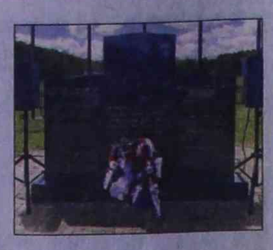


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Hastings pauses to honor fallen heroes during Memorial Day observance



Navy veteran Summer Robertson delivers remarks on Memorial Day, standing in front of the Hastings Veterans Memorial, where a crowd had gathered. **Photos by Jayson Bussa**

Jayson Bussa
Contributing Writer

In today's American culture, the word "hero" certainly gets tossed around quite a bit, but the label is often applied in the wrong place.

That was the crux of a speech delivered by Summer Robertson, a Hastings resident who served six years in the United States Navy, stationed in Norfolk, Virginia. Robertson, also the veterans navigator for Barry County Community Mental Health and first vice commander for the Lawrence J. Bauer American Legion Post 45 in Hastings, spoke on Monday during Memorial Day observances held in Hastings.

Robertson addressed a crowd that had gathered in front of the Veterans Memorial near Tyden Park, one of two stops that a small Memorial Day parade made as it crawled north on Broadway.

Robertson spoke on how athletes, movie stars and politicians are often labeled as heroes.

"The true heroes are not the quarterbacks who successfully execute Hail Mary passes and the baseball players who hit walk-off home runs," Robertson said from the podium. "It isn't the Hollywood actor who looks good dodging imaginary bullets and fake explosions. It's the military veterans, the police officer, the firefighter and others that risk, and far too often lose, their lives protecting and defending us all."

She also pointed out that service to one's country is agnostic to things that typically divide us — race, religion, politics, economic standing and background.

"Veterans are a diverse group wedded to the belief that America is a country worth fighting for and dying for," Robertson said.

In addition to Robertson's words, two wreaths were placed, one to honor all veterans and one for POW-MIA. Two members of the Hastings High School Marching Band, Megan Ramey and Owen Boge, performed "Taps" before the procession moved over to the bridge where a wreath was tossed into the Thornapple River to honor military personnel who

See **HONOR** on 4

Hastings High School's Class of 2025 receives diplomas at 149th commencement ceremony

Molly Macleod
Editor

Hastings High School's Class of 2025 is enjoying its first week in the 'real world' this week after Thursday, May 22's commencement ceremony. Hastings Area School System Board of Education members and administrative staff handed out diplomas to 194 graduates last week, along with certificates to seven foreign exchange students.

"Today, for many of us, is bittersweet," said HHS graduating senior Micah Johnson. "Over the past 15 years, we have spent countless hours of hard work and sacrifice which has led us to be in these seats today. This day, we recognize and celebrate these amazing accomplishments, as this may be the last time we all gather here as the Class of 2025."

Thursday's ceremony saw several speakers from the class and staff. Graduating seniors joined the rest of the choir to sing "Slipping Through My Fingers" under the direction of HHS choir director Andrew Moore. Later on, HHS band director Spencer White led the band and its graduating seniors in a performance of "American Flourish."

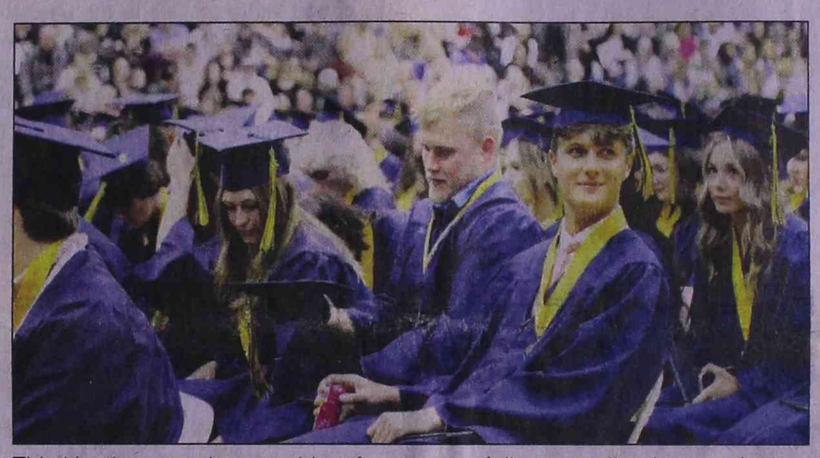
Lilyah Solmes is this year's HHS valedictorian. Solmes addressed her classmates on Thursday, congratulating them for their hard work and imparting some advice.

"Next time there is an opportunity you want, I challenge you to ask for it. Advocate for yourself. You might be surprised what you can do if you just ask with confidence," Solmes said.

Though career and academic success is important, Solmes warned that social connections are just as crucial in life.

"Cherish your friends, and don't dis-

See **CEREMONY** on 4



This Hastings graduate smirks after successfully smuggling in a confetti popper, which he and others set off during the cap toss. **Photos by Molly Macleod**

Gracious grads



Seniors at Delton Kellogg High School wait patiently for their turn to turn their tassels at last week's graduation ceremony on May 22. Look for a full recap of the DK seniors' final festivities next week in the June 5 edition of ***The Banner***. Coverage of Lakewood and Thornapple Kellogg's graduation ceremonies can be found in this weekend's editions of ***The Reminder*** and ***The Sun and News***, respectively. The following week's editions, on June 7, will feature the graduation ceremonies for Maple Valley and Caledonia high schools. **Courtesy photo**

Commissioners discuss concerns over Johnstown Twp. solar farm

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

The construction of a utility-scale solar farm in Johnstown Township has some residents, as well as local and county officials, concerned whether Consumers Energy is living up to its promises.

The Barry County Planning Commission approved, by a 6-1 vote, plans for the solar farm, also known as the Spring Creek project, that will be located on what previously was about 1,500 acres of farmland in Johnstown Township during a meeting last September. The vote came about a month after the Barry County Board of Commissioners OK'd an ordinance regulating the operations of solar farms within the county.

