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THE HASTINGS BANNER

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Polls were packed on Tuesday despite the rain.

Voters decide on area ballot initiatives

Banner Staff

This week marked the passage of another special Election Day. Throughout the area, voters were tasked with deciding on bond issues, millages and even a special trustee election.

Despite gloomy skies on Tuesday, the special election saw packed polling locations throughout the county.

Here is a roundup of how each ballot initiative fared on Tuesday.

Lakewood Public Schools: Voters defeat third consecutive LPS bond request

The third time was not a charm for Lakewood Public Schools, with voters in parts of four counties defeating a nearly $30.2 million bond proposal to fund various improvements and upgrades at district facilities in a special election May 6.

District voters in parts of Barry, Eaton, Ionia and Kent counties voted 1,899 to 1,439 on Tuesday in defeating the funding request, which would have allowed LPS to borrow $29,950,000 and issue bonds, with the remaining funds coming from the investment of the bond proceeds.

According to district officials, the proposal would have funded a variety of upgrades at the LPS' three primary school buildings, including renovations or reconfiguration of main entrances, replacing boilers and other HVAC improvements, reconfiguration of classroom space, roof upgrades or replacements, a new playground for third- through fifth-graders at the middle school, and a new track and fencing, as well as replacement of the tennis courts at Lakewood High School.

The proposal also called for the closure of the former, century-old Woodland Elementary School, which currently serves as the home of the Lakewood Early Childhood Center. Closure of the school would have, in turn, led to a shift of students and grade levels at LPS' three remaining school buildings.

The May 6 special election was the third bond request voted on by LPS voters in less than three years. Area

See **VOTERS** on 4

HEEF establishing new scholarship fund after receiving record-breaking $1.5M donation

Molly Macleod
Editor

Graduates of Hastings High School now have another resource for scholarship funds after the Hastings Educational Enrichment Foundation received its largest gift in the history of the organization last week.

A $1.5-million donation to HEEF last week will establish the Bruce Fisher Trust to fund scholarships for HHS graduates. $1 million from that chunk will be used to establish the Professor Bruce Fisher Scholarship Fund for HHS students attending the University of Michigan, his alma mater. The remainder of the gift will be used to enlarge the existing scholarship fund in the name of Fisher's mother, Beatrice Fisher Wollin.

Fisher, a 1961 graduate of HHS, passed away in November 2024 after a long battle with Parkinson's Disease.

Fisher's brother, retired Barry County Circuit Court Judge James Fisher, presented the award to HEEF last week. The first scholarships will be awarded at the HHS Honors Convocation scheduled for May 21. A reception to celebrate Fisher's life and his gifts will be held at the Walldorff Brew Pub & Bistro banquet room from 4:30 to 6 p.m., ahead of the honors convocation. The celebration is open to the public.



The Hastings Educational Enrichment Foundation will be offering a new scholarship to Hastings High School graduates attending the University of Michigan this year after receiving a $1.5-million donation from the estate of the late Professor Bruce Fisher. Pictured here are (from left) HEEF lifetime board member Carl Schoessel, HEEF Treasurer Kathy Sheldon, Judge James Fisher, and HEEF President Amanda Currier. **Photo by Molly Macleod**

"Professor Fisher's gifts are the largest ever received by the organization, and they will greatly enhance the ability of HEEF to further their goal of providing education opportunities to future Hastings High School graduates," said HEEF president and Highpoint Community Bank Senior Vice President and CFO Amanda Currier.

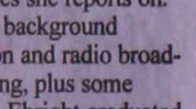
The Hastings Educational Enrichment Foundation was established in 1985 to help fund enrichment activities in and outside of the classroom, as well as handle scholarship funds for Hastings graduates.

The new Bruce Fisher scholarship is unique from other scholarships in that it is renewable. HHS graduates awarded with the scholarship can apply for the same scholarship for each year of college.

After graduating from HHS in 1961, Professor Fisher graduated from the University of Michigan in 1965 with a degree in business administration and from the University of Michigan Law School in 1968. Fisher taught business law at the University of Tennessee for over 40 years, and in 1974, he

See **SCHOLARSHIP** on 4

View Newspaper Group welcomes new staff writer



Karen Turko-Ebright

View Newspaper Group is pleased to announce the hiring of Karen Turko-Ebright as a full-time staff writer.

Ebright has been covering news in Barry County since 2019 as a freelance writer. Her new role will expand her beat, adding Caledonia, Middleville and the Yankee Springs area to her current territory, which already includes Barry Township, Orangeville, and the Gun Lake area.

"I have worked with talented editors and am excited to add current Editor Molly Macleod to the list," Ebright said. "She is welcoming to me. I am grateful to be a part of the team at the View Newspaper Group."

Previously, Ebright reported for MLive as a full-time news reporter in Kent and Allegan counties for two years, covering communities in West Michigan for the Advance weeklies.

"I'm thrilled to have Karen expand her role on our team," said Macleod. "Her experience, tenacity and sense for news will be an asset to the communities she reports on."

Her journalism background includes television and radio broadcast news reporting, plus some news production. Ebright graduated from Grand Valley State University in 1991, earning a bachelor of science in communication with an

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LO council whittles field for deputy manager to four



Four finalists will interview for the Lake Odessa deputy manager job later this month. The village has been without a full-time manager since December 2023. **File photo**

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

And, then there were four.

The Lake Odessa Village Council whittled down the field competing for a new deputy's manager position from 14 applicants to a quartet of candidates during a special meeting Monday, May 5.

Interim Village Manager Gregg Guetschow originally reported 11 candidates beat the April 18 application deadline, though that number grew prior to Monday's special meeting.

"Two failed to supply all the information required of applicants, even after I reached out to them," Guetschow said. "Two more applied after the deadline and there was insufficient time to solicit the additional information required.

"The remaining 10 were considered (Monday night)," he added.

Council members reviewed the remaining applicants Monday, including one who requested confidentiality, with the council going into a closed, executive session to discuss that candidate's application.

The foursome of candidates selected to move forward in the hiring process included one applicant, Jacob Hanson, who is currently a member of the village's Department of Public Works, and Drew Willison, the chief of staff for former U.S. Sen. Harry Reid, D-NV, as well as William Joseph of Brighton and Grand Rapids resident William Christy.

According to Guetschow, each of the candidates will meet with village department heads before formal interviews with the council starting at 9 a.m. on Saturday, May 31.

Willison nearly didn't make the cut, until Guetschow informed council members of a phone call he had with applicant, as they considered the former chief of staff who is now a managing partner at a law firm in Maryland to be overqualified.

"My question is why?" said Trustee Roy Halfmann. "Why is someone with several high-level experiences applying for (deputy) village manager in Lake Odessa?

"That strikes me as extremely odd."

Trustee Terri Cappon added, "He's way overqualified and will be bored."

After talking with Willison, Guetschow said his interest in the deputy manager's post poses an "interesting situation."

"He wants to relocate," Guetschow said. "There's a personal reason he wants to be here in Michigan.

"(But) he hasn't found a municipality who's willing to take a chance on him."

According to news reports, Willison interviewed for the village manager's post for the Village of Pentwater last fall.

"There's a lot to like about him," Guetschow said. "I think it's worth a chat with him."

In creating the deputy manager's position, village officials hope to find their next permanent, full-time manager.

After ending its most recent hiring search for a new manager in December 2024, Guetschow suggested creating the position as a way to increase the potential number of applicants for the manager's position. The plan would be for the new deputy manager to serve under Guetschow's mentorship for up to a year, with the council then promoting the individual to manager.

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.

More recently, the council ended its hiring search without making an offer to either of the two finalists who were interviewed twice and, instead, reaching a consensus to restart the hiring process once again.

Rich tradition of Senior Tea continues as seniors head toward graduation



Sophia Baker, an environmental engineer, speaks to Hastings High School senior girls during the annual Senior Tea last Thursday. **Photos courtesy of Hastings Area Schools**

Jayson Bussa
Contributing Writer

For decades, the Senior Tea has served as a rite of passage for Hastings High School senior girls preparing to move on to the next phase of their lives.

It's also an immovable event that has only been called off due to two world wars and a global health pandemic.

Last Thursday, the Hastings chapter of the General Federation of Women's Clubs once again held its annual Senior Tea for senior girls and their mothers, serving up a spread of delicious food to provide a couple of hours of fellowship while imparting some wisdom.

Valerie Foster-Moles, Vice President of the Hastings Women's Club and an organizer for the event, explained that the club started in the late 1800s, and, members believe that tea became a tradition back in the 1920s.

In fact, continuing the event's rich history is one thing that drives the women in the club.

"We like being part of history and continuing something we've always done," Foster-Moles said. "It's important the girls feel connected to their mothers, who have done this, and their grandparents, who have also done this."

For the Senior Tea, the women's club welcomed two speakers, centered around the theme of women who continue to break the glass ceiling in what might be considered non-traditional industries for them.

The two speakers were women who worked in the engineering field, which is often male-dominated. They included Danielle Schneider of auto parts maker Pridgeon & Clay and Hastings resident Sophia Baker, who works in environmental engineering for Fleis & VandenBrink.

Both speakers encouraged the girls in attendance to follow their passion, regardless of whether that path might be considered a traditional one for women.

Baker spoke on the concept of "imposter syndrome," where a person does not believe that the success they've achieved in their field is deserved or was legitimately achieved. She told the girls to fight the urge to have imposter syndrome and to always have their goals firmly within sight.

"I didn't know what success meant to me (when I started in the workforce)," Baker told the girls. "I thought I had to be a manager. I just thought that's what you worked toward and I didn't have a good vision of what I wanted to do. I didn't know my values and my boundaries so I was working a lot of weekends and extra hours because I felt the pressure that I had to prove myself."

The theme of women in engineering was fitting as the club's $2,000 scholarship was presented to Hastings High School senior Lilyah Solmes, who will be attending BYU next year to pursue a degree in mechanical engineering.

The Hastings Women's Club, which is 38 members strong, meets monthly throughout the year, except for the summer. They bring in speakers for their monthly meetings and also collaborate with other groups throughout the greater Barry County area to address various issues and causes.



Hastings High School senior Lilyah Solmes (right) is presented with a $2,000 scholarship from the Hastings Women's Club during last week's Senior Tea. Club Vice President Valerie Foster-Moles is pictured on the left.

DID YOU **SEE?**



HASTINGS ROTARY HONORS INTERACT SENIORS

Hastings High School Interact Club seniors were honored at this week's Hastings Rotary Club meeting. HHS Principal Teresa Heide honored the students for their service and leadership throughout their years in the club. Pictured at Monday's Rotary meeting are (from left) Brad Johnson (holding a photo of his son, Micah), Issac Solmes, Lilyah Solmes, Brian Tack, Victoria Tack, Amy Tack, Jill Hewitt, Rachael Hewitt, Mark Hewitt, Donald (DJ) Kuck, Stacy Merium and Brian Merium. **Courtesy photo**

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Commissioners pump brakes on maintenance for former Friend of Court building

Molly Macleod
Editor

A $490,000 improvement project for the county's former Friend of the Court building was put on hold this week after Barry County commissioners asked for more information on the building's future use.

Commissioners were asked to consider the project as a recommendation for the full county board at Tuesday's Committee of the Whole meeting.

The proposed improvements considered on Tuesday would help bring the aging, vacant building up to code. Once the home of Barry County's Friend of the Court, the building has sat empty for years.

Barry County Facilities Director Jeff Hall, along with County Administrator Eric Zuzga, walked commissioners through the proposed improvements on Tuesday.

"This project is something that we've been asked to look at since I was hired—actually, I know it was something on (former county administrator) Michael's (Brown) list to do before I was hired," said Zuzga. "We don't have a defined plan at this point… None of the resources that are being talked about for this facility would be used to support any employee activities. We're talking (the) Building Rehab (fund), one-time ARPA interest and some insurance proceeds from the water leaks.

The proposed improvements include:

- Wall construction on the second floor, $12,900;
- Carpet replacement, $44,230;
- Paint, $34,790;
- Repairing water damage, $23,000;
- West stairway walls–fire rating, $12,500;
- Lobby renovation, $6,500;
- Handrail replacement, $18,200;
- Replace drinking fountain, $5,500;
- Generator addition, $80,000;
- HVAC chase from roof to basement, $36,100;
- Access control, $22,000;
- Construction manager fees, $96,800;
- Contingencies, $74,200; and
- Design fees, $45,500.

Zuzga said some of the fees budgeted in the proposal are flexible, including the construction manager fee and contingencies. With the exceptions of a proposed generator and new access controls for each entrance, however, most items on the list are needed to bring the building up to code.

Funds for the improvements would come from interest earned from ARPA funding, insurance proceeds and the county's Building Rehabilitation fund.



A nearly half-million-dollar improvement project for the county's former Friend of the Court building was put on hold this week after commissioners asked for more information on the building's future use. **Photo by Molly Macleod**

Commissioners were wary of approving the spending before knowing what the building would be used for.

"We have a lot of things to consider going forward, but I agree that this building, we need to start the process, regardless of what happens with it, we have to start the process. I wouldn't mind taking a look at these line items," said County Board Chair Dave Jackson.

"This is, as you said, getting the building up to code. But I think it would be helpful for myself and maybe for other commissioners to put eyeballs on exactly what we're talking about here before we move forward with this," Jackson said.

No action was taken on Tuesday. Hall and Zuzga will report back to commissioners in the coming weeks.

Local sled dog event continues to grow



The Farmers Loop Sled Dog Races in Vermontville enjoyed a record number of entries during this year's event. Organizers are already looking to next year. **Courtesy photo**

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

After a very successful second annual event, organizers of the Farmers Loop Sled Dog Races in Vermontville are already looking forward to 2026.

According to organizers, the event drew more than 70 competitors entering 100 race categories in its first year in 2024. That number grew to 267 entries by competitors from four countries – the United States, Mexico, Canada and Germany – in the second annual edition of the races held Saturday and Sunday, April 12-13, at the Norton family's property on Brown Road in Vermontville.

"It was a great weekend," said Jessica Norton, the event's co-chairperson. "A record number of entries. "We were ecstatic."

The races again included dogs pulling a variety of wheeled sleds – from six-dog rigs, one- and two-dog mountain bike teams, to one-dog scooters – over 2.7 miles of trails, as well as event one race where racers run alongside their dogs.

There was even a junior class for racers 16 and under, as well as a "puppy" and senior fun run.

"It went off well overall," Norton said. "I couldn't ask for a better weekend."

Mother Nature was almost too kind during the weekend of racing, according to Norton. Weather conditions for April 12 were sunny and warm, which created some concern about dogs possibly overheating.

The weather cooled a bit to the mid-40s for April 13, including a light rain. Though, the rain created a different challenge for racers, causing the course to become slick and leading a couple of competitors to fall off their sleds.

"That's not uncommon," Norton said. "They just pop up and off they go."

She added that one reason for the growth in the event is that the Farmers Loop Sled Dog Races are now sanctioned by the International Sleddog Racing Association and one of 10 such events where points are awarded to competitors, potentially helping those racers qualify for Team USA and the World Championships in Minocqua, Wis., in October.

