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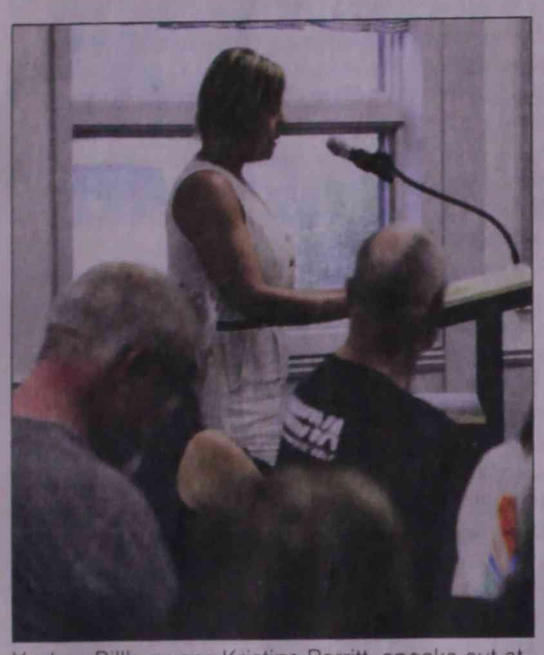
VOL. 170, NO. 56

THE HASTINGS BANNER

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF BARRY COUNTY SINCE 1856

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Yankee Bill's owners receive OK to start rebuild after heated Rutland meetings



Yankee Bill's owner, Kristina Porritt, speaks out at Wednesday, May 14's Rutland Township Board meeting. **Photos by Molly Macleod**

Molly Macleod
Editor

The owners of Yankee Bill's Wood-Fired Saloon are moving forward with their rebuild of the restaurant after the Rutland Township Zoning Board of Appeals granted a variance last week, allowing the owners to proceed with a 10-foot setback from any property located outside of the mixed-use district.

The variance was granted on a 4-1 vote, with ZBA member Eric Miller voting in dissent. ZBA members Larry Haywood, Robin Hawthorne, Jim James and Carl Lickley voted in favor of the variance.

With the variance granted, Yankee Bill's owners Todd and Kristina Porritt can now proceed with the rebuild of the restaurant, which burned down Dec. 23, 2024.

The variance allows for a 10-foot setback between the already-poured parking lot and neighboring property lines, instead of the usual 30-foot setback required by ordinance. Additionally, Yankee Bill's owners were instructed to construct a 6-foot stockade fence, along with planting nine deciduous trees along the property line.

The planning commission approved the Yankee Bill's site plan review with the condition of a 30-foot setback on the parking lot's south side on April 2. The Porritts expressed concern with that ruling, as it would require them to remove 24 percent, or 23 of 98 spaces, of their already-poured parking lot. Last week's variance overrides that condition, allowing the owners to move forward with construction.

Thursday, May 15's ZBA meeting came on the heels of a heated township board meeting the night before, with several citizens speaking during the public comment portion in favor of the Porritts being granted a variance. The next day's ZBA meeting saw more public comment from residents in support of the Porritts, with locals speaking out for well over an hour.

Much of the public comment over the two days of meetings reflected that both the Porritts and residents feel government officials at Rutland Township have made the rebuilding process unnecessarily difficult and drawn-out.

"On December 23, two days before Christmas, our business was destroyed by fire. But our nightmare didn't end there — it was only the beginning," said Kristina Porritt during public

See **REBUILD** on 4

One last recess



Last Thursday marked the final day of school for seniors at Hastings High School. As part of the day's farewell traditions, students took a nostalgic walk through their former elementary schools. Here, a group of seniors revisits their childhood at Star Elementary, sharing one last moment on the swings. Hastings High School's graduation ceremony is scheduled for tonight, May 22, and will be held indoors in the school gymnasium. Look to next week's edition for further coverage. **Photo courtesy of Hastings Area School System**

Court hearings held for two of four murder suspects in Pennington case



Bradley Earl Lance



Jenelle Marie Mello

Two of the four individuals facing charges linked to the alleged murder of a 42-year-old Nashville resident, who was originally reported missing in December 2024, were back in an Eaton County district courtroom this week, as further details of the case also emerged in regional news reports.

Bradley Earl Lance, 25 of Lansing, and 46-year-old Jenelle Marie Mello of Nashville stood before Judge Reid Felsing during probable cause hearings Monday, May 19, in Eaton County's District Court 56A in Charlotte.

Lance and Mello, as well as 47-year-old Nashville resident Lucas Gaylord Forquer and 40-year-old William Chaney of Vermontville, face various felony charges in the death of Gregory Brian Pennington, 42, of Nashville.

According to the Eaton County Sheriff's Office officials, Pennington was considered to be the victim of "foul play" after deputies responded to a report of an abandoned vehicle on the 4000 block of Michigan Road in Vermontville on Dec. 11. The vehicle was later

See **MURDER** on 4

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SETBACKS CAN'T KEEP SAXON TRIO FROM REGIONAL SUCCESS
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Residents cleaning up after storms shake West Michigan



On Saturday, after the tornado touched down on Thursday, an uprooted tree on Wildwood Road in Orangeville Township blocked over half the driveway in front of the white garage.

Karen Turko Ebright
Staff Writer

After storms and tornadoes rocked Michigan on Thursday, May 15, many suffered power outages, tree damage, uprooted trees, downed powerlines, roof damage and so much more. Near home, the National Weather Service (NWS) in Grand Rapids confirmed an EF1 tornado touched down in Barry County near Heron Pointe. The tornado had estimated winds around 100 miles per hour and stayed on the ground for 6.75 miles.

The tornado crossed the southernmost part of Gun Lake and moved northeast near Otis Sanctuary. Damage included several trees down and homes with minor roof damage. Several docks in Gun Lake saw damage as well. Residents in Orangeville Township are cleaning up this week after they were hit particularly hard by the storms.

NWS confirmed 11 twisters touched down in Michigan from last week's line of storms.



Branches toppled onto the road in front of this house on 9th Street between Orangeville Tavern and Martin Township.

New restaurant coming to Delton; renovations on old medical building underway



This rendering gives a picture of a new restaurant coming soon to Delton. **Courtesy image**

Karen Turko-Ebright
Staff Writer

After their restaurant, Yankee Bill's Wood-Fired Saloon in Hastings, burnt to the ground last year, two days before Christmas, Todd and Kristina Porritt are finally looking forward to blue skies ahead.

"Well, now that we've got a variance, we're rebuilding in Hastings in Rutland Township, same location," Todd Porritt explained.

The Porritts also have a special use permit to build a second location in Delton in an unoccupied medical building at 11320 M-43 Highway. Work tearing down the interior of the old structure started on Monday. Porritt said he and his wife, Kristina, are looking forward to returning to work after waiting four-and-a-half months to start.

"We are demoing about 60 or more little medical exam rooms, a sink and making it one big room instead of a chopped-up doctor's office, Porritt said. He said the building is "perfect." The inside still needs major renovations.

"It's your standard doctor's office with exam rooms, x-ray rooms, and bathrooms scattered all over the place. You don't have that in a restaurant, just a men's and a women's in one location instead of scattered all over," Porritt said. "We're getting rid of everything except the four outside walls. It's a lot of work, but we'll make it happen."

Barry County Planner Jeff Keesler said Delton will have a business to attract a crowd.

"This is an exciting opportunity to add more food and event options in Delton," Keesler said. "This property was underutilized, and it can now add activity for residents who wish to dine and have the chance to hear live music."

Owners plan to give Delton customers the same hospitality that hungry crowds enjoyed at the original Yankee Bill's in Hastings.

"It will be Yankee Bill's," Porritt said, adding that the name will differ. "We have lots of smoked meats. We smoke all the meat in-house. We have wood-fired pizza. Lots of specials and 12 Michigan-made beers on tap."

The Porritts are working on turning the old medical building into a restaurant as quickly as possible.

"We were all approved, and we'll go from there. We're not far enough to have a timeline yet," Poritt said. "My builder is focusing on getting the Rutland one done first, then he'll move down here."

Since the demo started at the beginning of the week, work will be ongoing for a while.

"We're taking it down to the studs and the four walls and making it one big room and fixing the plumbing and the floor, redoing the wiring to suit our kitchen, and putting it back together," Porritt said.

He said that rebuilding the Yankee Bill's in its original location, Rutland Township, will come first. The builder will concentrate on the second location of the new restaurant in Delton, which has not been named yet, but will be like the original restaurant. He has a bigger plan for the Delton location, including an addition after the restaurant is built.

"Right now, we have roughly 7,000 square feet. We got approval to put another 3,500 on that would be the banquet portion of the facility," Porritt explained. "The addition will be for weddings, class reunions; we got our outdoor music permit."

There will be live entertainment outside, including concerts.

"We're just getting started, and when we know how things are going, we'll have a better time frame. We look forward to serving the public in Delton."

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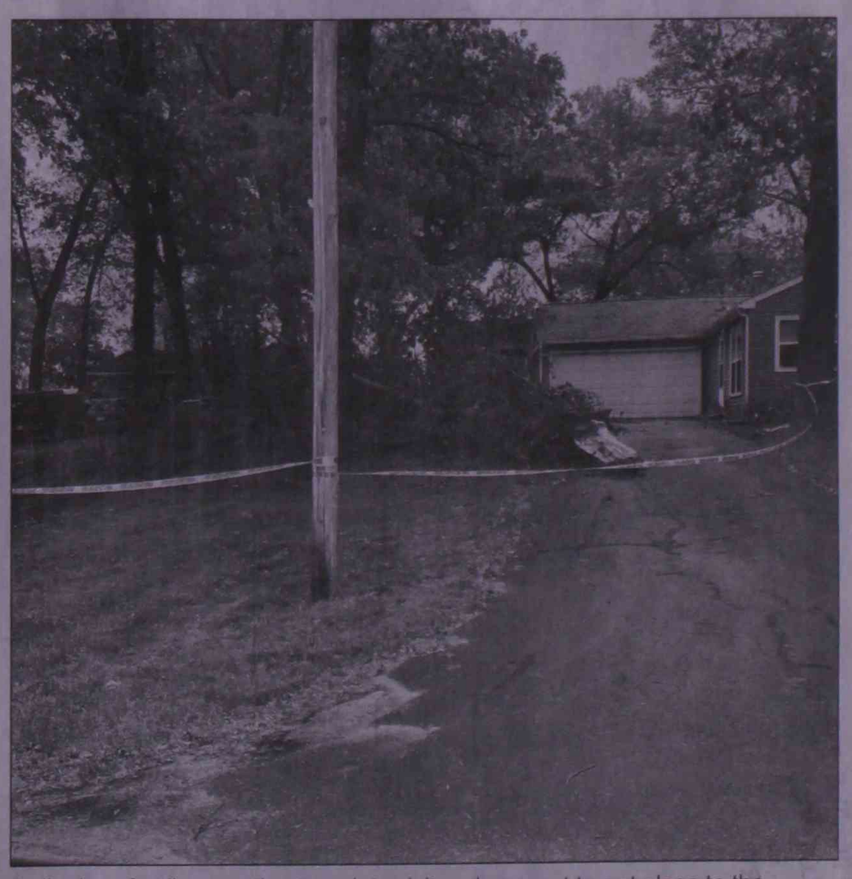
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This tree was obliterated and gutted on 9th Street in Orangeville Township. **Courtesy photos**



A display of yellow caution tape lets visitors know not to get close to the tangled branches on this driveway in front of the white garage.

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Postmaster: Send address changes to:
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1351 N M-43 Hwy., Hastings, MI 49058

NEWSPAPER RATES
Mailed periodicals postage paid at Hastings, MI 49058 and additional offices. Published Thursday.
Barry County ..... $78/yr. or $14/mo
Adjoining Counties ..... $85/yr.
Elsewhere in Michigan ..... $90/yr.
Elsewhere in U.S. ..... $90/yr.
Single Copy $1.50

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TangleTown rebuild design revealed at 'Spring Fling at Bob King'



Volunteers stand next to the design for the new-and-improved TangleTown play structure at Bob King Park in Hastings. The new structure will be mostly wheelchair accessible, featuring a three-tiered castle structure, a sensory area and much more. **Photos by Sam Cale**



Hastings' own Stormy the Magician was present for Saturday's festivities at the "Spring Fling at Bob King" event. Here he is making a balloon creation for a young partygoer.

Molly Macleod
Editor

Area residents can now review plans for a proposed reconstruction of the TangleTown playground structure at Bob King Park in Hastings. The designs for the new playground were revealed at Saturday, May 17's "Spring Fling at Bob King" event.

Frequenters of TangleTown may notice that the designs reflect a similar blueprint to the original structure. In fact, organizers are working with the same company that designed the original TangleTown — Playgrounds by Leathers.

"A lot of feedback that we got from the survey is that people love what's there now. They love the wooden look, they like the size of it, they like that their kids walk in and go 'wow,' there's so many different things," said Hastings City Manager Sarah Moyer-Cale.

The new design is an improvement on the original structure, featuring a three-tier castle structure with netting, bridges and wheelchair ramps.

The playground is completely wheelchair accessible, with the exception of the netting in the castle structure.

Recycled plastic will be used in place of wood in the rebuild.

"Nobody really builds wood playgrounds anymore because they are difficult to maintain, wood's so much more expensive now," Moyer-Cale explained.

"It's still going to have a natural look — we're keeping natural colors, browns and greens," she said.

Other features include a sensory area for kids sensitive to sounds and textures, musical and noise-making equipment and a new toddler playground area within view of the larger playground structure. Additionally, swings, metal ziplines and a jungle gym will be installed as part of the project.

The original TangleTown was built in late May 1997, using the labor of about 2,000 local volunteers who worked on the project over a five-day period. However, the play area has become worn over time, with pieces of wood from the structure splintering off.

The Hastings City Council approved in October the appointment of a 12-member steering committee that will work on the design and reconstruction of the TangleTown play area. The committee is also committed to making the new TangleTown universally accessible for all kids, no matter what age or ability, Moyer-Cale said.

Much like the original TangleTown, the rebuild will employ volunteer labor to get the job done — spelling a significant savings in project costs.

"It's a community-led project, so there's no labor costs. A project manager will come and tell everybody what to do, but it's a huge savings by having the community help. Lots of people want to volunteer — we've had really good feedback," Moyer-Cale said.

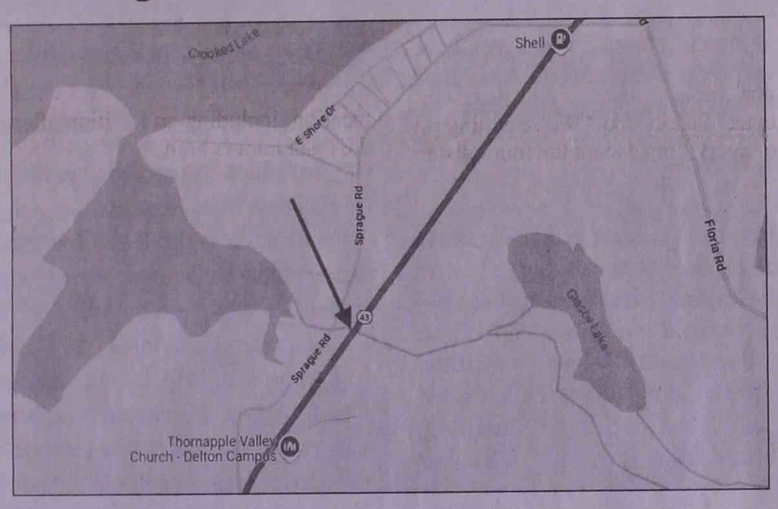
Moyer-Cale said the project is projected to cost roughly $900,000 as it stands right now.

The city has put $250,000 toward the project, primarily from the sale of a city-owned home and property next to Fish Hatchery Park. The steering committee is looking to raise roughly $700,000 to complete the project.

Those interested in donating to the project can do so by contributing directly to the Barry Community Foundation's TangleTown Rebuild Fund at barrycf.org/funds/tangletown-fundraising-commitee. Donations to the fund can also be made by sending a check to Barry Community Foundation, 231 S. Broadway St., Hastings, MI 49058, with the name of the fund in the check memo line. Additionally, residents can support the project by ordering a new – or reclaiming an old – custom picket for the fence at formsbcf.org/view.php?id=113321.

Volunteers are always welcome. Those interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities can visit TangleTownPlayground.org.

Section of M-43 set to be closed during summer months



A map indicates the location of an upcoming Michigan Department of Transportation project to replace the aging Watson Drain culvert under Sprague Road and M-43, about three-quarters of a mile north of Osborne Road. **Map courtesy of MDOT**

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

State and local officials are warning motorists traveling M-43 south of Delton to prepare for detours this summer, as portions of the roadway are slated to be closed to allow for the replacement of an aging culvert.