The solar farm is scheduled to become operational in 2026 and is projected to generate 140 megawatts of power – enough to power 25,000 homes. The project comes as Consumers seeks to increase its portfolio of clean and renewable energy projects in response to state laws that were passed in 2023 that call for Michigan to achieve a 100-percent clean energy standard by 2040.

But, with work on the solar farm now underway, concerns are being raised once again.

Nancy Carter, who lives on Banfield Road, said her husband came home frustrated after attending a recent Johnstown Township Board of Trustees meeting.

See **SOLAR** on 2

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DELTON MUSEUM SET TO OPEN FOR SEASON JUNE 7
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City council OKs Green and Market streets project on split vote

Molly Macleod
Editor

The Hastings City Council on Tuesday approved a bid by Kamminga & Roodvoets to complete improvements on Green and Market streets in downtown Hastings. The accepted bid for $5,812,484.55 marks the final hurdle cleared for the project before shovels hit the ground.

Terry Stenzelbarton voting to reject the bid. Mike Bergeron, Jordan Brehm, Ann Devroy and Dave Tossava voted in favor of the bid. Jacquie McLean was absent on Tuesday.

The Green Street project will overhaul the road from Fish Hatchery Park to Broadway. Construction on Market Street will span from Green Street to State Street. Two construction windows are being considered for the project, depending on when contractors have the ability. Construction on the project could begin between now and November of this year, continuing from April through July of 2026. Otherwise, the project could begin construction in the spring of 2026, wrapping up in November.

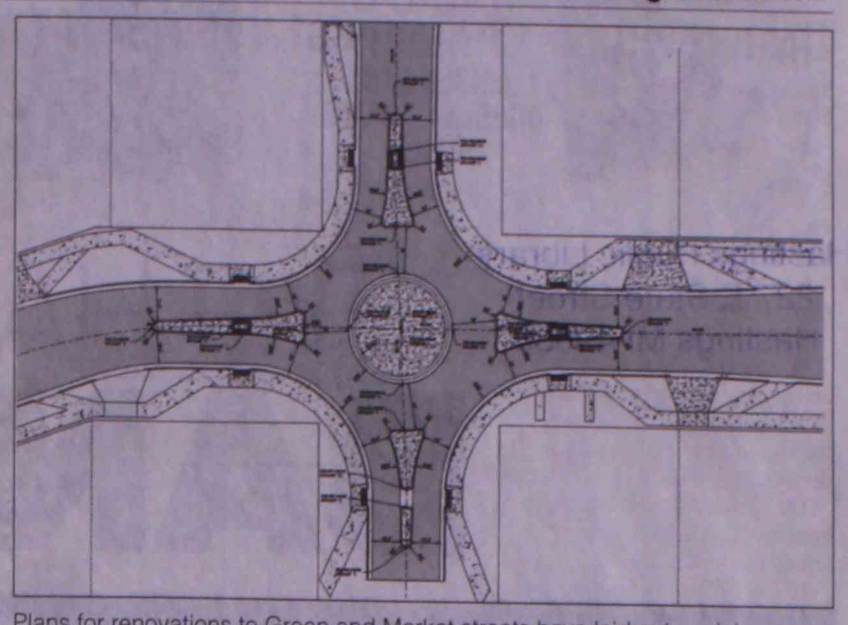
Crews will dig up both streets to access water utilities underneath, replacing sanitary and storm sewers, lead water services and private sewer laterals within the public right of way. Market Street will have its water main replaced.

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

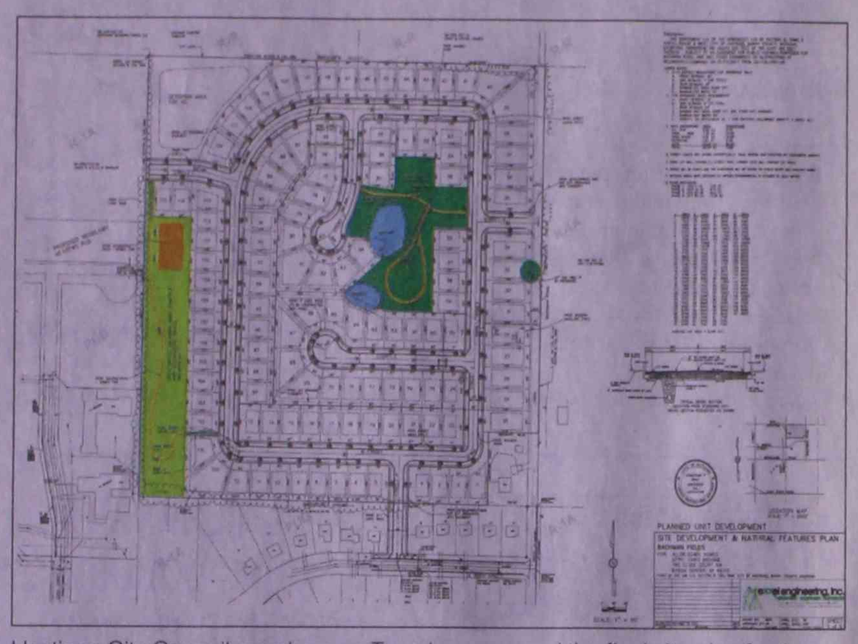
The street is also set to be widened from its current 26-foot width to 30 feet, allowing for the addition of two, 4-foot marked bike lanes on each side of the street. Market Street will also change from 36 feet to 39.5 feet wide. Bike lanes will be installed on Market as well.

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

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



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



Hastings City Council members on Tuesday approved the final site plan for the Bachman Fields planned unit development on the northeast end of town. The development will bring 119 detached, single-family homes to Hastings. **File photo**

City of Hastings and Rutland Twp. continue negotiations on Meijer 425 deal

Molly Macleod
Editor

The potential for a Meijer coming to Barry County was kept alive this week after Hastings City Council members voted to move forward with 425 agreement negotiations with Rutland Township.