And, while taking a break following this year's event, Norton said she and co-chairperson Samantha Wawiernia will begin planning for the third annual Farmers Loop Sled Dog Races later this summer and fall. Norton added, however, she's not expecting to have to make a lot of changes to the current format.

"Not really," she said. "We had a lot of positive feedback.

"Now, it's to see if we can elevate it even more."

Norton also gave credit for the success of the races to the volunteers who assisted with the event, as well as the support from community members.

"Thanks to the community," she said. "If it wasn't from the community, we wouldn't be able to pull this off. I can't thank them enough."

Complete race results, as well as photos of the event, may be found on Facebook by searching "Farmers Loop Sled Dog Races."

WRITER

Continued from Page 1

emphasis in journalism and film and video. Ebright worked several television newsroom internships in West Michigan and Lansing before she was hired as a television news reporter at WBKB in Alpena for two years. She then landed a job at the WOTV 41 News bureau in Battle Creek.

"I sat on the assignment desk for approximately two months until I picked up a camera and started shooting video and reporting news stories for WOTV 41, covering stories in Battle Creek and Kalamazoo," Ebright said.

After the TV station downsized and ceased operations, Ebright continued her writing career, reporting remote print freelance assignments for various community news outlets, including an online travel company, while she and her husband raised their two daughters in West Michigan.

"I am grateful to continue working in the news industry writing stories that make a difference in local towns," Ebright said.

She likes small towns. After all, she grew up in Washington Township when fields, trees and dirt roads were her landscape while running long stretches. Ebright said that makes her sound like a marathon runner, but that's not the case. She's only run half-marathons, including the River Bank Run a handful of times, the Holland Tulip Time race, plus numerous 10K races.

Those hometown runs continued but extended to the northern part of Michigan to the small town of Suttons Bay, where her husband, Dan, grew up and went to school. They have been married for 32 years and live in West Michigan. Together, they have two daughters. Madison recently graduated from Grand Valley State University and Bella will graduate this month from City High/Middle School in Grand Rapids.

In her free time, Ebright enjoys spending time with her family and running and hiking trails with her Australian Shepherd, Milo.

ABOUT VIEW NEWSPAPER GROUP

Founded in 2003, View Newspaper Group is a locally-owned, locally-connected community newspaper group covering 14 Michigan counties. As Michigan's largest independently-owned newspaper group, the company publishes 22 newspapers with print editions reaching more than 352,000 households each week, plus an additional 500,000 monthly online readers. For more information, visit mihomepaper.com or contact View Newspaper Group Brand Manager Emily Caswell at ecaswell@mihomepaper.com.



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Financial moves for a growing family

If you're adding a child to your family, it's an exciting time, and you have much to anticipate. Of course, this new addition will bring many changes in your life, so you'll want to be prepared — especially in terms of your finances.

What financial moves should you make as you welcome your new child? Here are a few to consider:

- ***Estimate expenses*** — and create a new budget. You will likely have several new expenses associated with a new child, ranging from relatively minor purchases — car seat, stroller, crib, etc. — to potentially much larger costs, such as a vehicle with more space or even a new home. You'll need to estimate what you can afford for these initial expenses and then work in to your budget the everyday additional costs — food, clothing, uncovered medical expenses and so on.
- ***Look at options to support taking time off work***. Depending on where you live and where you work, you might have some sources of support if you take time off from work after the arrival of your child. These options may include paid time off — such as sick leave and vacation time — paid family leave, short-term disability insurance, and some benefits from the Family Medical and Leave Act.
- ***Determine how child care will be provided***. Child care can be expensive and, in some areas, hard to find. Well before the arrival of your child, start looking for child care, so you can explore your options and start factoring in the costs to your cash flow and monthly budget. During your search, look at offerings from local community centers, religious institutions and nonprofit organizations, some of which may offer low-cost child care programs.
- ***Contribute to your emergency fund***. It's generally a good idea to keep up to six months' worth of living expenses in a liquid, low-risk account to pay for unexpected costs — and with a growing family, these costs may well increase as your child grows older.
- ***Look at your tax situation***. You may want to consult with a tax professional to determine whether you qualify for credits or deductions, such as the dependent care credit, the federal child tax credit, and adoption-related credits (if you adopted a child). Also, you may want to update your Form W-4 to add a dependent — a move that may lower your tax withholding and increase your take-home pay.
- ***Start your education planning***. It's never too soon to think about paying for costs associated with your child's education. You might want to consider a 529 education savings plan, which offers tax benefits and can be used for college and many vocational programs, as well as some K-12 costs. A financial advisor can help you explore all available education savings options.
- ***Check your insurance***. You'll need to add your child to your existing health insurance, but if you don't have insurance, see whether you qualify for Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), or look for a marketplace plan at healthcare.gov. You might also need to purchase additional life insurance coverage. And with a growing family to support, you might want to add disability coverage to protect your income against short- or long-term disabilities.

Bringing a new child into your life is certainly a joyous occasion — and by being financially prepared, you can make the whole experience even more enjoyable.

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Hastings Police officer sponsorship program remains useful recruiting tool



The Hastings Police Department is set to receive another sponsored recruit as early as next month. The program has helped recruiting within the department. **File photo by Hunter McLaren**

Hunter McLaren
Contributing Writer

The Hastings Police Department is set to receive another sponsored recruit as early as next month.

Pending their graduation from the Kellogg Community College police academy, the recruit would be the fourth to receive a sponsorship from HPD. The department first started sponsoring recruits in 2022, offering to pay police academy tuition costs for those willing to join HPD following their graduation.

Sponsorship remains an important recruiting tool as police departments continue to seek new officers from a shrinking pool of candidates. HPD Deputy Chief Julissa Kelly said all three officers sponsored by the department remain working there today. A decline of interest in police work has made staying fully staffed a continued struggle for departments regardless of location, Kelly said.

"It's still a challenge," Kelly said. "We all have unique struggles based on location. Overall, I think not a whole lot of people want to do this job anymore, unfortunately."

Sponsorship is just one of the ways HPD is looking to make inroads with the community and find new recruits.

The department has reinstated its cadet program, which allows Hastings High School students to shadow officers and see their day-to-day duties. Kelly said the program also allows students to work with other local public safety agencies like Barry County Dispatch. Interested students should seek out HPD's school resource officer, talk with teachers or just introduce themselves at the department, she said.

For anyone else interested in learning more about the department, their annual summer block party is just around the corner. The department will be hosting First Responders Day Out from 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday, July 12, in Tyden Park. The event will be similar to the department's previous National Night Out events, with various medical, fire and law enforcement agencies making themselves available to the public. The family-friendly and free event has featured games, prizes and a chance to see fire trucks, squad cars, ambulances and the uniformed folks who drive them up close. Kelly said any organizations interested in having a booth or sponsoring activities, food, prizes or otherwise participating can check out the event page on Facebook or contact HPD.

SCHOLARSHIP

Continued from Page 1

obtained his master's in law from George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

Fisher published several business law textbooks and over 50 scholarly articles, including one in the Michigan Bar Journal in February 1989 regarding a negligent homicide trial defended by his brother, James Fisher, in the Barry County Circuit Court in 1985. The case garnered national publicity due to the novel defense that was allowed. Fisher's articles covered many different topics, and while they were published over a 40-year period, many are still relevant today.

Fisher's family describes him as a dedicated lawyer and educator. He served as a visiting professor at several colleges throughout the nation, including his alma mater, the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, the University of North Carolina, the University of Florida and Stanford University. He also taught for several years at the prestigious HEC Paris Business School in Versailles, France.

In addition to his professional career, Fisher was an avid traveler. He visited many countries around the world and lived part-time for several years in London and Paris.

Fisher credited much of his success in life to the teachers he had at HHS, who helped start him on his path toward higher education. With his gifts to HEEF, Fisher's family said he hoped to provide future graduates of HHS with the same opportunities he enjoyed in his life. He believed strongly that education was a key to success for both individuals and countries, and that public education should be supported by everyone.

Northville man accused of kidnapping, assaulting Barry County teen

Molly Macleod
Editor



Charles Willis

A Northville Township man is facing multiple felony charges after allegedly kidnapping and assaulting a Barry County teen.

Charles Willis, 22, was arraigned on April 30 in the 35th District Court on charges of kidnapping, enticing a female under 16 for immoral purposes, child sexually abusive activity and criminal sexual conduct – first degree.

His bond was set at $1 million. Willis is being held at the Wayne County Jail.

The charges stem from an April 25 incident. Willis allegedly contacted the 14-year-old Barry County victim through Snapchat, arranging for an Uber ride bringing the victim to Willis's home in Northville Township.

After arriving at Willis's residence around 5:30 a.m. on April 27, the victim was instructed to stay in the basement. She was found walking alone in the area of Seven Mile and Sheldon roads, according to Northville Township police.

Detectives from the Northville Township PD executed a search warrant at Willis's residence Sunday, April 27. He was taken into custody at that time.

Investigators noted that Willis has had prior contacts with other law enforcement agencies related to sexually inappropriate behavior and attempts to entice minor females. His previous contact with Northville Township Police was unrelated to these charges.



Voters in Odessa Township elected Alan Baron II as their newest township board trustee. **Photos by Molly Macleod**

VOTERS

Continued from Page 1

residents voted down a $64 million bond proposal in November 2022 and, by just a 337-vote margin, defeated a $39 million proposal in August 2023.

Delton Kellogg Public Schools: Voters pass $43M bond for DK Schools by 98 votes

Voters in the Delton Kellogg school district passed a $43M zero-mill increase bond in Tuesday's election by 98 votes, with 1,040 saying yes, while 942 rejected the bond issue. Superintendent Jeremy Wright was not surprised at the outcome.

"I was positively optimistic going into it. I figured it would be close," Wright said. "Now that it has been approved, we are going to start meeting and planning to move forward. There's a lot of work to do."

Passing the bond proposal means the district could see new Career Technical Education (CTE) programming and renovations to the old elementary, including a new cafeteria.

Bond money will provide new floors, ceilings and lighting for the middle school. A barn, greenhouse, and outdoor learning center along the lake will be added.

Additionally, there will be improvements in security and existing buildings to keep them functioning properly. Bond money will pay for new school buses and improve playgrounds and athletic facilities.

The estimated millage levied for the proposed bonds in 2025 is .46 mills ($0.46 on each $1,000 of taxable valuation) for a zero-mill net increase over the prior year's levy.

Odessa Township: Baron tops Caudill in battle to fill vacant trustee seat

The Odessa Township Board of Trustees will finally have its full complement of five members, with Republican Alan Baron II topping Democrat Patricia Caudill, 582 votes to 385 votes, in the race to fill a vacant trustee's seat in a special election May 6, according to unofficial election results posted by the Ionia County Clerk's office.



Alan Baron II

The township board, which normally consists of a supervisor, clerk, treasurer and two trustees, has been a member short since the 2024 general election when Joseph Graham, running as a Republican, garnered the second highest vote total but failed to take his oath of office by Dec. 31, thereby creating the vacancy.

After the board failed to fill the vacancy in a pair of 2-2 votes – with neither Caudill nor Baron garnering the needed support – at a special meeting in February, the Ionia County Clerk Greg Geiger called for a special election. That set up Tuesday's vote, with Caudill, a former township board member, and Baron again competing for the trustee's position.

Ionia County election officials reported a total of 1,000 votes were cast in Tuesday's special election in deciding the winner of the trustee position, representing more than 32 percent of the township's 3,115 registered voters.

Woodland Township: Fire, cemetery and township millage renewal cruises to approval

Voters in Woodland Township on Tuesday voted to renew the township's fire, cemetery and township millage at a rate of 2 mills. The renewal will extend the millage through 2028.

Voters approved the measure 470 votes to 142 no-votes, according to unofficial results posted by the Barry County Clerk's Office.

The township will raise roughly $221,254 in 2026 thanks to the passage of the millage.

Staff writers Dennis Mansfield, Karen Turko-Ebright and editor Molly Macleod contributed to this report.

NOTHIN' BUT A GOOD TIME



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DO YOU REMEMBER?



SPRING PREPARATIONS

— BANNER MAY 4, 1995 —

Hastings merchants have been busy cleaning and sprucing up the town ahead of this weekend's 'Spring Fling.' Doing their part are (from left) Dixie Stadel Manshum, Jim Lumbert and Susanne Parker. Parker's son, Seth, also manned a broom. **Banner photo**

Household hazardous waste collection is May 17

Residents can dispose of their household hazardous waste, electronics, leftover medications and tires at a semi-annual collection next Saturday, May 17. The collection will run from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Barry Expo Center, 1350 N. M-37 Highway.

Common hazardous materials that will be accepted include aqueous acids and bases; oil-based paints; reactive materials; solvents; aerosol cans; automotive liquids; pesticides (liquids and solids); light bulbs and lamp ballasts; automotive batteries; alkaline, nickel-cadmium and/or silver oxide batteries; liquid cleaners; heavy metal solutions; mercury-containing articles and motor oil (10-gallon limit).

Additionally, electronics including computers; computer parts; small appliances; cell phones; laptops; gaming systems; tablets; holiday lights; toner cartridges; printers and more will be collected for no charge. Those disposing of CRT and LCD TVs and monitors are asked to donate $10. Freon-containing devices will not be accepted.

Those with leftover medications can dispose of those, too. Medications need to be in their original containers with the name of the drug clearly labeled. Personal information should be crossed out.

A grant from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) is allowing locals to take advantage of a tire drop-off at this month's hazardous waste collection. Up to 10 household tires per car can be disposed of next weekend. No business tires will be accepted.

Materials not accepted next Saturday include asbestos; latex paint; propane tanks; commercially generated waste; radioactive material; explosives; Freon-containing devices; unknown wastes; and tires caked heavily with dirt.

More information on next weekend's hazardous waste collection can be found at barrycountyrecycles.org — *MM*

Custer historian and actor to appear at HPL tonight

Locals are invited to get an up-close look at history at tonight's meeting of Movies, Memories and Milestones at the Hastings Public Library.

The club meets in the community room of the Hastings Public Library, 227 E. State Street, on Thursdays at 5 p.m. On Thursday, May 8, Steve Alexander, a General George A. Custer lookalike impersonator hailing from Monroe, will be in attendance. Alexander is a film actor who is regarded by many as our nation's foremost living Custer historian. He will share his own experience and memories from re-enacting the life of the "Boy General" before he introduces the 1944 film, "Buffalo Bill" starring Joel McCrea, Maureen O'Hara and Linda Darnell.

The Hollywood classic captures the spirit of William "Buffalo Bill," his life and times and renders the historical duel between the showman Cheyenne Chief Yellow Hand as portrayed by actor Anthony Quinn.

Proclaiming "First scalp for Custer," William Cody went on to recreate this moment numerous times during his famous Buffalo Bill's Wild West shows, which toured across the country. Movie club member Mike Hook will talk about a brief encounter Hastings had with Buffalo Bill.

