castleton Township Clerk, Marcia Scramlin
Hope Township Clerk, Deborah Jackson
Johnstown Township Clerk, Sheri Babcock
Orangeville Township Clerk, Melody Risner
Prairieville Township Clerk, Rod Goebel
Thornapple Township Clerk, Cindy Ordway
Woodland Township Clerk, Elizabeth Busk
Yankee Springs Township Clerk, Tom Hopkins

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
FOR
GREEN STREET & MARKET STREET IMPROVEMENTS
CITY OF HASTINGS
BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Encrypted Bids will be accepted on the Bid Express site until 11 a.m., local time, on Thursday, May 22, 2025, and then publicly opened and read aloud digitally via Microsoft Teams.

Bids will be on the basis of unit prices as listed on the Bid Form, and may only be submitted using the e-bidding system.

The approximate quantities of major items of work are as follows:
3,752 Ft Sanitary Sewer, SDR 26, 12 inch w/sand backfill
20,000 Syd Aggregate Base, 8 inch, 21AA Modified
2,975 Ton HMA, 4EL
Manholes, Catch Basins, Valves, Hydrants, Fittings, Restoration, and all appurtenant work.

All forms, information, and specifications are available for download free of charge at M+B Bid Express (https://www.bidexpress.com/businesses/34301/home?agency=true). The Contract Documents may also be examined at the following locations:

City of Hastings
201 East State Street
Hastings, Michigan 49058

Moore & Bruggink, Inc.
2020 Monroe Avenue NW
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49505

Builders Exchange
2007 Eastcastle Drive SE
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49508

Project information may be viewed at Dodge Data & Analytics:
http://dodgeprojects.construction.com/

Only Bidders who have been prequalified by the City of Hastings within the required days in advance of the bid opening in accordance with the Information for Bidders section will have their bids opened and read.

Plans and Specifications will be available after 1 p.m. on April 18, 2025, at M+B Bid Express(https://www.bidexpress.com/businesses/34301/home?agency=true).

This project will be entirely funded by the City of Hastings; no federal or state grants are involved.

All Proposals shall be made in accordance with the Bidding Documents.

A Proposal Guarantee payable to the City of Hastings, in the sum of five percent (5%) of the amount of the bid, must accompany the Proposal in accordance with the Information for Bidders.

The right is reserved by the City of Hastings to accept any Proposal, reject any or all Proposals, and to waive informalities in bidding when it is deemed to be in the interest of the City of Hastings.

CITY OF HASTINGS
BY: LINDA PERIN, CITY CLERK

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 22, 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 David Molette and Tammy Molette, Husband and Wife to Fifth Third Mortgage - MI, LLC, Mortgagee, dated December 3, 2003, and recorded on December 10, 2003, as Document Number: 1119049, Barry County Records, said mortgage was assigned to Fifth Third Bank, National Association by an Assignment of Mortgage dated December 07, 2023 and recorded December 07, 2023 by Document Number: 2023-009469, , on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Twenty-Five Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty-Eight and 39/100 ($25,758.39) including interest at the rate of 5.50000% per annum. Said premises are situated in the Township of Rutland, Barry County, Michigan, and are described as: Lot 3 of Treat`s Little Acres, according to the recorded Plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 5 of Plats, Page 78. Commonly known as: 3916 Woodruff Rd now known as 3937 Woodruff Rd, 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 24, 2025 Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C. Attorneys for Fifth Third 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. 25MI00274-1
(04-24)(05-15)

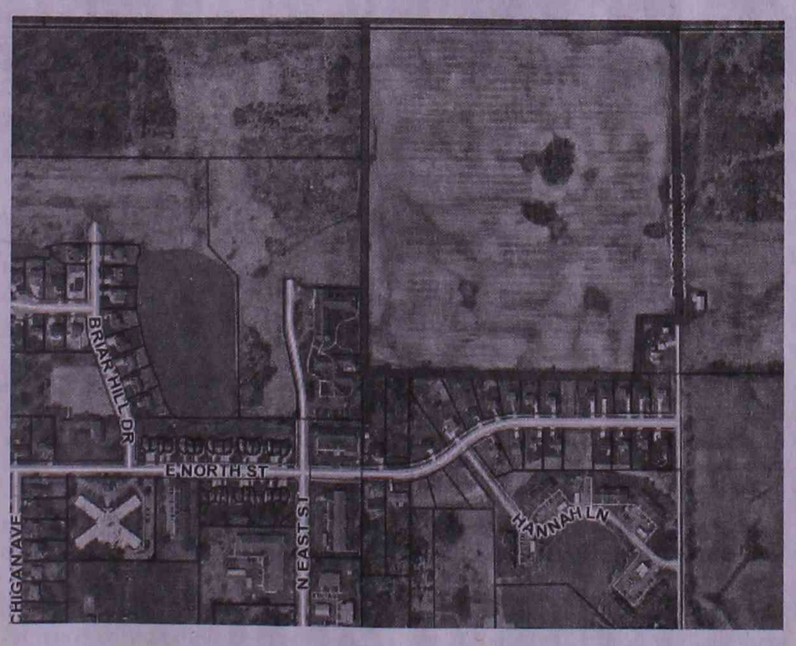
FORECLOSURE NOTICE

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)

City of Hastings

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

The City Council for the City of Hastings will hold a Public Hearing for the purpose of hearing written and/or oral comments from the public concerning Bachman Field Planned Unit Development and final site plan approval for property located at 900 Bachman Rd. parcel #08-55-135-001-02. The City Council will review and consider final site plan approval for the development and construction of 119 detached residential site condominiums. The public hearing will be held at **7:00 PM on Monday May 12, 2025**, in the City Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall, 201 East State Street, Hastings, Michigan 49058.



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

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
BARRY COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. and JUDGE 25-30104-DE
William M. Doherty

Court address: 206 West Court Street, Hastings, MI 49058
Court telephone no.: 269-945-1390
Estate of Betty Ann Noffke.
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Betty Ann Noffke, died 03/01/2025.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Debra Donker, 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: 04/21/2025

Nathan E. Tagg P68994
202 South Broadway
Hastings, MI 49058
269-948-2900
Debra BOnker
4324 Bender Road
Middleville, MI 49333
269-331-9499

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

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Commonly known as: 1615 Pleasant View Road, Hastings, Michigan 49058
P.P. #08-13-080-020-00

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

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

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the Mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Dated: April 10, 2025
HASTINGS SAVINGS BANK, now known as HIGHPOINT COMMUNITY BANK
Mortgagee
Elisabeth M. Von Eitzen
WARNER NORCROSS + JUDD LLP
150 Ottawa Avenue NW, Suite 1500
Grand Rapids, MI 49503-2487
(616) 752-2000
32274393

SYNOPSIS
Hastings Charter Township
Regular Meeting
April 8, 2025

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m.
All board members present
Approved agenda / consent agenda
Discussed gravel road dust control, ambulance service, Knox boxes
Approved payment of bills
Dept. reports received and put on file
Motion to adjourn 8:27 pm

Submitted,
David J. Olson – Clerk

Attested to by
Jim Partridge – Supervisor

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)

Some new events for TK, same great results

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Oops, she got a big PR.

Thornapple Kellogg senior Emma Dykhouse helped the Thornapple Kellogg varsity girls' track and field team to a pair of victories on the first day of the OK Gold Conference season in Middleville Wednesday with a winning mark of 34 feet 4 inches in the shot put and a runner-up discus throw of 88-2.

A new discus competitor this spring, who head coach Maggie Wilkinson said is very responsible, Dykhouse forgot to go compete in the event during the Trojans' tri with Wyoming and Grand Rapids Union until a reminder from TK throws coach Cary Saxton. Saxton got to Dykhouse just after the senior's run in the 4x100-meter relay, and she quickly rushed off to find her throwing shoes and get her throws in before the event closed.