According to Michigan Department of Transportation officials, the upcoming effort will replace the Watson Drain culvert under Sprague Road and M-43, about three-quarters of a mile north of Osborne Road.

The MDOT media representative for the Grand Region, John Richard, said access will be maintained to the north and south of the culvert, though through-traffic will be detoured at Milo Road and Delton Road.

Jim Dull, Barry County drain commissioner, said the concrete culvert being replaced possibly dates back to the 1920s, adding the most recent efforts to reinforce the structure occurred about 30-40 years ago when a steel culvert was "jammed in there" to allow for the roadway to be widened.

"The culvert is old and obstructed," he said. "It's an old concrete box, possibly hand-poured.

"It has settled, started to fall down."

According to Dull, original estimates to replace the aging culvert were for $1.3 million with the project to be funded by MDOT. While efforts to replace the structure started in 2017-18, he added that plans for a new 7-foot wide, 6-foot tall concrete culvert were agreed upon last fall.

"It took us a while to put together the plan," Dull said. "It's a very complicated process."

One factor that reportedly complicated the process was that the area is considered to have one of the highest mortality rates for turtles in Michigan. That led to officials incorporating a turtle crossing as part of the project.

"Turtles will not swim through a culvert," Dull added.

The project was set to get underway just after the Memorial Day holiday. But, Dull said that was pushed back until after the end of the 2024-25 school year so that buses could continue using normal routes. That should not delay the project, however, and Dull said the target date for "substantial completion" of the project is still July 27, with MDOT set to continue with road improvements and resurfacing through the month of August.

"We'll get it done," Dull said. "We've got a top-notch crew. That's what we do."

The culvert replacement might be one of the more inconvenient projects in Barry County this summer.

Barry County Road Commission manager Jake Welch said the local department alternates its focus on gravel roads and more aggressive projects, such as resurfacing or chip-and-seal projects, in an effort to provide more efficient and cost-effective service. This year, the focus will be on gravel roads.

"Next year will be a much larger year," Welch said.

However, he added that better-than-expected bids on a pair of resurfacing efforts – for a section of McCann Road in Irving Township and another along Briggs Road in the Yankee Springs area – have moved the dates for those projects up on the BCRC's 2025 schedule.

"Those will be completed this year," he said. "And it will help lighten the load for next year."

According to Welch, the projects will not result in any road closures and a lane of traffic will be maintained while the work is completed.



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What comes after, 'I do?'

Marriage is more than a ceremony — it's a union of families and finances. When you and your partner are honest with each other about money and financial goals, it can help build trust, leverage your strengths and help pave the way for a financial happily ever after.

Since talking about money can be difficult, begin with conversations not so much about money itself but about the things that matter to you. You'll find these are also your financial priorities and a good way to see if you're on the same page, or how far apart you might be.

Here are a few conversation starters.

• ***Make a list of short- and long-term goals*** — from buying a house to retiring early. Do you want children? Will one of you change careers or go back to school? See where your lists overlap and where some goals may be more important to one partner.

• ***Ease into the financial implications***. If you plan to grow your family, would one of you like to stop working or reduce your hours to provide child care? If more schooling is a priority, what kinds of changes might that require?

• ***Share your feelings about money***. How did your family treat money while you were growing up? What does money mean to you — security, freedom, stress or something else? Are you both spenders or savers, or is there one of each?

Before your big day, or early in your marriage, decide how you'll blend your financial lives.

• ***Fully disclose your current financial situation***. Discuss each partner's assets and debts and how, or if, you'll combine them. There's no one right answer — the key is for you both to agree. In nine community property states, all assets and debts are shared 50/50 after marriage regardless of individual or joint account status. Check to see whether yours is one of them.

• ***Align on your budget and spendin***g. This can empower you to spend within your means while moving toward your financial goals.

• ***Determine who will handle the various tasks of managing money***. Who is responsible for which bills, who files the taxes and when will you consult each other on financial decisions like major purchases — a car, perhaps, or a major household appliance?

Once you're married, there are a few things to address right away. You may want to consult with financial, tax and legal professionals to help avoid pitfalls and identify opportunities.

• ***Employer benefits***. Newly married employees usually have a 30-day special enrollment period to update certain benefit elections — such as health and life insurance.

• ***Taxes.*** Adjust the W-4 tax withholding on your employee forms to reflect your marital status and ask your tax professional which tax-filing status makes sense for you.

• ***Insurance policies***. Combine and update policies and beneficiaries, including adding each other to auto insurance policies if you drive each other's cars.

• ***Estate documents***. Now with a family, prepare for the unexpected. Create or update a will, medical directive, and financial and health care powers of attorney, and you may want to explore whether a revocable trust is appropriate.

Getting married is perhaps one of the most exciting times of your life. As you commit to a lifetime together, make sure that includes a financial commitment. By starting a habit of financial discussions now and returning to them periodically, you can help set yourselves up for a lifetime of financial compatibility, stability and freedom.

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

DO YOU **REMEMBER?**



ANGRY BIRD

— BANNER MAY 19, 2016 —

A thin black eye mask on a male tree swallow gives the bird an intense look. The eyes hone in on flying insects, and the aerodynamic body maneuvers acrobatically through the air to catch the fast-moving food. **File photo by Kathy Maurer**

Leadership Barry County graduates Class of 2025



Leadership Barry County welcomed its newest cohort across the graduation stage this week. This year's class featured 15 graduates from across Barry County. Established in 1990 by the Barry Community Foundation, Leadership Barry County offers established and emerging leaders in the area the opportunity to develop their skills and learn from their peers. Over 600 individuals have graduated from the program since its genesis. The 2025 graduating class is pictured here. The photo includes (front row, from left) Cathy Anthofer-Fialon, Chloe Yates, Michelle Hart, Kelly Gale, Katie Gould, Duska Brumm, (back row) Meghan Skidmore, Darnell Pacillo, Steve Hester, Brian (BJ) Donnini, Evan Liu, Will Nathan, Emma Sullivan and Makenzi Peters. Missing from the photo is fellow graduate Scott Schantz. **Photo by Molly Macleod**

'Concert in the Hayfield' returns next week



The annual Concert in the Hayfield is returning next week, May 29, at 5:30 p.m. The concert, aptly named, takes place in a hayfield at 2704 N. Charlton Park Road in Hastings. **File photo**

Molly Macleod
Editor

The annual Concert in the Hayfield is returning next week.

The Hastings Band Boosters fundraiser is set to make its return at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 29 at 2704 N. Charlton Park Road. Doors open at 5 p.m. Hosted by alumni band parents Louis and Mary Wierenga, the long-running fundraiser will serve as a kick-off for summer.

Attendees can enjoy a live performance from the Hastings band and enjoy fresh-grilled hamburgers, hotdogs, concessions and ice cream. A silent auction will be held with proceeds benefitting the Hastings Band Boosters.

The event is scheduled to take place rain or shine. In the case of rain or inclement weather, the event will be moved to the Hastings Performing Arts Center.

First hosted in 2013, the event quickly became beloved by community members both for its cause and unique location — audience members gather in a hayfield at the Wierenga's farm to hear the band play. The concert has been an annual event, with the exception of a three-year hiatus during the COVID-19 pandemic.

MURDER

Continued from Page 1

determined to belong to Pennington.

Officials reportedly discovered Pennington's body on April 29 on a parcel off of Allegan Road in Chester Township.

In an updated story posted May 14, WILX-10 in Lansing reported on the transcripts of sheriff detectives in court on how officials believe the incident occurred.

According to the news report, Chaney and Forquer were living in separate campers on property in Chester Township at the time of the alleged murder. Pennington reportedly visited the site on Nov. 11, 2024, with Mello to check on vehicles that were being worked on by Chaney.

The report stated that Mello allegedly told Chaney and his girlfriend that Pennington had been overmedicating and sexually assaulting her in her sleep, but that Mello didn't want police involved.

According to the WILX-10 report on the court transcripts, Chaney then summoned Pennington to a camper where he was interrogated and assaulted over "multiple" days, reportedly with the help of Lance, Mello and Forquer. ECSO investigators reportedly stated that the victim was forced to kneel on rice, was allegedly beaten, shot in the foot and had his foot stomped on, as well as being forced to sign over the titles to his truck and camper.

Pennington reportedly called his father on Nov. 14, 2024, requesting money for the title and the title to his truck, with Mello allegedly texting Pennington's father that his son had gotten "in a pickle" and asked about the title.

When Pennington's father was unable to comply with the requests, Lance allegedly shot Pennington in the head. The other suspects then fled, as Lance reportedly disposed of Pennington's body, sheriff detectives reportedly stated in the court documents.

After his arrest, Lance was arraigned on several felony charges, including one count of second-degree murder, one count of torture, one count of felony firearm and one count of removing a dead body without medical examiner permission.

Also, Forquer, Chaney and Mello were charged with one felony count of torture.

Chris Anderson, chief assistant prosecuting attorney for the Eaton County Prosecutor's Office, said Lance and Mello will be back in district court in Charlotte for preliminary hearings set for Aug. 1, with Chaney's next court appearance set for June 2.

Anderson added that Forquer was also scheduled for a probable cause hearing Monday but that the hearing was adjourned and rescheduled for a later date.

Anderson said he could not comment on the case further or the news report by WILX-10.

"It's still an ongoing investigation," he added.

Report compiled by staff writer Dennis Mansfield.

REBUILD

Continued from Page 1

comment on Wednesday. "We were dragged through a lot of deception, manipulation and outright abuse of power by Rutland Township. This isn't just about me. It's about a pattern — a pattern of how the township operates, not just against us, but against anyone who dares to do business there."

Several residents called for the resignation of township board members, including Supervisor Marti Mayack, for their handling of the situation.

Mayack opened Wednesday's meeting by expressing some of his feelings on the situation. He said he supported Yankee Bill's and their rebuild, but said there are rules the township government must abide by.

"The government is a frustrating place to work, it's a frustrating place to deal with. There are lots of stuff that comes from the state that we have to deal with; there's a lot of stuff in our ordinances that we have to deal with, and they can definitely be very frustrating. So there's ways to get through things, and there's ways to work around these things, and that's what we usually try to do here," said Mayack. "For the most part, we try to find the best avenue to take. A lot of times, we're tied with the state and things that we just can't overcome."

Todd Porritt played a recording of a private meeting he had with Mayack on April 30 during Wednesday's public comment. In the recording, Mayack reportedly tries to strike a deal with the Porritts, encouraging them to submit a site plan that complies with the setback ordinance.

"If we just come in and say 'Yep, I'm going to cut this parking lot off to wherever you guys want,' put it in that print and send it in, that will get you out of the zoning board and you can start building tomorrow. And then if this parking lot never leaves here, I don't care. Does that make sense? I'm the only one who can file complaints if anyone complains. And you tell me who is going to complain? Nobody. There's only one person who'll complain — and she's sitting at the township," Mayack reportedly says in the recording.

ZBA members debated for several minutes on Thursday whether the Yankee Bill's property fit the requirements for a variance.

"I think there is an exceptional condition to move forward on Step 1 with how the property line, what has determined it, set as an easement from where the existing driveway is and the porous property line of Yankee Bill's," said James on Thursday. "… I think that there is a case for an exceptional condition for this the way that it's laid out."

Immediately after the vote was taken and the variance granted, the meeting adjourned.



Residents and supporters of Yankee Bill's Wood-Fired Saloon pack the Rutland Township Hall at the May 14 township board meeting.



Todd Porritt, owner of Yankee Bill's, plays a recording of a conversation he allegedly had with Rutland Supervisor Marti Mayack at Wednesday, May 14's Rutland Township Board meeting.

Visit us online at www.HastingsBanner.com

Hastings community comes together for a week of senior send-offs

At Hastings Area School System, graduating is a big deal.

When students reach that finish line in their educational careers, the entire community is seemingly waiting there to applaud them.

This is evident in the various ceremonies and festivities held during the final school days for high school seniors. The school and its leaders might coordinate them, but the greater Hastings community chips in to make them special.

Nowhere is that more apparent than on Decision Day, a special morning ceremony for graduating seniors that is held on their final day of school, which was last Thursday. This event allows students to announce their post-high school plans and allows parents, teachers, staff, and the rest of the community to give them a literal round of applause as they head off into the next phase of their lives.

One aspect of Decision Day that livens the graduating class is the table filled with prizes that are handed out via a big giveaway. These items range from gift cards to restaurants and stores to car wash kits, mini refrigerators, and even a television set.

Students can consider these prizes as gifts from the community. A host of local businesses and community members come together to make this huge giveaway happen. Some of those contributions include:

— King's Appliance donated two mini-fridges.

— Tractor Supply and Wolverine International both donated work boots.

— Jimmy John's donated certificates for free sandwiches.

— Culver's donated a gift basket.

— Parents and friends of the high school donated money through DonorsChoose for the school to purchase other prizes such as a TV, microwave, laundry package, backpacks with school supplies, and commuter supplies.

This same outpouring of both moral and material support was offered to seniors as they approached graduation, too, in the form of the FAFSA incentive program. The school's counseling department developed and built out a program that entered students into prize drawings when they completed their FAFSA paperwork, which is an important step in the college enrollment process for most.



Decision Day, which was held last Thursday, allows students to announce their post-high school plans while participating in giveaways for prizes donated by the community.

The Hastings Education Enrichment Foundation, which pools generous donations from around the community year-round to support students, also chips in to make the seniors' final days special. This year, they footed the bill for transportation so that seniors could visit their elementary schools one last time before they graduate. Seniors were greeted by younger Saxons who cheered them on.

Report courtesy of Hastings Area School System



Hastings High School seniors parade through Hastings Middle School last Thursday to tour their former school buildings one last time. **Photos courtesy of Hastings Area School System**

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Hastings Area School System honors retiring staff, faculty



Hastings High School Principal Teresa Heide hugs long-time English teacher Laura Kingma during a ceremony this week held at the Hastings Performing Arts Center. Kingma is retiring after serving for 41 years. **Photo courtesy of Hastings Area School System**

Tuesday's event at the Hastings Performing Arts Center lasted just over an hour — but it could have gone on all evening.

After all, recounting stories tied to over 300 combined years of teaching and serving students is not necessarily a brief exercise.

The ceremony was a heartfelt and bittersweet occasion as Hastings Area School System leaders came together to celebrate the careers of retiring staff members. These were individuals that served in roles ranging from food service and paraprofessionals to teachers.

This year, 17 members of our staff will be calling it quits, combining for hundreds of years of service to the community and its students.

In recognition of their contributions, each retiree received a copy of "The World According to Mister Rogers," and a donation was made in their name to the Hastings Education Enrichment Foundation. They also received a framed proclamation that honored their years of hard work and service.

Those who will be heading into retirement include:

Elizabeth Adams — young kindergarten teacher, 27 years; Cheryl Brown — STEM teacher, 36 years; Roseann Givens — food service, 2 years; Cheryl Goggins — English teacher, 31 years; Andrew Haines — social studies teacher, 25.5 years; Pamala Hammond — paraprofessional, 17 years; Melinda Heaton — counselor, 21 years; Lynette Kaiser — paraprofessional, 14 years; Laura Kingma — English teacher, 41 years; Jeff Mansfield — CTE teacher, 4 years; Michael McCann — social studies teacher, 25 years; Kerry Nickel — special education teacher, 13 years; Denise Schultz — third-grade teacher, 29 years; Jill Smith — fifth-grade teacher, 14 years; Connie Tossava — food service, 24 years; Jacquelyn Tolles — third-grade teacher, 10 years; Tanya Woern — paraprofessional, 24 years.

Report courtesy of Hastings Area Schools

Hastings student competes at national conference



Carter Favreau

Carter Favreau, a Business Professionals of America student at Hastings High School, recently took his skills on the road to represent his chapter at the 2025 BPA National Leadership Conference in Orlando, Fla., on May 7-11.

The event's "Capture the Moment" theme resonated with Carter, according to an announcement by school officials, as he not only competed but achieved significant personal and professional milestones.

The senior competed in the computer security event, placing 13th out of 76 qualifiers from across the country. Favreau also earned his IT specialist – network security certification, further validating his knowledge and skills in network defense and cybersecurity fundamentals.

Favreau, who is set to graduate from HHS this spring, reportedly plans to continue his education at Grand Valley State University, where he will pursue studies in information technology and cybersecurity.

His participation in the national conference was made possible by a Youth Advisory Council grant through the Barry Community Foundation.

"We are incredibly proud of Carter's performance and his commitment to excellence in the technology field," said Bob Carl, BPA advisor at HHS. "Participating at the national level and earning a certification shows he's not just preparing for the future – he's actively building it." — *DM*

HASTINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY SCHEDULE

Thursday, May 22 – Movie Memories & Milestones watches a 1954 film starring Frank Sinatra and Sterling Hayden, 5 p.m.

Friday, May 23 – Friday Story Time, 10:30 a.m.

Saturday, May 24 – Rockin' Tots, 10:30 a.m.