Since 1987, Steve Alexander had toured the United States and Canada portraying General Custer in hundreds of Civil War re-enactments, including at Historic Charlton Park in Hastings, and at "Custer's Last Stand" in Hardin, Mont.

Alexander has starred as General Custer in different stages of his life and on television in films and programs, including "George Armstrong Custer: America's Golden Cavalier" and on A&E's "Biography" series. He was also on Bill Kurtis's "The New Explorers" series in "Betrayal at Little Big Horn."

Alexander, as in past Hastings performances, will bring Custer and Buffalo Bill artifacts to show. He will answer audience questions as Custer following the film showing. Attendees can receive autographs from Alexander, as well as purchase his new book on Custer's famous home, Dandy. — *MM*

Smit hosting Delton office hours May 23

Speaker Pro Tem Rachelle Smit is inviting residents to attend her local office hours on Friday, May 23, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at The Local Grind in Delton.

Smit's office hours are an opportunity for constituents to speak directly with their representative and ask questions or share ideas.

The Local Grind is located 117 S. Grove Street in Delton.

Rep. Smit represents the cities of Allegan, Fennville, Wayland, as well as the townships of Allegan, Bellevue, Fillmore, Manlius, Clyde, Overisel, Heath, Valley, Salem, Monterey, Dorr, Hopkins, Watson, Wayland, Martin, Barry, Yankee Springs, Orangeville, Hope, Prairieville, Johnstown, Assyria and part of Jamestown.

Rep. Smit also invites residents to contact her Lansing office at 517-373-0615 or RachelleSmit@House.MI.gov. Mail can be addressed to her at N-892 Anderson House Office Building, P.O. Box 30014, Lansing, MI 48909. — *MM*

SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

Representative Payees help manage your Social Security

HILLARY HATCH
Social Security Administration

Some people who receive monthly Social Security benefits or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments may need help managing their money. When the Social Security Administration receives information that indicates you need help, we'll work with you to find the most suitable representative payee to manage your benefits. A representative payee is someone who receives your monthly benefit payment on your behalf and must use the money to pay for your current needs, including:

- Food;
- Clothing;
- Personal care items;
- Housing and utilities;
- Medical and dental expenses; and
- Rehabilitation expenses (if you have a disability).

If you need help managing your benefits, tell a Social Security representative that there is someone you want to be your representative payee. Your representative payee should be someone you trust and interact with often, and who clearly understands your needs. Social service agencies, nursing homes, or other organizations are also qualified to be a representative payee. Ask them to contact us.

You can write to us within 60 days of being assigned a representative payee if you don't agree that you need one or if you want a different representative payee.

We also offer Advance Designation, which allows you to name up to three people who could serve as a representative payee for you if the need ever arises. There may come a time when you can no longer make your own financial decisions. You and your family will have peace of mind knowing that someone you trust may be appointed to manage your benefits for you.

You can submit your Advance Designation request when you apply for benefits or after you are already receiving benefits. You may also do so through your personal my Social Security account at ssa.gov/myaccount or by calling and speaking to a Social Security representative.

You can find more information at ssa.gov/payee.

Hillary Hatch is the Public Affairs Specialist for West Michigan. You can write her c/o Social Security Administration, 3045 Knapp NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525, or via email at hillary.hatch@ssa.gov.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

GARDENING

ANNUAL GARDEN PLANT Sale! Thursday, Friday, & Saturday; May 15th, 16th, & 17th from 9am-6pm. Heirloom tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, herbs and elderberry plants. 2519 W. State Rd., Hastings.

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OBITUARIES

VIEW OBITUARIES ONLINE. HASTINGSBANNER.COM

James Harry Croninger



James Harry Croninger, U.S. Veteran, age 84, longtime resident of Hastings, MI, a gentleman and loving family member passed away on Thursday April 24, 2025 at Hawthorn Landing in Kalamazoo, MI after many years of struggling with heart conditions.

James was born June 4, 1940 in Detroit, MI, the son of Wesley and Gertude (Reiter) Croninger. The family moved to West Michigan where he attended Barber Hall, Aquinas College and graduated from Louisiana State University in 1963. Growing up he enjoyed many years at their cottage on Barlow Lake with family and friends.

James was a Vietnam Veteran serving as a Lieutenant Commander in the U.S. Navy aboard the USS Ingersoll where he received two bronze stars. After returning from duty he was manager of the H&R Block office for many years, a member of St. Rose Catholic of Lima Church and the Hastings Country Club. James was an avid golfer and sports fan especially Detroit Tigers, Detroit Lions, and LSU football.

Surviving are a sister, Christina (Gary) Vincent; niece, Victoria (Ryan) Vincent; nephew, Gregory (Mikki) Vincent; two great-nephews, Owen and Ryelee.

A memorial service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, June 4, 2025 at Ft. Custer National Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to Meals on Wheels, by mailing a check to Barry County Commission on Aging, 320 W. Woodlawn Ave. Hastings, Mi 49058. Please include in memo for Meals on Wheels in memory of James Croninger.

Arts grant applications due May 20

The GFWC-Gun Lake Women's Club is once again offering Summer Arts Experience grants to high schoolers in the Gun Lake area. Applications for the grants are being accepted now through May 20.

Each year, the Gun Lake Women's Club offers financial help to incoming ninth- through 12th-graders in area districts for theatrical, musical, creative movement/dance, literary and visual arts programs. The Summer Arts Experience grants can help fund experiences like theater camps and other creative arts programming.

High school students at Delton Kellogg Schools, Thornapple Kellogg Schools, Martin Public Schools, and Wayland Union Schools are eligible for the grants.

Applications for the Summer Arts Experience grants are due by May 20. Students can apply for the grants at barrycf.org. Anyone with questions about the application process is asked to contact Annie Halle at annie@barrycf.org or call 269-945-0526. — *MM*

PIERCE CEDAR CREEK INSTITUTE EVENTS

— MAY 8-15 —

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

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.

Saturday, May 10 — Spring Wildflower Hike at the Little Grand Canyon, 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m. or 1 p.m.-2:30 p.m.

Monday, May 12 — Bird Brains with the Barry County Bird Club, 9-10 a.m. Join Pierce Cedar Creek Institute and the Barry County Bird Club for a social birding hour.

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

HASTINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY SCHEDULE

Thursday, May 8 – Teen Advisory Board, 3:30 p.m.; Movie Memories & Milestones watches a 1961 film starring Elvis Presley and Hope Lang, 5 p.m.

Friday, May 9 – Friday Story Time, 10:30 a.m.

Saturday, May 10 – Safe sleep presentation and free pack and play giveaway, 11 a.m.

Monday, May 12 – Crafting Passions, 10 a.m.; Stories & Snacks, 4 p.m.

Tuesday, May 13 – Baby Cafe, 10 a.m.; community mental health workers at HPL, 2 p.m.; Cookies & Complaining, 3:30 p.m.; mahjong, 5 p.m.; chess, 5 p.m.; Lift Every Voice Book Club discusses "Braiding Sweetgrass," 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 14 –Itsy Bitsy Book Club, 10:30 a.m.; open art studio, 11:30 a.m.; Friends of the Hastings Public Library spring meeting, 6 p.m.; Spring Fused Glass class, 6 p.m.

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

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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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ASK **DR. UNIVERSE**

Anger advocacy

What's the reason people are grumpy?

— Braelyn, 13, Okla.

Dear Braelyn,

Everyone feels grumpy sometimes—even a cheerful cat like me.

Sometimes exhaustion makes us crabby. When we really need sleep, our brains struggle to do their jobs—like managing our emotions. Sometimes hunger makes us cranky. Our brains need a steady supply of sugar energy. When the available sugar drops too low, we feel terrible—or even hangry. Sometimes stress or problems like anxiety and depression make us grumpy.

In all those scenarios, anger lets us know we need to change something. We need to sleep, eat or get some help with our problems.

I asked my friend Anthony Lopez why we feel anger in the first place. He's a political scientist at Washington State University. He studies how anger evolved and how that helps us understand things like war.

He told me that humans (and human-like cats) are social animals. When we live and work together, conflicts happen.

"Anger evolved to help you resolve conflicts in your favor, especially when you perceive that you're being valued less than you ought to be," Lopez said. "If you feel undervalued or taken advantage of, then the anger system helps motivate you to advocate for yourself and for a better outcome."

That means anger helps us solve disagreements. It helps us identify that we feel wronged and motivates us to talk about it.

Let's say you and I sit down to eat some delicious cheese. We pop open the can. I carve out a tiny chunk for you. I plop a ginormous wedge on my plate. You might feel a rush of anger.

That anger isn't just an emotional reaction to unfairness. It's also a tool that helps us fix the problem and stay friends.

"Part of the purpose of anger is to repair relationships," Lopez said. "So, you can reach into the mind of the other person and say, 'This isn't right. We're friends, and you shouldn't have done this.' Anger is meant to try to reconcile that, so we have the same understanding of your value and my value and our friendship."

When you point out I've unfairly split the cheese, I'll probably hear your anger and realize I messed up. Maybe I'll hand you half my cheese and say I'm sorry.

But what if I don't? What if I did it on purpose and won't back down?

Lopez said we have two options in a scenario like this: withdrawal or punishment.

You could decide that you don't want to finish our snack together—or maybe you don't want to be friends with me anymore. That's withdrawal.

You could decide to grab my cheese and eat it. Or punch me in the nose. That's punishment.

Anger helps you recognize there's a problem, negotiate to fix it, and take action if the negotiation doesn't work.

It turns out this isn't just a human thing. All animals respond to threats to themselves or their resources—even if they can't use anger to verbally work out a solution.

Lopez told me that vampire bats share food. They slurp up animal blood then fly home and barf some up into their friends' mouths. If one bat doesn't share, the other bats will withdraw. They won't share with that bat in the future—even if it's super hungry.

I guess you could say that, like us, bats evolved to be mad good at managing conflicts.

— 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 XIV

BANNER SEPT. 21, 1995

JOYCE F. WEINBRECHT

Robert Faulkner, born and raised in Barry County, entered politics in Berrien County in 1948. He writes about his experiences as a politician:

"Many of us were dissatisfied with the Berrien County Republican leadership and we formed the Northern Berrien County Republican Club. Leadership was supporting Harry Kelly for governor, so we organized the Lincoln Day Banquet and invited candidate Dr. Eugene C. Keys as our speaker. I introduced Dr. Keys to the enthusiastic crowd that filled the Coloma gymnasium.

"It was also the kick-off of my campaign for State Representative from the Second District or north end of Berrien County. Needless to say, we now had the political pot boiling. Until the organization of the North Berrien Republic Club and our successful Lincoln Day Banquet, my candidacy had been pretty well written off by the powers that be, but now they had to take me seriously.

"One day, I was campaigning in Benton Harbor when I ran into Vern Enders. Vern was a small-time political boss that the county officeholders feared. He was reputed to have become wealthy during Prohibition. In 1950, he owned the Twin Cities Bus System, which at that time was a profitable enterprise. Vern backed the candidates that he favored with campaign contributions and influence. Vern invited me to his house to have a talk. His support would be invaluable to me, so I accepted.

"Seated in his living room, Vern offered me a drink which I declined. He poured himself on and said, 'Bob, I'll get right to the point. I want to control you.' I was stunned. I could hardly believe my ears. 'You want what?' I asked. 'I want to control you, and I'm prepared to spend whatever it takes to get you elected. Or if you won't let me control you, I'll spend whatever it takes to beat your ass.' I rose from my chair. 'I'd rather be defeated,' I said and left his house.

"I soon found out Mr. Enders wasn't bluffing. I stopped in to see Pete Lovell at his insurance office in Benton Harbor. Pete had indicated that he would give me his support for State Representative. His face was grave as he told me he could not be on my side. 'Why?' I asked. Pete was very frank. 'I carry Twin Cities' bus insurance. Vern said that if I supported you, I'd no longer have his insurance business.'

"I was now in a game of hardball politics. I was still young enough to enjoy that fight.

"In June 1950, the Korean War started. General Douglas MacArthur, the hero of the Pacific and World War II, was appointed commander in chief. Price and wage controls were imposed again. We were at war for the third time in my lifetime of 40 years. By fall, MacArthur had captured most of Korea. Then, the Chinese crossed the Yalu River en masse. MacArthur wanted to bomb north of the Yalu, bring back some of the Chiang Kai-shek forces from Formosa, and blockade North Korea, but President Truman was afraid to bomb China. A bitter dispute followed and MacArthur was fired in April 1951.

"He (MacArthur) came home to a tumultuous welcome. He was invited to speak to a joint session of Congress. I listened to his memorable 'Old Soldiers Never Die' speech.

"Shortly after MacArthur's speech to Congress, he accepted an invitation to speak to the Michigan Legislature. David was present with me on the floor of the House for this historic event.

"In March 1950, Juanita's folks, Mae and Burt Mitchell, bought a house in Lake Alfred. Fla. A few days later, Juanita, Linda, Bob and I headed for Florida. David stayed home because of school. We first visited my folks at Eustis. One day, we drove to Sanlando Springs and then to the big tree, which we were told is the oldest tree in the United States and is over 4,000 years old. I believe it was a cypress.

"After a few days with my folks in Eustis, we visited Juanita's folks at Lake Alfred. Ten-week-old Bobby seemed to enjoy the trip as much as anyone. After a few days in Lake Alfred, we headed back to Michigan.

"In May 1950, I rented a building in Lawrence for another store. Dad, David and Carl Arent helped me build the store fixtures. Dad got a lame back from this work and it lasted several days. We opened the store in late June. In July, we took time off from the business and politics to have some fun and relaxation.

"One Sunday in July, Dad and Mother came over and Arnold and the gang came up to our house and went fishing in our pond. John Faulkner caught one 12-inch and one 10-inch bass, a bullhead and several nice bluegills. I caught a large bass.

"On Saturday, July 22, after the Coloma store closed, we drove to Delton and had a midnight lunch and with Aunt Bessie left at 1 a.m., Sunday, for Patton Lake, Canada.

"At the lake, I became the victim of a David and Beilhart conspiracy. David had heard stories about Solar Lake and wanted me to take him there. At 40, a person doesn't have quite the adventuresome spirit he had at 30, which was the age I was on my trip with the two Jims. I said no to his persistent pleas.

"Then one morning, Mr. Beilhart told me that he had a problem. He said that just the week before, for the first time since I had gone to the lake in 1940, a party from his camp had trekked to Solar Lake. Mr. Beilhart said he had to obtain permission from an Indian trapper for these people to use his canoe. Unfortunately, they had broken a canoe seat which they had brought back with them. Beilhart put it on the canoe and he insisted that I was the only person in camp who knew the way and had woods experience.



Pictured here at a testimonial dinner in 1956 at the end of Robert E. Faulkner's time in the State Legislature are (right side of photo, from left) Juanita Faulkner, Robert E. Faulkner and Ellis E. Faulkner.