Dykhouse said she felt like a quick practice throw flew better than any attempt in practice a few days earlier had gone, and then she ripped off a mark that ended up beating her previous best from last month by about 17 feet.

Mostly a sprinter and a long jumper at the start of high school, Dykhouse was just one spot shy of qualifying for the state finals in the long jump as a sophomore. She threw the shot once that season, at the OK Gold Conference JV Championship, and then nearly qualified for the state finals in that event last year as a junior.

She said she is quickly learning that the discus is a lot more technical than the shot put, and hasn't gotten the full spin down quite yet, but she is enjoying it so far. It was something she wanted to try this season. That wasn't something she could say when she started out in the shot put – but now the shot put is her favorite event.

"Because I'm good at it and then also I think because like it's something different for me to do that I don't normally do," Dykhouse said of enjoying the shot put. "It's just like very fun. I just started weightlifting a few years ago and it like helps show where my progress has gone with my weightlifting. So yeah, it's kind of fun. "

It was a day of shuffling a lot of things up for the TK ladies, who dominated their OK Gold duals. The TK ladies took a 117-19 win over Wyoming and a 122-15 win over Grand Rapids Union. The TK boys also secured two conference wins outscoring Wyoming 78-59 and Union 77-60. The Wyoming boys and Union girls took victories in the bouts between those teams.

Wilkinson said the Trojans' move up to Division 1 for MHSAA competitions at the end of the season has her really trying to change things up at every opportunity. She said many of her girls' big goals are all about competing at the state finals – something that will be at least a little tougher this spring in D1. She wants to explore every opportunity she can to help her girls reach those goals.

A regular 100-meter dash participant last season, Dykhouse ran the 200-meter dash Wednesday and ran a leg of the 4x100-meter dash, handing the baton off to new junior teammate Jordyn Fitros. That duo teamed with Sydney Martin and Leigha Jager to place second overall in the race behind a foursome from Wyoming. The Wolves' team in that race included junior Myah Nabors – who was the only girl ahead of Fitros all day.

Running the relay together for the first time, Dykhouse made sure to remind Fitros of two things before they headed off to their separate exchange zones:

You're fast.

I'll be tired.

In other words, don't take off too soon. In the end, maybe she could have taken off a little sooner, but there is nothing surprising about relay exchanges needing a little work in early April.

"I think it's great. It's like, I love this team," Dykhouse said. "It's really different without the seniors because I'm so used to having them. Like, I've had them since I was a freshman. But I really love this team, and it's a great team, and I'm really excited to see where we go to."

The rest of the relays were victorious for the TK ladies Wednesday. Fitros teamed with junior Mia Hilton, sophomore Ellie Harmon and senior Brooklyn Harmon to win the 4x200-meter relay in 1 minute 47.30 seconds. The TK sophomore foursome of Peyton Hardy, Alaina McCrumb, Carmen Reynolds and Isla Tillema won the 4x800-meter relay in 11:20.47. At the end of the night, the TK team of freshman Amya Gater, junior Payton Gater, junior Madison Kietzman and Hilton won the 4x400-meter relay in 4:36.80.

Fitros was second to Nabors in the 100-meter dash with the Wyoming junior winning in 12.74 and Fitros coming in at 13.12. In the 200-meter dash Nabors won in 26.18 with Fitros coming in at 27.23.

Senior Ava Crews swept the three longest races for the TK ladies winning the 3200-meter run in 11:32.11, the 1600-meter run in 5:23.13 and the 800-meter run in 2:31.56. Hardy was second in the 3200 and third in the 1600, and freshman Breanna Schut came in second in the 800.

The TK ladies swept the top three scoring spots in the 400-meter dash with Payton Gater winning in 1:03.40, sophomore Isla Tilleman second and junior Claira Kovich third.

The TK ladies also swept the two hurdles races powered by Brooklyn Harmon who took the 100-meter hurdles in 15.46 and the 300-meter low hurdles in 48.62. Hilton was second and Amya Gater third in that 100-meter hurdles race with Hilton setting her PR at 16.53. A couple freshmen were second and third behind Brooklyn in the 300 hurdles, Kayla Price and Addison Rocco.

There were sweeps of the top three spots in three field events for the TK ladies, including the shot put with senior Lilly McKeown second and junior Marlee Shuford third. Brooklyn Harmon won the high jump by clearing 4-10 and sophomore teammate Lydia Slagel improved her PR in the event to 4-10 to place second while sophomore Kimberlin Zavalza-Nava was third with a PR of 4-8. In the pole vault, Hilton won at 8-6, Slagel was second and sophomore Raylee Preston third for TK.

Ellie Harmon added a long jump victory with a mark of 14-3.5.

The only girl better than Dykhouse in the discus was Union's Azaria Powell who had a PR of her own at 95-8.

Senior Jacob Draaisma powered the TK boys to the win by matching Crews' sweep of the distance races. He won the 1600-meter run in 4:49.32, the 800-meter run in 2:07.84 and the 3200-meter run in 10:55.18. He won the 800 by about 12 seconds, the 1600 by nearly half a minute and the 3200 by more than half a minute.

Freshman Brekin McWhinney was also a standout for the TK boys. He won the 110-meter high hurdles in 17.79 seconds and placed second in the 300-meter intermediate hurdles in 48.85. Union junior Josiah Osei-agyeman got him by about two and a half seconds in that 300 hurdles race, but McWhinney had a more than one and a half second lead at the end of the 110s.

The Trojan boys capped off their victory with the team of Lucas McNabnay, Elliott Neff, Lucas Ploeg and Brandan Velting winning the 4x400-meter relay in 3:44.38.

The TK boys won two relays. The team of Case Dykhouse, Elijah Frazer, Layne Schilthroat and Draaisma opened the meet with a winning time of 9:08.90 in the 4x800-meter relay.

The pole vault was the top field event for the TK boys with Luke Archer taking the win by getting over the bar at 10-0 and Mark Gielincki second at 9-0. The TK team had Derious Robinson second in the long jump with a PR of 17-11, Camden Peter second in the high jump with a PR of 5-8, Kyle Porritt second in the discus with a PR of 125-2.5 and Adam Lozada second in the shot put with a PR of 41-0.

The TK girls are now 3-0 in OK Gold duals after a 114-23 win at Northview Tuesday. The TK boys are 1-2 in conference duals after falling to the Wildcats 83-53.

In between the conference meets, the TK athletes took part in the Wayland Invitational last Friday, April 18. The TK ladies took the championship at the event outscoring Plainwell 852-707 at the top of the standings. The TK boys were fifth as the host Wildcats won the boys' meet by about 175 points over the second-place Plainwell guys.

Draaisma won the 800-meter run in 2:03.82 and the 1600-meter run in 4:44.17.