Council members voted 5-2 on Tuesday to move forward with a 425 "island" agreement with Rutland Township that would extend city sewer and water service to the potential Meijer parcel at the northeast junction of M-43 and M-37 west of Hastings. Council members voted that should other properties in Rutland wish to hook up with city sewer and water in the future, further negotiations will then be made.

The motion voted on at Tuesday's city council meeting only allows the city to capture taxable value from the Meijer property.

Jon Rocha and Norm Barlow voted against the agreement on Tuesday. Council member Jacquie McLean was absent.

Hastings City Manager Sarah Moyer-Cale said the city's sewer services extend roughly as far west as Flexfab's 1699 M-43 Hwy facility, while city water extends roughly as far as the Dollar Tree store at 1325 M-43 Hwy.

Rutland Township's most recent offer to the City of Hastings asked for a 425 agreement for the Meijer property only. Rutland asked that properties located between the Meijer store and where city services end now have the option to hook up with city sewer and water once it is extended. Those property owners would pay the city for their utility usage. However, Rutland is unwilling to share taxable value with the city from those properties, citing concern about losing a significant chunk of its tax base.

The city's counteroffer now goes back to Rutland Township for its board to review.

Bachman Fields final site plan approved

Molly Macleod
Editor

More housing is officially on its way to Hastings after Hastings City Council members voted unanimously, 7-0, on Tuesday to approve the final site plan for the Bachman Fields planned unit development.

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



SOLAR

Continued from Page 1

"(He) was disappointed to learn that Consumers Energy has not followed through with its commitment to attend the meetings and provide updates to residents," Carter said. "We've accepted that it is going to occur, but would like to understand the current status and what we should expect in the future."

Sheri Babcock, Johnstown Township clerk, confirmed that representatives for the power company have not been at recent township meetings.

"Not the very recent ones," Babcock said. "They were coming to every meeting. But, now that the project is underway, they haven't been at the last couple."

While maybe not sitting in the crowd at board meetings, Babcock added Consumers officials did have an information table set up at the township's pancake breakfast on April 26.

Also, the township official said some of the recent concerns are by residents who were not aware of the project, despite discussions over the solar farm dating back more than two years.

"We had lots of people here (at meetings) at the beginning," Babcock said. "Right now, we've had people who said they didn't know this was going on. They're seeing something happening and they want to know what's going on.

"They're concerned," she added. "There's not a lot of people who want to see a solar farm taking over our farmland."

But, while sharing many of the same concerns, Babcock said there's little local officials can do.

"There's no control at the township level, at the county level," she said. "The state took all that away."

Legislation approved under Gov. Gretchen Whitmer gave utilities the option to bypass local government approval for clean energy projects and seek approval from the Michigan Public Service Commission for projects with a capacity of 50 megawatts or more. That would include the Spring Creek project, though Consumer representatives previously stated they look to work with local governmental units on such initiatives.

And, concerns over the project aren't just being heard at the township level. After listening to comments at a previous county board meeting, District 1 Commissioner Bob Teunessen said he went to the site of the solar farm to get a firsthand look.

"I drove down Hickory Road, there was just a sense of reality that just hit me," Teunessen said at the board's May 27 meeting. "It was a sense of, 'Wow, that's really here now.'"

Teunessen also described the orange-color silt fence lining the site as an "eyesore."

"If it was green or black or camo, or something else," said District 3 Commissioner David Jackson, "it's just eye-catching when it's orange."

But, both Teunessen and Jackson stated county officials had worked to ensure the planning for the solar farm included a decommissioning process, as well as for it to be bonded.

"We've done our due diligence as commissioners to try to write a strict ordinance on this stuff," Teunessen said.

Jackson added he hopes to have Consumers officials at an upcoming meeting to help address some of the recent questions that have been raised.

"Maybe there's some things we can work with them and promote better change in there or at least some communication as to why this is going on like it is," Jackson said. "There were a few other questions we don't have the answers to. … We'll have an update for that shortly."

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Orangeville's 18th annual Veterans Memorial observance draws in large crowd

Karen Turko-Ebright
Staff Writer

An estimated crowd of almost 200 gathered on Sunday for Orangeville Township's annual Memorial Day service. This year marks the 18th anniversary of the dedication of the Orangeville Township Veterans Memorial, which took place in 2007.

Program organizer Al Warren, who is 77, continues to line up guest speakers and community volunteers to participate in a special ceremony commemorating the Memorial Day observance. He's been doing it for 18 years.

The national observance is a day that honors those who have served in the armed forces of all wars.

To begin the special ceremony, Orangeville Township Supervisor Vivian Conner warmly welcomed visitors. Rory Moore then gave the opening invocation, followed by Master of Ceremonies, Al Warren. After Conner led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance, Sarah Knight and the Delton High School Band presented a patriotic medley.

Next, guest speakers included Paul Krajacic, a recipient of the Purple Heart award who served as a specialist fourth class in the United States Army in Vietnam, Jay Campbell, a sergeant in the U.S. Army in Kosovo, and retired Master Sergeant Robert Peeters from the U.S. Air Force.

Mick Lane performed the ceremony song. Jerry Frost, Alex Liceaga, Andre Liceaga and Rico Liceaga gave the Deceased Honor Roll presentation.

After the Honor Guard of Hastings American Legion Post 45 Honor Guard lined up for the three-rifle volley, Jesse Morin played "Taps" as the ceremony ended with closing comments.



An estimated crowd of almost 200 gathered on Sunday for Orangeville's annual Memorial Day service. **Photos by Matt Clark**

Initially known as Decoration Day to honor Union soldiers who died in the Civil War, Memorial Day became a national observance on May 30, 1968.