Monday, May 26 – Crafting Passions, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, May 27 – Baby Cafe, 10 a.m.; community mental health workers at HPL, 2 p.m.; mahjong, 5 p.m.; chess, 5 p.m.

Wednesday, May 28 – Itsy Bitsy Book Club, 10:30 a.m.; open art studio, 11:30 a.m.; tech help, 2 p.m.; acoustic jam, 5 p.m.

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

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OBITUARIES

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Robert Lewis O'Connor



Robert Lewis O'Connor, passed away on May 16, 2025, at the age of 90 in Hastings, MI. Born on August 21, 1934, in Kalamazoo, MI, Bob's life was marked by his strength of character, his athletic prowess, and his ability to form lasting friendships.

Bob is survived by his loving family, including his son, Roderick Powers; his sister, Dolores Falvo, Gloria Figel; his brother, Tom (Verna) O'Connor; and his nephews, Greg, Tony, and John Falvo, along with his niece Kelli Toohey.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Lloyd and Catherine (O'Dell) O'Connor; his brothers, Ron, Jerry "PC," Rodger, and Jim O'Connor; nieces, Stephanie and Dominique Falvo.

Bob's work ethic was as remarkable as his sporting abilities. He dedicated over 25 years to the James River Corporation in their printing department before retiring.Earlier in his career, he worked for Mr. Rollins in Jacksonville, FL, for six years. His tenacity was also evident in the ring, where he excelled as a Golden Glove boxer for three years, maintaining an undefended record.

Raised on a farm by Frank and Ethel Horn in Delton, Bob was a gifted athlete, continuing to play baseball and softball well into his 50s. His love for sports extended to the golf course, where he participated in numerous leagues, swinging clubs until his late 80s. Bob was also known for his self-sufficiency, a man who could fix almost anything with his own two hands.

Bob's daily ritual included going to Richie's Koffee Shop for coffee, where he made many lifelong friends. He cherished memories of driving down the beach in Jacksonville in his youth, a place he frequently returned to for vacations in his later years. His kind nature and respect for others earned him admiration and love from all who knew him.

Bob O'Connor will be dearly missed, not only for the life he led but for the warmth and joy he brought to others. His legacy will live on through the stories shared by friends and the lives he touched within his family and community.

Bob's family will receive friends on Thursday, May 22, 2025 from 5-7 p.m. at the Williams-Gores Funeral Home, where his funeral service will take place at 11 a.m. on Friday, May 23, 2025. Burial will take place at Rutland Township Cemetery.

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

Heather Jo Tobias-Jackson



Heather Jo Tobias-Jackson of Battle Creek MI, formerly of Hastings, MI. Passed away unexpectedly and peacefully went into the Lord's hands on May 15, 2025.

She loved planning parties so much that she left us early to plan the biggest party of her life.

She spent her entire career loving and caring for those who couldn't care for themselves. She did this in many different capacities; from in home care, to owning an AFC home for a decade.

Although she had a career of caring for those who couldn't, she made it her life's mission to care and serve those in need. She made sure that everyone was taken care of; to the point of neglecting herself because serving others brought her joy.

She enjoyed taking weekend getaways with her family and loved shopping, thrifting and going to her dad's auction sales. Having a flower garden became a way for her to unwind in the evenings after work. Not only did her flower garden bring her peace, it was also a way of bonding with her mom, brother, and sisters. Sharing pictures of the progress of the flowers was a daily thing with her family. As well as splitting up all the flowers and plants to transplant, so that we all could have the same things growing. She lived up to the meaning of her name; An evergreen flowering plant that thrives on barren lands. Jo means God is gracious, beloved, darling and sweetheart.

Family was her everything. She was the party planner for the plethora of nieces, nephews and her grandbabies. Her parties meant she could go "all out" and spoil the kids.

To know Heather was to love her. She was a perfect combination of her mother's gentle spirit and the boldness of her father. She had sooooo much determination and was met with many hard obstacles in her life, including health problems and you wouldn't know it because she pushed on.

Sadly, on her birthday this year she suffered not just one but four strokes. She pushed and worked so hard while in therapy. She had a goal to walk down the aisle at her niece's wedding without any assistance, and she accomplished just that.

Sadly, on May 15th she had a widow maker heart attack.

Heather leaves behind the love of her life, and best friend Pierre, whom she enjoyed spending time with; her children Kenneth, Shayla, Sequoyah, Avontae, and Samara and many other 'adopted' kids. (As well as her in-law kids Stephanie and Mikey). She was the precious daughter of Kendall and JoAnne Tobias, an amazing sister to Marvin (Dawn) Tobias, Sarah (Andrew) Boness, Amy (Travis) Kirby. She was Mimi to Landyn and Emmery, and she was Auntie Headjewa to Cassandra (Benton), Chloe, Jude, Reese, Zane, Kade, River, Jethro (her Spidey), Kalum, Millie, Caison, Brantley, Declan, and Briella.

And now she leaves a legacy…her life lives on through all of her loved ones. As a family we pray that sharing a very small snippet of who she was, will bless you.

The family will receive visitors on Thursday, May 22, 2025, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Daniels Funeral Home – Hastings. Also, one hour prior to the funeral service on Friday, May 23, 2025, from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Living Waters Church in Hastings.

Funeral service for Heather will be held on Friday, May 23, 2025, at 12 p.m. at the Living Waters Church, located at 1302 S. Hanover St. Hastings, MI. Guests are invited to remain at the church immediately following the service for a luncheon and time of sharing stories and memories of Heather.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Tobias family to help with funeral expenses and to go to her 12yr old daughter Sequoyah.

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

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"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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Mitchell St. Martin



Mitchell "Mitch" St. Martin passed away peacefully on Wednesday, April 23, 2025, in Hendersonville, NC.

Highlands Cremation & Funeral Care is in charge of arrangements. The full obituary can be found at www.Highlandscare.com

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SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

You may be eligible for SSI and Social Security Benefits

HILLARY HATCH
Social Security Administration

You may be able to get Supplemental Security Income (SSI) even if you already receive Social Security benefits. About 2.5 million adults and children get SSI and Social Security at the same time.

We pay Social Security benefits to workers and their eligible family members based on the worker's earnings. SSI is a needs-based program that provides payments to people with little or no income and few resources.

People younger than 65 must be blind or have a disability and meet SSI income and resource limits, while people 65 and older do not have to have a disability. About 1.4 million people 65 and older receive both SSI and Social Security.

In 2025, you may be eligible for SSI if your total income – including your Social Security benefit – is less than $987 per month (the 2025 SSI monthly federal benefit rate plus $20).

We consider income from all non-work sources, including pensions, veterans' benefits, unemployment, and Social Security disability, retirement, and survivor benefits. We also count some – but not all – earnings from work, including self-employment.

Resources are things that you own that you could change to cash and use to support yourself. They include vehicles (if you own more than one) and money in bank accounts, stocks, and bonds. We do not count your home and the land it's on, as long as you live there. To be eligible for SSI, your resources cannot be worth more than $2,000 for a single person or $3,000 for a married couple living together.

For more information, visit the blog article, "You May Be Eligible for SSI and Social Security Benefits" at blog.ssa.gov/you-may-be-eligible-for-ssi-and-social-security-benefits.

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.

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

Your friendly neighborhood grocer

DAVID MILLER
Special to The Banner

Before the advent of zoning regulations and the arrival of chain supermarkets, the city of Hastings was dotted with charming neighborhood grocery stores that served as cornerstones of their communities.

These small, family-run establishments—bearing names like Hale, Newton, Shirkey, Smith, Storrs, Rogers and Benner—offered not only everyday provisions but also a warm sense of familiarity and local pride. Their aisles were often filled with friendly conversation and the aroma of fresh goods, embodying a simpler, more personal era of commerce. Perhaps you've reminisced about these beloved stores or shared your own memories in the lively discussions on the "Hastings History" Facebook group.

Chances are, if you grew up in Hastings during those earlier days, your mother likely sent you down the block to pick up a quart of milk, a dozen eggs, or perhaps even a pack of cigarettes. While the idea of selling tobacco products to a child would be unthinkable by today's standards, times were different back then.

Leon and Rowena Hale (corner of State Road and Boltwood), like many neighborhood grocers, knew their customers by name – including the parents of the children who stopped by – and they rarely needed to ask which brand was preferred. More often than not, a kid with a quarter would have been on a mission to buy penny candy, not Camels or Lucky Strikes. That said, the readers on "Hastings History" all agreed Northside Grocery at the corner of Michigan Ave. and Grant had the best selection of candy, just to the right of the front door.

Charlie Smith had a well-worn cigar box behind the counter that held an informal but trusted safeguard: handwritten notes from parents authorizing their children to pick up cigarettes. It was a system built on neighborly trust, where a child's word—and a scribbled letter—was as good as gold.

I still vividly recall stepping into Ralph Shirkey's corner grocery store at Hanover and Clinton—an old-fashioned place with creaky wooden floors and the comforting scent of smoked meats and fresh produce. My brother and I were standing near the register, taking our time to choose from the array of candy displayed on the lower shelves, when Mr. Shirkey emerged from the back room. There was a noticeable excitement in his voice as he called out, "How would you boys like to see something?"

We hesitated for a moment. His blood-stained butcher's apron gave us pause—it hinted at something serious, perhaps even a little unsettling. But curiosity got the better of us, and we followed him through the narrow store, about 40 feet to the rear, where the butcher counter stood like a forbidden zone we had never dared to cross. To our astonishment, he motioned us behind the counter—an area strictly off-limits to customers—and swung open the heavy door of the walk-in freezer.

There, hanging just inside by their antlers, were two large bucks, freshly taken from a successful hunt. The cold air rushed out, carrying with it a mix of frost and the scent of raw venison. To our young eyes, it was equal parts fascinating and fearsome—a behind-the-scenes moment in a neighborhood store that offered far more than groceries.

If I mention the "Saxon Hut" at 326 West Madison Street—just across the athletic field, south of the old high school—I'm confident it will stir up memories for many. That humble, 700-square-foot shack of a store was far more than its modest size suggested. With its well-worn soda fountain, glass-fronted candy counter, and jukebox playing the latest hits, the Saxon Hut was a beloved hangout for generations of Hastings youth.

During the 1960s, it was run by the ever-welcoming Al and Eva Stauffer, who made every student feel like they got a free pass. But before it earned its reputation as the Saxon Hut, the same little building served the community as Sy's Market—named for and operated by Sylvester "Sy" Thomas (1895–1979), a grocer known for his steady presence and specialty cuts of meat. Whether you remember it for a frosty bottle of pop before or after school, a hurried stop before class, or simply the warmth of familiar faces, the Saxon Hut remains a cherished landmark in the hearts of many who graduated from the old high school.

If you lived in Hastings' Fourth Ward and found yourself in need of a quart of milk, a loaf of bread, or—more likely—a pocketful of candy, chances are you walked just a few short blocks to Chase's Grocery Store at 514 South Market Street. By the 1950s, it was fondly known as Chase's, owned and operated by Lyle C. Chase, but the building had a rich history that stretched back decades. From 1910 to 1940, it was Bessmer's Grocery, a well-regarded establishment run by Alberta W. Bessmer, a spirited community supporter and one of Hastings' most committed merchants. Afterward, the store changed hands and became Thomas' Super Market under the direction of Joseph Thomas.

The building itself was modest—a single-story structure with a weathered wooden porch that seemed never to have known a coat of paint. It stood humbly amid its quiet residential surroundings, its door always swinging open to welcome a steady stream of neighborhood children and housewives. By the mid-1960s, however, the store had closed its doors for good, and not long after, it was torn down. Though the building is long gone, for many it remains a vivid memory—a small but vital part of daily life in a tight-knit corner of Hastings.



Storrs Neighborhood Grocery (1946-1955) was located at 330 W. Mill Street in Hastings. Courtesy photos

If you happened to live in Hastings' Second Ward, chances are you often found yourself at 802 East Grand Street—a sturdy frame structure built in 1873 and, for much of its life, a familiar gathering spot known as Mead's Grocery. From 1920 to 1950, the store was operated by James and Belva Mead, with the help of James's mother, Samantha Kinne. James Mead, born in 1882 and living until 1975, was a well-known figure in the neighborhood—quiet, dependable, and rooted in the rhythms of local life.

Before entering the grocery trade, James worked at the nearby Woolen Boot Factory, located just across State Street. It's easy to picture the factory's workers filing into the store on payday, eager for a cold soda, a fresh pouch of tobacco, or a pack of cigarettes—simple indulgences after a long day's labor. From 1947 to 1950, the store saw new energy under Ralph Shirkey, who briefly operated the location before relocating Shirkey's Grocery to its more familiar site at Hanover and Clinton.

After Shirkey's departure, the store was taken over by John Hall, who renamed it "East Side Grocery," a name that stuck through the early postwar years. For younger generations, however, the address might be more familiar as the later site of Bernie's Gun Shop—marking yet another chapter in the long, evolving story of a building that quietly served the people of Hastings for well over a century.

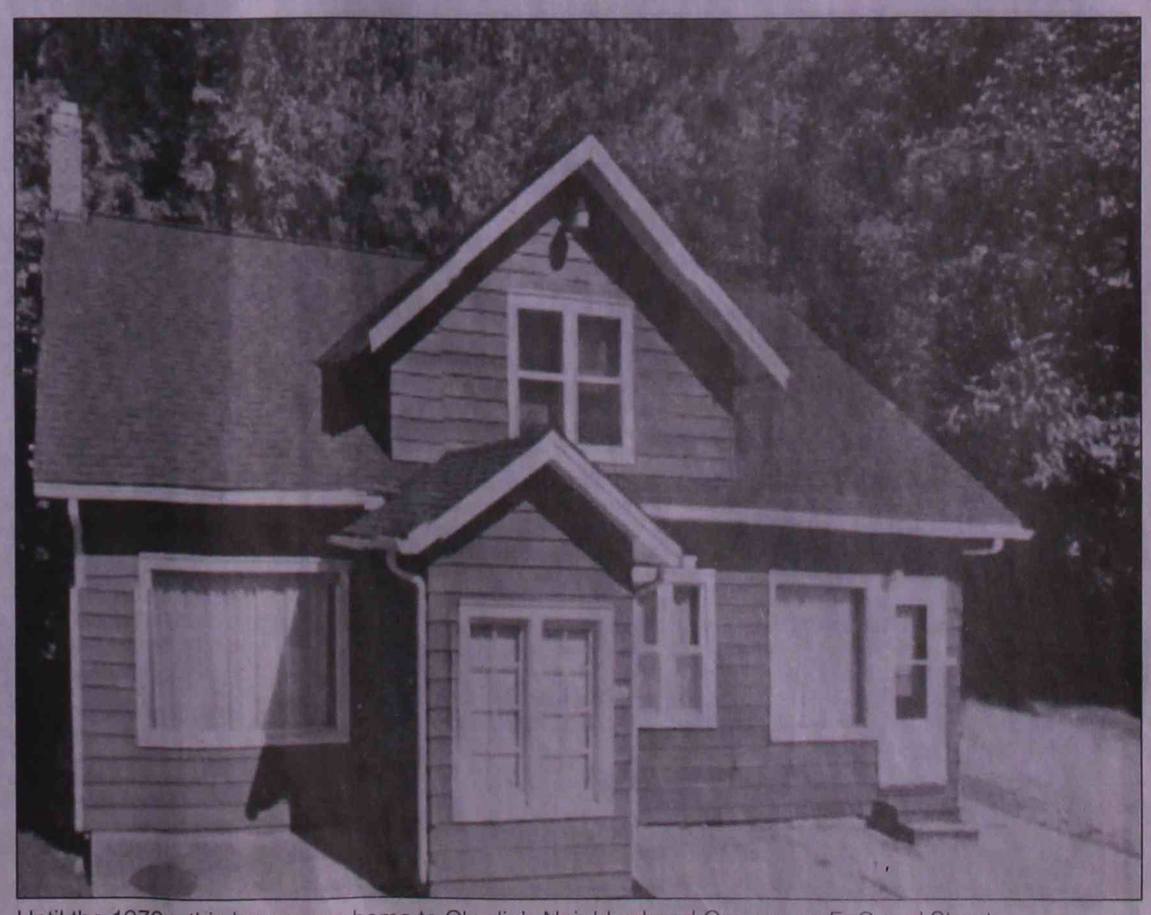
Now, if you're thinking, "Was that really all there was to Hastings' neighborhood grocery stores?" you'd be mistaken. The landscape of local commerce was far more robust. Long before Roman Feldpausch established his larger, more formidable grocery store, there was a bustling Kroger's nestled on State Street, right next to the old Ben Franklin store. These establishments weren't just places to buy groceries—they were woven into the daily rhythms of life, serving as social hubs, trusted outposts, and familiar landmarks for generations of Hastings residents.