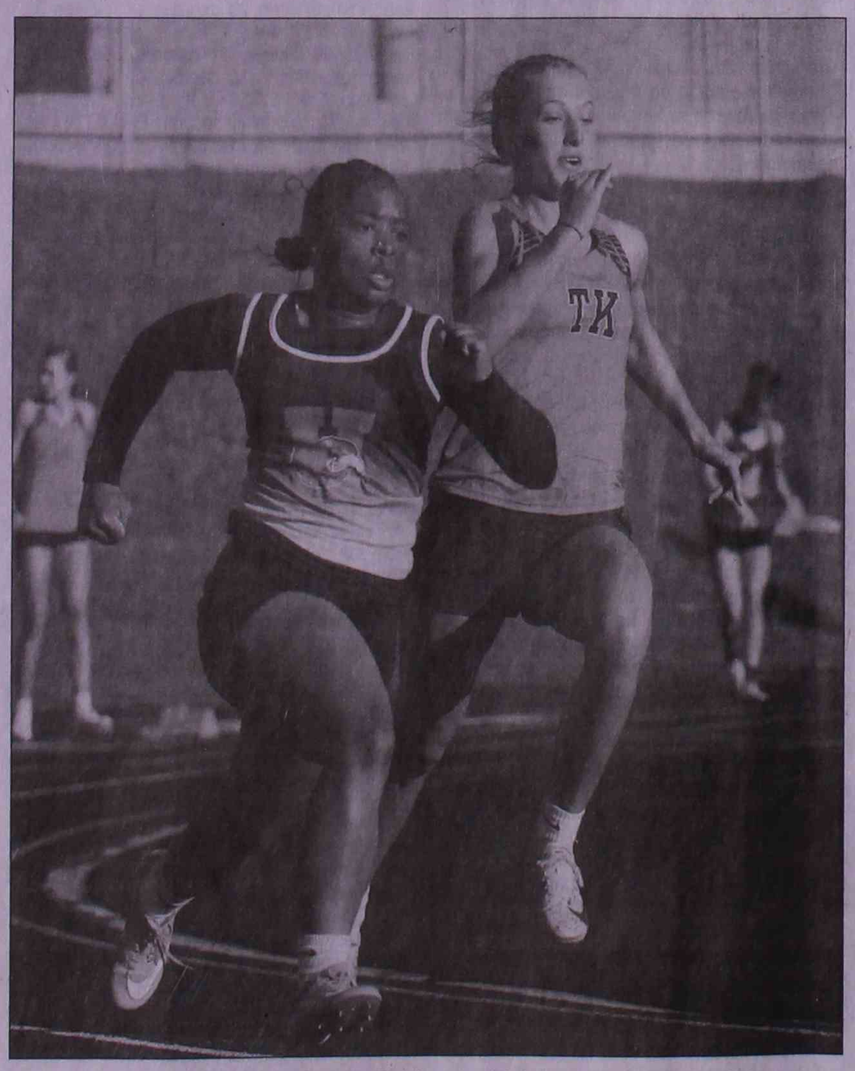
Dykhouse improved her PR in the shot put for TK to 35-4 to win that event. The TK team of Brooklyn Harmon, Amya Gater, Payton Gater and Hilton wont he 4x400-meter relay in 4:12.59, and Harmon improved her PR to 15.06 in winning the 100-meter hurdles.



Thornapple Kellogg senior Jacob Draaisma races to a win in the 3200-meter run during the Trojans' OK Gold Conference tri with Grand Rapids Union and Wyoming Wednesday in Middleville.



Thornapple Kellogg freshman Amya Gater (right) gets the baton to big sister Payton Gater during the 4x400-meter relay at the end of the Trojans' OK Gold Conference tri with Grand Rapids Union and Wyoming inside Bob White Stadium in Middleville Wednesday, April 16. **Photos by Brett Bremer**



Thornapple Kellogg senior Emma Dykhouse (right) and Union's Len'niya Brown get up to speed in the 200-meter dash during the OK Gold Conference tri in Middleville Wednesday, April 16.

DK boys clinch win over Hackett in the 4x400 relay

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The meet was close. The last race wasn't.

The Delton Kellogg varsity boys' track and field team kept its Southwestern Athletic Conference Valley Division record even at 2-2 splitting a pair of duals against visiting Hackett Catholic Prep and Schoolcraft Wednesday, April 16, in Delton.

The scoring between the Panther boys and the Fighting Irish came down to the final race with the Delton 4x400-meter relay team of Cyrus Bain, Jaime Saura, Lane Steele and Kayden Conley clinching a 72-65 win for their team with a time of 4 minutes 26.07 seconds that was nearly 14 seconds faster than the Irish foursome in the race.

Hackett Catholic Prep scored an 86-51 win over the DK boys on the day. The DK girls are now 0-4 in the conference after falling 80-50 to the Schoolcraft girls and 92-44 in their dual with Hackett.

In the three-team competition, all of the Delton Kellogg boys' wins came in the field events. Senior Cooper Sandusky took the shot put with a a mark of 39 feet 10.5 inches. He was also the runner-up in the discus with a personal record throw of 118-1.5. Panther junior Evan Fleser was third in both of the throwing events with a PR of 104-8 in the discus.

DK also had junior Nick Muday set a new PR in the pole vault at 11-6 to win that event. Senior Wyatt Finney won the long jump for DK with a leap of 18-11. The Panthers swept the top three scoring places in the long jump with junior Tyler Howland flying 18-6 and sophomore Logan Damron going 17-10.

Sophomore Landon Madden had runner-up finishes for the DK boys in both the 400-meter dash and the 800-meter run.

The lone victory for the DK girls on the day came in the 1600-meter run with senior Kylie Main turning in a season-best time of 6:10.26.

Both the DK boys' and girls' teams filled the meet with new personal record finishes, even if they weren't all in scoring performances or victories. The DK girls did get a personal record time of 1:12.96 from senior Jillian Leclercq to place third behind two Hackett runners in the 400-meter dash. Junior Izabelle Gruber had a PR of 53.90 in the 300-meter low hurdles to finish third in that race.

DK junior Violet Kokx was the runner-up in the discus with a personal record throw of 79-3 and also placed second in the shot put. Senior Mia Kohlen set her PR at 4-6 to place second in the high jump. Sophomore teammate Makayla Lutz set her PR at 6-0 to place third in the pole vault.

Better communication keeps Vikings in game with Greyhounds

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Eaton Rapids girls showed off why they're the favorites to run away with the Capital Area Activities Conference White Division championship this spring.

The Vikings found a little something that should help them have a strong finish to the spring though too Tuesday at Lakewood High School – their voice.

The Eaton Rapids varsity girls' soccer team improved to 3-0 in the CAAC White and 4-1-1 overall with a 6-09 win over the Lakewood girls who are now 1-2 in the conference and 3-5 overall.

It was a 4-0 lead for the Greyhounds at the half, but the Lakewood defense led by senior center back Sydney Tefft and junior keeper Emma Tidd were able to hold the Greyhounds, who were without one of their top attackers on the afternoon, to just two goals in the second half. Eaton Rapids scored a 9-0 win earlier this season against conference foe Charlotte and bested Ionia 8-0 last week.

To be honest with you, the entire game they did stuff right," Lakewood head coach Adrian Almas said of his girls. "This is probably the first game where they looked the most organized. They were defensively structured."

"Throughout the entire game there was constant communication … They did almost everything right. Honestly, the mistakes that did happen that caused three or four of those goals to happen that probably shouldn't have is just us being tired. Mistakes happen when you're tired like that, and when you're playing 80 percent of the game in your half those things happen."

The communication was the big boost to the organization across the field for the Vikings.

"You hear Emma screaming 'back side' and we could hear it all the way down here on this side of the field," Almas said. "Sydney is talking a little bit more as a center back and, you know, not necessarily demanding stuff like we've been asking for, but still getting louder each and every game. And I think they finally came into a game like this knowing, okay, this is going to be a tough team. We have zero room for mistakes and so they came ready to play. So the biggest key, though, is that communication."

The Vikings have another tough conference match at home against Lansing Catholic this afternoon, April 24, and go on the road for a non-conference match at Waverly Monday. Portland comes to Lakewood for a CAAC White match Tuesday.



Lakewood defender Raelin Schrock (19) looks to keep Eaton Rapids' Kierra Scbrell in front of her during the second half of their CAAC White match at Lakewood High School Tuesday. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

Barker sets Panther goal record with seven in win

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Delton Kellogg/Martin opened up Southwestern Athletic Conference Valley Division action with a 9-1 win at Parchment Monday.