Warren was in Vietnam for a year, and after being out for 11 years, he went into the National Guard in Grand Ledge in the helicopter unit. He stayed there for 24 years and retired as a sergeant first class, E7. Warren grew up in Orangeville Township. He raised his family in the area and has a daughter who went through the Delton Kellogg School system.

Warren said he looks forward to organizing the Orangeville Veterans Memorial service every year, continuing it for as long as he can and prays that someone will come forward to carry on the Orangeville Veterans Memorial tradition.



This year marks the 18th anniversary of the dedication of the Orangeville Township Veterans Memorial, which took place in 2007.

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HILLARY HATCH
Public Affairs Specialist

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See **SECURITY** on 6

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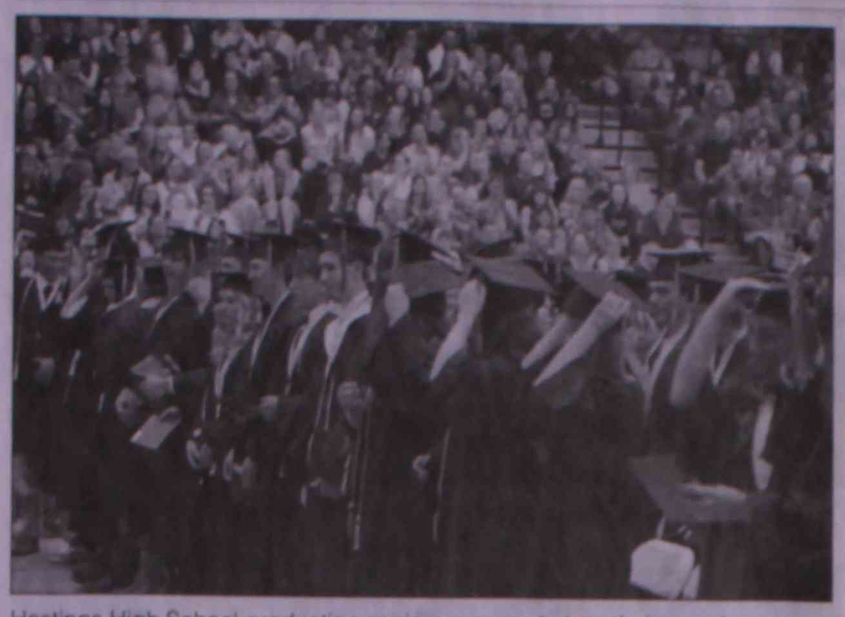
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Hastings High School graduating seniors prepare to turn their tassels.

CEREMONY

Continued from Page 1

count the value of social connections. Wherever you end up, I challenge you to get the people around you. You never know who might become your best friend," she said.

And above all, Solmes said, confidence is key. "In whatever you do, be confident."

Jett Barnum and Kalli Koning led the "Remember When" section of the commencement, where seniors reminisce on the many memories that stick out to them – for better or for worse – from the last 15 years of school.

A handful of graduating seniors snuck in confetti blasters under their gowns, which were set off during the cap toss at the end of Thursday's ceremony. It led to a colorful display of flying mortarboard and confetti.

Hastings head football coach Jamie Murphy was chosen as the keynote speaker for the Class of 2025. His lesson to the graduating class focused on looking for opportunities — or else they may pass by.

"It's so important to pay attention to what's happening around because that's how opportunity works in life. You don't know when or how it will happen, but opportunity will happen. It will happen to each and every one of you," said Murphy.



Hastings High School football coach Jamie Murphy urged graduates to keep their eyes open for opportunities.

"Opportunities are there for a moment, and your decisions or indecisions in those moments will chart your path. And when you're lost and unsure of your direction in life, find a way to serve others," he said. "And remember — most opportunities don't happen twice."

Hastings High School senior class recognized at Senior Honors Night

Molly Macleod
Editor

The Hastings High School Class of 2025 is off in the world on its maiden voyage after last week's graduation ceremony. Graduates have their plans in place for the future, with many garnering scholarships and other honors during last week's Senior Honors Night.

Below is a listing of the awards and honors given last week.

DEPARTMENT AWARDS

Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources Program Award – Kassandra Harton.

Business Program Award – Kalli Koning.

Construction Trades Program Award – Logan Kerby.

Culinary Arts Program Award – Brett Johnson.

Education Academy Program Award – Brandon Simmons.

Engineering Design Program Award – Lilyah Solmes.

Information Technology Program Award – Carter Favreau.

Face The Wind Award – Mathew Lehman.

Instrumental Arts Department Award – Melany Vargas.

Choral Arts Department Award – Hayley Rasey.

Visual Arts Department Award – Mia Miller.

Language Arts Department Award – Ondreya Griswold.

Math Department Award – Isabel Gee.

Science Department – Victor D. Camp Award – Alyson Miller.

Social Studies Department Award – Ondreya Griswold.

LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS

L. H. Lamb Scholarships – Naomi Grummet and Zoe Watson.

Paul Peterson Scholarships – Brianna Darling and Alex Flikkema.

Hastings Athletic Boosters Scholarships – Jett Barnum, Isabel Gee, Rachael Hewitt and Kennedy Lewis.

Woody Wyngarden Memorial Scholarship – Abigail Schoemer.

Andrea M. Storrs Scholarships– Jett Barnum and Rachael Hewitt.

FFA Alumni Scholarship Awards – Garrett Dunn and Kassandra Harton.

First Presbyterian Church of Hastings Memorial Scholarship – Kalli Koning.

Grand Rapids Building Services (GRBS) Perseverance Scholarship – Noah Griffith.

Paulsen Trust Scholarship – Victoria Tack.

Union Bank Scholarship – Isabel Gee.

College Initiative Scholarships – Carter Favreau, Naomi Grummet, Seth Pirtle and Zoe Watson.

KCC Bertha and Marjorie Smith Scholarship – Abigail Schoemer.

KCC Jim Owens Memorial Industrial Trades Scholarship – Miles Lipsey.