Bechtel's Grocery Store was located at 803 S. Hanover Street in the 1920s.

Today, much of that rich history is lovingly preserved by the members of the Hastings History group on Facebook. With more than 5,000 members, the group is dedicated to capturing the vanishing landscape of our cherished community. Countless memories have been recorded in the comments—recollections of candy counters, friendly grocers, and long-lost neighborhood stores that once stood at the heart of Hastings' life. These shared stories serve as a living archive, keeping the spirit of those places alive for anyone willing to take a stroll down memory lane.

David Miller is a moderator for Hastings History on Facebook.



Until the 1970s, this house was home to Charlie's Neighborhood Grocery on E. Grand Street.

OBITUARIES

VIEW OBITUARIES ONLINE. HASTINGSBANNER.COM

Robert Lewis O'Connor



Robert Lewis O'Connor, passed away on May 16, 2025, at the age of 90 in Hastings, MI. Born on August 21, 1934, in Kalamazoo, MI, Bob's life was marked by his strength of character, his athletic prowess, and his ability to form lasting friendships.

Bob is survived by his loving family, including his son, Roderick Powers; his sister, Dolores Falvo, Gloria Figel; his brother, Tom (Verna) O'Connor; and his nephews, Greg, Tony, and John Falvo, along with his niece Kelli Toohey.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Lloyd and Catherine (O'Dell) O'Connor; his brothers, Ron, Jerry "PC," Rodger, and Jim O'Connor; nieces, Stephanie and Dominique Falvo.

Bob's work ethic was as remarkable as his sporting abilities. He dedicated over 25 years to the James River Corporation in their printing department before retiring.Earlier in his career, he worked for Mr. Rollins in Jacksonville, FL, for six years. His tenacity was also evident in the ring, where he excelled as a Golden Glove boxer for three years, maintaining an undefended record.

Raised on a farm by Frank and Ethel Horn in Delton, Bob was a gifted athlete, continuing to play baseball and softball well into his 50s. His love for sports extended to the golf course, where he participated in numerous leagues, swinging clubs until his late 80s. Bob was also known for his self-sufficiency, a man who could fix almost anything with his own two hands.

Bob's daily ritual included going to Richie's Koffee Shop for coffee, where he made many lifelong friends. He cherished memories of driving down the beach in Jacksonville in his youth, a place he frequently returned to for vacations in his later years. His kind nature and respect for others earned him admiration and love from all who knew him.

Bob O'Connor will be dearly missed, not only for the life he led but for the warmth and joy he brought to others. His legacy will live on through the stories shared by friends and the lives he touched within his family and community.

Bob's family will receive friends on Thursday, May 22, 2025 from 5-7 p.m. at the Williams-Gores Funeral Home, where his funeral service will take place at 11 a.m. on Friday, May 23, 2025. Burial will take place at Rutland Township Cemetery.

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

Heather Jo Tobias-Jackson



Heather Jo Tobias-Jackson of Battle Creek MI, formerly of Hastings, MI. Passed away unexpectedly and peacefully went into the Lord's hands on May 15, 2025.

She loved planning parties so much that she left us early to plan the biggest party of her life.

She spent her entire career loving and caring for those who couldn't care for themselves. She did this in many different capacities; from in home care, to owning an AFC home for a decade.

Although she had a career of caring for those who couldn't, she made it her life's mission to care and serve those in need. She made sure that everyone was taken care of; to the point of neglecting herself because serving others brought her joy.

She enjoyed taking weekend getaways with her family and loved shopping, thrifting and going to her dad's auction sales. Having a flower garden became a way for her to unwind in the evenings after work. Not only did her flower garden bring her peace, it was also a way of bonding with her mom, brother, and sisters. Sharing pictures of the progress of the flowers was a daily thing with her family. As well as splitting up all the flowers and plants to transplant, so that we all could have the same things growing. She lived up to the meaning of her name; An evergreen flowering plant that thrives on barren lands. Jo means God is gracious, beloved, darling and sweetheart.

Family was her everything. She was the party planner for the plethora of nieces, nephews and her grandbabies. Her parties meant she could go "all out" and spoil the kids.

To know Heather was to love her. She was a perfect combination of her mother's gentle spirit and the boldness of her father. She had sooooo much determination and was met with many hard obstacles in her life, including health problems and you wouldn't know it because she pushed on.

Sadly, on her birthday this year she suffered not just one but four strokes. She pushed and worked so hard while in therapy. She had a goal to walk down the aisle at her niece's wedding without any assistance, and she accomplished just that.

Sadly, on May 15th she had a widow maker heart attack.

Heather leaves behind the love of her life, and best friend Pierre, whom she enjoyed spending time with; her children Kenneth, Shayla, Sequoyah, Avontae, and Samara and many other 'adopted' kids. (As well as her in-law kids Stephanie and Mikey). She was the precious daughter of Kendall and JoAnne Tobias, an amazing sister to Marvin (Dawn) Tobias, Sarah (Andrew) Boness, Amy (Travis) Kirby. She was Mimi to Landyn and Emmery, and she was Auntie Headjewa to Cassandra (Benton), Chloe, Jude, Reese, Zane, Kade, River, Jethro (her Spidey), Kalum, Millie, Caison, Brantley, Declan, and Briella.

And now she leaves a legacy…her life lives on through all of her loved ones. As a family we pray that sharing a very small snippet of who she was, will bless you.

The family will receive visitors on Thursday, May 22, 2025, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Daniels Funeral Home – Hastings. Also, one hour prior to the funeral service on Friday, May 23, 2025, from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Living Waters Church in Hastings.

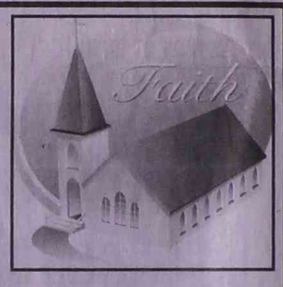
Funeral service for Heather will be held on Friday, May 23, 2025, at 12 p.m. at the Living Waters Church, located at 1302 S. Hanover St. Hastings, MI. Guests are invited to remain at the church immediately following the service for a luncheon and time of sharing stories and memories of Heather.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Tobias family to help with funeral expenses and to go to her 12yr old daughter Sequoyah.

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

VIEW OBITUARIES ONLINE AT HASTINGSBANNER.COM

Worship Together



...at the church of your choice ~ Weekly schedules of Hastings area churches available for your convenience...

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.

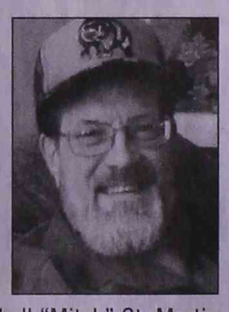
PLEASANTVIEW FAMILY CHURCH
2601 Lacey Road, Dowling, MI 49050. Pastor, Steve Olmstead. (269) 758-3021 church phone. Sunday Service: 10 a.m.

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

Flexfab®
1699 W. M43 Highway,
Hastings, MI 49058.
945-4700

HASTINGS
Fiberglass Products
A WORLDWIDE SUPPLIER OF Hot Line Tools & Equipment
1301 W. Green St.
Hastings, MI 49058
945-9541

Mitchell St. Martin



Mitchell "Mitch" St. Martin passed away peacefully on Wednesday, April 23, 2025, in Hendersonville, NC.

Highlands Cremation & Funeral Care is in charge of arrangements. The full obituary can be found at www.Highlandscare.com

GIVE US YOUR SCOOP!

If you see news happening, or if you just want us to know about something going on...

Email
mmacleod@mihomepaper.com

THE HASTINGS BANNER
VIEWspaper Group

SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

You may be eligible for SSI and Social Security Benefits

HILLARY HATCH
Social Security Administration

You may be able to get Supplemental Security Income (SSI) even if you already receive Social Security benefits. About 2.5 million adults and children get SSI and Social Security at the same time.

We pay Social Security benefits to workers and their eligible family members based on the worker's earnings. SSI is a needs-based program that provides payments to people with little or no income and few resources.

People younger than 65 must be blind or have a disability and meet SSI income and resource limits, while people 65 and older do not have to have a disability. About 1.4 million people 65 and older receive both SSI and Social Security.

In 2025, you may be eligible for SSI if your total income – including your Social Security benefit – is less than $987 per month (the 2025 SSI monthly federal benefit rate plus $20).

We consider income from all non-work sources, including pensions, veterans' benefits, unemployment, and Social Security disability, retirement, and survivor benefits. We also count some – but not all – earnings from work, including self-employment.

Resources are things that you own that you could change to cash and use to support yourself. They include vehicles (if you own more than one) and money in bank accounts, stocks, and bonds. We do not count your home and the land it's on, as long as you live there. To be eligible for SSI, your resources cannot be worth more than $2,000 for a single person or $3,000 for a married couple living together.

For more information, visit the blog article, "You May Be Eligible for SSI and Social Security Benefits" at blog.ssa.gov/you-may-be-eligible-for-ssi-and-social-security-benefits.

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.

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

Your friendly neighborhood grocer

DAVID MILLER
Special to The Banner

Before the advent of zoning regulations and the arrival of chain supermarkets, the city of Hastings was dotted with charming neighborhood grocery stores that served as cornerstones of their communities.

These small, family-run establishments—bearing names like Hale, Newton, Shirkey, Smith, Storrs, Rogers and Benner—offered not only everyday provisions but also a warm sense of familiarity and local pride. Their aisles were often filled with friendly conversation and the aroma of fresh goods, embodying a simpler, more personal era of commerce. Perhaps you've reminisced about these beloved stores or shared your own memories in the lively discussions on the "Hastings History" Facebook group.

Chances are, if you grew up in Hastings during those earlier days, your mother likely sent you down the block to pick up a quart of milk, a dozen eggs, or perhaps even a pack of cigarettes. While the idea of selling tobacco products to a child would be unthinkable by today's standards, times were different back then.

Leon and Rowena Hale (corner of State Road and Boltwood), like many neighborhood grocers, knew their customers by name – including the parents of the children who stopped by – and they rarely needed to ask which brand was preferred. More often than not, a kid with a quarter would have been on a mission to buy penny candy, not Camels or Lucky Strikes. That said, the readers on "Hastings History" all agreed Northside Grocery at the corner of Michigan Ave. and Grant had the best selection of candy, just to the right of the front door.

Charlie Smith had a well-worn cigar box behind the counter that held an informal but trusted safeguard: handwritten notes from parents authorizing their children to pick up cigarettes. It was a system built on neighborly trust, where a child's word—and a scribbled letter—was as good as gold.

I still vividly recall stepping into Ralph Shirkey's corner grocery store at Hanover and Clinton—an old-fashioned place with creaky wooden floors and the comforting scent of smoked meats and fresh produce. My brother and I were standing near the register, taking our time to choose from the array of candy displayed on the lower shelves, when Mr. Shirkey emerged from the back room. There was a noticeable excitement in his voice as he called out, "How would you boys like to see something?"

We hesitated for a moment. His blood-stained butcher's apron gave us pause—it hinted at something serious, perhaps even a little unsettling. But curiosity got the better of us, and we followed him through the narrow store, about 40 feet to the rear, where the butcher counter stood like a forbidden zone we had never dared to cross. To our astonishment, he motioned us behind the counter—an area strictly off-limits to customers—and swung open the heavy door of the walk-in freezer.

There, hanging just inside by their antlers, were two large bucks, freshly taken from a successful hunt. The cold air rushed out, carrying with it a mix of frost and the scent of raw venison. To our young eyes, it was equal parts fascinating and fearsome—a behind-the-scenes moment in a neighborhood store that offered far more than groceries.

If I mention the "Saxon Hut" at 326 West Madison Street—just across the athletic field, south of the old high school—I'm confident it will stir up memories for many. That humble, 700-square-foot shack of a store was far more than its modest size suggested. With its well-worn soda fountain, glass-fronted candy counter, and jukebox playing the latest hits, the Saxon Hut was a beloved hangout for generations of Hastings youth.

During the 1960s, it was run by the ever-welcoming Al and Eva Stauffer, who made every student feel like they got a free pass. But before it earned its reputation as the Saxon Hut, the same little building served the community as Sy's Market—named for and operated by Sylvester "Sy" Thomas (1895–1979), a grocer known for his steady presence and specialty cuts of meat. Whether you remember it for a frosty bottle of pop before or after school, a hurried stop before class, or simply the warmth of familiar faces, the Saxon Hut remains a cherished landmark in the hearts of many who graduated from the old high school.

If you lived in Hastings' Fourth Ward and found yourself in need of a quart of milk, a loaf of bread, or—more likely—a pocketful of candy, chances are you walked just a few short blocks to Chase's Grocery Store at 514 South Market Street. By the 1950s, it was fondly known as Chase's, owned and operated by Lyle C. Chase, but the building had a rich history that stretched back decades. From 1910 to 1940, it was Bessmer's Grocery, a well-regarded establishment run by Alberta W. Bessmer, a spirited community supporter and one of Hastings' most committed merchants. Afterward, the store changed hands and became Thomas' Super Market under the direction of Joseph Thomas.

The building itself was modest—a single-story structure with a weathered wooden porch that seemed never to have known a coat of paint. It stood humbly amid its quiet residential surroundings, its door always swinging open to welcome a steady stream of neighborhood children and housewives. By the mid-1960s, however, the store had closed its doors for good, and not long after, it was torn down. Though the building is long gone, for many it remains a vivid memory—a small but vital part of daily life in a tight-knit corner of Hastings.



Storrs Neighborhood Grocery (1946-1955) was located at 330 W. Mill Street in Hastings. Courtesy photos

If you happened to live in Hastings' Second Ward, chances are you often found yourself at 802 East Grand Street—a sturdy frame structure built in 1873 and, for much of its life, a familiar gathering spot known as Mead's Grocery. From 1920 to 1950, the store was operated by James and Belva Mead, with the help of James's mother, Samantha Kinne. James Mead, born in 1882 and living until 1975, was a well-known figure in the neighborhood—quiet, dependable, and rooted in the rhythms of local life.

Before entering the grocery trade, James worked at the nearby Woolen Boot Factory, located just across State Street. It's easy to picture the factory's workers filing into the store on payday, eager for a cold soda, a fresh pouch of tobacco, or a pack of cigarettes—simple indulgences after a long day's labor. From 1947 to 1950, the store saw new energy under Ralph Shirkey, who briefly operated the location before relocating Shirkey's Grocery to its more familiar site at Hanover and Clinton.

After Shirkey's departure, the store was taken over by John Hall, who renamed it "East Side Grocery," a name that stuck through the early postwar years. For younger generations, however, the address might be more familiar as the later site of Bernie's Gun Shop—marking yet another chapter in the long, evolving story of a building that quietly served the people of Hastings for well over a century.

Now, if you're thinking, "Was that really all there was to Hastings' neighborhood grocery stores?" you'd be mistaken. The landscape of local commerce was far more robust. Long before Roman Feldpausch established his larger, more formidable grocery store, there was a bustling Kroger's nestled on State Street, right next to the old Ben Franklin store. These establishments weren't just places to buy groceries—they were woven into the daily rhythms of life, serving as social hubs, trusted outposts, and familiar landmarks for generations of Hastings residents.



Bechtel's Grocery Store was located at 803 S. Hanover Street in the 1920s.

Today, much of that rich history is lovingly preserved by the members of the Hastings History group on Facebook. With more than 5,000 members, the group is dedicated to capturing the vanishing landscape of our cherished community. Countless memories have been recorded in the comments—recollections of candy counters, friendly grocers, and long-lost neighborhood stores that once stood at the heart of Hastings' life. These shared stories serve as a living archive, keeping the spirit of those places alive for anyone willing to take a stroll down memory lane.

David Miller is a moderator for Hastings History on Facebook.



Until the 1970s, this house was home to Charlie's Neighborhood Grocery on E. Grand Street.

SPORTS

DK baseball downed by Comets and Falcons at SAC tourney

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Delton Kellogg varsity baseball team was bested in two games at the SAC Tournament Saturday at Constantine.

Coloma downed the DK boys 7-1 to start the day and then the Panthers fell 4-3 to the host Falcons.

In the finale with Constantine, Dylan Fichtner was 3-for-3 with a run scored to lead the DK attack. He also walked once. Gauge Stampfler had a single and an RBI in four at-bats. Owen Rogers drove in two runs. M Ferris went 1-for-2 with a walk too.

Elliott Rogers started on the mound and took the loss despite allowing just one earned run in four innings. He struck out three and allowed four total runs on five hits. Brock Hickerson came on for three scoreless innings of relief for DK. He struck out two, walked three and allowed two hits.

DK had seven hits, but just one run in the opener with Coloma. Elliott Rogers was 2-for-3 with a double and David Menck was 2-for-3 too. Fichtner, Jordyn Jones and Keegan Hill had the other three Panther hits.