The Parchment girls got the game's first goal, about 13 minutes into the game, but it didn't take long for the Delton Kellogg/Martin girls to take control after that thanks to a team-record performance from Claire Barker. She broke the team's record for goals in a game with seven.

Barker scored four goals in the first half for the visiting Panthers. Teagan Hamlin assisted on one of those Barker goals and then notched her team's fifth goal herself by finishing off a corner kick from teammate Ellyse Blackburn.

Barker followed up with three more goals thanks to two more assists from Hamlin and one from Piper McArthur. Blackburn scored DK/Martin's final goal with about 16 minutes remaining off an assist from Sara Schipper.

The DK girls are now 4-2 overall this season and 1-1 in the SAC Valley. They were back on the road Tuesday to take on Hackett Catholic Prep and fell 4-0 to the Fighting Irish in Kalamazoo.

DK/Martin keeper Johannah Houtkooper had 24 saves in a losing effort, but kept the Panthers in the contest. Hackett led just 1-0 at the half.

The DK/Martin girls are home Friday for a match against Saugatuck.

Last Friday, the DK/Martin girls were bested by Quincy 3-1 in Delton. It was the first loss of the season for the Panthers. Barker scored off an assist from Hamlin seven minutes into the game, but the Orioles pulled in front 2-1 before the end of the first half and added an insurance goal in the second half.

Houtkooper made seven saves against the Orioles.

Quick response earns TK a draw with undefeated Sailors



Thornapple Kellogg senior Madilyn Chivis (left) arrives to force the ball off the feet of South Christian's Vivian Mast (8) during the first half of their OK Gold Conference contest inside Bob White Stadium in Middleville. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Some ties feel more like wins than others.

The fifth-ranked South Christian varsity girls' soccer team struck first, but the Thornapple Kellogg girls didn't really have much time to hang their heads Saturday afternoon in Middleville. They answered right away to hold onto a tie atop the OK Gold Conference standings.

The Trojans and Sailors are both now 4-0-1 in conference action this spring. TK followed up the draw with a 2-0 win at Grand Rapids Northview Monday.

The Sailor goal came on a breakaway 11 minutes into the second half. It wasn't even two minutes later that TK's Tealy Cross chipped a free kick behind the South Christian line and teammate Madilyn Chivis was there to get a foot on it. Her first swing was deflected away from the net, but the ball returned right to her feet and she riffled a second attempt into the back of the net.

"It was really exciting, we really need that to give us confidence and keep us going through the game," Chivis said.

"I was a little worried when they first scored seeing our team, some heads went down and stuff, and then after my goal everyone was right back in it."

Things were back and forth the rest of the day. Chivis said junior teammate Cami Stahl had a good header that just missed finding the net and junior Paige Abshagen had another good attack on the Sailor net.

"I was excited to compete. I know a lot of my teammates were too. I was excited to have that good competition," Chivis said. "I was pretty glad we tied, especially because everyone was fighting pretty hard there at the end. It was close. I am glad we were able to hold them off. They had a few breakaways, but we were able to hold them off."

The Trojan defensive line and keeper McKenna Hoebeke came through in the end.

"I think we just came together as a team and worked hard together. If we didn't come together as a team we wouldn't have tied that game," Chivis said.

South Christian followed up the draw by scoring a 3-0 win over visiting West Catholic in conference play Monday evening. The Sailors are now 7-0-1 overall this season.

TK moved to 6-1-1 with the win over Northview.

The Trojans and Sailors are set to meet again in the regular season finale at South Christian High School May 19.

Saxons do well in three-setters to down Mounties

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Hastings varsity girls' tennis team opened the 2025 Interstate-8 Athletic Conference season with a 7-1 win over Jackson Northwest Thursday, April 17, the team's second win of the week after toppling Ionia Wednesday.

The Saxons outscored the Mounties 7-1 and now are 1-1 in the Interstate-8 after a 6-2 loss to Harper Creek Monday afternoon.

Hastings swept the doubles flights in the win over Northwest getting a three set win from senior Isabella Gee and junior Lauren Gee at first doubles. They outscored the Northwest senior duo of Addison Surbrook and Lindsea Baker 6-3, 4-6, 6-0.

The Saxons and Mounties split sets in three of the four doubles matches and five flights overall. Freshmen Lillian Edger and Lilly Randall outscored Northwest sophomores Kristen Cumings and Evangeline Bamm 6-3, 3-6, 6-2 in the third doubles match. At number four, Saxon junior Alyssa Morton and senior Jordan Milanowski teamed up to outscore Northwest senior Audrey Davis and junior Holly Tappan 7-5,2-6, (15-13) finishing with a super tiebreaker.

The Saxon second doubles team of sophomore Sophia Haywood and senior Ella Fergusen won in straight sets 6-4, 6-2 over Northwest sophomores Alyssa Crandall and Raeghan Waldron.

On the singles side, the Saxons got a three-set win from senior Madison Deal at number one. She outscored Northwest senior Melia Piloske 6-4, 1-6, 6-2.

The Saxons also had junior Alexa Lilley at third singles and junior Gracie Wilson at number four score straight set wins. Northwest's lone point came thanks to a tough three-set win by sophomore Lydia Cumings over Saxon senior Lilyah Solmes at number two singles. Solmes won the first set 6-4, but Cumings rallied for 6-2, 6-4 wins in the final two sets.

The Saxons swept the singles flights against Ionia getting wins from Deal, Solmes, Lilley and Wilson. Edger and Randall at third doubles and Morton and Milanowski at number four both won in straight sets for the Saxons on the doubles side.

In the loss to Harper Creek Monday, Deal took a 6-3, 6-4 over Harper Creek junior Paije Dickenson in the first singles match and Lilley scored a win at third singles in what coach Andrew Haines called her best match of the season. Lilley outscored Harper Creek sophomore Jade Phillips 6-3, 6-1.

The Saxons weren't far from making things closer on the final scorecard. The Beavers pulled out three-set wins at second and third doubles and a close two-set victory at fourth doubles.

In between all those duals, the Saxons took a third-place finish at the Paw Paw Red Wolves Quad Saturday. Paw Paw won the day's championship with 19 points ahead of Kalamazoo Christian 16, Hastings 8 and Lake Michigan Catholic/Bridgman 5.

The Gee duo won the first doubles flight for the Saxons at the tournament. Haywood and Ferguson at second doubles and Morton and Milanowski at third doubles placed third at their flights.

RUTLAND CHARTER TOWNSHIP
BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN
NOTICE OF MAY 15, 2025 SPECIAL MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING OF ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

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

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE the Rutland Charter Township Township Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a special meeting (and public hearing) on **May 15, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.** at the Rutland Charter Township Hall, 2461 Heath Road, Hastings, MI 49058 for the purpose of considering the following matters:

1. The application of FCC Construction, Inc. for variance relief from a parking lot setback requirement of the Rutland Charter Township Zoning Ordinance with respect to the proposed rebuild of a restaurant on the property commonly known as 606 Whitmore Road (parcel no. 13-018-002-00). The subject property is zoned MU Mixed Use District, within which § 220-9-5.A.4. requires commercial use parking lots to be setback a minimum of 30' from any residentially zoned property or property located outside the Mixed Use District. The applicant is proposing to construct the parking lot with a setback of 10' from the adjoining property zoned other than Mixed Use District. This proposal therefore requires a variance of 20' from the minimum setback requirement. Note: the applicant is not requesting relief from the parking lot landscaping requirements as set forth in § 220-19-8 of the Rutland Charter Township Code, as applicable to the subject property.