KCC SEMCO ENERGY Gas Company's Workforce Empowerment Scholarship – Miles Lipsey.

KCC Union Electric Scholarship – Emma Jeanette.

Barbara Colleen Hooten Memorial Scholarship – Hastings – Kyle Morgan.

Coach and Kathleen Clarey Scholarship – Isabel Gee.

Coleman Agency Scholarship – Hayley Rasey.

Eldon P. Willard Scholarship – Micah Johnson.

Emil Tyden Founders Scholarship – Isabel Gee.

GFWC Hastings Women's Club "Jumpstart Your Future" Scholarship – Lilyah Solmes.

Gies Family Scholarship – Anika Bourassa.

Mary Youngs Music & Athletic Memorial Scholarships – Isabel Gee and Micah Johnson.

James Metzger Speakers Club Scholarship – Tanner Allerding.

HEA Scholarships – Troy Hokanson and Brennan Reser.

HESPA Scholarships – Ashley Norris and Memphis White.

HEEF SCHOLARSHIPS

Hastings Car Club Scholarship – Elijah Randall.

Helen Mott Scholarships – Hannah DuBois, Isabella Harvath and Jordyn Winters.

Howard and Leona VanDelic Scholarships – Brandon Simmons and Memphis White.

Robert Casey Scholarship – Brandon Simmons.

Herbert J. Reinhardt Scholarship – Ondreya Griswold.

Gladys Cairns Scholarships – Tanner Armstrong, Carter Favreau and Jayse Peterson.

Ruth Tangerstrom Memorial Scholarship – Brandon Simmons.

Rosellen E. & Paul E. Siegel Scholarships – Isabel Gee, Ashley Norris and Preston Meece.

Damian & Sara deGoa Well-Rounded Scholarship – Brooklyn Strickland.

William Czinder Scholarship – Christian Boniface.

Beatrice Fisher Wollin Scholarship – JoDee Gaskill and Alan Li.

Brad and Karin Johnson Scholarship – Micah Johnson.

Bruce D. Fisher Scholarship – Isabel Gee.

Dana Burgess Hastings High School Alumni Association Scholarships – Rachel King, Alan Li, Preston Meece, and Hayley Rasey.

Dale and Merry Ossenheimer Trades – Technical Scholarship – Christian Boniface.

Hastings Kiwanis Club Scholarships – JoDee Gaskill and Rachael Hewitt.

Hastings Insurance Scholarship – Jett Barnum.

Hastings Rotary Club Scholarships – Rachael Hewitt and Micah Johnson.

Val "Bub" Bennett Springer Scholarship – Keegan Nicholson.

Willard G. Pierce and Jessie M. Pierce Scholarship – Brooklyn Strickland.

George Wibalda Scholarship – Donald Kuck.

Larry Baum Scholarship – Elijah Randall.

Carl and Loretta Schoessel Community Service and Leadership Scholarships – Donald Kuck and Kennedy Lewis.

PARTICIPATION AWARDS

Early College Recognition – Keegan Sutfin and Alexya Vazquez.

Dual Enrollment Certificate Program Recognition – Garrett Dunn.

National Merit Scholarship Program Finalist – Lilyah Solmes.

George "Buzz" Youngs Awards – Isaac Friddle and Jordan Milanowski.

Athletic Honors Awards – Jett Barnum, Isaac Friddle, Naomi Grummet, Rachael Hewitt, Troy Hokanson, Micah Johnson, Kennedy Lewis, Jordan Milanowski, Brandon Simmons and Keegan Sutfin.

Saxon Scholar Athlete Awards – Jett Barnum, Jordan Milanowski, JoDee Gaskill, Alyson Miller, Isabel Gee, MaeLynn Miller, Naomi Grummet, Jayse Peterson, Rachael Hewitt, Heaven Simmet, Jordan Humphrey, Brandon Simmons, Micah Johnson, Lilyah Solmes, Donald Kuck, Brooklyn Strickland, Kennedy Lewis, Victoria Tack, Miles Lipsey and Melany Vargas.

MHSAA Scholar Athletes – Jordan Milanowski, Naomi Grummet, Rachael Hewitt, Jayse Peterson, Brandon Simmons, Micah Johnson, Lilyah Solmes and Kennedy Lewis.

I-8 Scholar Athletes – Jett Barnum, Jordan Milanowski, Isabel Gee, Naomi Grummet, Rachael Hewitt, Brandon Simmons, Micah Johnson, Donald Kuck, Kennedy Lewis and Victoria Tack.

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Whether your children are in grade school or high school, they'll be leaving for college or trade school before you know it. With the cost of education rising, now is the time to prepare for that day.

Starting to invest when your child is born is often a great way to build a strong financial future. Even if your children are older, you can still make progress and potentially reap tax benefits by contributing to a 529 education savings plan. Contributions are made with after-tax dollars, accumulate with no federal income tax and can be withdrawn for qualified education expenses federally tax free.

Unfortunately, half of Americans don't know what a 529 plan is, and fewer than a quarter have one, according to 2024 research from Edward Jones and Morning Consult. One way to keep a 529 plan top of mind is to recognize May 29 (5/29) as Save for Education Day.

Benefits of a 529 plan

• *Tax Advantages.* Your withdrawals are free from federal income tax when you use them for elementary or secondary school tuition — including vocational schools and some online courses and degree programs — registered apprenticeships, and qualified higher-education expenses such as housing, books and more.

• *Flexibility.* The variety of qualifying expenses may surprise you. For example, you can pay for off-campus housing (up to the cost of on-campus room and board), student loan repayments (up to a $10,000 lifetime limit), and computers and computer-related accessories, including printers, internet access and educational software used primarily by the plan beneficiary. You may even be able to roll over unused funds to a Roth IRA for your beneficiary, switch beneficiaries or roll it over to another 529 plan.

• *Control.* As the account owner, you – not the beneficiary – control how the funds are used, as you planned and intended.