"I fell for his flattery. Maybe I really wanted an excuse. So, David and I set out for Solar Lake. We crossed Patton Lake, portaged to Chipmon Lake, crossed it then portaged to Steward Lake and boated to the north end of the lake.

"The big difference between this and our 1940 trip was that this time we had a 4-horsepower outboard motor. This was much faster than rowing, but we had to carry to motor across each portage.

"We followed the same route from Stewart Lake to the river. There was still no path or trail. Since we had no compass, we went by dead reckoning. We did blaze a trail so we could find our way back. We again waded the river. When we got to the beaver dam, we found the Indian's canoe on spreading branches of a tree about 7 feet off the ground. We had no trouble installing the repaired seat and proceeded to paddle to the lake and then straight across to where I had camped with the two Jims 10 years before.

"We built a fire. When I finished gathering wood, Dave started fishing. He got a good strike on the first or second cast of his red and white daredevil. The fish broke his line so he put on another spoon, again waded out into the lake, and cast out as far as he could. Again, the fish struck, and again, the fish broke his line. Soon, our baits were all gone. Only then did I discover that I'd given Dave a pole with a rotten line. Nylon line wasn't available and if you didn't dry cotton or silk line, it would rot on the reel.

"Just as in 1940, it began to rain and soon put out our fire. We turned the canoe upside down, crawled underneath and wrapped up in our blankets. It turned cold and the wind came up. We shivered through the night. By daylight, it had quit raining but the lake was covered with a dense fog. We put our supplies in the canoe and started paddling across the lake. We couldn't see where we were going and neither of us knew anything about a canoe except that it would tip over easily. We sat straight up and hardly dared to breathe.

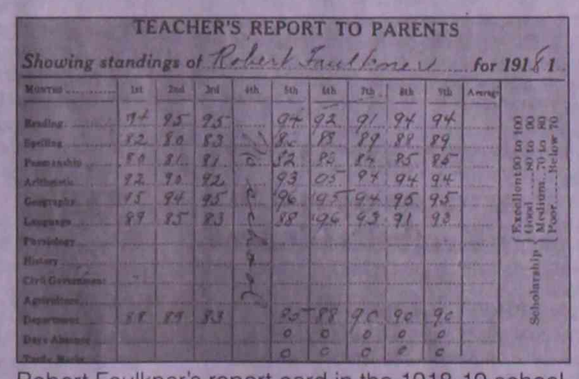
"By some miracle, we managed to go straight across the lake. We paddled down to the beaver dam, replaced the canoe in the tree and started home. It only took us five hours to make it home. We were wet and tired, but exhilarated by our adventure.

"The primary election was in September and I won. Since my district was about 2-to-1 Republican, winning the primary was almost tantamount to election. Vern Ender's political power was broken. He still tried to control the sheriff and other county officers, but they were no longer afraid of him.

"Dad kept a newspaper account of the primary election in his diary. I was especially happy about the vote in Coloma, Watervliet and Niles. The Coloma city vote was 126 to 25 for my nearest of two opponents. The township was 198 to 44. Watervliet city was 91 to 40, and the township was 100 to 37 in my favor. The Mayor of Niles, Russ Thomas, was a good friend of mine. The vote in that city showed his influence. I had strongly carried every precinct in the City of Niles.

"I owed my victory to a lot of fine people. The three men who talked me into going into politics were Tom DeRosa, Roger Carter and Art Betz. Without the help of those men and the help of Paul Mast, Russ Thomas, Byron Ashbook of Hager Township and many others, I couldn't have been elected."

To be continued...



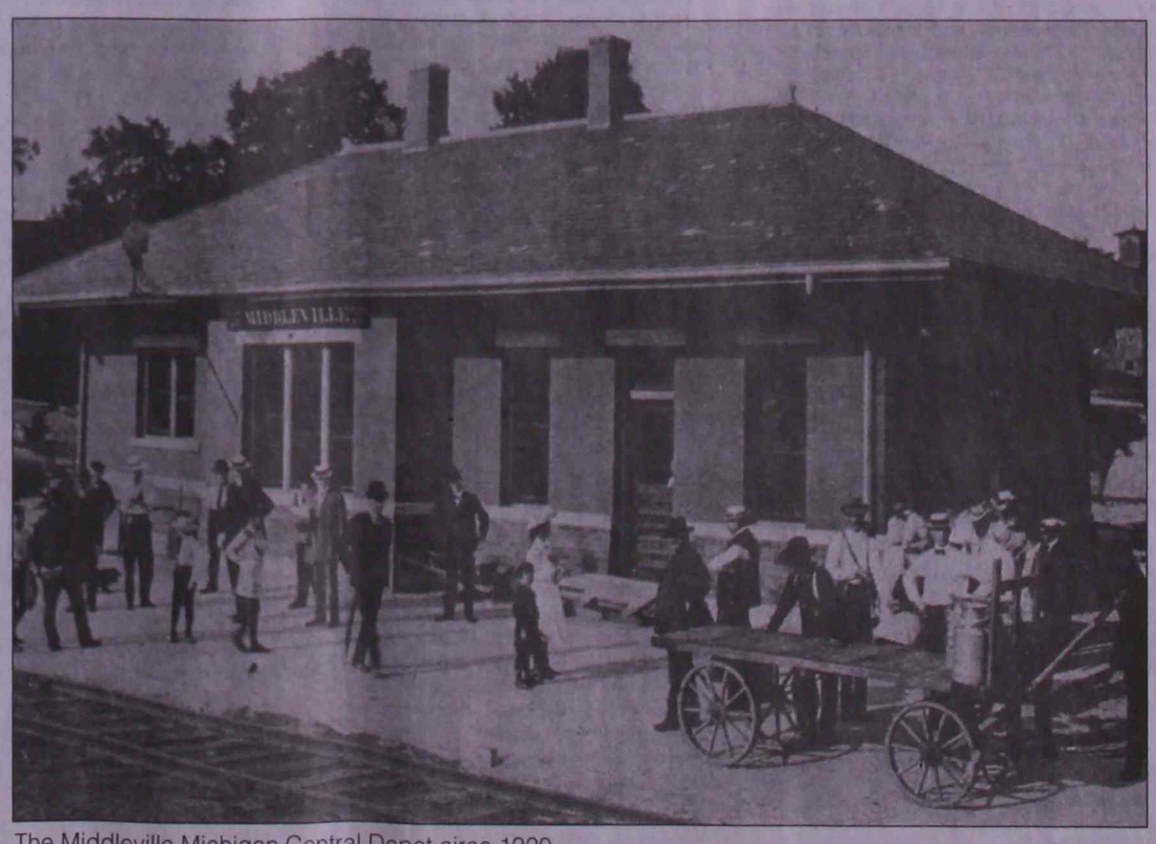
TEACHER'S REPORT TO PARENTS

Showing standings of Robert Faulkner for 1918 1

Months	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	Average
Reading	94	95	95		97	92	91	94	94	
Spelling	82	80	83		86	88	89	88	89	
Penmanship	80	81	81		82	85	84	85	86	
Arithmetic	82	90	92		93	03	94	94	94	
Geography	95	94	95		96	95	94	95	95	
Language	89	85	83		88	94	93	91	93	
Physiology										
History										
Civil Government										
Agriculture										
Department	88	89	83		80	88	90	90	90	
Days Absent					0	0	0	0	0	
Tardy Marks					0	0	0	0	0	

Scholarship: Excellent 90 to 100; Good 80 to 90; Medium 70 to 80; Poor Below 70

Robert Faulkner's report card in the 1918-19 school year showing the school closure during the month of December 1918 due to the flu epidemic.



The Middleville Michigan Central Depot circa 1920.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Revocable Inter Vivos Trust

Glenn Waverly Alday and Jeanne Carol Alday Living Trust dated November 11, 1998.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The Settlors of the trust, Glenn Waverly Alday (date of birth: June 7, 1927), who live at 14360 Wing Road, Bellevue, MI 49021, died April 16, 2025; and Jeanne Carol Alday (date of birth: January 29, 1929), who lived at 14360 Wing Road, Bellevue, MI 49021, died May 4, 2024. There is no personal representative of either Settlor's estate to whom Letters of Authority have been issued.

Creditors of the Settlors, Glenn Waverly Alday and Jeanne Carol Alday, are notified that all claims against the trust will be forever barred unless presented to James G. Alday, the trustee of the trust, at 198 Railside Drive, East Leroy, MI 49051, within 4 months of the date of publication of this notice. Notice is further given that the trust assets will thereafter be assigned and distributed to the persons entitled thereto.

James G. Alday
198 Railside Drive
East Leroy, MI 49051
269-425-9957

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)

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)

GO ONLINE TO HASTINGSBANNER.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)

Panthers shut out Falcons for second SAC Valley victory

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Delton Kellogg/Martin varsity girls' soccer team got its second Southwestern Athletic Conference Valley Division win of the season Wednesday, April 30, outscoring Constantine 3-0.

Elyse Blackburn, Claire Barker and Eli Timmerman scored for the Panthers who are now 5-4 overall this season and 2-2 in the SAC Valley.

Blackburn got the first Panther goal finishing off a corner kick from teammate Teagan Hamlin in the first half. Barker broke through the Falcon defense to put her team up 2-0 in the second half. Timmerman's goal sealed the win with about three minutes to go off an assist from Barker.

DK/Martin head coach Alan Mabie said his girls controlled the game allowing Constantine just four shots on goal

Allegan evened the DK/Martin team's SAC Valley record with an 8-0 victory over the visiting Panthers Monday.

Delton Kellogg is set to host Schoolcraft Monday, May 12, and then visit Kalamazoo Christian May 14 in the week ahead.

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 One o'clock in the afternoon on 5th day of June, 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 BENJAMIN WILLIAMS and ASHLEY WILLIAMS, husband and wife (collectively, "Mortgagor"), to GREENSTONE FARM CREDIT SERVICES, FLCA, a federally chartered corporation, having an office at 3515 West Road, East Lansing, Michigan 48823 (the "Mortgagee"), dated February 10, 2020, and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for Barry County, Michigan on February 14, 2020, as Instrument No. 2020-001607, as partially released by a partial release of mortgage dated February 12, 2021, recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for Barry County, Michigan on February 19, 2021 as Instrument No. 2021-002163 (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 Two Hundred Thirty-Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Fifteen and 17/100 Dollars ($238,915.17). 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 Woodland, County of Barry, State of Michigan, and are described as follows:

Parcel 1: That parcel of land lying and being South of the highway in the East 1/2 of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 5, Town 4 North, Range 7 West, Woodland Township, Barry County, Michigan.

Parcel 2: The Northeast 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 8, Town 4 North, Range 7 West, Woodland Township, Barry County, Michigan.

Parcel 3: Beginning at the North 1/4 post of Section 8, Town 4 North, Range 7 West, Woodland Township, Barry County, Michigan; thence North 89 degrees 21 minutes 48 seconds East, 208.71 feet along the North line of said Section; thence South 0 degrees 11 minutes 19 seconds East 417.42 feet parallel with the North and South 1/4 line of said Section; thence South 89 degrees 21 minutes 48 seconds West 208.71 feet to said North and South 1/4 line; thence North 0 degrees 11 minutes 19 seconds West 417.42 feet along said 1/4 line to the place of beginning.

Together with all fixtures, tenements, hereditaments, and appurtenances belonging or in any way appertaining to the premises.

Commonly known as: 6400 Brown Road, Lake Odessa, Michigan 48849
P.P. #08-15-005-300-05 (parcel 1) 08-15-008-100-02 (Parcel 2); 08-15-008-200-07 (Parcel 3)

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: May 1, 2025
GREENSTONE FARM CREDIT SERVICES, FLCA
Mortgagee

Timothy Hillegonds
WARNER NORCROSS + JUDD LLP
150 Ottawa Avenue NW
Suite 1500
Grand Rapids, MI 49503-2487
(616) 752-2000

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 One o'clock in the afternoon on 5th day of June, 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 BENJAMIN WILLIAMS and ASHLEY WILLIAMS, husband and wife (collectively, "Mortgagor"), to GREENSTONE FARM CREDIT SERVICES, FLCA, a federally chartered corporation, having an office at 3515 West Road, East Lansing, Michigan 48823 (the "Mortgagee"), dated June 23, 2022, and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for Barry County, Michigan on June 28, 2022, as Instrument No. 2022-007160 (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 One Hundred Four Thousand Six Hundred Seventy Nine and 38/100 Dollars ($104,679.38). 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 Woodland, County of Barry, State of Michigan, and are described as follows:

Parcel 1: The Northeast 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 8, Town 4 North, Range 7 West, Woodland Township, Barry County, Michigan.

Parcel 2: Beginning at the North 1/4 post of Section 8, Town 4 North, Range 7 West, Woodland Township, Barry County, Michigan; thence North 89 degrees 21 minutes 48 seconds East, 208.71 feet along the North line of said Section; thence South 0 degrees 11 minutes 19 seconds East 417.42 feet parallel with the North and South 1/4 line of said Section; thence South 89 degrees 21 minutes 48 seconds West 208.71 feet to said North and South 1/4 line; thence North 0 degrees 11 minutes 19 seconds West 417.42 feet along said 1/4 line to the place of beginning.

Parcel 3: That parcel of land lying and being South of the highway in the East 1/2 of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 5, Town 4 North, Range 7 West, Woodland Township, Barry County, Michigan.

Together with all fixtures, tenements, hereditaments, and appurtenances belonging or in any way appertaining to the premises.

Commonly known as: 6400 Brown Road, Lake Odessa, Michigan 48849
P.P. #08-15-005-300-05 (Parcel 1); 08-15-008-100-02 (Parcel 2); 08-15-008-200-07 (Parcel 3)

Notice is further given that the length of the redemption period will be six (6) months 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: May 1, 2025
GREENSTONE FARM CREDIT SERVICES, FLCA
Mortgagee

Timothy Hillegonds
WARNER NORCROSS + JUDD LLP
150 Ottawa Avenue NW
Suite 1500
Grand Rapids, MI 49503-2487
(616) 752-2000

Panthers score points in jumps at SAC Championship meet

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Jumpers led the Delton Kellogg varsity boys' track and field team at the Southwestern Athletic Conference Championship meet hosted by Lawton Monday.

Junior pole vaulter Nick Muday had the top finish of the meet for the Panthers by clearing 11 feet 6 inches to place fourth in that event. It was the only event in which Delton Kellogg had two top ten finishers. Senior Ezra Smith cleared 10-0 to place eighth.

The Delton Kellogg team also had senior Wyatt Finney sixth in the long jump with a season-best leap of 19-6.5 and senior Miki Hovi eighth in the high jump with a height of 5-6.

Junior teammate Tyler Howland added an 11th-place long jump of 18-7, a new PR for him. The Panthers had a couple of season best marks in the shot put too with senior Cooper Sandusky ninth at 40-10 and sophomore Evan Flexer placing 11th with a FPR of 39-5.5.

On the track, the top finish for the DK boys came from the 4x400-meter relay team of freshman Ryan Sinclair, Hovi, senior Myles Hatton and sophomore Landon Madden that placed fifth with a time of 3 minutes 45.48 seconds.