This application may also involve variances from other requirements in the Zoning Ordinance, as may be determined based on the facts presented at the public hearing.

2. Such other and further matters as may properly come before the Board.

The Rutland Charter Township Zoning Ordinance and Map, and the variance application materials, may be examined by contacting the Township Clerk, and may also be examined at the meeting.

Written comments regarding the abovereferenced matters may be submitted to the Township Clerk prior to the meeting, and may also be submitted to the Zoning Board of Appeals at the meeting.

Rutland Charter Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services at the meeting to individuals with disabilities, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed materials being considered, upon reasonable notice to the Township. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Township Clerk.

Robin Hawthorne, Clerk
Rutland Charter Township
2461 Heath Road
Hastings, MI 49058
(269) 948-2194

Trojans pick up offense to hoist tournament trophy

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Thornapple Kellogg got its bats heated up.

The Lakewood boys are still working to defrost their gloves.

The Thornapple Kellogg varsity baseball team snapped a 3-3 tie with three runs in the top of the fourth inning against Lakewood in the championship game of the Barry County Invitational in Middleville Saturday and went on to a 6-3 win.

Lakewood made a bid to cut into the Trojan lead in the bottom of the sixth inning, loading the bases on a Reily Teigeler single and a pair of walks. Trojan reliever Carsyn Redman got Lakewood's Ethan Guiles to ground into a 5-2-3 double play to stymie the rally. Third baseman Bradley Moreman scooped up a ground ball and fired to catcher Connor Dombkowski for an out at the plate, and then Dombkowski's throw to first beat Guiles up the line. Another ground ball to third got TK out of the inning unscathed.

"That was huge. That killed their momentum for sure," TK head coach Nick Iveson said. "It got us out of the inning with no runs. That was huge. That was probably the play of the game."

TK sophomore pitcher Micah Dock got the win on the mound allowing three runs (one earned) on five hits and three walks in five innings. He struck out five. It was his first start of the season.

"You can't ask for anymore out of a sophomore," Iveson said.

Redman got the save with two shut out innings of relief.

"My favorite part of the day is everybody got in. Everybody contributed," Iveson said.

The Trojans were helped out by six Viking errors in the win, but the Trojan offense did all right on its own too. Dock was 2-for-3 at the top of the line-up with a double, a walk and two runs scored. Jayce Brummel was 2-for-3 with three RBIs and a walk. Redman, Moreman and C Walters had one hit each for TK.

"We were seeing the ball really well today," Iveson said. "I think we kind of started to click a little bit. This past week was kind of tough, first conference game coming back from spring break. I think just, we were hitting the ball well. We finally started to find some gaps. So yeah, they're they're seeing the ball really well.

"We struggled a little bit Thursday [against Grand Rapids Catholic Central], so it was good to see the guys bounce back today and have some fun and play well."

Lakewood head coach Brad Tacey mostly liked his guys' performance. Some early season injuries have the Vikings shuffling their roster around a a bit.

"I mean, we played well offensively all day. We pitched well all day long you know, and pitching has been something we've been struggling with," Tacey said. "So, I mean, we're making some strides. We have guys that keep going down. We had a kid break his hand last week, so we're losing him. We lost our number three pitcher at a torn labrum. We're trying to fit guys together and figure out who can, you know, work in there. It's early in the season, it is still cold, but we are definitely making progress. I'm not a moral victories guy in the slightest, but, you know, I was proud of the way that we hit the ball the way we pitched, but we have got to play better defense,."

Tanner Haight started on the mound and went six innings for the Vikings giving up six unearned runs on seven hits and four walks. He struck out three. Carter Stewart closed out the game by striking out the side in the seventh.

The Viking offense against TK consisted of five singles, one each by Seth Willette, Guiles, Stewart, Teigeler and Bryer Poll. Willette, Guiles and Poll each drove in one run. Willette also walked twice in the lead-off spot.

"Tanner going six innings, he stuck in there and he kept pounding the zone even though we weren't making plays behind him," Tacey said.

The TK boys also won big over Delton Kellogg in the opening round of the Barry County Invitational. They knocked off the Panthers 19-4. An 11-hit TK attack in that one was powered in part by Dock who went 3-for-5 with two runs and two RBIs. Spencer Ybema, Brummel and Jayce Curtis had two hits apiece in that one, and Brummel drove in five runs himself.

Dombkowski was the winning pitcher. He allowed one unearned run over five innings in which he struck out six, walked two and gave up just one hit. The Panthers got to reliever Dominic McDonald a bit, but Anson Verlinde came on to throw two innings of relief striking out four and giving up one hit and no runs.

Elliott Rogers doubled, drove in a run and scored a run for Delton Kellogg in that opener. Owen Rogers was 2-for-3 at the plate with two RBIs.

Lakewood reached the championship game with a 16-4 win over Hastings on the TK freshman field at McFall Elementary. The Saxons closed out their day with a 14-4 win over Delton Kellogg in the consolation game back at McFall.

Lakewood scored nine runs in the top of the first inning against the Saxons to start the day and then eventually finished off the win in five innings.

Dustin Lampart and Jackson Hayes had two hits each for the Saxons in the loss with a single and a double. Hayes drove in two runs and Lampart one. The only other Hastings hit was s single off the bat of Gabe Drayer who scored a run.

Nine Hastings errors helped Lakewood score nine unearned runs in the ballgame.

The Lakewood offense had nine singles, Horst was 3-for-4 with three RBIs and a run scored. Guiles, Stewart, Hollis Poll, Brady Makley, Loggan Murray and Teigeler had one hit each. Makley, Teigeler, Stewart and Hollis Poll had two RBIs apiece. Willette was held without a hit in three at bats at the top of the Viking line-up, but walked once, drove in a run and scored three times.

Hastings closed out the day with a 14-4, five-inning win over Delton Kellogg in the consolation game back at McFall.

Hayes had another big ballgame going 2-for-3 with a double and four RBIs. Lampart, Tyler Frazer, Colten Denton, Parker Christie and Isaiah Wilson had the other five Saxon hits. Scott Sanders had two RBIs for Hastings.

All four Delton Kellogg runs were unearned against Saxon pitcher Lampart and Drayer. Lampart struck out four, gave up one hit and three walks through 2.1 innings. Drayer threw 2.2 innings striking out three, walking two and giving up two hits.

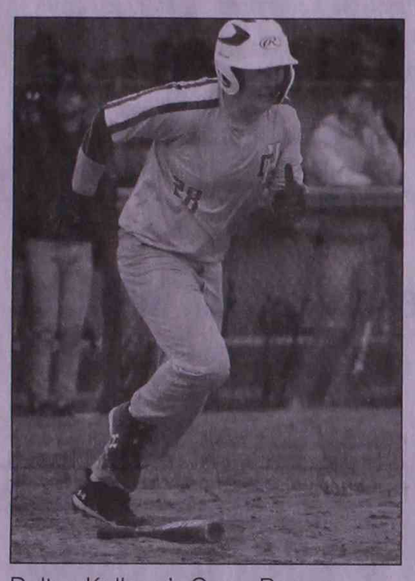
The three Delton hits were a double by Dylan Fichtner and singles from Easton Reynolds and Mitchell Swift.



Hastings' Jackson Hayes watches an RBI double fly towards right centerfield during the first inning of his team's ballgame against Lakewood in Middleville Saturday at the annual Barry County Invitational. **Photos by Brett Bremer**



Thornapple Kellogg first baseman Jayce Brummel catches a throw from home to finish off a 5-2-3 double play as Lakewood's Ethan Guiles hustles towards first during the bottom of the sixth of the championship game of the Barry County Invitational in Middleville Saturday.