Strategies for building 529 savings

If you set aside money every month, it can make a big difference toward funding your child's best educational path forward. So, how can you budget for a 529 for your child, when you have competing financial priorities?

• *Save early and regularly.* Consider setting up automatic transfers into a 529 account, even if it feels like a small amount. Taking a few minutes to set it up now can help pay for four years of your child's education in the future.

• *Increase over time.* You could reallocate your day care expenses once your child enters school, which could be a substantial amount each month.

• *Review your savings over time.* Many things can change over time — your available dollars, education costs, investment performance, choice of college, financial aid options and the number of children you're providing for. You have the flexibility to change your contributions.

Your financial advisor can help you determine how a 529 plan can fit into your overall financial strategy and navigate the various guidelines and limits – such as defining a qualified expense, changing beneficiaries and rolling unused dollars elsewhere.

A 529 plan can be a valuable tool for helping your family members afford the educational opportunities that can lead to a promising future. Whether you're exploring this opportunity for the first time or reviewing your current plan, Save for Education Day on 5/29 is good time to do it.

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



The Honor Guard from the Lawrence J. Bauer American Legion Post 45 in Hastings fires off a rifle salute during Monday's Memorial Day observance.

HONOR

Continued from Page 1

served on and under the seas. At both stops, the Honor Guard in attendance delivered a rifle salute.

The Memorial Day activities ended at Riverside Cemetery at the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) monument at the end of the Avenue of Flags. Here, participants have made a tradition of laying a wreath by the gravesite of the most recently buried veteran. This year, it was Bruce Fisher, a Vietnam-era Army Reserve veteran.

Barry Wood, with a 22-year career in the military, delivered a brief address at the cemetery.

Sen. Albert schedules local office hours in Allegan, Barry counties

State Senator Thomas Albert

State Sen. Thomas Albert has scheduled in-district office hours to meet with residents at two locations on Friday, May 30.

Albert will kick things off in the Hastings City Hall council chambers, 201 E. State St., from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.



State Senator Thomas Albert

Later that day, Albrt will be at the Otsego District Public Library, 401 Dix St., from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Office hours are open to district residents to talk about issues related to state government or to request assistance with a state issue. Priority will be given to constituents seeking to discuss issues that require privacy.

No appointment is necessary, but space may be limited at some locations. Local office hours in other parts of the 18th Senate District will be scheduled at a later date. The 18th District includes Barry County and portions of Allegan, Calhoun, Kalamazoo, Kent, and Ionia counties.

Residents unable to attend office hours may contact Albert's Senate office via email at SenTAlbert@senate.michigan.gov, by calling 517-373-1734 or by calling toll-free at 855-347-8018.

Visit Albert's website at SenatorThomasAlbert.com for more information.

HASTINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY SCHEDULE

May 1-31 — May Storybook Walk: "Diary of a Fly" by Doreen Cronin; illustrated by Harry Bliss. Each day is a new adventure for a fly! Follow Fly's journey through her first day of school and all the things she learns about herself. After your storybook adventure, stop by the Visitor Center to pick up an activity sheet. The Storybook Walk is free and self-guided on the Black Walnut Trail.

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

Saturday, May 31— Native Plant Sale, 9 a.m. to noon. Get Michigan-native grasses, wildflowers and plant mixes grown by the Institute. Pre-orders are open now, pickup on May 31. Additional plants will be available for in-person purchase. Plants can be purchased at CedarCreekInstitutePlants.com.

Saturday, May 31 — Al White Artist Reception, 10 a.m. to noon. Join the Institute for this season's talented artist reception showcasing stunning wildlife paintings and carvings by the talented and welcoming Al White.

Saturday, May 31 — Healthy Planet, Healthy People lecture series. Lunch: noon to 1 p.m. Program: 1-2 p.m. Join Sr. Damien Marie Savino, Franciscan Sister of the Eucharist and scientist-engineer, as she discusses the Pope's encyclical on integral ecology. Discover how this concept promotes solutions that benefit the health of our natural and human communities. This program is in-person only. The program is free to Institute members; non-members must pay $8 for the program.

June 1-Sept. 30 — Nature paintings exhibit by Al White. White's paintings will be on display and for sale in the Institute's Visitor Center through Sept. 30. Thirty percent of all sales will be donated to the Institute to further its mission.

June 1-30 — June Storybook Walk: "The Rainbow Hunters" by Andrea Farotto; illustrated by Martina Tonello. Join Bill and his friends as they look for a rainbow. This epic adventure leads them all over their neighborhood. Will they find a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow? After your storybook adventure, stop by the Visitor Center to pick up an activity sheet. The Storybook Walk is free and self-guided on the Black Walnut Trail.

June 2-30 — Hike the News. Hike and get the latest inside news on insects. What is an insect, and why are they so important to us? This hike is free and self-guided on the Green Trail.

Wednesday, June 4 — Stewardship Experience, 10 a.m.-noon. Join the stewardship staff in caring for plants, seed spreading or removing invasive plants. Participants will learn about plant identification, plant communities and ecology. Participants are asked to register online.

Wednesday, June 4 — Summer Fern Hike (ages 15 and up, under 18 with an adult), 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Join David Wendling of the Michigan Botanical Society for a 1.5-mile hike and get an up-close look at the fascinating world of ferns and mosses. Learn about their differences, vast diversity, identifying characteristics and their variety of habitats. Participants will use the book "Fern Finder" by Anne and Barbara Hallowell. The Institute will have a few copies to borrow, but staff strongly recommend purchasing the book at the Institute's gift shop or from online booksellers. Space is limited 10 participants; early registration is encouraged. Institute members can register for the hike for free; non-members must pay $8.

Thursday, June 5 — Social Hike, 10 a.m.-noon.