The DK team had a handful of personal record times on the track highlighted by Madden's time of 52.46 that put him in fifth-place in the 400-meter dash.

The top finish on the track for the Delton Kellogg girls was a sixth-place time of 2:41.41 for senior Kylie Main in the 800-meter run which put her in sixth place. Main and junior Elli Timmerman both turned in new PR runs in the 800 and the 1600-meter run.

The top relay finish for the DK girls was also the 4x400-meter race with the team of Main, Timmerman, senior Jillian Leclercq and junior Izabelle Gruber ninth in 4:55.53.

Junior Violet Kokx had the top performance in the field for the DK girls with a throw of 89-7 in the discus, a new PR for her.

Lily DeVries added a ninth-place leap of 4-5 in the high jump for DK and sophomore Brynlee Babbitt-Smith was ninth the long jump with a mark of 14-2.75.

The Delton Kellogg boys were 12th and the girls 16th at the 17-team conference championship meet.

Nobody was within striking distance of the Hackett Catholic Prep boys who closed the day with 129.83 points. Lawton was second with 85 points ahead of Parchment 79, Constantine 70, Saugatuck 50, Schoolcraft 44.5, Kalamazoo Christian 44, South Haven 28, Black River 25 and Gobles 24.5 in the top ten.

Distance runners were key to the Fighting Irish victory. Junior Marek Butkiewicz won the 1600-meter run in 4:22.38 and the 3200-meter run in 10:10.91. He was the runner-up to junior teammate Sean Siems in the 800-meter run, and Siems was third in the 1600. Those two also helped the Irish to a win in the 4x800-meter relay.

Lawton was powered by sprinters. Junior Greyson Burrous won the 100-meter dash in 11.06 and the 200-meter dash in 22.82, and he contributed to Blue Devil wins in the 4x100-meter relay and the 4x200-meter relay. Senior Mason Mayne won the discus (185-6) and shot put (61-3) with new personal records in both of those throws for the Blue Devils.

Gobles had a solid lead at the top of the girls' standings with 83 points ahead of Hackett 68, Bridgman 60, Kalamazoo Christian 55, Schoolcraft 53, Saugatuck 52, Coloma 46, Galesburg-Augusta 43, Allegan 43 and Constantine 39 in the top ten.

Sophomores Libby Smith and Daisy Estrada both took two individual races for the Gobles girls. Estrada won the 100-meter dash in 12.59 and the 300-meter low hurdles in a PR of 45.28. Smith took the 1600-meter run in 5:20.93 and the 3200-meter run in 11:53.70.

The Delton Kellogg teams head to the Gobles Invitational Friday and then will be in Bangor May 15 for their MHSAA Division 3 Regional meet.

City of Hastings

NOTICE OF COUNCIL WORKSHOP

Notice is hereby given that the **City Council** of the City of Hastings will hold a Workshop at **6:00 PM on Monday, May 12, 2025**, in the second floor Council Chambers at City Hall, 201 East State Street, Hastings, Michigan 49058. The purpose of the meeting is to interview City Council Member applicants for the First Ward.

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

Linda Perin
City Clerk

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
BARRY COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. and JUDGE 25-30113-DE
William M. Doherty

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

Estate of Karl Eric Anderson. Date of birth: 9/12/1954.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Karl Eric Anderson, died 2/20/2025.

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

Date: 5/1/2025
Jeffrey M. Black P68768
900 Monroe Ave. NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
616-632-8000
Joseph Adams
391 Andover Street SE
Kentwood, MI 49548
616-780-9896

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 29, 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): Jon E Benson, a married man joined by spouse Kim Benson

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

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Village Capital & Investment LLC

Date of Mortgage: May 19, 2023

Date of Mortgage Recording: May 24, 2023

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $226,726.57

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Prairieville, Barry County, Michigan, and described as: A parcel of land in the Southeast 1/4 of Section 24, Town 1North, Range 10 West, described as beginning at the point on the East line of said Section 24, which lies 420.53 feet due North of the Southeast corner of said Section 24, thence South 89 degrees 35 minutes West 264 feet; thence due North 145 feet; thence North 89 degrees 35 minutes East 264 feet; thence due

South 145 feet to the place of beginning

Common street address (if any): 13932 S M 43 Hwy, Delton, MI 49046-8406

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: May 1, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1559700 (05-01) (05-22)

City of Hastings
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED 2025/2026 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET

The City of Hastings will hold a Public Hearing for the purpose of hearing written and/or oral comments from the public concerning the annual budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026. The public hearing will be held at **7:00 PM on Monday, May 12, 2025,** in City Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall, 201 East State Street, Hastings, Michigan 49058. The City Council will consider the budget as proposed by the City Manager and presented to the City Council on April 28, 2025 with amendments.

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

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

A copy of this information, the entire proposed budget, and additional background materials are available for public inspection from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM Monday through Friday at the Office of the City Clerk, 201 East State Street, Hastings, Michigan 49058.

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

Linda Perin, City Clerk

NOTICE TO THE RESIDENTS OF BARRY COUNTY

Notice is hereby given that the Barry County Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing for the following:

Case Number: SP-03-2025 -Paul Wengerd (Applicant); Matthew Wengerd (Property Owner
Location: 8810 S Broadway Rd, Hastings MI in Section 29 of Baltimore Township
Purpose: Request to allow an assembly operation in the RR (Rural Residential) zoning district per section 1102 and 2309, of the Barry County Zoning Ordinance 2008.

Case Number: SP-10-2025 - Nate VanderMale (Applicant); Tyler & Anja Harmon (Property Owner)
Location: 10862 Hermitage Point Rd, Shelbyville MI in Section 4 of Orangeville Township.
Purpose: To construct an ADU above the garage in the RL (Recreational Lake) zoning district per Section 2305 of the Barry County Zoning Ordinance 2008.

Case Number: SP-11-2025 - Mike Gurd (Applicant/Property Owner)
Location: 6147 Guy Rd, Nashville MI in Section 14 of Maple Grove Township.
Purpose: Request to construct an ADU (accessory dwelling unit) in the RR (Rural Residential) zoning district per Section 2305 of the Barry County Zoning Ordinance 2008.

Case Number: SP-12-2025 - Jim Carr (Applicant); David Miller (Property Owner)
Location: 4414 E Dowling Rd, Dowling MI in Section 36 of Baltimore Township.
Purpose: Request to operate a major home occupation, a general store in the A (Agricultural) zoning district per section 2339 of the Barry County Zoning Ordinance 2008.

MEETING DATE:May 27, 2025. TIME: 7:00 PM
PLACE: Tyden Center Community Room, 121 South Church Street, Hastings, Michigan 49058

Site inspections of the above described properties will be completed by the Planning Commission members before the hearing. Interested persons desiring to present their views upon an appeal, either verbally or in writing, will be given the opportunity to be heard at the above mentioned place and time.

Any written response may be mailed to the address listed below, faxed to (269) 948-4820, or emailed to Barry County Planning Director Jeff Keesler at jkeesler@barrycounty.org.

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

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

Sarah VanDenburg, Barry County Clerk

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
BARRY COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

The Barry County Road Commission is offering for sale (8) pickups: (5) 2024 GMC 2500HD Crew Cab SLE pickup, (2) 2024 GMC 3500HD Crew Cab SRW pickup, (1) 2024 3500HD Crew Cab DRW pickup.

Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Barry County Road Commission, 1725 West M-43 Highway, P.O. Box 158, Hastings, MI 49058, until 10:30 AM, Tuesday, May 27, 2025 for the following items. Please mark outside of bid envelope with truck number i.e. #240020 or #240080.

Specifications and additional information may be obtained at the Road Commission Office at the above phone number or at our website www.barrycrc.org., please make an appointment for all viewings of the trucks. NOTE: All trucks are sold as is.

(5) 2024 GMC 2500HD Crew Cab SLE Pickups
4WD Duramax Diesel, Allison Transmission
Air, Cruise, PW & Locks, Remote Start, Heated Mirrors

1-Redwood Metallic Truck #240020 – Orange Title – approx. 27,000 Miles – Minimum Bid $55,500
1-Cardinal Red Truck #240060 – Orange Title – approx. 17,000 Miles – Minimum Bid $55,500
1-Titanium Rush Truck #240070 – Orange Title – approx. 12,000 Miles – Minimum Bid $55,500
1-Sterling Metallic Truck #240120 – Orange Title – approx. 22,000 Miles – Minimum Bid $55,500
1-Black Onyx Truck #240140 – Orange Title – approx. 19,000 Miles – Minimum Bid $55,500

2024 GMC 3500HD Crew Cab SLE SRW w/ BOSS 8-10' EXT Plow
4WD Duramax Diesel, Allison Transmission
Air, Cruise, PW & Locks, Remote Start, Heated Mirrors
1-Sterling Metallic Truck #240260 – Orange Title – approx. 12,000 Miles – Minimum Bid $63,000 with plow; $57,000 w/o plow
1-Onyx Black Truck #240270 – Orange Title – approx. 13,000 Miles – Minimum Bid $63,000 with plow, $57,000 w/o plow

(1) 2024 GMC 3500HD Crew Cab SLE DRW w/ BOSS 8-10' EXT Plow
4WD Duramax Diesel, Allison Transmission
Air, Cruise, PW & Locks, Remote Start, Heated mirrors
Summit White Truck #230370- Orange Title – approx. 16,000 Miles
Minimum Bid: $64,000 with plow; $58,000 w/o plow

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

ORANGE TITLES are MUNCIPAL TITLES.

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

Trojans take wooden bat tournament title

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Moving guys around the bases in the top of the fourth and fifth innings put the Trojans in front of Unity Christian in the championship game of the Thornapple Kellogg Wooden Bat Invitational in Middleville Saturday.

The Trojans turned those busy base paths into a few runs, something the Crusaders weren't able to do as TK pulled out a 6-3 victory to win a home tournament for the second time this season.

Jayce Curtis led off the top of the fourth for Thornapple Kellogg with a single into centerfield. He stood at second base with two out when Connor Dombkowski delivered a pop single into centerfield that allowed him to come around to score breaking what had been a 3-3 tie. Dombkowski would score too without the benefit of a hit stealing second and then third and coming home as a throw to get him at third got away from the Crusaders.

Carsyn Redman led off the top of the fifth with a walk for TK. He stole second and went to third on a groundout by Anson Verlinde. A Cam Walter double into centerfield brought him home.

The Crusaders had their chances to cut into that Trojan lead and couldn't do it.

Unity Christian put its first three baserunners on in the bottom of the fifth inning, and its first two on in the bottom of the sixth.

In the fifth Trojan starter Micah Dock got a pop out and a strike out, and then a little roller to first base that Jayce Brummel scooped up and flipped over Dock covering the bag to get TK out of the inning unscathed.

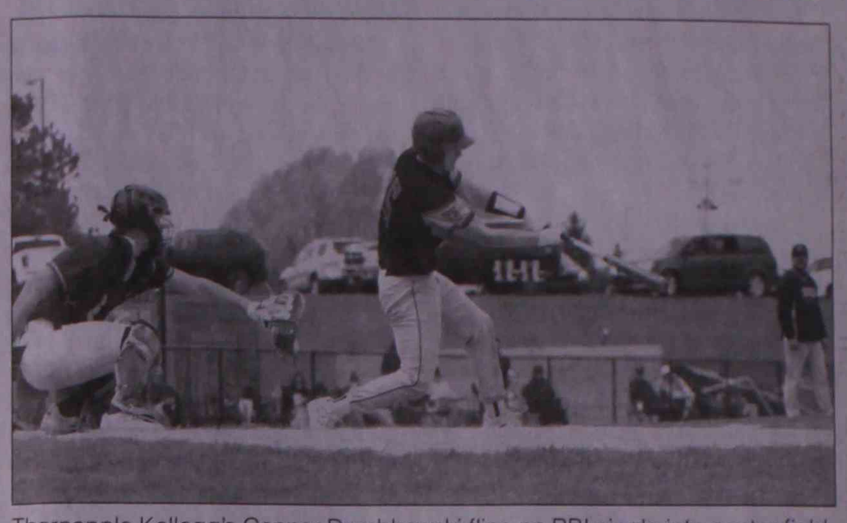
In the bottom of the sixth, with Walter now on the mound, Unity Christian put its first two on thanks to an error and a walk. Walter induced a pop out into left and a pop up to first for the first two outs. The two Crusader baserunners moved up on a wild pitch with two out, but Dombkowski made a nice play on a ground ball at third and fired first to end another threat.

Dock got the win in the championship game going five innings. He gave up two earned runs (three total) on six hits, three walks and four strikeouts. Walter threw two scoreless innings giving up one hit, striking out one and walking one while earning a save.

At the plate, Walter was 2-for-4 with an RBI. Dombkowski, Brummel and Curtis had the other three TK hits.



Thornapple Kellogg shortstop Cooper Rasey fires to first for an out during his team's win over Unity Christian in the finals of the TK Wooden Bat Invitational Saturday in Middleville.



Thornapple Kellogg's Connor Dombkowski flips an RBI single into center field during the Trojans' win over Unity Christian in the championship game of the TK Wooden Bat Invitational Saturday in Middleville. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

TK started the day with a 4-3 win over East Kentwood.

The Falcons did move guys around late in the ballgame scoring twice in the bottom of the sixth and once in the bottom of the seventh to pull within a run after TK built a 4-0 lead.

The six hits in the ballgame for TK were all singles, one each for Dombkowski, Redman, Verlinde, Brummel, Zach Eldridge and Cooper Rasey. Curtis, Rasey and Verlinde had one RBI each. Dombkowski, Redman, Brummel and Eldridge each scored a run.

Jacob Davis was the winning pitcher he threw four scoreless, hitless innings. He walked one and struck out three. Redman tossed the final three innings. He struck out two, walked two and gave up three hits. Of the three runs against him, only one was earned.

The Trojans struggles in the OK Gold Conference did continue this week as they fell to 1-10 with 10-2 and 5-0 loss to Northview in Grand Rapids Monday.

Verlinde was 2-for-2 with a walk in the opener, and Dombkowski and Davis both had hits. Singles by Dock and Redman were the only hits for TK in the game two shutout. Caleb Munson earned the shut out win for the Wildcats in game two with a complete game effort that saw him strike out five and walk one.

TK was set to host Northview for one Wednesday, May 7.

The Trojans go to Holland Frida and then will play their series with Grand Rapids Union in the OK Gold next week. TK plays host to the Red Hawks for two Monday and then will go to Belknap Park in Grand Rapids for one with the Red Hawks Wednesday, May 14.

Saxons keep going faster, further, higher in tough defeat

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Both the Saxon varsity boys' and girls' track and field teams are 1-3 in Interstate-8 Athletic Conference duals this spring after falling to the Cardinals in Coldwater Monday.

Despite lopsided tallies on the scoreboard, the Saxons turned in quite a few of their top performances of the season. The Coldwater boys took a 135-28 win and the Coldwater girls won 124-39.