Delton Kellogg's Owen Rogers breaks out of the batter's box during his team's opening round ballgame with Thornapple Kellogg at the annual Barry County Invitational in Middleville Saturday.

Saxons tally good early season scores at TK Invite

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Junior Daniel Jensen scored a top 20 finish.

Freshman Andrew Barton continued his strong start to his first varsity golf season.

Junior Bronson Elliott shot his best 18-hole round yet.

It all added up to a 15th-place finish for the Hastings varsity boys' golf team Friday at the annual Thornapple Kellogg Invitational at Yankee Springs Golf Course.

A field of 22 teams was led in the end by the Greenville Yellow Jackets who put together an 18-hole score of 313 on the White and Gold nines at Yankee Springs. Hudsonville was second with a score of 314, followed by Jenison 315, Grandville 317 and St. Joseph 318 in the the top five.

Host Thornapple Kellogg was 13th with an overall score of 337. The Saxons shot a 347 to place 15th.

Jensen shot a 79 to finish atop the Saxon scorecard. Barton tallied an 85 and Elliott an 86 for the Hastings team. The Saxons' number four score on the day was a 97 from junior Cayden Cappon.

Sophomore Parker Dahley led TK with an 84. The Trojans also got an 82 from senior Kylan Pratt and an 83 from senior Will Nathan. Seniors Ryan Skidmore and Tyler Voss both shot 88 for the Trojans.

Byron Center junior Gibson Hibma was the day's individual champion with a three-under-69. Greenville senior Sutton Schroeder was the runner-up with an even-par-72.

The Saxons saw Greenville again Saturday playing in the six-team Navy Division of the Lakeview Invitational Saturday at Brookside Golf Course.

Greenville won the title Saturday with a score of 326 ahead of Hastings 361, Ludington 386, Alma 393, Big Rapids 418 and Lowell 440.

In all, 17 teams competed across three division competitions at the tournament. Barton shot an 85 to finish fourth overall individually. Elliott was ninth with an 88. Jensen shot 90 and Cappon 98 to round out the top four for their team.

The Saxons were back out on the course Monday for an Interstate-8 Athletic Conference jamboree hosted by Parma Western at Arbor Hills Golf Club. Harper Creek took the day's title with a score of 311 ahead of Parma Western 314, Jackson Northwest 316, Marshall 326, Coldwater 335, Hastings 365 and Pennfield 387.

Jensen led the Saxons with an 81 that had him 14th individually. Barton and Elliott both scored 94s and Cappon fired a 96.



Hastings junior Bronson Elliott hits his tee shot on White 4 during the Thornapple Kellogg Invitational at Yankee Springs Golf Course Friday.



Saxon freshman Andrew Barton shoots his ball towards the green on White 3 Friday afternoon during the Thornapple Kellogg Invitational at Yankee Springs Golf Course Friday. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

Hoebeke homer clinches county title for TK



Delton Kellogg sophomore Olivia Post is greeted by teammates Jalin Lyons (left) and Paige Davis to celebrate Post's three-run home run in the top of the fifth inning against Hastings Saturday in the consolation game of the Barry County Invitational in Middleville. **Photos by Brett Bremer**



Hastings' Kylee Bosworth pitches during her team's contest with Delton Kellogg in the consolation game of the Barry County Invitational in Middleville Saturday.

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Grand Valley State University bound senior Kylee Hoebeke stepped into the batter's box with runners on first and second and two-out in the bottom of the seventh inning of the Barry County Invitational championship against Lakewood Saturday afternoon in Middleville.

She watched the first pitch from Lakewood's Peyton Federau sail by for a strike. That wasn't what she was expecting.

"I kind of thought I was going to get pitched around a little bit, but the first one was right down the middle," Hoebeke said, "and I was like okay. The next one was too."

Hoebeke drilled a two-out, three-run walk-off home run over the centerfield fence to give the Trojan varsity softball team a 5-3 win over Lakewood. She can't remember ever having hit a walk-off home run for the Trojan varsity or any of her club teams throughout the years. It is her first home run of this senior season for TK

"It's a good way to start," Hoebeke said.

Sophomore Adelaide Holderman got the pitching victory, coming on in relief of senior Jenna Robinett. Holderman was also the winning pitcher in game one of the day for the TK ladies - a 24-0, three-inning win over Delton Kellogg.

Lakewood took a 3-1 lead in the championship ballgame with two runs in the top of the fourth inning. TK got one back in the home half of the fourth. Federau got two groundouts to start the bottom of the seventh with her team still up 3-2. Anna Romph fought back from an 0-2 count to work a walk to get the rally started and then Aubree Stevens reached on a Viking error that could have ended the game, bringing Hoebeke to the plate.



Thornapple Kellogg senior Kylee Hoebeke watches her walk-off home run fly towards center field in the bottom of the seventh inning of her team's 5-3 win over Lakewood in the championship game of the Barry County Invitational in Middleville Saturday.

Hoebeke was 4-for-4 in the ballgame with two runs and four RBIs. Besides those four hits from Hoebeke, an RBI triple in the bottom of the fourth off the bat of Holderman was the only other hit the TK ladies managed off of Federau. Overall though, Hoebeke likes where her team's offense stands at the moment.

"I like it. We're hitting good this year," Hoebeke said. "We didn't give up or anything, so that is awesome. This year, we started out really strong hitting-wise. That is encouraging."

"Part of it is, most of the team played together last year. We only have two new girls or whatever, so we're all getting along pretty good and we know the drill and everything. Everyone has been working."

Robinett went four innings in the championship game in the circle for TK. She struck out one, walked one and allowed four hits. Of the three runs against her, only one was earned. Holderman threw three perfect innings of relief striking out three.

The four Lakewood hits were all singles, one each for Galatea Archbold-Pyle, Madison Fenlong, Avery Farrell and Graysi Hillard. Matti Aldrich and Archbold-Pyle had one RBI apiece.

Federau's final line in the circle was 6.2 innings pitched, allowing two earned runs on four walks and five hits. She struck out eight.

TK smacked 14 hits and took advantage of 11 walks in the three-inning opener against Delton Kellogg. Romph was 4-for-4 at the top of the line-up with a double, a walk, four runs scored and two RBIs. Hoebeke, Holderman and Kenzie Bouma had four hits apiece. Hoebeke and Bouma both drove in four runs. Holderman, Robinett and Chloe Bossenberger had three RBIs each.

Holderman gave up one hit and one walk in two innings while striking out five in the circle for TK. Stevens threw a perfect inning to close things out, striking out one.

A single by Josie Lyons was the lone hit for Delton Kellogg in the loss.

Lakewood got to the championship game with a 14-0 win over Hastings in five innings to start the day.

Federau went the distance in the circle striking out 14 Saxons. She gave up three hits, all singles. At the plate, she was 2-for-4 with a double, two RBIs and a run scored.

Archbold-Pyle and Hillard had two hits each as part of a nine-hit Viking attack. Hillard, Fenlong and B Spaans had two RBIs each.

The three Saxon hits were singles by Kylee Bosworth, Meredith Ansorge and Laken Hollars.

Delton Kellogg took a 10-2 win over the Saxons in the consolation game to close out the day.

Panther sophomore catcher Olivia Post belted a three-run inside the park home run into the left field corner with two out in the top of the fifth inning to break things open.

To that point the only hits for the Panthers had been a pair of singles by Paige Davis and a single and a double off the bat of Lillie Steele. Davis finished the ballgame with two RBIs and Lyons drove in one.

Singles by Lily Dingena and Sophia Greenfield were the only hits for the Saxons in the loss to the Panthers.

Madison Muskovin got the win in the circle pitching for Delton Kellogg. In seven innings, she struck out eight and walked three.