The Panthers had a doubleheader with Hackett Catholic Prep rained out Tuesday, and the forecast didn't look good for a visit from Athens Wednesday, May 21. DK is slated to return to action Friday at Fennville and then to play host to Barry County Christian Tuesday, May 27.

Parrott boys pitch Panthers to I-8 wins over Saxons

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Parma Western took 9-1 and 11-0 wins over the Hastings varsity baseball team at Johnson Field inHastings Monday.

Pitcher Andrew Parrott went the distance for the Panthers in the opener striking out 17 while giving up just one unearned run. He allowed three hits in seven innings.

The three Saxon hits were singles by Colten Denton, Jett Nofz and Spencer Wilkins.

Brody Parrott tossed the five-inning shut out in game two. He struck out five, walked three and gave up just one hit. That hit was a single by the Saxons' Jackson Hayes.

The two losses drop the Saxons' record to 0-10 in the Interstate-8 Athletic Conference this spring.

Those contests came on the heels of a tough end of last week where the Saxons fell 7-0 and 9-3 in a couple of ballgames at Ionia Thursday, May 15, and in two at Cedar Springs Friday, 8-5 and 5-0.

Dustin Lampart had a 2-for-3 performance with a double and an RBI in that opener with Cedar Springs as part of an eight-hit Saxon attack. Isaiah Wilson was 3-for-3 with a run scored and two RBIs. Tommy Frazer also doubled once and scored a run for the Saxons.

The Saxons had a few ballgames interrupted by the rain this week. They will be back in action Tuesday to take on Kalamazoo Central in a single game at Derek Jeter Field Tuesday, May 27.

Jensen ends strong, Barton shoots best 18 yet at I-8 tourney

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

It ended better than it started for Hastings junior Daniel Jensen at the Interstate-8 Athletic Conference Championship Wednesday, May 14, at Cedar Creek Golf Course.

Jensen led the Saxon team with a 13th-place finish with what head coach Ross Schueller called a "gritty 79." He shot an even-par-36 on the front night to rebound from a rough start on the back nine.

Jensen capped off his day with an eagle on the 417-yard, par-5 number nine.

Marshall took the day's overall team championship with a score of 295. Harper Creek was second with a 300 ahead of Parma Western 310, Jackson Northwest 313, Coldwater 337, Hastings 344 and Pennfield 347.

The Saxon team got an 80 from freshman Andrew Barton, an 88 from junior Bronson Elliott and a 97 from junior Nathan Auten.

Coach Schueller said Barton continued to impress in his debut season, carding his best varsity round year.

"Barton was steady throughout, sitting just one-over through 11 holes before giving back a couple late. His poised-play helped anchor the Hastings lineup," Schueller said.

Like Jensen, Elliott bounced back from a shaky start to score well.

Coach Schueller said his other guys really battled and played with grit too, especially through an especially tough stretch on holes three, four and five late in the round.

The Saxon coach said his guys found bright spots despite the challenging conditions and will look to build on this experience heading into regionals.

The Hastings team will play the North Course at Stonehedge Golf Course in Augusta for its MHSAA Division 2 Regional Tuesday, May 27.

The Thornapple Kellogg boys, who were fourth at their OK Gold Conference Championship last Thursday, will also be a part of that D2 regional at Stonehedge.

Parma takes two from HHS girls, who had big wins at Ionia last week

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Parma Western took 18-0 and 16-4 Interstate-8 Athletic Conference wins over the Saxon varsity softball team at Hastings High School Monday.

Sophia Greenfield had a double, two RBIs and a run scored in game two to power the Saxon attack. Audrey Aicken, Carisa Rosenburg and Liv Buehler also had hits for the Saxons in game two.

Amber Gregory threw the five-inning shutout for the Panthers in game one. She struck out nine, walked one and no-hit the Saxons.

The Saxons found a little more offense late last week. They were downed in two at Forest Hills Central, 14-7 and 13-8, Friday. Those two ballgames followed a doubleheader sweep by the Saxons at Ionia Thursday.

The Saxons beat those Ionia Bulldogs 11-4 and 16-15 in two non-conference ballgames.

The Saxons took a walk-off win with two runs in the bottom of the eighth in game two at Ionia. Ionia took a 14-9 lead with a run in the top of the sixth, but Hastings rallied for four runs in the bottom of the sixth and then tied the game at 14-14 with a run in the bottom of the seventh to send it to extra innings.

Kylee Bosworth knocked a two-run single into center field to give the Saxons the win with two out in the eighth. She was 3-for-6 in the ballgame with four RBIs and two runs scored. Lily Dingena and Buehler had three hits apiece too for the Saxons in that game-two win. Buehler doubled twice. Bosworth had a triple. Dingena doubled once and so did Kayden Brown.

Bosworth pitched a complete game in the 11-4 win to open the doubleheader. She gave up just one earned run on eighth its and three walks. She struck out five.

An 11-hit Saxon attack was led by Buehler who was 3-for-4 with a double, an RBI and two runs scored. Bosworth and Greenfield had two hits apiece.

Distance runners set pace for Saxons at I-8 meet

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Hastings senior Brandon Simmons and Micah Johnson capped off their final run together with a 1-2 finish.

Simmons took the 3200-meter championship at the Interstate-8 Athletic Conference Championship Tuesday at Harper Creek High School. Simmons won the race in 10 minutes 26.22 seconds and Johnson was second in 10:59.78.

Simmons added a fourth-place finish in the 1600 and Johnson was seventh in that one.

It was a 1-2 sweep of the top spots for the Saxons in the girls' 3200-meter run too. Sophomore Caroline Randall won the 3200 in 12:15.99 and sophomore teammate Chloe Pirtle ran a PR of 14:42.56 to place second.

Randall was a two-time champ also winning the conference title in the 1600-meter run with a time of 5:36.60. She added a sixth-place finish in the 800-meter run too in 2:40.95.

The Hastings girls had a couple other runner-up finishes on the day. Junior Olivia Friddle cleared 8-0 to place second in the pole vault. The Saxon girls' 4x400-meter relay team of sophomore Zikarra Warner, freshman Jayden Evans, Pirtle and freshman Lilly Randall placed second with a time of 5:16.18.

Pirtle and Olivia Friddle joined Caroline Randall in earning all-conference honors for the Saxon girls. Pirtle added a sixth-place finish in the 100-meter hurdles. Friddle was fifth in the shot put and eighth in the discus.

Friddle also teamed with sophomore Ember Twiss, Lilly Randall and sophomore Bella Friddle for a third-place time of

See **RUNNERS** on 9

RUTLAND CHARTER TOWNSHIP

2025 TAX ALLOCATION NOTICE

The Rutland Charter Township Board will discuss for approval the 2025 tax allocation rate proposed to be levied for the year 2025 at its regular board meeting to be held on **Wednesday, July 9, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.** at the Rutland Charter Township Hall, 2461 Heath Road, Hastings, Michigan.

This notice is posted in compliance with PA 267 of 1976 as amended (Open Meetings Act), MCLA 41.72a(2) (3) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The Rutland Charter Township Board will provide necessary reasonable 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 seven (7) days notice to the Rutland Charter Township Clerk. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Clerk at the address or telephone number listed below.

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

PRAIRIEVILLE TOWNSHIP
BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

To: The residents and property owners of Prairieville Township, Barry County, Michigan, and any other interested persons:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Prairieville Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing and meeting on June 12, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at the Prairieville Township Hall, 10115 South Norris Road within the Township. The items to be considered at this public hearing/meeting include the following:

1. Zoning Ordinance text amendments to Section 3.1 to add a definition for solar panel and to amend the definition for wind energy system.
2. Zoning Ordinance text amendments to Section 6.12-6 Solar Farms to amend this section regarding Principal Use Solar Energy System and to delete regulations regarding solar farms.
3. Such other matters as may properly come before the Planning Commission at this public hearing/meeting.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the full text of each proposed text amendment may be obtained by contacting the Township Clerk at the phone number set forth below.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Planning Commission reserves the right to recommend approval of, denial of, or modifications to the proposed amendments and will make its recommendation to the Township Board accordingly.

Written comments concerning the above matter(s) may be submitted to the chairperson of the Prairieville Township Planning Commission, or to the Clerk of Prairieville Township, at any time prior to the public hearing/meeting, and may further be submitted to the Planning Commission at the public hearing/meeting.

Prairieville Township will provide necessary, reasonable auxiliary aids and services at the hearing/meeting to individuals with disabilities, upon five (5) days' notice to the Township Clerk of the need for the same.

PRAIRIEVILLE TOWNSHIP
Rod Goebel, Clerk
10115 South Norris Road
Delton, MI 49046
269-623-2664
www.prairievilletwp-mi.org

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 July 10, 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): Frederick W. Johnston, a married man, and Nancy Johnston, his wife

Original Mortgagee: Union Federal Savings Bank of Indianapolis

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Freedom Mortgage Corporation

Date of Mortgage: January 25, 1999

Date of Mortgage Recording: November 12, 1999

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $15,710.58

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Prairieville, Barry County, Michigan, and described as: Beginning at a point found by commencing at the West 1/4 post of Section 33, Town 1 North, Range 10 West, Prairieville Township, Barry County, Michigan and running thence South 89 degrees 52 minutes 45 seconds East 988.9 feet on the 1/4 line to the point of beginning of this description; thence North 00 degrees 06 minutes 25 seconds West 1379.16 feet; thence South 89 degrees 42 minutes 03 seconds East 330.0 feet; thence South 00 degrees 06 minutes 25 seconds East 1378.23 feet to said 1/4 line; thence North 89 degrees 52 minutes 45 seconds West 330.00 feet to beginning, except the North 50 feet of the above description.

Common street address (if any): 10750 Cressey Rd, Plainwell, MI 49080-9044

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

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

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

This notice is from a debt collector.

Date of notice: May 22, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1561854 (05-22)(06-12)

Senior 400-meter duo leads Vikings at regional



Lakewood teammates Riley Johnson, Donny Wells, Troy Acker and Michael Goodemoot celebrate their regional championship in the 4x400-meter relay at the MHSAA Division 2 Regional hosted by Williamston High School Friday. The Viking foursome turned in a winning time of 3 minutes 25.39 seconds while qualifying for the state finals in the race. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

This whole track and field thing is new to Lakewood senior Troy Acker after three spring seasons of high school baseball.

He's making the most of his first and only season.

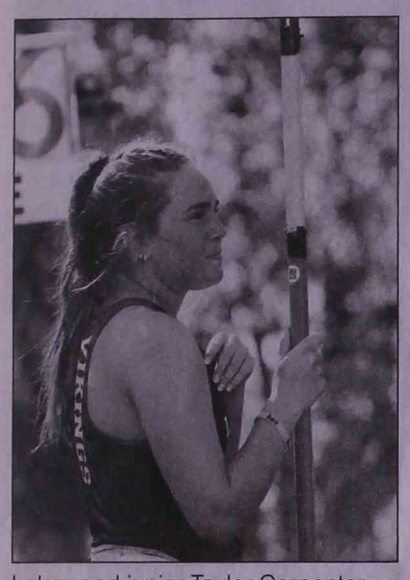
"I've played like 12 varsity team sports, and I figured I wanted to try something on my own. So, I came out for track this year to try to do something on my own. [PSEP]."

"You don't have to rely on your team, which team sports are great, I love team sports, but it's just relying on me and how hard I wanna work. So, I think that's what drives me to get better. It's like every meet you're trying to beat yourself. I like that. I find a lot of joy in trying to beat myself."

He's also having fun trying to beat his classmate, his long-time soccer teammate and one of the fastest Vikings ever – fellow senior Donny Wells.

The two placed 1-2 in the 400-meter dash at the MHSAA Division 2 Regional hosted by Williamston High School Friday. Wells is a four-time state qualifier this spring in the 400-meter dash, the 200-meter dash, the 100-meter dash and along with Acker, senior Riley Johnson and sophomore Michael Goodemoot who won the 4x400-meter relay at the regional.

Lakewood also had junior pole vaulter Taylor Carpenter and freshman Gabriel Dixon in the adaptive 100-meter dash



Lakewood junior Taylor Carpenter awaits another turn on the runway in the pole vault competition at the MHSAA Division 2 Regional hosted by Williamston High School Friday. Carpenter cleared the bar at 9 feet 3 inches to qualify for the state finals in the event while placing fourth at the regional.

qualify for the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 2 Track and Field Finals, which will be held May 31 at Hamilton High School, with their performances.

"Me and Donny bicker a lot," Acker said. "We're great friends. We've got all love for each other, but in soccer we always would race the length of the field, and it would always be really close. I always told him I could beat him in the 400. I never beat him yet (at least not when Donny was pushing for a win), but I think that's what kind of motivates me - is trying to beat him.

"He's a beast I mean, he's gonna be qualifying for four events at states. I mean, he's just a beast. I can't be mad losing to him."

Wells holds the 400-meter dash school record. He ran a time of 49.34 seconds at the 45th Stockbridge Track and Field Invite, May 2. He won Friday with a time of 49.35 seconds. Acker set his PR at the regional finishing in 50.35.

They've got different ways of attacking those 400-meters, and for good reason according to their coach. Acker started outside of Wells on Friday, giving Wells a good look at where his teammate was. Acker extended the gap between them early, until Wells finally turned on the jets coming around the final turn.

"They're like like best friends," Lakewood head coach Jim Hassett said. "They help push each other in the races … it gives them a little pace, but they kind of run different styles now in how they run 400. Troy is like all out at the beginning now … The beginning runners, I try to do more like what Troy is doing where he goes all out and tries to use it while he has it and hang on. Donny's good enough now, he can he can kind of go out hard, kind of pace himself and then kick the last 200 or so. So, it's a different style. That's why Troy starts out ahead of him and Donny catches him. [Troy's] still great. You know, for the beginning runner, that's how you've gotta do it. You gotta get him going hard and he's done fantastic."

Where Donny passed him was a good sign for Acker.

"I know that if you passes me at the final corner, I'm in a good spot. I know I'm running good if he passes me at the final corner. So that's kind of something I always look for. I knew to get out hard today, because I knew all the fast guys were behind me. So I got out hard. About 200 meters in, I was asking myself in my head if I really wanted it or not. I just kept pushing and the next thing you know I was it to finish line."

The top two finishers in each event Friday earned spots in the state finals, as well as others who met the pre-set state qualifying measurements. For the first time this year, athletes were able to meet even tougher early qualifying standards.

Wells was already a state qualifier in the 400 when he showed up to the regional. He secured another state spot with his runner-up time of 11.00 in the 100-meter dash final. He earned his spot in the 200-meter dash with a personal record time of 22.47 in the preliminary heats for that race, and then saved some energy for the 4x400-meter relay by cruising to a seventh-place finish in the finals of the 200.

The first time Wells qualified for the state finals he was a sophomore that surprised with a runner-up finish in the 400 at regionals. He placed 16th at the Division 2 State Finals that season, and last spring he was just one place shy of earning an all-state medal with a ninth-place finish in the 400 at the Finals.

"I'm trying to have fun and I think a lot of it is more mental. It's my senior year. This is it. Just have fun. Go get them you know," Wells said.

So, how does he have fun?

"I like winning. Winning is a lot of fun for me. Just being around the team is a lot of fun, always a good environment. Really good community around the track team, so supportive, so they really help drive me a lot of supportiveness from that," he said.

The Viking boys' team was sixth in the day's 16-team standings. Harper Creek's boys and girls won team regional championships on the day. The Beaver boys closed the meet with 130 points ahead of Parma Western 118.75, Williamston 73, Marshall 45.75, Eaton Rapids 45, Lakewood 42.75, Haslett 38.5, Portland 33, Jackson Northwest 38, Lansing Sexton 25 and Lansing Waverly 25 in the top ten.

Sophomore Jermaine Webb junior had the only scoring performance in the field for the Lakewood boys with a high jump of 5 feet 10 inches that earned him seventh place. He also had a PR in the long jump on the day.

Johnson and Acker teamed with sophomores Bryce Goodemoot and Kaden Rohrbacher to place sixth in the 4x800-meter relay with a time of 8:52.73.

Lakewood also had senior Ryan Galgoci run his fastest 110-meter high hurdle race ever, finishing in 15.86, to place eighth.

The Harper Creek girls won with 116.5 points beating the runner-up Charlotte girls who had 85.5 points and the third-place Eaton Rapids girls who finished with 63.5 points, half a point more than the hosts from Williamston. The Lakewood girls were 14th as a team with 12 points.

Carpenter is a state qualifier in the pole vault for the first time. Her height of 9-3 Friday is just three inches shy of her PR 9-6 which she cleared for the first time at the Capital Area Activities Conference White Division Championships last spring.