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

Delton museum set to open for season June 7

The Bernard Historical Society and Museum will open its doors for the 2025 summer season on Saturday, June 7, providing a glimpse into the history of early Barry County and its people with more than 40,000 items on display.

Dr. Prosper Bernard, a physician who opened his practice in Delton in 1928, along with volunteers, reportedly established the museum in 1962 as a non-profit, state-approved historical society and museum.

Since its inception, the mission of the museum has been to collect, protect and present the history of Barry County, according to local historical society officials. It has been run by volunteers and history buffs for the past 63 years.

"We have made many upgrades including a new cement ramp, walkway, and stairs with railings," said Mike Wachowski, president of the Bernard Historical Society and Museum. "We are working toward making the museum more accessible."

Repairs have also reportedly been made to the museum and one-room schoolhouse, including to the roof, gutters and soffits.

"Since we are self-funded, community donations helped us when we needed it the most," Wachowski said.

Visitors may support the museum by purchasing museum T-shirts, mugs, and local history publications. Credit cards can be used at the museum for purchases and donations.

"'Years Gone By' is the most popular book we sell because it includes historical information on local families and businesses, and includes an index of names," said Wachowski. "The book makes a great gift."

"Years Gone By" was compiled by Dr. Bernard, with local volunteers, and originally published in 1967. The book provides insight into early life in Barry County, starting with the area's Ottawa and Potawatomi tribes and local settlers. The book includes a name index and personal anecdotes and local legends that trace the development of Barry County.



The Bernard Historical Society and Museum will open its doors for the 2025 summer season on Saturday, June 7. **Courtesy photo**

Bernard opened a hospital in 1937, which still stands on site and serves as the main museum building. More than 400 babies were born there.

After serving in the military in World War II, Bernard completed his residency at the University of Michigan in radiology.

With X-ray technology still in its infancy and in high demand in the 1940s, he was known for his expertise. His mid-century X-ray equipment is on display along with other medical implements.

Military displays include a drum from the War of 1812, a plane propeller from World War I and two World War II army jeeps. Local tribal artifacts include a dug-out canoe found in Wall Lake in 1971 that is estimated to be at least 150 to 1,000 years old.

According to historical society officials, Bernard was an avid collector of rocks, minerals and gems which are on display at the museum.

The North Pine Lake one room schoolhouse – also known as the Brown School – was built in 1873 and moved from the corner of Pine Lake Road and Lindsey Road to the museum in 1963.

Other buildings include a seamstress cottage, blacksmith shop and a replica of a general store from the 1800s.

An implement building includes local farm and railroad antiques, along with a collection of gas pumps, license plates and metal signs. Most items were used locally and donated by Barry County families.

The windmill is another favorite attraction, according to Wachowski. It was moved to the Delton museum in 1993 from what is now Michigan State University's Lux Arbor Reserve. The windmill dates to the late 1800s or early 1900s.

"People are amazed at what we have here," Wachowski said. "You have no idea until you come see it for yourself. Plan to spend a few hours."

The Bernard Historical Museum, located at 7135 Delton Road in Delton, will be open Saturdays only from 1 to 5 p.m. through September, and is free and open to the public.

For more details, persons may visit online at BernardMuseum.com or search "Bernard Historical Museum" on Facebook. — *DM*

PIERCE CEDAR CREEK INSTITUTE EVENTS

— MAY 29-JUNE 5 —

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

May 1-31 — May Storybook Walk: "Diary of a Fly" by Doreen Cronin; illustrated by Harry Bliss. Each day is a new adventure for a fly! Follow Fly's journey through her first day of school and all the things she learns about herself. After your storybook adventure, stop by the Visitor Center to pick up an activity sheet. The Storybook Walk is free and self-guided on the Black Walnut Trail.

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OBITUARIES

VIEW OBITUARIES ONLINE. HASTINGSBANNER.COM

Hollis Adams



Hollis Adams left this world into the arms of our Lord and family members on May 13, 2025. Before he died he said, "Every family needs a trailblazer, and I am going ahead to make sure your houses are ready."

Hollis was born to LA and Margaret (Bramblatt) Adams in March 3, 1947 in Manchester, TN. He attended schools in New York City, Battle Creek, MI and Hastings High School. He graduated in 1965. He served three years in Germany. He met and fell in love with Lynda (Lyons) Adams in 19685. They were married on Feb. 1, 1969. He loved his family and they had many adventures with him.

He was very active in athletics. He fought Golden Gloves and played football and track for Pennfield in Battle Creek and Hastings High. He started a men's slow pitch team ans they won most of their games. He started HYAA with Don Roy. Burger Chef was their sponsor. He was able to coach his children's teams and helped David Bassett (dear friend) coach his wife's softball team. He and Dave Turner coached an undefeated HYAA football team that his son was on to 8-0. He coached an HYAA team that his daughter Brooke was on and encouraged Chelsea in soccer on a YMCA team. He went to every game they played and as many of his grandchildren's games he was able to. He received many accolades. He was all business and was respected for his skills and fairness.

He worked at Viking Corp and Hastings Manufacturing, car sales in Tennessee. However, most of his career was in Grand Rapids, last being at Fox Honda. He owned his own septic tank business in Hastings until he retired in 2010.

He is survived by his loving wife Lynda of 56 years; his son, Jamey; daughter, Brooke (James) Morrison, and daughter, Chelsea (Pete) Hauschild; grandchildren, Marissa Adams (who he raised), Jordan Morrison, and Raegen Morrison, and great-grandchildren, Hadalee Close, who called him Grandpa Ha Ha. He is also survived by his two brothers Ray and Randy (Bonnie) Adams, and many nieces, nephews, and cousins in the vicinity and in the southern states. Also surviving are an uncle,Fred Bramblett in Kentucky; his sister and brother-in-law, Maureen and Greg Gillons, and brothers-in-law, Michael Lyons, Joseph Lyons, and Tom (Lori) Lyons.