Pitching, offense come together for Saxons in sweep of Kelloggsville

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Saxons scored a pair of shutouts in a sweep of the Kelloggsville varsity softball team in Wyoming Thursday.

Hastings took the opener 20-0 and then scored a 17-0 win in game two.

Zoey Bennett, Lily Dingena, Kayden Brown and Kylee Bosworth led the Saxons' offensive attack in game one. Dingena had a first-inning triple to start the Saxons off on the right foot.

Annemarie Allerding pitched from the circle and no-hit the Rockets through three innings. She struck out eight and walked two.

In game two Bennett, Sophia Greenfield, Dingena and Bosworth had big hits for the Saxons including an inside-the-park home from from Dingena in the first inning.

Bosworth pitched game two and found her groove according to coach Dennis Redman. She gave up one hit while striking out eight and walking one in three innings.

The Saxons were bested in two games, against Lakewood and Delton Kellogg, at the Barry County Invitational hosted by Thornapple Kellogg in Middleville Saturday, and then jumped into Interstate-8 Athletic Conference action with a tough doubleheader against visiting Northwest Tuesday afternoon.

The Mounties scored 13-1 and 15-2 conference victories.

Allerding started in the cirlce in game two and allowed five runs but on only two hits. Bosworth closed things out in the circle.

Meredith Ansorge got a chance to pitch in game two and was hit for 15 runs on 12 hits. She struck out three and walked three.

Brown, Bennett and Greenfield had one hit each in game two.

The Saxons are back in action this afternoon, April 24, against Coldwater in I-8 action on the road. Lumen Christi will host the Saxons Saturday, and then Hastings plays host to Gull Lake for a doubleheader Monday. Conference play picks up again Tuesday, April 29, at Harper Creek.

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

Decedent: Lawrence B. Swinehart. Date of Birth: August 2, 1947.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Lawrence B. Swinehart, who lived at 12954 Turner Lane, Plainwell, Michigan 49080 died February 6, 2025. There is no probate estate.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against LAWRENCE B. SWINEHART or THE LAWRENCE B. SWINEHART REVOCABLE LIVING TRUST dated October 20, 2020, will be forever barred unless presented to Lawrence J. Swinehart, the named successor trustee within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: April 17, 2025
Morgan Rogalke Scime P83981
DeMent and Marquardt, PLC
211 E. Water Street, Suite 401
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
(269) 343-2106
Lawrence J. Swinehart
12954 Turner Lane
Plainwell, MI 49080
(661) 404-9281

NOTICE TO THE RESIDENTS OF BARRY COUNTY

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

Case Number V-07-2025 Kurt Beyer (Applicant)
Kurt & Linda Beyer Trust (Property Owner)
Location: 7804 EM 79 Hwy, Nashville in Section 33 of Castleton Township.
Purpose: Request a dimensional variance to create a parcel that contains buildings that are approximately 13 ft away from the side property line. The side yard setback in A (Agricultural) zoning district is 20 ft.

Case Number V-08-2025 Heather Calhoun (Applicant/Property Owner)
Location: 4483 Orchard St, Delton in Section 4 of Barry Township.
Purpose: Request a dimensional variance to create a shared driveway that is longer than 300 ft in RR (Rural Residential) zoning district.

MEETING DATE: May 12, 2025. TIME: 7:00 PM. PLACE: Tyden Center Community Room, 121 South Church Street, Hastings, Michigan 49058.

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

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

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

Sarah M. VanDenburg, Barry County Clerk



State champ the only early qualifier at invite



Hastings sophomore Bella Friddle easily gets over the bar at 5 feet to take over first place in the high jump during the Hastings Team Invitational inside Baum Stadium at Johnson Field Friday. **Photos by Brett Bremer**



Saxon freshman Annabelle Kuck runs her fastest 110-meter high hurdle race yet during the Hastings Team Invitational Friday inside Baum Stadium at Johnson Field.



Hastings junior Odin Twiss lets loose the shot during a fourth-place performance in the shot put Friday at the Hastings Team Invitational.

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Of the few hundred student-athletes competing at the Hastings Team Invitational at Baum Stadium at Johnson Field, the new "EQ" policy really only mattered to someone like Saxon sophomore Bella Friddle.

The 2024 high jump champion at the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 2 Girls' Track and Field Finals last spring earned a spot in the 2025 state finals with her second best day ever at the high jump pit. Friddle cleared the bar easily at 5 feet to rise above the only other five competitors left even attempting that height Friday. Alone in the event after that, she cleared 5 feet 2 inches, 5-4 and 5-6 on her first attempt at each height.

Friddle put up a school record jump of 5-7 at the 2024 Interstate-8 Athletic Conference Championship and cleared 5-5 at the finals to win the state championship as a freshman. She looked to improve her school record to 5-8 Friday, but couldn't quite clear the bar in three attempts.

"I was very nervous, even though I know I should be able to make these heights it still always gets me so nervous because every jump matters to me so much," Friddle said. "Qualifying for the state meet April 18, it is expected, and it is fun. It is kind of a relief you know, getting it out of the way I suppose."

The MHSAA this season for the first time is allowing Early Qualifier (EQ) events, like Friday's, which allow student athletes to qualify for the state finals by meeting predetermined standards. Those predetermined standards far exceed the regular state qualifying marks athletes would need to meet at regionals to qualify for the finals though, and only really apply to the elite of the elite across the state.

The second, third, fourth and fifth place girls in the high jump in Hastings cleared 4-9, but each failed in three tries to get over the bar at 5-0. The EQ height for the high jump in Division 2 is 5-2 this spring. At regionals a competitor would only need to clear 5-1 to qualify for the state finals. In other events there is what feels like a much larger gap.

As an example, Hastings sophomore cross country state medalist Caroline Randall could run an 11:45.00 at regionals to qualify for the D2 state finals in the 3200-meter run. At an EQ event, she would need to finish the same race in 11:06.00.

Friddle was the only student-athlete from eight girls' teams and nine boys' teams competing Friday to meet an EQ standard. But everyone who finished an event scored for their team during the meet Friday. She is a kid who set up a broom over the couch at home in middle school to try and get some high jump practice in. She said midway through varsity basketball season this winter she started plyometrics and strength training to be ready to go higher in the pole vault once the high jump mats got pulled out of storage on the first day of practice this spring.

The Division 1 EQ standards are even tougher than the D2 ones, and Caledonia varsity girls' coach Ben Howell said that a quick early season glance basically left the Scots with the impression that it'll basically take a school record performance to qualify for the state finals early.

New Hastings varsity girls' coach Erin Goggins lamented the fact that there are likely to be fewer meets that are more for fun with the new EQ opportunities. She said the Saxons had a tough time this spring finding teams to compete in their annual co-ed relays, an event with a myriad of different events that is not an EQ competition.

Hudsonville, Caledonia and Charlotte were 1-2-3 in both the boys' and girls' team competitions Friday. Hudsonville won the girls' meet with 919 points ahead of Caledonia 861.5, Charlotte 682.5, Hastings 620, Grand Rapids Track Club 460, Ravenna 413, Belding 392.5 and the Quad City Mustangs 17.5.