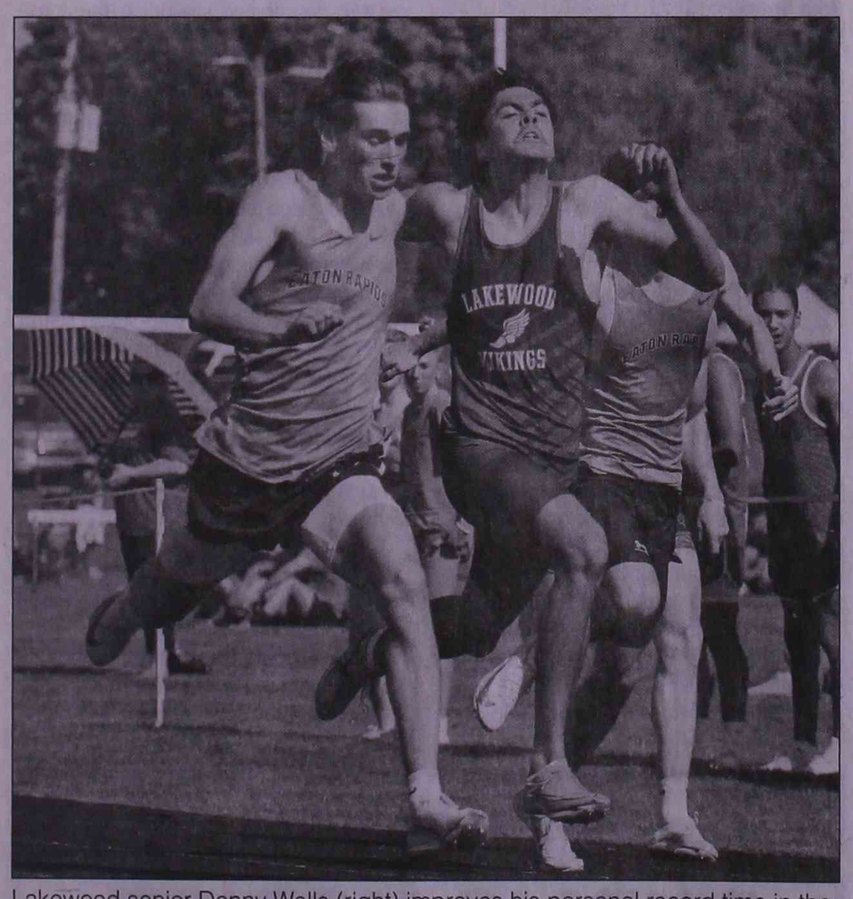
"That was exciting because she's been sitting right around that height since her freshman year and you know the regional hasn't gone well for her the previous two years, so it was nice to see her make that height," Hassett said Friday.

The regional bar went from 9-3 straight up to 9-9.

Carpenter wasn't too disappointed with her three misses at 9-9. She said she'll need to find a longer pole next time she attempts that height. She said the key to performing better at regionals this season was being in better shape mentally.

"I think last year was a big mental battle," Carpenter said,. "I would get mad at myself a lot and then like everything would go away. Everything I learned on my technique would go away. So, this year, I've been just being patient and trusting my coaching has definitely been a big growth thing for me."

Carpenter had one of three scoring performances for the Lakewood girls. Lakewood sophomore Alana Raffler set her PR in a fourth-place finish in the 300-meter hurdles. She hit the finish line in 51.30 seconds. Lakewood senior Kara Fedewa placed seventh in the discus competition with a throw of 90-0.



Lakewood senior Donny Wells (right) improves his personal record time in the 100-meter dash to 11.00 seconds while finishing just behind Eaton Rapids senior Carter Buckingham in the race at the MHSAA Division 2 Regional hosted by Williamston High School Friday. It was the only race Wells didn't win Friday as he also improved his school record in winning the 400-meter dash and was a part of the Vikings' victorious 4x400-meter relay team.

RUNNERS

Continued from Page 8

55.06 in the 4x100-meter relay.

Bella was fifth in the 200-meter dash and fourth in the long jump. Twiss had a third-place long jump finish.

Saxon senior Zoe Watson added a fifth-place throw in the discus.

Pirtle also compiled all-conference points in helping the Saxon 4x800-meter relay team to a fourth-place finish. She joined Warner, junior Maddie Elzinga and senior Bente Winkler in that run.

Warmer was eighth in the 300-meter hurdles and Lilly Randall had a fifth-place 400-meter dash finish.

The Saxons had a solid day in the pole vault on the boys' side. Junior Isaac Lilley and sophomore Liam Renner both cleared 12-0 to place third and fourth respectively. Hastings junior Balian Marlette was eighth in the high jump clearing 5-3.

The top relay performance for the Saxon boys came from the 4x400-meter relay team of sophomores Logan Kimmel and Maverik Peake, freshman Ian Grundy and Marlette that placed third in 3:53.35.

Kimmel added a sixth-place finish in the 200-meter dash. Also on the track, Saxon sophomore hurdler Caleb Kramer scored an eighth-place finish in the 300-meter intermediate hurdles race.

The Harper Creek boys and Coldwater girls took championships on the day. The Hastings girls were third and the Hastings boys fourth overall.

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· Land Clearing
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City of Hastings

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The City of Hastings will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday May 27, 2025 at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall. The purpose of the hearing is to accept written and/or oral comments from the public regarding the establishment of an industrial development district. The proposed district will consist of parcel number 08-55-265-026-20 located on E Enterprise Drive within the City of Hastings.

Questions and comments about the plan may be directed to the City Manager, Sarah Moyer-Cale, by calling 269-945-2468 or by email at smoyercale@hastingsmi.gov.

The City will provide necessary reasonable aids and services to individuals with disabilities upon five days' notice to the City Clerk 269-945-2468 or via email at lperin@hastingsmi.gov.

Linda Perin
City Clerk

NOTICE

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

Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Barry County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM on JUNE 12, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.

Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Elliot L. Hall, an unmarried man, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Amerifirst Financial Corporation, Mortgagee, dated December 11, 2020 and recorded December 21, 2020 in Instrument Number 2020-014189 Barry County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Two Hundred Thirty Thousand Seven Hundred Four and 84/100 Dollars ($230,704.84).

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public vendue at the place of holding the circuit court within Barry County, Michigan at 1:00 PM on JUNE 12, 2025.

Said premises are located in the Township of Johnstown, Barry County Michigan, and are described as:

LOTS 34 AND 35, FINEVIEW ACRES, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN LIBER 4 OF PLATS, PAGE 52, BARRY COUNTY RECORDS.

115 Sweetheart Ln, Battle Creek, Michigan 49017

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.

Dated: May 15, 2025
File No. 25-005804
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400

(05-15)(06-05)

Sailors shut out TK to claim OK Gold championship

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The suspense lasted all season, but it didn't last too long Monday evening.

South Christian clinched the 2025 OK Gold Conference varsity girls' soccer championship with a 3-0 win over visiting Thornapple Kellogg.

Sailor senior Alexa Boersma lofted a centering ball from the right side into a stiff wind and over the Trojan goal box less than half a minute into their conference finale. Senior teammate Anneliese VanderLaan beat everyone else to the ball as it came down and knocked it by Trojan keeper McKenna Hoebeke into the net for a 1-0 lead.

The Sailors added a second goal early in the second half and then a third with eight and a half minutes to play to finish off a 11-0-1 conference season. The Trojans close the OK Gold season at 9-1-2. A Trojan win would have propelled the TK ladies to a conference championship. The two teams finished in a 1-1 draw in their early season meeting in Middleville. The only other blemish on the Trojans' conference record was a 1-1 draw with West Catholic late last month.

The Trojans, now 11-3-2 overall, were set to head to Battle Creek Wednesday, May 21, to take on Harper Creek in the opening round of their MHSAA Division 2 District Tournament. The winner from Wednesday will head to Gull Lake High School May 28 for the district semifinals against either Otsego or Battle Creek Central who are set to meet Friday, May 23, in Otsego for their opening round match-up.

District host Gull Lake was set to take on Wayland in a district opener May 21 too, and the winner of that one will face Plainwell in the other district semifinal in Richland next week. The Plainwell girls took a 5-1 win over Hastings Monday in their district opener.

South Christian moved to 15-0-3 with the win Monday.

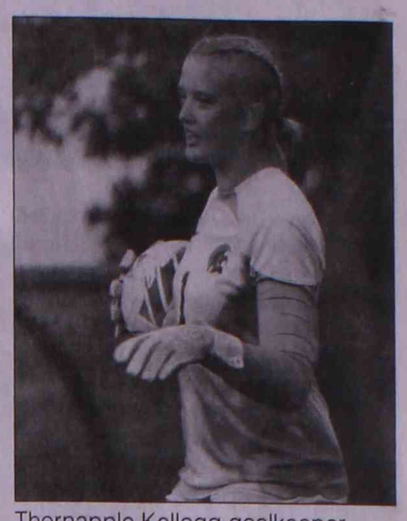
The Sailors were awarded a penalty kick nine minutes into the second half and senior defender Hayden Donker stepped up to put the shot in that put her team up 2-0 over the visiting Trojans.

Junior Cassidy DeVries blasted a shot into the net with 8:38 to play for the Sailors' final goal. The Trojans had some trouble getting a corner kick cleared. South Christian sophomore Hattie Berry knocked the ball down to the feet of DeVries for the shot in the crowded box.

Good scoring chances were few and far between for the Trojans. The Sailors were oftentimes a step quicker to the ball than the Trojans in what was a pretty physical match throughout.

Early on the Trojans attempted to answer the Sailors' opening goal. TK junior Tealy Cross put a pass ahead for junior Paige Abshagen who lined a high shot towards the Sailor net that the South Christian keeper Olivia In'tHout leapt up to snag.

TK had won four in a row heading into the match with South Christian including a 6-1 victory at Grand Rapids Union last Wednesday, May 14.



Thornapple Kellogg goalkeeper McKenna Hoebeke surveys the field as she carries the ball towards the top of her box Monday at South Christian High School.



South Christian's Londyn Hebner pushes forward with the ball in the midfield as she's pressured by Thornapple Kellogg's Alexa Eden (10) during the first half of their OK Gold Conference finale at South Christian High School Monday. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Trust Estate

Estate of Anieta Earlene Baum. Date of birth: June 6, 1937.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Anieta Earlene Baum, Settlor of the A. Earlene Baum Trust under Agreement dated April 21, 1992, as amended, died on March 27, 2025.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the decedent, her estate, or her trust will be forever barred unless presented to David L. Baum, Trustee of the A. Earlene Baum Trust within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Laura A. Jeltema
Attorney name
Warner Norcross + Judd LLP
150 Ottawa Avenue NW, Suite 1500
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
(616) 752-2161

David L. Baum
Trustee
c/o Warner Norcross + Judd LLP
150 Ottawa Avenue NW, Suite 1500
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
(269) 908-1800

Saxons have tough day at regionals, bounce back at I-8 tennis tourney

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Saxons had a number of seniors out of the line-up, choosing to participate in the school's decision day rather than their MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 3 Regional at Paw Paw High School Friday.

That made finding wins tough, but the Saxons had a couple good battles.

Junior Lauren Gee, teamed with junior Ellie Cousins at first doubles, pushed the top team from Paw Paw to three sets, but the Red Wolves eventually managed a 6-2, 4-6, 6-2 victory there in their quarterfinal match.

The Hastings freshman duo of Lillian Edger and Lilly Randall put up a good fight in their third doubles opener, but were bested by Otsego junior Laney Sweet and sophomore Rachel Breese 7-6(2), 7-5.

South Christian won the regional championship with 25 points ahead of Hamilton 23, Stevensville Lakeshore 16, Otsego 14, Paw Paw 12, Wayland 5, Plainwell 1, Hastings 0 and Kelloggsville 0.

The Saxons followed that up by closing out the conference season at the Interstate-8 Athletic Conference Championship hosted by Parma Western Monday.

Coach Haines said his team went in hoping to hold onto the fourth overall spot in the conference standings, and did just that while finishing just two points behind the third-place team from Harper Creek.

Saxon third singles Alexa Lilley won her way to the championship match at her flight before falling to Coldwater's third singles player in the finals. Saxon senior MJ Deal at first singles had a win over the top player from Jackson Northwest and placed third at the top flight.

Coach Haines said the first doubles duo of Lauren Gee and Isabel Gee played a great third match of the day for a win over Coldwater that put them in third place.

"I was happy with all their play," coach Haines said. "We definitely left some points on the courts, but overall we finished the season playing strong and showing improvement. I'm looking forward to taking this momentum into the summer and the 2026 season."

City of Hastings

Request for Bids
City Hall Custodial Services

The City of Hastings is accepting sealed bid proposals for custodial services for Hastings City Hall. Sealed bids will be received at the Office of the City Clerk/Treasurer, 201 East State Street, Hastings, Michigan until **2:00 PM on Wednesday, June 4, 2025** at which time they will be opened and publicly read aloud.

The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to award the bid in a manner which it believes to be in its own best interest, price and other factors considered.

Bid specifications are available at the office of the City Clerk. Perspective bidders will be required to provide satisfactory evidence of successful completion of work similar to that contained within the bid package to be considered eligible to perform this work. All bids must be clearly marked on the outside of the submittal package **"Sealed Bid – City Hall Custodial Services".**

Sarah Moyer-Cale
City Manager

City of Hastings

PUBLIC NOTICE

The confirmed special assessment role for the 2025 Downtown Public Parking Special Assessment District has been filed in the office of the City Clerk/Treasurer. The assessment will be included on the 2025 Summer Tax Bill that will be issued July 1, 2025.

Payments of the Summer 2025 Tax Bill may be made after July 1, 2025, at City Hall, 201 E State Street, Hastings, MI 49058 between the hours of 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, or by using the drop box, pay by phone, or mail.

Please contact the Clerk's office for additional information by calling 269-945-2468, or via email at lperin@hastingsmi.gov.

Linda Perin
City Clerk

DK/Martin's Matteson top ten at SAC boys' golf tournament

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Sophomore Grady Matteson had a top ten finish and the Delton Kellogg/Martin varsity boys' golf team placed sixth at the 14-team Southwestern Athletic Conference Championship at The Beeches in South Haven Tuesday.

Matteson was tenth individually with an 84. He started strong with pars on his first four holes of the day.

Scores weren't exceptional all around on a cold, wet day. Hackett Catholic Prep senior Chris Ogrin was the day's individual champ with a four-over-76. Kalamazoo Christian sophomore Brixton Devries was the runner-up at 78. South Haven junior Will Marcoux and Lawton senior Kaedon Miller tied for third with 79s.

Kalamazoo Christian golfers filled much of the rest of the top ten led by senior Ian Tuin's 80. The Comets added an 82 from freshman Colin Clyne and 83s from freshmen Owen Adams and Ian Riggs.

South Haven senior Cade Hahn also shot an 83.

The Comets closed the ay with a 323 to win the team championship. Hackett Catholic Prep was well back at 335. South Haven was third with a score of 341 ahead of Saugatuck 342, Schoolcraft 350, Delton Kellogg/Martin 362, Constantine 366, Allegan 379, Watervliet 381 and Bridgman 390 in the top ten.

Junior Tyler Howland scored an 89 for the DK/Martin squad. Junior Carter Brickley added a 93 and freshman Jason Marshall scored a 96.

The Delton Kellogg/Martin team will be at Bedford Valley for its MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 3 Regional Tuesday, May 27.

DK/Martin girls get district victory, on to semifinals

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

On the first day of the 2025 varsity girls' soccer state tournament, the Delton Kellogg/Martin girls got another win.

Delton Kellogg/Martin topped Parchment for the second time this season by outscoring the visiting team of Panthers 5-0 in the first round of the MHSAA Division 3 District Tournament at Delton Kellogg High School Tuesday.

The DK/Martin team had five different players score goals including goalkeeper Johannah Houtkooper who started things off by converting on a penalty kick for the hosts.

The Delton Kellogg/Martin girls will now head to South Haven for a district semifinal contest Wednesday, May 28, against either Comstock or Hopkins who are set to play their opening round contest this evening, May 22.

The Delton Kellogg/Martin girls evened their record at 6-6-1 overall this season with the win.

Claire Barker scored before the first half was up, and then Sara Schipper, Ellyse Blackburn and Teagan Hamlin all found the back of the net in the second half for the hosts Tuesday.

Trio of DK athletes punch tickets to D3 track finals

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

That's a senior who wanted another race.

Delton Kellogg senior Kylie Main cut nearly six seconds from her previous 1600-meter record to beat out Kalamazoo Christian senior Alaina Klooster for the second, and final, state qualifying spot from the race at the MHSAA Division 3 Regional hosted by Bangor Thursday, May 15.

Buchanan senior Madeline Young won the race in 5 minutes 41.70 seconds. Main hit the finish line in 5:49.96, a little less than two seconds ahead of Klooster. Main, and the 15th-place finisher from Bloomingdale Kailey Andrade, were the only girls to run their personal record time in the mile at the regional.

The top two finishers in every event in Bangor earned a spot in the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 3 Track and Field Finals that will be held May 31 at Kent City High School, as well as others who met the predetermined state qualifying measurements either at the regional or the tougher standards at an early qualifier event this spring.