Bella Friddle had a trio of wins for the Hastings girls. She took the long jump with a mark of 17 feet 1.5 inches. She cleared 9-0 in the pole vault. She cleared 5-2 in the high jump. Friddle also had a third-place time of 27.41 seconds in the 200-meter dash.

Saxon sophomore Caroline Randall won the girls' 3200-meter run in 11:46.23. She also had a runner-up time of 5:21.87 in the 1600-meter run. Coldwater senior Grace Huff beat her out in that one with a personal record time of 5:21.87. Saxon sophomore Chloe Pirtle was third in that race with a season-best time of 6:35.53, and she was also third in the 3200-meter run.

Hastings girls' coach Erin Slaughter was also really pleased with notable PRs from Gabby Jusewikcs, Zikarra Warner, Kim Coolidge and Jayden Evans throughout the meet.

Junior Olivia Friddle had her top throws of the season with marks of 91-7 in the discus and 33-7.5 in the shot put. She was third in the discus and fourth in the shot put. Olivia was also the runner-up in the pole vault with a season best leap of 9-0 that matched her sister Bella's height.

The Hastings girls also had Pirtle fourth in the 100-meter hurdles. Maddie Elzinga fourth in the 800-meter run, Bella Strimbeck fourth in the 400-meter dash and Zoe Watson fourth in the discus.

The Coldwater boys won every event except the pole vault. Saxon sophomore Maverik Peake cleared 11-6 to win the pole vault and junior teammate Isaac Lilley was the runner-up, also clearing 11-6.

Cardinal sophomore Drew Vanderpuyl set personal records in winning the 1600-meter run (4:39.18) and the 3200-meter run (10:46.03), just beating out the Saxon leaders in those two races. Saxon senior Brandon Simmons was second in the 1600 in 4:41.75. Saxon senior Micah Johnson was second in the 3200 in 10:48.94.

Johnson was fourth in the 1600 and freshman teammate Jackson McKinney was fourth in the 3200 with a PR run of his own.

The Saxon team had junior Cardale Winebrenner third and sophomore Caleb Kramer fourth in the 110-meter high hurdles, and in the 300-meter intermediate hurdles Kramer was third and fellow sophomore Shad Manciu fourth.

Sophomore sprinter Logan Kimmel set his PR in the 100-meter dash for the Saxons and then placed third in the 200-meter dash with a time of 24.82. Coldwater freshman Evan Lewis won those two sprints taking the 100 in a PR of 11.21 and then winning the 200 with a PR of 22.71.

In the field, Hastings had sophomore Cody Seymour third in the high jump and Kramer fourth as they both cleared 5-2. Junior Odin Twiss was fourth in the discus too.

Hastings is set to visit Jackson Northwest for a conference dual this afternoon, May 8, and will go to Marshall to close out conference duals Monday, May 12.

The Saxon teams were a part of the Corunna Cavaliers Classic last Friday, May 2, with both teams placing eighth in a field of ten teams. Chesaning took the boys' team title and Chelsea won the girls' meet.

Bella Friddle added qualification for the state finals long jump competition to her previous state qualifying performance in the high jump. She flew 16-11 to win the long jump Friday at the earlier qualifier event. She won the high jump by clearing 5-6 and also was fourth in the 200-meter dash. Her high jump set a new meet record, breaking the previous record of 5-4 held by Saxon alumnus Emily Westers.

Caroline Randall was second in the 3200-meter run in 11:51.24 and placed fourth in the 1600.

Olivia Friddle had what was then a PR of 33-4.5 to place third in the shot put and she was sixth in the discus and fourth in the pole vault. Fellow thrower Zoe Watson set her PR in the discus at 97-9 while placing fifth.

The Saxon boys and girls also had teams win the throwers relays Friday – capping off an undefeated season of thrower relay races for the Saxon boys and girls according to coach Slaughter.

Sophomore Liam Renner won the pole vault for the Hastings guys by clearing 12-8 a new personal record for him. Twiss improved his discus PR to 124-1 while placing seventh and was also sixth in the shot put.

Simmons had PR times in the two long distance races. He was second in the 3200-meter run in 9:58.09 and fourth in the 1600 in 4:37.37. Johnson was eighth in that 3200.

The top relay finish for the Hastings boys came from the team of Renner, Balian Marlette, Luca Di Bernardo and Kimmel that was sixth in the 4x200-meter race with a time of 1:38.71.

Saxons shut out RedHawks in Interstate-8 tennis dual

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The first singles match was fairly competitive, but the Saxons dominated at the other seven flights in an 8-0 Interstate-8 Athletic Conference win at Marshall Monday afternoon.

Madison "MJ" Deal led the sweep with her 6-3, 7-5 win over Marshall junior first singles player Danielle Arend.

Saxon senior Lilyah Solmes made quick work of RedHawk junior Aubrey Dysinger with a 6-0, 6-0 win at second singles. Hastings sophomore Alexa Lilley stretched her winning streak at third singles to six matches with a 6-1, 6-2 win at number three. Gracie Wilson earned a 6-1, 6-2 win over Olivia Suhocki at fourth singles for the Saxons.

The Hastings girls on the doubles side closed the day strong. The RedHawks won 12 games against the Saxon doubles teams, but only two of those came in the second set of matches. At the top of the line-up, the Saxon duo of senior Isabella Gee and junior Lauren Gee outscored Marshall juniors Kaya Oswald and Liz Connolly 6-1, 6-1.

At second doubles, Saxon sophomore Sophia Haywood and senior Ella Fergusen scored a 6-3, 6-0 win over Marshall's Olivia Miller and Hannah Johnson. Freshmen Lillian Edger and Lilly Randall scored a 6-2, 6-0 win for the Saxons over Marshall juniors Jorja Uldriks and Vonda Peterson at third doubles. At four doubs, Hastings junior Alyssa Morton and senior Jordan Milanowski scored a 6-4, 6-1 win over Marshall juniors Mattie Herrick and Morgan Baker.

The Saxons were set to play host to Hamilton Wednesday, May 7, and the Saxons will be a part of the Lakewood Quad Saturday with Lakewood hosting singles matches and the Saxons hosting doubles matches. Coldwater comes to Hastings for another I-8 dual Tuesday, May 13.

Correction:

Hastings track and field sophomore Chloe Pirtle was incorrectly identified in a photo on page 14 of the April 24, 2025 edition of the Hastings Banner. Pirtle set her personal record in the 100-meter hurdles at the April 18 Hastings Invitational with a tenth-place time of 19.55 seconds.

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DK/Martin squad drops team record score in win at Mullenhurst

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

A birdie on seven, a birdie on eight and a birdie on nine ended Delton Kellogg/Marshall freshman Jason Marshall's round with a two-under-35 at Mullenhurst Thursday.

Sophomore teammate Grady Matteson finished at one-under and two other Delton Kellogg/Martin guys were in the top ten individually as the Panther varsity boys' golf team earned its first Southwestern Athletic Conference Valley Division victory of the season while shooting a program record 143 nine-hole score.

New Delton Kellogg head coach Nick Haas said everyone got in a good week of practice leading into the home jamboree Thursday, and it showed early.

Tyler Howland sank a birdie on number one, his second hole of the day. Grady birdied number three, his third hole of the day. Marshall followed with his first birdie of the round, on number three.

Haas said that opened the floodgates, and the Panthers finished five strokes ahead of league leading Kalamazoo Christian in the end. The Comets finished the day with an overall score of 148 ahead of Hackett Catholic Prep 156, Schoolcraft 156, Lawton 171, Parchment 178 and Constantine 184.

Matteson scored a 34. Junior Carter Brickley and the junior Howland both shot 38s for DK/Martin.

Kalamazoo Christian was led by senior Ian Tuin who matched Matteson's 34. The Eagles got 37s from sophomore Brixton Devries and freshman Ian Riggs, and they added a 40 from freshman Hart Hoekzema.

The Panther team also got a strong round from junior Gabe Smoczynski who fired a 40, including a birdie on the tough par-4 number seven.

The Delton Kellogg/Martin team was back in action Friday at Parchment's Coaches and Kids abbreviated scramble – where teams scramble on nine holes and the coaches play their own shots. The DK/Martin team took its third straight victory by besting the runner-up team by one stroke.

"This was a great easy going tournament to play in before the real grind happens leading into the postseason," Haas said.



Delton Kellogg/Martin varsity boys' golf teammates Tyler Howland, Jason Marshall, Carter Brickley, Grady Matteson, Gabe Smoczynski and head coach Nick Haas celebrate winning the SAC Valley jamboree at Mullenhurst Thursday, May 1, with a school-record nine-hole score of 143. **Photo provided**

The Panthers were back at it in the SAC Valley Monday at Island Hills for the jamboree hosted by Constantine. Kalamazoo Christian reasserted itself at the top of the conference standings with a score of 150. Schoolcraft was second at 158 ahead of Hackett 159, DK/Martin 177, Constantine 194, Lawton 206 and Parchment 220.

Howland and Matteson both shot 42 for the DK/Martin team. Marshall tallied a 46 and Brickley a 47.

Haight and Guiles toss complete games against Aviators

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

In 14 innings the Lakewood varsity baseball team allowed just one run against visiting West Michigan Aviation Academy Friday while sweeping a non-conference doubleheader.

Lakewood took the opener 6-1 and then shut out the Aviators 6-0 in game two.

Tanner Haight earned the complete game win on the mound for the Vikings in game two. He struck out six while giving up four hits and two walks.

The first five Lakewood batters reached safely to start off the bottom of the fourth inning as they boosted a 1-0 lead to 4-0. Remi Horstman and Michael Goodemoot had RBI singles in the inning, and Horstman stole home as part of that rally.

The eight Viking hits in game two were all singles. Hollis Poll was 2-for-4 with a run and an RBI and Goodemoot was 2-for-2. Ethan Guiles, Seth Willette and Brady Makley each singled once. Guiles drove in two runs.

Guiles earned the complete game win on the mound in game one striking out eight while walking two and allowing four hits.

The Vikings had 12 hits in that opener with 11 singles and double from Poll. Poll was 1-for-2 with two walks and two runs scored. Carter Stewart, Horstman and Logan Faulkner had two hits each. Faulkner had a team-high three RBIs. Reily Teigeler drove in two runs, and Loggan Murray and Horstman had one RBI each.

The Lakewood team will make up its rained out Capital Area Activities Conference White Division doubleheader from Tuesday at Lansing Sexton on Friday afternoon and then head to South Haven for a tournament Saturday, May 10.

Eagles bested in pair of one-run GL6 ballgames

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Algoma Christian took two from the Barry County Christian Schools varsity baseball team in Great Lakes 6 action last Thursday, May 1.

The Algoma Christian boys took two one-run victories winning the opener 4-3 and then taking game two 2-1.

Both Algoma Christian runs in game two were unearned. Ryan Kammenzind tossed 3.2 innings for the Eagles allowing the two unearned runs on two hits and one walk. He struck out three.

Dawson Weemhoff got the final out for the Eagles.

The three Eagle hits were a double from Teegen Whitmire and singles from Ryan Wise and Kammenzind. Jonathan Hawkes walked to leadoff the ballgame, stole second and third and then scored on a ground out by teammate Grant VanderWoude.

The Eagles had runners on second and third with one out in the top of the fourth, but couldn't add on to the scoreboard. Algoma Christian had gotten the tying run in the bottom of the third and then went up 2-1 with a run in the bottom of the fourth.

Algoma Christian struck first in game one, taking a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the first. The Eagles got three runs in the top of the third, but Algoma Christian battled back in front with three runs in the bottom of the fourth.

Algoma Christian had two unearned runs in game two.

Nathan Loerop threw the full four innings for the Eagles. He struck out five, walked four and allowed just one hit.

The Eagles had three hits including a pair of doubles by Weemhoff and an RBI single by Loerop.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
BARRY COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Barry County Road Commission, 1725 West M-43 Highway, P.O. Box 158, Hastings, MI 49058, until 11:00 A.M. May 21, 2025 for the following item.

Specifications, visual inspection, and additional information may be obtained at the Road Commission Office at the above address.

Stump Grinder – Bandit 3100 towable – 165 HP Gas - 2025

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

BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF BARRY

David Solmes	Chairman
Jim James	Vice Chairman
Jamie Knight	Member

Wells runs record time in 400, wins three sprints

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Lakewood varsity boys' track and field team ran to a runner-up finish at the 45th Annual Stockbridge Track and Field Invite Friday, May 2.

Viking senior Donny Wells led the way. He improved his school record time in the 400-meter dash by winning in 49.34 seconds Friday. He had already qualified for the MHSAA Division 2 Lower Peninsula Track and Field Finals in the race even before besting the early qualifying time at the Panthers' EQ meet.

He was just off those early qualifying times in the other two sprints that he won Friday. He took the 100-meter dash in a personal record time of 11.07 seconds. The early state qualifying time for that race in Division 2 is 11.00 seconds. He won the 200-meter dash Friday in 22.7 seconds. The early state qualifying time in that one is 20.60.

The Lakewood boys' team also had the team of seniors Riley Johnson and Troy Acker and sophomores Bryce Goodemoot and Kaden Rohrbacher win the 4x800-meter relay in 9 minutes .69 seconds.

Viking senior Ryan Galgoci was the runner-up in the 110-meter high hurdles with a time of 16.48 seconds. Junior teammate Benjamin Possehn improved his PR in that race to 17.24 to place fifth. Possehn set his PR at 43.42 in the 300-meter intermediate hurdles while placing fourth. Galgoci was eighth in that 300 hurdles race in 45.05.

Lakewood had top eight finishes in the three longest runs of the day too. Johnson was sixth in the 1600-meter run in 4:55.25 and sixth in the 800-meter run in 2:12.73. Goodemoot added a 3200-meter PR of 10:56.95 which put him fifth in that race.

Acker kept improving his PR in the 400 as he chases after Wells. He placed third in that race with a time of 51.37 seconds.

Marshall took the day's championship with 81.5 points ahead of Lakewood 79, Parma Western 75.33, Ottawa Lake-Whiteford 66.33, Jackson Northwest 59.5, Concord 59, Dundee 57.5, Stockbridge 50, Webberville 43.5 and Ann Arbor Greenhills 38, Durand 26.33 and Springport 23.

On the track, Lakewood girls were led on the day by freshman sprinter Heidi Carter who was fourth in the 100-meter dash and fourth in the 200-meter dash, and sophomore Alana Raffler who was third in the 300-meter low hurdles. Those two also teamed with junior Taylor Carter and sophomore Jayda Miller for a fourth-place finish in the 4x100-meter relay with a time of 55.87.

Carpenter took the lone victory for the Lakewood girls with a season best pole vault height of 9 feet 3 inches.

Viking senior Kara Fedewa had a PR of 31-.5 inches in the shot put to place third and also was seventh in the discus with a throw of 88-1.