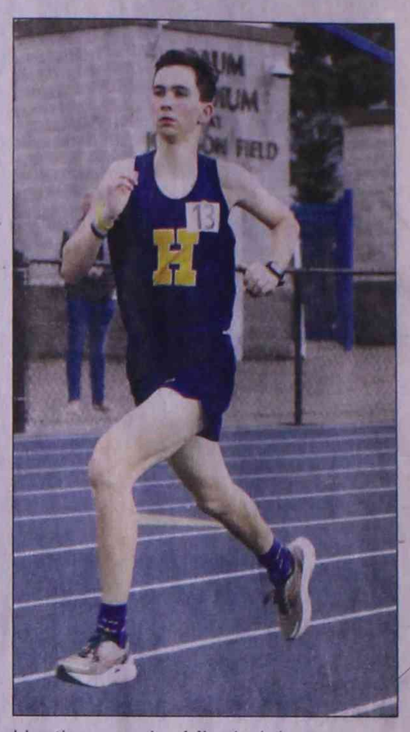
Friddle was one of the top scorers in all four of her events for the Saxons. She won the pole vault by clearing the bar at 5-6 and won the long jump with a mark of 15 feet 10.5 inches. She qualified for the state finals in all three events last year. She also placed sixth in the 100-meter hurdles Friday with a time of 18.19 seconds – her first time running that race in a varsity meet.

Her big sister, junior Olivia Friddle, finally returning from a long injury absence won the girls' shot put with a mark of 30-11 Friday.

Bella was one of three Hastings girls in the top ten in the pole vault. Freshmen Jayden Evans and Bella Strimback tied for tenth getting over the bar at 6-0. The Hastings boys also had three guys in the top ten in the pole vault. Sophomore Maverick Peake cleared 11-0 to place sixth, junior Isaac Lilley was eighth at 10-8 and sophomore Liam Renner was ninth at 10-6 too.

The Saxons had a few top ten finishes in all the throws. Behind Friddle in the shot put sophomore Petra Foster was eighth at 25-3.5. In the discus, senior Zoe Watson was fourth at 87-3 and Foster tenth at 77-2. In the boys' discus junior Odin Twiss was fourth at 42-7 and senior Isaac Friddle tenth at 36-7.75. The boys' discus saw the Saxons place Twiss eighth at 114-1, junior Matthew Shults ninth at 110-8 and Isaac Friddle tenth at 110-3.

The top relay finish for any of the Saxon teams came from the girls' 4x800-meter relay team. The squad of sophomores Chloe Pirtle and Lilianna Enyart and juniors Maddie Elzinga and Olivia Goodrich placed fifth in 13:49.82.



Hastings senior Micah Johnson runs to an 11th-place time in the 1600-meter run Friday during the Hastings Team Invitational inside Baum Stadium at Johnson Field.

Pirtle was also tenth in the 100-meter hurdles.

Randall had a solid day in the girls' distance races placing third in the 1600-meter run in 5:33.97 and fourth in the 3200-meter run in 12:16.78. The Saxons are happy to welcome her back this spring too after she missed her freshman track season with an injury.

Freshman Lilly Randall led the Saxons in the sprints placing sixth in the 400-meter dash in 1:06.36 and seventh in the 200-meter dash in 29.62. Sophomore Ember Twiss was tenth in that 200 with a time of 30.32. In the 100-meter dash, Ember was ninth in 14.07 and Lilly tenth in 14.21.

Hudsonville took the boys' meet with 1056.5 points ahead of Caledonia 1022.5, Charlotte 703.5, Belding 682.5, Hastings 650.5, Ravenna 562, Vicksburg 538.5, Grand Rapids Track Club 393 and Quad City 72.

Senior Brandon Simmons led the Hastings boys on the track with a fourth-place time of 4:40.56 in the 1600-meter run, a new PR for him in that race, and he placed ninth in the 800-meter run with a time of 2:10.03. He finished the 3200-meter run fourth in 10:08.77. Senior teammate Micah Johnson scored a tenth-place time of 10:47.88 in that 3200-meter race.

Freshman Jonah Hamp placed ninth in the 200-meter dash for the Saxon boys with a time of 24.60.

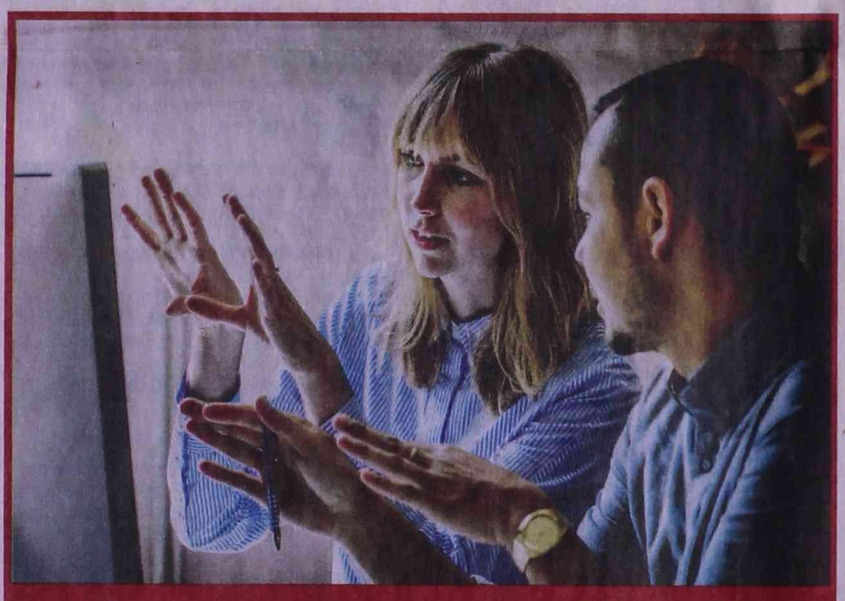
In the field, the Saxons added a seventh-place mark of 18-4.5 from junior Balian Marlette in the long jump.

The Hastings teams both fell to 0-2 in the Interstate-8 Athletic Conference this season with losses against visiting Parma Western Tuesday. The Panthers took a 96-67 win over the Hastings girls and a 122.5-37.5 win over the Hastings boys.

The Hastings boys got a pair of wins from Simmons in the distance races and a victory from Peake in the pole vault. Peake set his PR at 11-6 to win the event Tuesday and teammate Lilley cleared 11-0, a PR of his own, to place second. Simmons won the 1600-meter run in 4:42.60 and the 3200-meter run in a personal record time of 10:06.10.

Bella Friddle took the 200-meter dash for the HHS girls in a PR of 27.26, won the high jump at 5-4, the pole vault at 8-0 and the long jump at 15-4.

Caroline Randall was a three-time champ for the Saxon girls. She took the 3200-meter run in 11:58.04, the 1600-meter run in 5:34.04 and the 800-meter run in 2:39.40. Lilly Randall won the 400-meter dash for the Saxons in 1:06.93.



Are you creative?

— NOW HIRING —
GRAPHIC DESIGNER

View Newspaper Group is seeking a full-time graphic artist for our Greenville location.

— MONDAY THRU FRIDAY • IN OFFICE • NO WEEKENDS —

This role is ideal for individuals who are passionate about graphic design with a keen eye for quality graphics. Must have working knowledge of Adobe InDesign and PhotoShop (PC) - Illustrator a plus!

Responsibilities include:
- Newspaper advertising design
- Newspaper composition/layout

We love what we do and we know you will too!

Are you the person we need?
Send your resume to General Manager Amber Rood at arood@mihomepaper.com and let's find out!

VIEW Newspaper Group

- The County Press
- Lapeer Area View
- Genesee County View
- Huron County View
- Sanilac County News
- Your Buyer's Guide
- Jeffersonian
- Tri-County Times
- Daily News
- Tri-County Citizen
- Oxford Leader
- Lake Orion Review
- Clarkston News
- The Citizen
- The Lowell Ledger
- The Hastings Banner
- Buyer's Guide & News
- The Sun and News
- Ad-Visor & Chronicle
- Battle Creek Shopper News
- The Reminder

We are a growing company of 21 community newspapers serving 15 Michigan counties that are delivered weekly to more than 335,000 households with an additional 500,000 monthly online readers.