The Delton Kellogg boys had a pair of state qualifying performances at the regional. Sophomore Landon Madden, a cross country state qualifier in the fall, turned up his sprint speed this spring and placed second in the 400-meter dash with a time of 52.94 seconds. DK junior pole vaulter Nick Muday placed fourth in the pole vault by clearing 12 feet 6 inches to qualify for the state finals.

Madden was also a regional medalist in the 110-meter high hurdles. He placed fifth in that race with a personal record time of 16.64 seconds. Freshman teammate Ryan Sinclair improved his PR in the 300-meter intermediate hurdles to 45.32 seconds to place seventh in that race.

Muday was one of two DK guys to place among the top eight in the pole vault. Senior Ezra Smith cleared the bar at 11-0 and finished sixth.

DK senior Wyatt Finney was sixth in the boys' long jump with a mark of 18-7.5. In the field, DK also had senior Cooper Sandusky eighth in the shot put thanks to a put of 39-1.5.

The top relay finish for the DK boys came from the 4x800-meter team that placed sixth. Seniors Rafael Cotta Lopera and Jaime Saura teamed with freshmen Joseph McCoy and Lane Steele to record a time of 9:59.09.

The DK 4x200-meter relay team of senior Miki Hovi, Madden, sophomore Logan Damron and Sinclair was seventh in 1:38.62 and the 4x400-meter relay team of Hovi, Sinclair, Madden and McCoy was seventh in 3:52.59.

McCoy added an eighth-place performance in the 1600-meter run with a time of 5:38.99.

Main had a pair of scoring finishes for the DK girls. She also placed fifth in the 3200-meter run with a time of 14:16.39.

Delton Kellogg junior Izabelle Gruber ran her fastest time yet in the 300-meter low hurdles, 50.46, to place fifth in that contest. Gruber also set a PR in the long jump by flying 15-3.25 to place fourth.

DK sophomore Makayla Lutz had her best day yet pole vaulting and placed eighth by clearing 7-0.

DK senior Mia Kohlen pushed her PR in the high jump to 4-7 to place eighth.

Delton Kellogg teams scored in two of the girls' relay races. Gruber, Main, senior Jillian Leclercq and junior Elli Timmerman placed seventh in the 4x400-meter relay with a time of 4:57.25. Sophomore Brynlee Babbitt-Smith, freshman Alexandra Ryder, Timmerman and Kohlen placed eighth in the 4x200-meter relay with a time of 2:07.78.

SYNOPSIS
Hastings Charter Township
Regular Meeting
May 13, 2025

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m.

All board members present

Approved agenda / consent agenda

Discussed Insurance renewal, ambulance

Service, road maintenance, tax collection

Approved payment of bills

Dept. reports received and put on file

Motion to adjourn 8:44 pm

Submitted, David J. Olson – Clerk

Attested to by Jim Partridge – Supervisor

Synopsis
Hope Township
Regular Board meeting
May 12, 2025

Meeting opened at 6:30 pm

Approved:

Consent agenda

Brush Ridge Cemetery grave spaces buy back

Guernsey Lake Fireworks permit

Long Lake Fireworks permit

Elections Laptop purchase

Adjourned at 7:10 pm

Submitted by:
Deborah Jackson, Clerk

Attested to by
Doug Peck, Supervisor

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

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 Thursday, July 3, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.

The mortgage was made by BARBARA J. CRUMMEL, a single woman ("Mortgagor"), to HASTINGS CITY BANK, now known as HIGHPOINT COMMUNITY BANK, a Michigan banking corporation, having an office at 150 West Court Street, Hastings, Michigan 49058 (the "Mortgagee"), dated April 25, 2014, and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for Barry County, Michigan on April 30, 2014, as Instrument No. 2014-004268 (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 Twelve Thousand Three Hundred Sixty-Five and 68/100 Dollars ($12,365.68). 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 City of Hastings, County of Barry, State of Michigan, and are described as follows:

Lot 33, Southeastern Village No. 2, according to the recorded plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 6 of Plats, Page 43, Barry County Records

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

Commonly known as: 1412 S. Montgomery Street, Hastings, Michigan 49058
P.P. #08-55-225-233-00

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

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

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

Dated: May 22, 2025
HIGHPOINT COMMUNITY BANK
f/k/a Hastings City Bank
Mortgagee

Elisabeth M. Von Eitzen
WARNER NORCROSS + JUDD LLP
150 Ottawa Avenue NW, Suite 1500
Grand Rapids, MI 49503-2487
(616) 752-2000
32496050

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)

Visit us online at mihomepaper.com

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the Circuit Court in Barry County, starting promptly at 01:00 PM, on June 26, 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. Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Kelly Jo Carroll, Single Woman Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Northern Mortgage Services, LLC, its successors and assigns Foreclosing Assignee: PennyMac Loan Services, LLC Date of Mortgage: January 31, 2019 Date of Mortgage Recording: February 4, 2019 Amount claimed due on mortgage on the date of notice: $152,140.68 Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in the City of Hastings, Barry County, Michigan, and are described as: The South 1/2 of Lots 977 and 978, City of Hastings, Barry County, Michigan. Commonly Known as: 528 S. Jefferson St., Hastings, MI 49058 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or upon the expiration of the notice required by MCL 600.3241a(c), whichever is later; or unless MCL 600.3240(16) applies. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act 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 Purchaser: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee for any reason. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest, and the purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee, or the Mortgagee's attorney. 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 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: 05/22/2025 Potestivo & Associates, P.C. 251 Diversion Street, Rochester, MI 48307 248-853-4400 315920

(05-22)(06-12)

Only EK tops TK girls at their first D1 regional

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

This is not anything new for Thornapple Kellogg senior Brooklyn Harmon and juniors Mia Hilton and Payton Gater, but the churning of the perennially talented Trojan 4x400-meter relay team brought up freshman Amya Gater this spring.

She has settled into a spot in the lead-off leg, racing 400 meters and then handing the baton off to her big sister Payton.

Amya opened the spring with a 400-meter run of 1:05.11 at the Grand Valley State University Lakers Challenge, but knew she had to be faster to be a positive part of the 4x400-meter relay team. She ran the 400 at the OK Gold JV Conference Meet May 12 and notched a new PR of 1:01.63, a few days after helping the TK varsity girls win the 4x400 at the OK Gold Championships.

"It was pretty tough," Amy said of shaving those four seconds, "but it was adrenaline. Adrenaline helped. I knew I needed to get my time down, so then it forced me to get my time down or I didn't run. [My teammates] cheered for me every time. They pushed me to do better, and they made me do better, and they were very encouraging the whole time."

That improvement didn't make a regional start with a trip to the state finals on the line any easier though.

In the blocks for the last race of the MHSAA Division 1 Regional hosted by Portage Central High School Saturday, Amya said she started shaking – even more than usual.

"I didn't know what to do, so I just had to wait for the beep. I was very nervous," Amya said. "It's not usually that bad. I get nervous. My body kind of gets shakes, but my hands were like shaking on the ground and I didn't know what to do because I thought I was going to false start."

The buzzer went off though and then it all went away.

Amya got the baton to Payton who handed it to Hilton and then finally got it to Harmon who brought it across the finish line.

"They're just crazy," Harmon said of her teammates. "I know Amaya, a being a freshman, it was super nerve wracking for her, but I'm so proud of how far she's come. We told her before the race she earned this spot. She knows what to do.

"They're amazing and they're my best friends and I'm sad to leave them."

Competing in an MHSAA Regional at the Division 1 level for the first time ever only the East Kentwood girls were better than the TK ladies in that 4x400-meter relay and in the overall team standings for the day.

The TK foursome cut more than four seconds from their previous best together in that race to place second in 4 minutes 7.33 seconds. The East Kentwood team of seniors Alana Bailey and Atiek Anyang and freshmen LaNiyah Carnegie and Deborah Aowdiek won that race in 4:00.88.

In the day's final team standings, the Falcons had an even more impressive advantage outscoring the runner-up TK girls 151-66.5. In the boys' meet, the East Kentwood Falcons outscored runner-up Kalamazoo Central 147-118 for the team title.

That was the only race all day where someone finished in front of Harmon. She was a part of three state qualifying performances. She improved her own school records to win regional championships in the 100-meter hurdles and the 300-meter low hurdles.

"I hit every goal," Harmon said. "I kind of wasn't expecting it, but I was expecting it. I wanted it for myself. There was always just that little doubt in my mind, but I just stayed super strong with myself, and I was like 'you trained for this. You know what to do. Focus on you. Stay in your lane. Only you. Only you Brooklyn. Focus on yourself.' I did that, and I think that's what it was.

"And all of my encouragement from the amazing people around me always helps me too."

Harmon won the 100-meter hurdles in 14.65 seconds dropping her PR in that race by more than four tenths of a second and beating her nearest competitor, East Kentwood junior Alana Bracey, by nearly half a second.

Later, Harmon caught a flash of Bracey's leg in her peripheral vision as they rounded the turn in the 300-meter hurdles. That spurred her on to a winning time of 44.81 in that race. She cut nearly a second from her PR in that race and finished about three quarters of a second ahead of Bracey.

Hilton also qualified for the Finals in those 300 hurdles with a third-place time of 46.36.



Thornapple Kellogg sophomore Layne Schilthroat carries the baton through a pack for the TK boys' team during the 4x800-meter relay Saturday at the MHSAA Division 1 Regional hosted by Portage Central High School. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

Harmon was third in both hurdles races at the MHSAA L.P. Division 2 Finals as a junior, after missing the chance to compete her sophomore season due to an injury. Harmon, Hilton and Gater teamed with Brooklyn's sister Ellie, now a sophomore, to place sixth in the 4x400-meter relay at the state finals last year. Hilton was a state medalist in the 300 hurdles at the end of both her freshman and sophomore seasons.

The top two finishers in each event at the regional Saturday qualified for the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 1 Track and Field Finals which will be hosted by East Kentwood High School May 31. This spring, for the first time, there were opportunities for early qualification to the finals throughout the season and there were also the usual state qualifying measurements athletes could reach at the regional to allow for more than two state qualifiers from a single event.

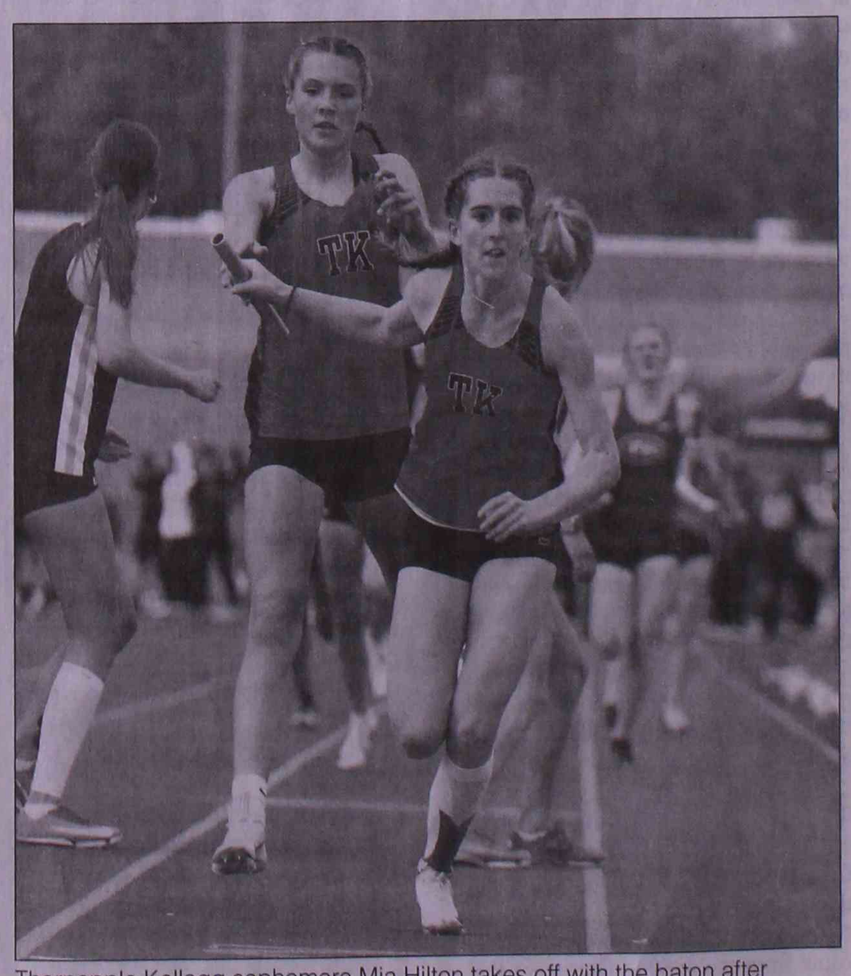
The TK girls also got top-eight scoring performances from junior Jordyn Fitros in the 200-meter dash; sophomore Isla Sheely in the 400-meter run; senior Ava Crews in the 800-meter run and the 3200-meter run; freshman Amya Gater in the 300-meter hurdles; the 4x100-meter relay team of junior Madison Kietzman, sophomores Estefani Sanchez Vega and Sydney Martin and senior Emma Dykhouse; the 4x200-meter relay team of sophomore Elli Harmon, Kietzman, Sanchez Vega and Fitros; sophomore Lydia Slagel in the pole vault and Dykhouse in both the shot put and the discus.

Crews went all out in the 800 setting a PR of 2:21.91, but couldn't quite hold a spot in the top two to qualify for the finals in that race. Kalamazoo Central senior Annie Alkema won it in 2:17.08 and Gull Lake sophomore Lane Isom caught Crews in the end to place second.

There wasn't much energy left for Crews to make another run at a state spot in the 3200-meter run and she finished eighth in that race in 12:05.91.

She wasn't the only one to just miss a spot in the finals in that way. Dykhouse was third in the shot put with a mark of 34-5, finishing just six and a half inches behind East Kentwood freshman Nevaeh Eubanks who fired off a PR of 34-11.5 to place second. Forest Hills Central junior

See **REGIONAL** on 14



Thornapple Kellogg sophomore Mia Hilton takes off with the baton after getting a hand-off from teammate Payton Gater during the 4x400-meter relay team Saturday at the MHSAA Division 1 Regional hosted by Portage Central High School. The TK ladies were fourth in the race to finish off a runner-up team finish in their very first regional competition at the Division 1 level.

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.

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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.

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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

Setbacks can't keep Saxon trio from regional success

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

With one last flick of her feet she was over the bar, and then she stood with a cast on her left hand and an umbrella for shade in her right and waited.

The last few jumpers missed their final attempts at clearing the bar at 5 feet 3 inches in the high jump and Hastings sophomore Bella Friddle was a regional champion again. She didn't need to go any higher and headed off for the Saxon team tent at the Williamston High School football field to await her next shot at a title.

The defending Division 2 state high jump champion will head back to defend her title May 31 at the MHSAALower Peninsula Division 2 Track and Field Finals hosted by Hamilton High School.

She'll be joined there by her big sister, junior Olivia Friddle, who qualified for the finals as the regional shot put runner-up and fellow Saxon sophomore Caroline Randall who was the regional champion in the 3200-meter run.

Bella suffered a broken wrist Tuesday last week, took Wednesday off, tried to figure out just how she could compete in regionals Thursday and then scored for the Saxon team in all three events she competed in at the regional Friday. With the new early qualifying possibilities this spring, Bella had already qualified for the state high jump and long jump competition even before heading to Williamston. A cast obviously kept her from competing in the pole vault at the regional, another event she earned a state spot in last year, but she said so far everything is a bit more challenging with the cast.

"I mean, high jump is probably like the easiest thing, because I don't really do anything on my left arm. It's normally my right arm that does all the leading," Bella said Friday. "Hurdles was scary. I almost lost my balance just running the hurdles. I mean, it's just hard to like just get my arms moving cause it hurts, but by the time I'm racing I can't really feel it.

"Long jump, ehhh," she said with a grimace. "Long jump, our trainer said not to do it, but the doctor said I could, so it's kind of like hit or miss. Like, I'm gonna do it at state. I don't know about doing it at conference. That's iffy."

Bella placed third in the 200-meter dash with a time of 27.07 seconds at the regional and eighth in the 300-meter hurdles in 51.92 seconds. She was just five hundredths of a second behind Pennfield senior Natalie Hensel who was the regional runner-up in the 200. Lansing Eastern freshman Brooklynn Griggs won that race in 26.84

Injuries are nothing new for this Saxon state-qualifying trio. Randall missed her freshman track season after being a cross country state medalist that year, and she was still recovering as her sophomore cross country season began last fall but still managed a second cross country state medal. Olivia Friddle injured a knee during her sophomore basketball season and had to miss out on a chance to compete in the state wrestling finals soon after that. A four-sport varsity athlete, this junior track season finally marks her return to high school athletics after a missing her sophomore track and field season, a junior volleyball season and junior basketball and wrestling campaigns.