The Lakewood girls were seventh. Dundee beat out Concord by half a point for the championship in their competition 90.5-90. Ottawa Lake-Whiteford was third with 88 points ahead of Marshall 67.5, Stockbridge 50, Ann Arbor Greenhills 47, Lakewood 39, Springport 38, Parma Western 37.5, Webberville 33.5, Jackson Northwest 19, Durand 17, Byron 14 and Washtenaw Christian 11.

The Vikings had a conference dual at Eaton Rapids rained out Tuesday. They head to the Concord Invitational Friday, May 9. Lakewood heads to Williamston for its MHSAA Division 2 Regional meet Friday, May 16.

DK boys win pair of one-run ballgames at Black River

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Delton Kellogg varsity baseball team improved to 5-2 in the Southwestern Athletic Conference Central Division with a pair of one-run wins at Black River Tuesday.

The River Rats had the tying run on third and the winning run on second with two out in the bottom of the fifth of game two before DK pitcher Keegan Hill scooped up a ground ball to record the final out in the 4-3 Panther win.

Elliott Rogers started the nightcap for Delton Kellogg and allowed one run in three innings on three hits and a walk. He struck out three. Brock Hickerson and Easton Reynolds threw in relief for DK before Hill came on to get the final out.

DK took a 4-0 lead in the ballgame with two runs in the top of the first and two more in the top of the second.

The Panther offense consisted of eight hits. Gauge Stampfler was 2-for-3 with a run scored and Tucker Tack was 2-for-3 with an RBI. Dylan Fichtner and Tanner Wyant both doubled once, and Rogers and Hill both singled once.

Delton was also helped by four Black River errors which helped DK score two unearned runs.

The Panthers had an early lead in game one too, scoring five times in the top of the third inning. The Panthers led 6-3 through four innings and then fought off the River Rats the rest of the way.

Tack started on the mound and went three innings allowing two runs without giving up a hit. He walked three.

Stampfler, Owen Rogers and Elliott Rogers all threw in relief.

At the plate, Elliott Rogers had a double, a run scored and an RBI. Fichtner and Hill both singled twice. Hill scored two runs and drove in one. Fichtner also walked once and scored a run. Stampfler had a single two RBIs, a walk and a run scored. DK also got an RBI single from Tack.

Fichtner and Tack had two stolen bases each and the Panther team had seven as a team.

The Delton Kellogg teams are set to go to Watervliet for two ballgames this afternoon, May 8. The Panthers head to Gull Lake for the Blue Devils' Strike Out Cancer event Saturday. The Panthers return to SAC Central play Tuesday at Galesburg-Augusta.

TK gets first softball win over Wayland since 2019

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Some Saturday tournament trophies just mean a little more.

The Trojans won't forget this one any time soon.

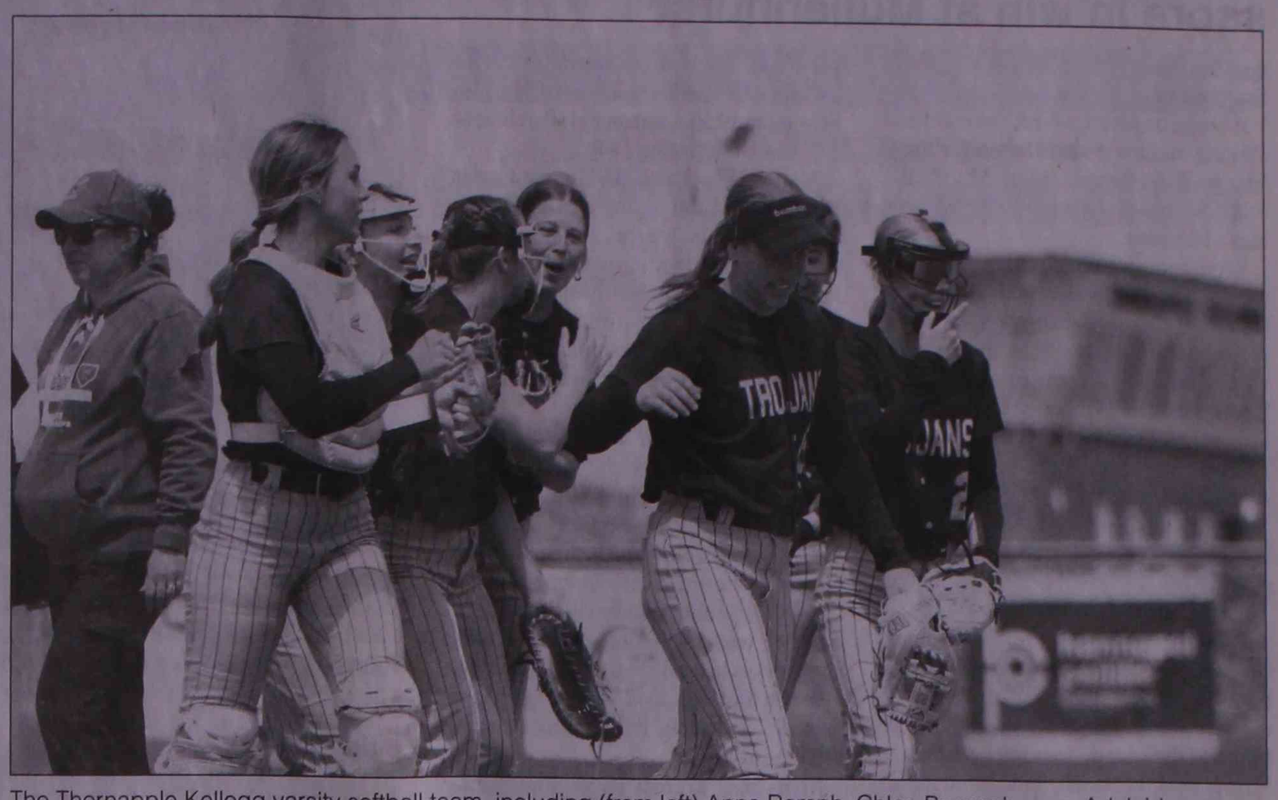
Thornapple Kellogg's varsity softball team bounced back from getting swept in its OK Gold Conference doubleheader with visiting Wayland in Middleville April 29 by beating the Wildcats 7-5 in the finals of Saturday's Thornapple Kellogg Invitational.

It is the first win for the Trojans over the Wildcats since their 2019 district tournament, the first varsity softball win over Wayland for any of the TK ballplayers, and the first varsity win over the Wildcats for TK head coach Ashley Garrett as a coach or a player.

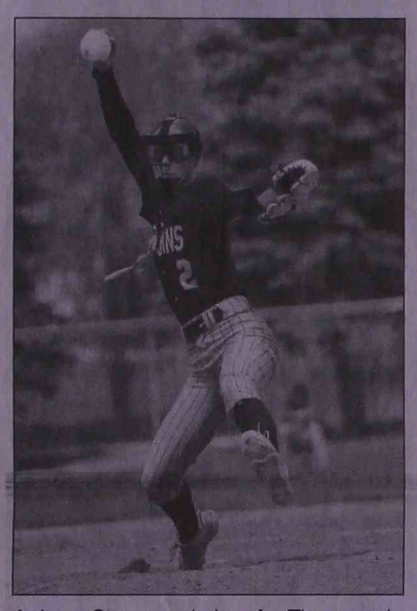
Scoring four runs in the top of the fourth inning pushed TK in front of the Wildcats 7-4 and they held on the rest of the way. Centerfielder Kenzie Bouma was 2-for-4 at the plate in the win with an RBI and three runs scored.

"Honestly, you just really have to go in and just know that your teammates are counting on you to be there for them," Bouma said. "We lost to Wayland, I think it was Tuesday, and this this was a game where I was just really motivated to be there for my teammates at the right time and keep my eye on the ball, and not let the mental game get in the way."

"We really wanted it. We know we have lost to Wayland in the past, and it was really the perfect time at our own home invite to have this be our chance at redemption. That felt good."



The Thornapple Kellogg varsity softball team, including (from left) Anna Romph, Chloe Bossenberger, Adelaide Holderman, Kenzie Bouma, McKenna Hoebeke, Jenna Robinett and Aubree Stevens, walks off its diamond happy after scoring a 7-5 win over Wayland in the championship game of Saturday's Thornapple Kellogg Invitational in Middleville. The victory is the first for the Trojans over the Wildcats since their 2019 district meeting. **Photos by Brett Bremer**



Aubree Stevens pitches for Thornapple Kellogg during the championship game of the TK Invitational Saturday against Wayland.

The Wildcats shut out the Trojans in their OK Gold doubleheader last week with 9-0 and 11-0 wins, with game two ending on a walk-off home run in the fifth inning that boosted the Wildcat lead to double figures.

"I just think that we had a talk Thursday about being there for each other. I think that really helped us, bringing that into this game. Putting that into play and being hyped for each other. Even when we were down we didn't get down. The mental game you don't let that get in the way, look at the scoreboard and keep competing and you'll win."

TK put a lot of work in on its "mental game" last week.

"I told them on Tuesday that it wasn't a skill thing. That is not why we lost. Wayland just has a littler higher softball IQ and softball savvy than us right now," coach Garrett said, "and we really worked on that the last couple days in practice and they put it to use today. We actually did classroom session. We talked about different things. We talked about different base running things. We talked about our approach at the plate and what pitch we're looking for and just little things like that. My team has a bunch of girls that play travel ball, it was just getting them to realize what is going around them and thinking a play ahead."

TK had seven hits in the win. Bouma was the only girl with multiple hits. She drove in a run with a single in the top of the third, and managed to work her way out of a pickle between first and second to finish safely at second after the throw in from the outfield initially tried to cut down a Trojan runner at the plate. That hit tied the game at 3-3 at the time.

TK got singles from McKenna Hoebeke, Adelaide Holderman and Jenna Robinett. Holderman, Robinett, Aubree Stevens and Chloe Bossenberger had one RBI each.

A couple of Wildcat errors got the Trojans' go-ahead rally started in the top of the fifth. Holderman had an RBI single, and Stevens and Bossenberger put together back-to-back, two-out doubles to extend the TKJ lead.

Stevens was the winning pitcher. She allowed two runs, one earned, on five hits and two walks across the final five innings. She struck out one. Robinett started in the circle for TK allowing three runs on five hits. She struck out one too.

Wildcat starting pitcher Harmony Laker allowed seven runs in five innings in the circle, but only one was earned. She walked one and struck out nine. TK got to her for seven hits. Madi Ludema closed things out for the Wildcats with two shut out innings.

"The thing we really worked on was getting our trigger out of the way and getting our front foots down so we can rotate and hit the ball," Garrett said of her team's improvements at the plate between games against the Wildcats. "And they did so much better with it. I was a little nervous. Comstock Park's pitching was not Wayland's pitching, so I was a little nervous with how they were going to adjust and they did it right out of the gate. It was fun to see."

TK opened its day at the tournament with a 16-1 win over Comstock Park.

Holderman pitched and allowed one unearned run in four innings. She struck out seven and walked one.

The TK offense had nine hits in the win including doubles from Alyssa Schaefer, Stevens and Bouma. Bouma was 3-for-3 in that one with two runs scored and two RBIs. Stevens was 2-for-2 with two runs scored and five RBIs, and she also walked twice. Allison Wolowicz was 2-for-3 with two runs scored and three RBIs.

Wayland earned its spot in the tournament championship game with a 23-0 win over Delton Kellogg to start the day.

Vikings shoot to third at their home jamboree

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Four guys finished in the 40s for the Lakewood varsity boys' golf team as it hosted the Capital Area Activities Conference White Division at Centennial Acres Wednesday, April 30.

The Lakewood team beat out Ionia by a stroke and finished just two back of Lansing Catholic. Charlotte took the day's team title with a score of 167 strokes ahead of Lansing Catholic 172, Lakewood 174, Ionia 175, Portland 180, Eaton Rapids 184, Olivet 191 and Lansing Sexton 233.

Senior Cole Thrun led the Viking team with a 41 that put him fourth overall individually. He bounced back from a double bogie on number two to par three of his next six holes and added a birdie on the 375-yard, par-4 number four.

Sophomore Bryson Boucher was sixth overall for the Vikings with a 42, and Lakewood got a 42 from senior Kenny Dutkiewicz and a 47 from sophomore Vance O'Mara.

Portland sophomore Joseph Nobis and Charlotte senior Reid Blasius both shot 39 to share individual medalist honors.

The Oriole team added a 40 from junior Noah Robinson, a 43 from junior Peyton Edick and a 45 from sophomore Andrew Buzzard to get the team victory.

Lansing Catholic was led by senior Hayden Riley's 41 and the Cougars got a 42 from sophomore Adam Killingsworth. Ionia freshman Bryce Schmid led his team with a 42.

The conference will get together for a jamboree hosted by Sexton at Royal Scot in Lansing today, May 8.

TK ladies looking to repeat as OK Gold champs

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Thornapple Kellogg varsity girls' track and field team will look to finish off an undefeated OK Gold Conference season this afternoon, May 8, at the conference championship meet hosted by Wyoming at Houseman Field in Grand Rapids.

The TK ladies finished off a 6-0 season of conference duals with victories over Wayland and South Christian at Wayland Union High School Monday. The Trojans beat the host Wildcats 104.5-32.5 and the South Christian girls 100-37.

The Wayland boys are in the same position as the TK girls having improved to 6-0 in conference duals with wins over the Trojans and Sailors Monday. The TK boys close the season of conference duals at 2-4.

The TK hurdlers are really hitting their stride as the season winds down. Senior Brooklyn Harmon, junior Mia Hilton and freshman Amya Gater placed 1-2-3 in both the 300-meter low hurdles and the 100-meter hurdles for the TK girls Monday. All three improved their personal record time in the 300 hurdles. Harmon won in 45.74, Hilton was second in 43.36 and Gater placed third in 47.61. Harmon was third and Hilton eighth in that race at the 2024 MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 2 Track and Field Finals.

In the 100s Monday, Harmon won with a time of 15.25 seconds, Hilton was second in 15.93 and Gater improved her PR to 16.65 to place third.

Junior sprinter Jordyn Fitros had another big afternoon for the TK ladies. She won the 100-meter dash in 13.00 and the 200-meter dash in 26.67.

TK senior Ava Crews had a pair of individual wins too taking the 1600-meter run in 5 minutes 43.43 seconds and the 3200-meter run in 11:40.74.

South Christian junior Chloe Rinzema prevented a sweep of the wins in the individual races on the track by the TK ladies. She took the 400-meter dash in a PR of 58.46 seconds and she won the 800-meter run in 2:27.40 just besting a season-best time of 2:28.68 from Crews.

The TK ladies won the three sprint relays. Sophomore Elile Harmon, junior Madison Kietzman, sophomore Estefani Sanchez Vega and sophomore Sydney Martin wont he 4x200-meter relay in 1:51.52. The team of Kietzman, Sanchez Vega, Martin and senior Emma Dykhouse won the 4x100-meter relay in 52.57 seconds.

To close the evening, the TK team of junior Payton Gater, Brooklyn Harmon, Hilton and Amya Gater won the 4x400-meter relay in 4:16.98.

Dykhouse also improved her shot put personal record with a mark of 35-10 and senior teammate Lilly McKeown was second with a put of 29-3.