Olivia qualified for the finals with a top mark of 34-9 in the shot put. Both Olivia and senior teammate Zoe Watson scored for the Saxons in the discus. Olivia was fourth with a season-best throw of 96-3.5. Watson had a top throw of 91-0 to place sixth.

"Shot put is my thing," Olivia said. "I like it. It is awesome. I am always joking around that I'm going to get 40 feet even though my furthest is like 38."

She said shot put has been the easiest of her events to get back close to her previous baseline in after knee surgery.

"You barely use your block leg. For me, that is my left leg and that's the leg I had surgery on. You only have to use it at the end. You don't really have to push off from it, which is phenomenal. So, you can just really focus on pushing back and throwing it. When you throw it, it feels amazing. You can tell."

She said the mental challenges of coming back from injury have been tough. She did okay with celebrating her own progress during her recovery, but once she started to work her way back into sports she wasn't finding the success she was used to. She wanted to vault higher and throw further. She placed 16th in the shot put and 15th in the pole vault at the state finals as a freshman.

"It was very tough, and it used to make me very sad and defeated, but now it's getting better and I'm going in the right direction," Olivia said.

"I have really good people in my life who are like, you had surgery. It's understandable," she added. "So yeah, so they're just like, don't be so hard on yourself because I tend to be very, 'man, I should have done this better. I should've done this' and all that stuff. To help get past the mental block and all this tough feeling I just had people say, 'it's okay, you have next year too' - even though I don't like hearing that."

Randall set her PR at 11:33.32 while winning the 3200-meter regional title. She was about a second faster than her previous varsity best in the race and she was more than 20 seconds ahead of Eaton Rapids freshman Remie Ellis who was the runner-up in the race after having won the day's 1600-meter race.

The Saxon girls were seventh as a team at the 16-team regional. The Harper Creek boys' and girls' teams both won regional championships.

The Saxon girls did get a scoring performance in the long jump with sophomore Ember Twiss reaching a PR of 16-3 to place sixth.

The Hastings boys were 15th as a team led by the senior distance duo of Brandon Simmons and Micah Johnson. Simmons placed fifth in the 3200-meter run. Johnson was seventh in the 3200 and seventh in the 1600-meter run with - with personal record times in both races.

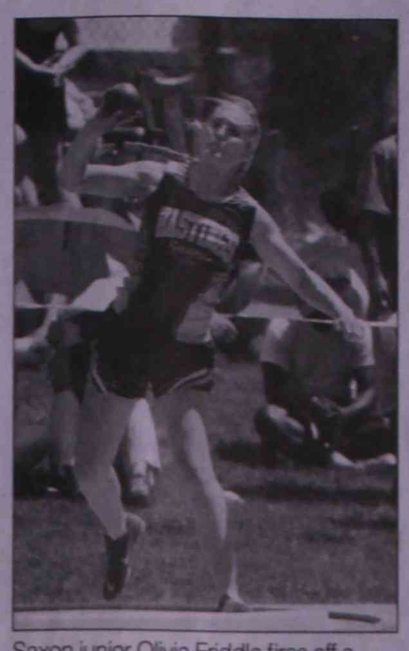
The Saxons other point came thanks to sophomore Liam Renner clearing 11-8 in the pole vault to place eighth.

The Harper Creek girls outscored runner-up Charlotte 116.5 to 86.5 at the top of the standings. Eaton Rapids was third with 63.5 points ahead of Williamston 63 and Parma Western 59 in the top five. The Hastings girls had 47 points.

Harper Creek senior Izzie Miller was the only girl to throw further than Olivia Friddle in the shot put. She earned a mark of 40-.5 and also won the discus with a PR throw of 137-5.5.

Sophomore Camille Robinson was a four-time champion for the Beavers. She won the 400-meter dash in 1:00.95 with freshman teammate Jasmine McBride second in that race in 1:01.61. Those two were joined by freshman Niatalia Hoyt and Cassidy Pratley in winning the 4x100-meter relay in 50.69 and the

See **SAXON** on 14



Saxon junior Olivia Friddle fires off a throw in the shot put during the MHSAA Division 2 Regional in Williamston Friday. Friddle placed second in the event to earn a spot in the state finals.



Hastings sophomore Bella Friddle rounds the turn in the 200-meter dash final during the MHSAA Division 2 Regional hosted by Williamston High School Friday, May 16. **Photos by Brett Bremer**



Hastings sophomore Liam Renner tries to get over the bar at 12 feet 2 inches in the pole vault during the MHSAA Division 2 Regional in Williamston Friday. His three attempts at that height were unsuccessful, but his 11-8 vault earned him an eighth-place finish in the event.

NOTICE

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the Circuit Court in Barry County, starting promptly at 01:00 PM, on June 12, 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. Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Christopher Dale Rhodes, Jr. Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Sovereign Lending Group Incorporated, its successors and assigns Foreclosing Assignee: Nationstar Mortgage LLC Date of Mortgage: January 16, 2021 Date of Mortgage Recording: February 4, 2021 Amount claimed due on mortgage on the date of notice: $106,396.26 Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in the Village of Nashville, Barry County, Michigan, and are described as: The West 98 feet of Lot(s) 80 and the West 98 feet of the North 23 feet of Lot 79 of Village of Nashville according to the plat thereof recorded in Liber 1 of Plat, Page 10 of Barry County Records. Commonly Known as: 210 N Queen St., Nashville, MI 49073 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or upon the expiration of the notice required by MCL 600.3241a(c), whichever is later; or unless MCL 600.3240(16) applies. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act 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 Purchaser: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee for any reason. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest, and the purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee, or the Mortgagee's attorney. 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 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: 05/15/2025 Potestivo & Associates, P.C. 251 Diversion Street, Rochester, MI 48307 248-853-4400 320742

(05-15)(06-05)

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 June 26, 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): Douglas Cisler and Debra Cisler, husband and wife

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

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

Date of Mortgage: August 31, 2020

Date of Mortgage Recording: September 23, 2020

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $244,681.09

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Thornapple, Barry County, Michigan, and described as: Unit No. 6 in Thornapple Hills Site Condominium, according to the Master Deed as recorded in Liber 560, Page 416, and amendments thereto, Barry County Records, and designated as Barry County Condominium Subdivision Plan No. 5; together with rights in general common elements and limited common elements as set forth in the above Master Deed and amendments thereto, and as described in Act 59 of the Public Acts of 1978, as amended

Common street address (if any): 4191 Thornapple Hills Dr # 6, Middleville, MI 49333-9162

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 15, 2025

Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1561571
(05-15)(06-05)

HOPE TOWNSHIP ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

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

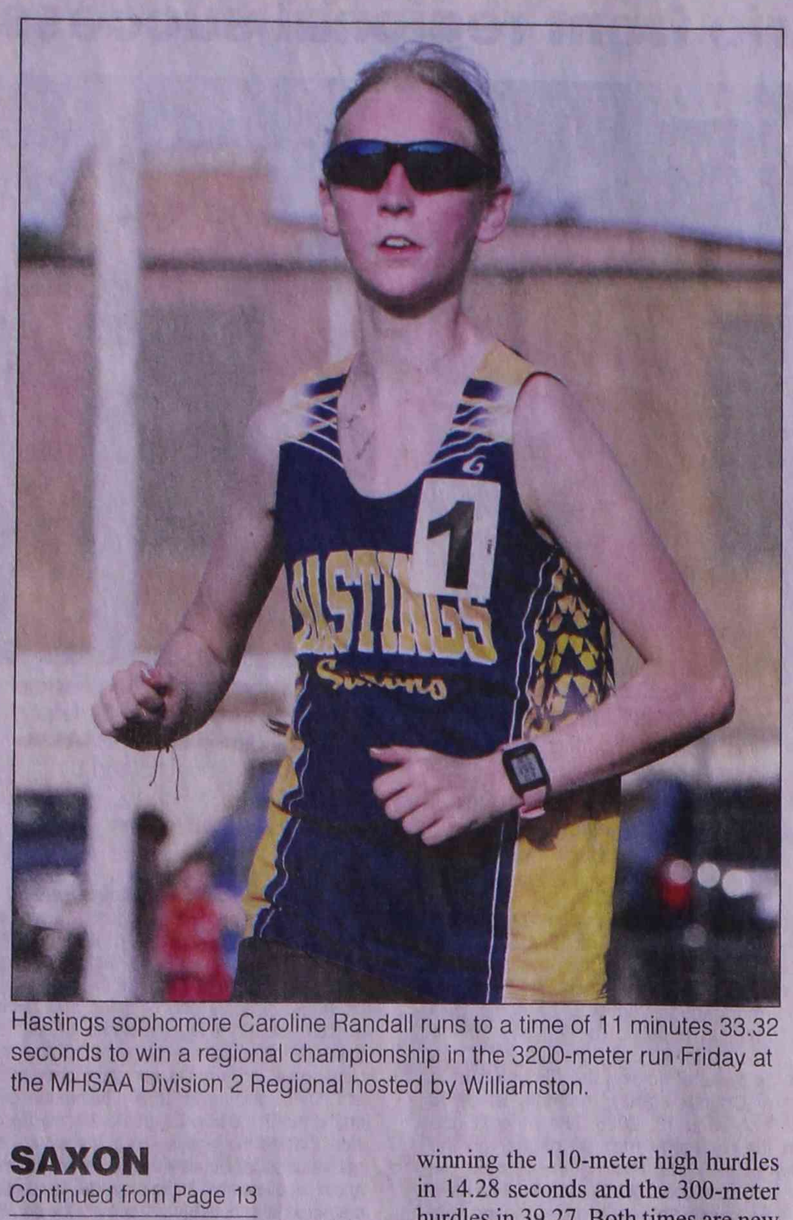
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Hope Township Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a meeting and public hearing on Thursday, June 12 th , 2025 at 6:30 p.m. in the Hope Township Hall, 5463 South M-43, Hastings, Michigan 49058 within the Township, to consider the following variance request:

Paul and Shelly Bartzen are requesting retroactive relief from Sections 8.4, 10.2, 10.24, 16.6, and 19.3 of the Hope Township Zoning Ordinance for a residential accessory building on a nonconforming lot of record located at 4080 S. Shore Drive, Delton, MI 49046 (parcel number 08-07-070-005-00). If granted, the variance request would allow the residential accessory building to encroach a combined total of one (1) foot into the required side yard setbacks. The Hope Township Zoning Ordinance requires that buildings and structures be set back ten (10) feet from a side lot line on nonconforming lots of record in the RL, Residential Lake zoning district. The applicant is proposing side yard setbacks of less than ten (10) feet. Thus, a variance has been requested.

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

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

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



Hastings sophomore Caroline Randall runs to a time of 11 minutes 33.32 seconds to win a regional championship in the 3200-meter run Friday at the MHSAA Division 2 Regional hosted by Williamston.

SAXON

Continued from Page 13

4x200-meter relay in 1:46.66. Beaver junior Julia Faber joined Hoyt, McBride and Robinson in winning the 4x400-meter relay with a time of 4:10.32.

Harper Creek took the boys' meet with 130 points. Parma Western was second with 118.75 ahead of Williamston 73, Marshall 45.75 and Eaton Rapids 45. The Saxon boys closed the day with nine points.

Senior hurdler DJ Wood had a big day for the Harper Creek boys winning the 110-meter high hurdles in 14.28 seconds and the 300-meter hurdles in 39.27. Both times are new personal records for Wood.

Harper Creek had three of the top five guys in the high jump with all three qualifying for the state finals. Senior Kaden Sears won it clearing 6-2 and senior teammate Tre'Quon Cotton also cleared 6-2 to place second. Fellow senior Preston Welsh was fifth clearing the bar at 6-0.

The two Beaver teams had a handful of other state qualifying performances on both the boys' and girls' sides.

Lion freshman headed to D4 Finals in hurdles races

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

He won his first varsity 110-meter high hurdles race and placed second in his first varsity 300-meter hurdles race. He has only gotten faster since then.

Maple Valley freshman Kelvin Nevins-Davis qualified for the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 4 Track and Field Finals in both hurdles races with his times at the regional meet hosted by Concord High School last Friday.

Nevins-Davis set his personal record in the 110 hurdles at 16.19 seconds to place third at the regional and ran to a time of 43.41 seconds in the 300-meter intermediate hurdles which placed him sixth in that race. He cut nearly half a second from his previous best time in the 110s.

"Kelvin has worked really hard all season to improve his form going over the hurdles and speed in between the hurdles. Repetition at practice and hurdle drills have really helped him see improvements this season," Lion head coach Jennifer Burpee said.

Manchester junior Grant Johnson won that 110-meter high hurdle race in 14.84 seconds and Climax-Scotts senior Luke Lawrence was the runner-up in 15.14. Johnson also won the 300 hurdles in 39.70.

Senior sprinter Jeremiah Penny had the only other scoring performance for the Maple Valley boys at the regional placing third in the 400-meter dash with a time of 54.28 seconds. He was a little over a second behind Lansing Christian junior Noah Adcock who was the runner-up.

The top two in each event at the regional qualified for the MHSAA L.P. Division 4 Finals which will be held May 31 at Hudsonville's Baldwin Middle School, as well as others who met the preset state qualifying times and measurements. For the first time this spring, it was also possible for student-athletes to qualify for the finals "early" at select meets throughout the season by meeting even tougher standards.

The Maple Valley boys were 13th as a team and the girls 11th in a field of 16. Manchester outscored Concord 104-98 at the top of the boys' standings with Climax-Scotts third with 75 points ahead of Potterville 71 and Morrice 69.5 in the top five.

The girls' title went to Concord which outscored Lansing Christian 108-102 at the top of the standings. Portland St. Patrick was third with 91 points ahead of Manchester 66 and Webberville 57.5 in the top five.

The Maple Valley boys tallied 15 points and the girls 22.

The Lion ladies had a top eight finish in three of the four relays as well as a handful of medal winning performances on the track. The top individual finish for the Maple Valley girls came from junior Athena Morehouse who was fourth in the 400-meter dash with a season-best time of 1 minute 5.36 seconds.

Lion junior Izabelle Soper set personal records in both the 1600-meter run and the 3200-meter run. She placed sixth in the 1600 in 6:43.15 and eighth in the 3200 in 15:33.02.

Lion sophomore Audrey Burpee ran to a sixth-place time in the 300-meter low hurdles.

The Lion 4x800-meter relay team of junior Ariel Kenyon, sophomore Leannah Johnson, sophomore Kenzie Soper and Izabelle Soper opened the day on the track placing fifth in the 4x800-meter relay in 12:31.38. Freshman Noelle Clinkscales, senior Izabelle Taylor, Burpee and freshman Lydia Emerick placed eighth in the 4x200-meter relay in 2:05.03. The Lion team of junior Sienna Lowe. Emerick, Burpee and Morehouse closed the meet with a fourth-place time of 4:40.45 in the 4x400-meter relay.

Lansing Christian senior Ava Mustapha was a four-time champion on the day to lead the Pilgrims. She won the long jump with a mark of 16 feet 4.75 inches and the 100-meter dash in a personal record time of 12.56. She also swept the hurdles titles taking the 100s in 15.18 and the 300s in 46.84.

Mustapha's sophomore teammate Adrienne Mitchell won two individual races. She set her PR at 5:53.82 in winning the 1600-meter run and then finished first in the 3200 with a time of 12:56.30.

The only individual win for the regional champs from Concord came from freshman Annie Saenz in the high jump. She cleared 5-2 in that event, and she was also a part of winning 4x100-meter relay and 4x400-meter relay teams for the Concord girls. The Hornets also had a number of second and third place finishes throughout the day.

Johnson in the hurdles and Morrice senior sprinter Logan Smith were the only guys to win multiple individual events. Smith took the 100-meter dash in 10.86 seconds and the 200-meter dash in a personal record time of 22.41.

Johnson also placed fourth in the long jump, and a few other top finishes helped power the Manchester boys to their regional title.



Thornapple Kellogg senior Emma Dykhouse unleashes a throw in the discus competition during the MHSAA Division 1 Regional hosted by Portage Central High School Saturday. Dykhouse placed sixth in the discus, third in the shot put and raced with the Trojans' eighth-place 4x100-meter relay team at the regional.

REGIONAL

Continued from Page 12

Olivia Latunski won that event at 37-9. Dykhouse did close out her season with a personal record throw of 93-4 in the discus.

Payton Gater was third in the 400-meter dash with a PR of 1:00.52, but the top two were a few seconds in front of her, which is a lot in the 400. Portage Northern sophomore Mauriel Seeberger won that race in 55.47 and Forest Hills Central junior Emma Goring was the runner-up in 57.21.

The TK boys were 13th as a team. Senior Jacob Draaisma had the lone scoring performance for the Trojans with a fifth-place time of 2:02.15 in the 800-meter run.



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