The only victories for the TK boys came from senior Jacob Draaisma who took the 800-meter run in 2:00.47 and the 1600-meter run in 4:32.92.

Hurdlers had a good day on the boys' side too overall. Wayland sophomore Alex Hubbard and senior Malachi Rodriguez set PRs in placing 1-2 in the 110-meter high hurdles. South Christian junior Daniel Egler won the 300-meter intermediate hurdles, with TK sophomore Brandon Velting second in that race with a PR of 42.88 that left him just four hundredths of a second behind. The two guys behind him set PRs too.

TK teams were second in the 4x200-meter relay, the 4x100-meter relay and the 4x400-meter relay. The 4x100-meter race was an especially close one with the South Christian team of seniors Bryce Kenyon and Sammi Anema, sophomore Jesse VanDeGriend and junior Ethan White winning in 45.63 seconds. The TK team of sophomore Elliott Neff, senior Lucas McNabnay, freshman Maddox Vanengen and sophomore Jackson Smith was a little over a second back in 46.71 and the fastest Wayland team in that race was just eight hundredths of a second behind TK.

The foursome that included Wayland senior Landon Dunahoo was DQ'd in that 4x100. He was a part of wins in his three other events. He took the 100-meter dash in 11.51, the 200-meter dash in a PR of 22.84 and raced as a part of the Wildcats' winning 4x200-meter relay team.

Last Saturday, May 3, the TK ladies took the championship and the boys were third at the Cougar Invitational hosted by Grand Rapids Catholic Central.

Both teams had a pair of event wins. The TK ladies had the team of Brooklyn Harmon, Fitros, Amya Gater and Hilton win the 4x200-meter relay in 1:46.76 and junior Payton Gater won the high jump by clearing 4-10.

The TK boys' had junior Brayden Muma win the discus with a throw of 109-7 and Derious Robinson win the long jump with a personal record leap of 18-8.75.

Steele sprints home to clinch DK win at tourney

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Delton Kellogg made quick work of the bottom of the seventh.

Delton Kellogg senior Lillie Steele led off the bottom of the seventh inning reaching on a Comstock Park error in the consolation game of the Thornapple Kellogg Invitational in Middleville Saturday. She promptly took second on a wild pitch, went to second on a sacrifice by freshman teammate Madison Muskovin, and then took off for home as a wild pitch got by the Comstock Park catcher.

Steele hesitated only momentarily after getting her initial jump off third. The ball beat her to the plate, but she slid in under the tag to give the Delton Kellogg varsity softball team a 17-16 win over the Comstock Park girls.

Delton Kellogg head coach Jesse Lyons, the team's third base coach, said the decision to take off was all Steele. He doesn't want his girls to be waiting to hear his voice in those situations.

The Delton Kellogg girls got thumped by tradition powerhouse Wayland in the opening round of the tournament, falling 23-0, then built a 16-12 lead through four innings against Comstock Park.

A walk, a single and a couple Delton errors allowed the Comstock Park girls to score three runs in the top of the sixth to get within 16-15, and then the Comstock Park team took advantage of another DK error to score the tying run in the top of the seventh inning.

The Delton Kellogg girls fought out of a bases loaded jam there though in the top of the seventh to allow just one run, creating the possibility for the quick walk-off win.

"We ended up, we made enough plays," coach Lyons said. "The biggest thing with the younger kids is now we're getting into the meat of the schedule where we are playing more than we're practicing. You can start to see a little bit of fatigue settling in. It's not going to get better, because we have games right on through the whole month of May. We were short on players today. I know next week we have prom coming up."

He said the biggest thing he sees chance when players are fatigued is that mental focus can wane defensively.

"When we're fresh we're making those routine plays non-stop," Lyons said. "With this team there is a learning curve. We have got the four freshmen, a couple sophomores and just one junior they're all still learning. I still think we're on the right path to compete well in districts to be honest with you."

DK will be all right if it hits like it did against Comstock Park. Junior Jalin Lyons at the top of the line-up was 4-for-5 with a double and three singles. She scored four times. Sophomore Olivia Post was 4-for-4 with two triples, two doubles and a walk. She scored four runs too.

Senior Paige Davis and freshman Jill Brandli were both 2-for-4 with a single and a double. Steele had a single and a triple and freshman Sophie Lebeck tripled once too, and senior Madelynn Palmer singled once.

Muskovin got the pitching victory. Palmer pitched the three-inning game against Wayland for DK, and Lyons said she actually pitched pretty well despite the final score.

The Delton Kellogg girls were back in action Monday splitting a doubleheader at Lawton. The Blue Devils took game one 12-1 and then the Panthers came back to take game two 7-5.

Jalin Lyons was 3-for-4 with two runs and two RBIs in the game two win.

The Delton Kellogg girls are scheduled to go to Watervliet for two today, May 8. They will be a part of a tournament at Lakewood Saturday – taking on Lakewood and Central Montcalm. The Panthers go to Galesburg-Augusta for a Southwestern Athletic Conference Central Division doubleheader Tuesday, May 13.



Freshman Madison Muskovin pitches for Delton Kellogg during its win over Comstock Park in the consolation game at the Thornapple Kellogg Invitational Saturday in Middleville. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

TK ladies still undefeated in OK Gold soccer contests

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Thornapple Kellogg varsity girls' soccer team bumped its OK Gold Conference record to 6-0-2 with a 5-0 win over visiting Wayland Monday.

The Trojans are now half a game back of conference leading South Christian in the standings because of a 1-1 draw with West Catholic last Wednesday, April 30. The Sailors were 7-0-1 in conference play following a 4-0 win over Union Monday in Grand Rapids.

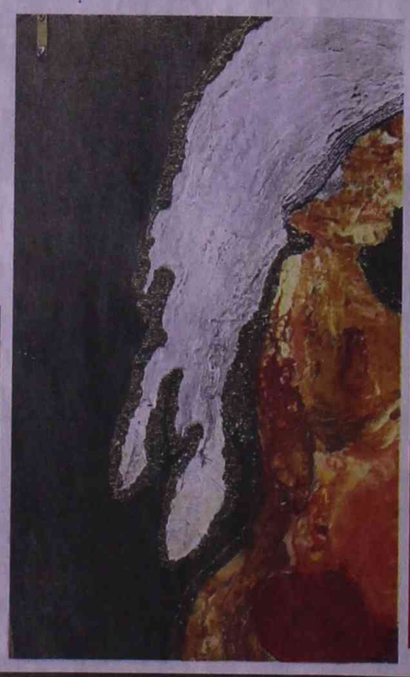
The Thornapple Kellogg girls were set to visit Wyoming Wednesday, May 7, and will be back at it in the league Monday at home taking on Grand Rapids Northview.

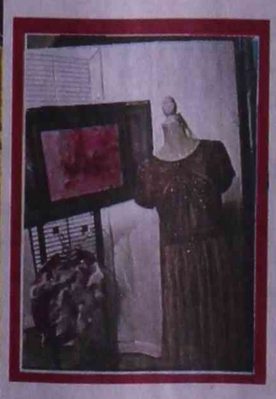
The TK ladies went into the match with Wyoming sporting an 8-2-2 overall record.




Storage Pod is being converted to hold art event, kids want home privacy so if you failed to do kegels as I did you might want to come empty bladder yet open heart and eyes as Mjolinar the Mom is going to battle as a provider, once long time housewife is now from **Rags to Ragnarok Art Studio 269-666-1348**


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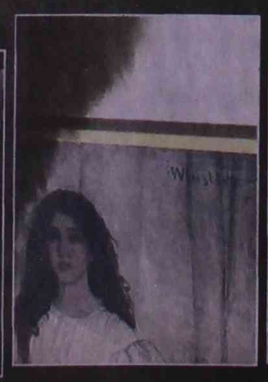
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James Whistler print of my old look way days.



A more formal open house is hoped for the end of June, honor my biggest supporter my art patron Harland R. Fish (June 30th 1940 to Dec. 7 2024) He was. Now he's gone. Cancer stole their dad and I"m taking him back my way.






Jensen wins invite with a couple late birdies

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Sure, a lot of practice helps, but one good way to improve putting is just to put the ball closer to the hole in the first place.

Saxon junior Daniel Jensen hit an eight iron with a little draw from the tee box up the hill on the par-3 number 18 at The Legacy at Hastings Friday during the Hastings Invitational.

"Apparently it hit near the hole and I had ten feet left for birdie," Jensen said. "That felt nice, especially after a double on 15. It felt nice."

Jensen was one over through his first 12 holes Friday before that double bogie on number 15, one of the toughest holes on the course, but he bounced back with a birdie on the short, par-5 number 17 and then another on that par-3 18. He said despite playing a lot of rounds at The Legacy, he can't remember the last time he birdied 18 and it certainly isn't something he has done often. He was the only one to birdie 18 Friday.

Jensen closed his round with a two-over-74 to win the day's individual championship at the nine-team tournament.

Ionia won the day's team championship with an overall score of 324. Hastings was second at 350 ahead of Lakewood 353, Thornapple Kellogg 358, Battle Creek Lakeview 367, Lowell 367m Pennfield 385, Potter's House Christian 392 and Lowell 'B' 404.

"It's okay," Jensen said of a 74. "I could have played better, but I am happy with that.

"I could have putted a lot better. I left some birdies out there," he added.

He said his driver and irons were pretty strong Friday, and he had a couple especially nice, long drives on five and ten during his round. He said the greens at The Legacy are getting better and better all the time as they wake up from their winter slumber, and he's doing his best to improve on and around them.

"I definitely get on the short range and practice chipping, and putting I come out a lot of times at night when the course is empty and just practice green speeds and reading putts. Just playing a lot too," Jensen said of those efforts to get better around the greens.

That's always a place to make up strokes. Lakewood head coach Jason Solgat said he's really working to get his guys better at the short-game too.

"We just can't get out of the gates. We're like in a bad horse race. We start off last and we're chasing ourselves through the round, and it has been like that all year. We have been finishing top three in everything we've finished in. That has been our M.O., but if you look at our scores we can't get out of the gates. Really going in on chipping and putting, because that is where we're gaining strokes. Guys tell me they're four putts, and I'm like, 'we don't do that around here.'

"Another thing here, three strokes out of second or so, and I know a kid that started with a quad and I know a kid that started with a double bogie. After three holes of golf, we were +12 already. I'd rather see that mid-round or not at all. We've got to learn just to come out of the gates … when we start playing to our potential we're going to be good."

He thinks his team still has a good shot at chasing down the league leaders from Lansing Catholic and Charlotte in the Capital Area Activities Conference White Division this spring. Ionia is also a CAAC White member, and Solgat said the Bulldogs shot the best on Friday he's seen them shoot all season.



Hastings junior Daniel Jensen fires his tee shot up onto the green on the par-3 number 18 Friday during the Hastings Invitational. Jensen was the only player in the field to birdie 18 and he finished as the day's individual champion.
Photos by Brett Bremer



Hastings senior Hunter Pennington shoots his ball towards the green on number 16 Friday during the Hastings Invitational at The Legacy.

Ionia had four guys among the top seven scorers led by freshmen Bryce Schmid and Carson Schmid. Bryce shot a 76 to finish second individually behind Jensen. Carson shot a 78.

Lakewood was led by senior Cole Thrun who was third individually with a 77.

Solgat said strong putting and improved tempo up and down the fairways helped Thrun put together a good score.

"Not quick back, quick through," Solgat said Thrun's swing mechanics. "Cole used to have this thing where he would go back and then pause and then come through. Lately Cole is quick back, quick through. Today Cole was we'll get back and we'll get through at just a nice medium pace. Golf is a contact sport, but how good of contact you can make and not how hard you can hit the ball … He was putting well. I saw him come off nine here where he dropped a birdie putt. I asked him how he was doing and he said, 'my putter is hot." I said, looks like it. He's been pretty consistent."

Lakewood sophomore Bryson Boucher shot an 87 to finish in a tie for seventh with Thornapple Kellogg sophomore Parker Dahley and Ionia junior Cole Petersen. The tournament champs from Ionia also had junior Adam Kramer in fifth place with an 83.

Hastings freshman Andrew Barton finished in a tie for tenth overall with an 89. The Saxons also got a 92 from junior Bronson Elliott and a 95 from senior Hunter Pennington.

Lakewood's top four was filled out by a 93 from senior Kenny Dutkiewicz and a 96 from sophomore Vance O'Mara.

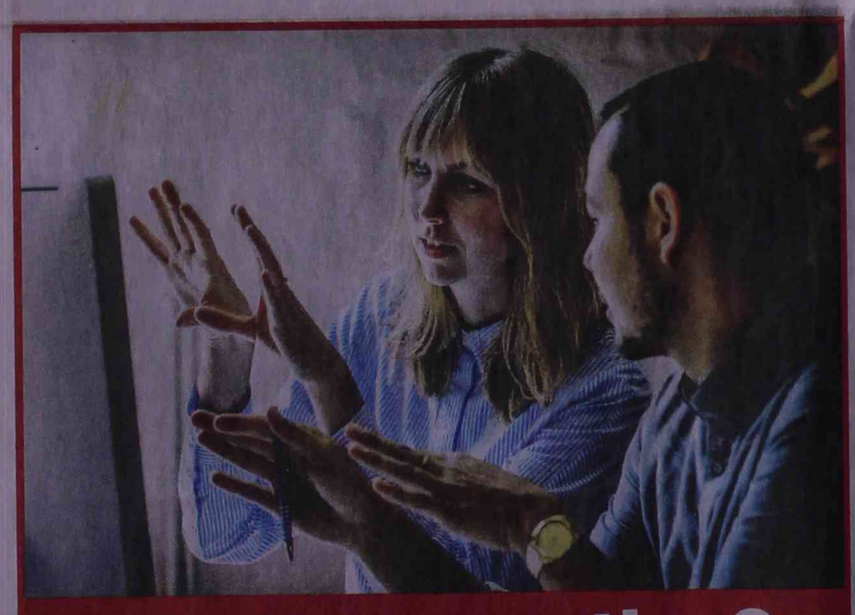
Thornapple Kellogg got a 90 from senior Owen Corner, a 90 from senior Kylan Pratt and a 91 from senior Ryan Skidmore.

The Saxons took part in the Laingsburg Wolfpack Open stroke play event at Pine Hills Golf Course Saturday and placed eighth in a field of 14 teams. Hastings was back in action Monday at the Battle Creek Lakeview Invite Monday at Cedar Creek Golf Course and placed ninth in a 15-team field.

Jensen was fourth in Battle Creek Monday with an even-par-72. Elliott shot an 84 for the Saxons, Barton an 89 and Pennington a 91. The Saxons had an overall score of 336. Portage Central won the day's event on a tiebreaker over Jackson Northwest after both teams had their top four record an overall score of 297. Marshall was third with a 299.



Lakewood senior Cole Thrun lines up a putt on number nine at The Legacy at Hastings Friday during the Hastings Invitational. Thrun led the Viking team to a third-place finish.



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