He was preceded in death by his father, LA Adams; mother, Margaret; brother, Ritchie and mother and father-in-law, Owen and Josephine Lyons, and several aunts and uncles, and sister-in-law Sally Ledesma.

Any donations can be made to St. Jude or Hospice.

Cremation has taken place and a memorial will be planned for a later date.

James Fred Metzger



James Fred Metzger of Hastings, MI passed away unexpectedly at his home on May 22, 2025.

Jim was born in Owosso, MI on April 7,1949 to Daisy(Gilliland) and Paul Metzger. He graduated from Owosso High School in 1967. Jim graduated with a bachelor's degree from Central Michigan University in May of 1971 and later went on to earn a double master's from Western Michigan University. Jim married the love of his life, Janet Marie Pouillon, on May 22nd 1971. They shared 54 wonderful years together.

Jim and Jan moved to Hastings in 1972, where he taught high school math for 35 years. Jim loved teaching and was greatly respected and adored by his colleagues, students, and community. He was known for his falling theory that many former students still talk about to this day. He was an active participant in many different committees and contract negotiations. He also started the Speaker's Club and gave three graduation speeches over the course of his career.

He was a devout catholic and a member of St. Rose church. He ushered at mass, was a greeter, and took collections. He would on occasion make donuts for Sunday mass and worked bingo. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus and a past Grand Knight.

Jim loved his family and was blessed with two children, Derek James and Kathryn Lacy. He was an active and attentive father who never shied away from showing his love and affection. He never missed an event or activity and was always willing to lend a hand or advice and provide support whenever needed. He loved taking Derek and Katie camping and fishing. Jim and Derek spent many days together at Tiger stadium and enjoyed watching the Red Wings. He never missed an opportunity to make music with Katie or discuss their favorite bluegrass bands or the books they were reading.

Jim enjoyed a plethora of hobbies over his lifetime. He learned to play the banjo as a young man and enjoyed "making music" up until the week of his passing. He was a member of serveral bands including The Thornapple River Boys and Basement Bluegrass. He was also a motorcycle enthusiast. Learning to ride in his youth, it afforded him many years of travel on the open road. He went on lots of solo rides, but especially loved riding with friends. He was a member of the Iron Butt Association having ridden the Saddlesore 1000 in which he rode 1,000 miles in 24 hours. His crowning achievement was riding through all 48 continental states and touching all four corners.

Jim and Jan were also great traveling companions. They would hunt lighthouses on the motorcycle, take historical trips out east, visit national parks, traveled all over Michigan and many other states for Jan's genealogy research, and several trips to Jan's beloved Ireland. He also enjoyed working with wood, eventually teaching himself how to make banjos. He hunted and fished in his younger years,went to gas and steam engine shows with his father, umpired high school baseball, and liked to play games such as bridge, checkers, backgammon and chess. Jim was also an avid reader, often reading several books at a time.

Over the last 13 years, Jim's most treasured time was spent with his grandkids, Ethan James and Stella Marie. He spent much of his time with them babysitting, traveling, supporting them in their activities, talking math with Ethan and drawing with Stella. Jim was adamant about never going to Walt Disney World until Ethan and Stella convinced him to go two years in a row. They were two of his favorite trips ever and he had the best time riding the roller coasters with them. He showered them with endless love and support.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents, Daisy and Paul Metzger; in-laws George and Kathryn(Rourke) Martineau; sisters-in-law, Jeanne Metzger and Karla Metzger; brothers-in-law, Thomas Pouillon, and James Pouillon, and nephew, Jon Isenhower.

Jim is survived by his wife of 54 years, Janet (Pouillon) Metzger; son, Derek Metzger; daughter, Kathryn(Metzger) Yun; grandso, Ethan Yun; granddaughter, Stella Yun; brother, Paul Metzger; sister and brother-in-law, Patty and Ernie Isenhower; sister-in-law, Judy Holt; sister-in-law, Sandy Lake; brother-in-law, Donald Pouillon along with many nieces and nephews that thought the world of him.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Rose of Lima Parish 707 South Jefferson Street, Hastings, MI 49058 or the Hastings Education Enrichment Foundation, 232 W Grand Street, Hastings, MI 49058.

Visitation will be held on Friday, June 6, 2025, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Girrbach Funeral Home, located at 328 S Broadway, Hastings, MI 49058.

The Mass of Christian Burial will take place on Saturday, June 7, 2025, at 11 a.m. at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church, 805 S Jefferson St, Hastings, MI 49058. Father Jeff Hanley will officiate. A luncheon will follow the service, with interment to take place afterward at Mt. Calvary Cemetery in Hastings, MI.

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

Kenneth O. Schondelmayer



Kenneth O. Schondelmayer passed away peacefully on May 24, 2025, in Wyoming, MI, at the age of 88. Born on October 24, 1936, in Middleville, MI, Ken was the son of Carner and Clarissa (Bowerman) Schondelmayer.

Ken graduated from Thornapple-Kellogg High School in 1955, where he formed lifelong friendships and a love for local sports. He proudly served his country as a member of the United States Marine Corp. For over two decades, he served the Middleville community as a beloved barber, a role that allowed him to connect with people from all walks of life. Following his barbering career, Ken dedicated another 20 years to Steelcase, where his hard work and commitment were well recognized.

Ken leaves behind his devoted wife of 67 years, Sharon (Myers) Schondelmayer, and their children: Mike, Roxie (Chuck) Visser, and their grandchildren: Rebekka (Garret) Krul, Zachary, Hannah (Eric) Raymer, Amanda (Eric) Breneman, Jacob (Tracey) Visser, KyLeigh Visser, Andrea (Joey) Noffke, Nathan Visser, 11 great-grandchildren, and sisters-in-law: Marcia Schondelmayer and Janet Schondelmayer.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Carner and Clarissa Schondelmayer, daughter-in-law, Sue Schondelmayer, and siblings: Milo Schondelmayer, Marjorie Hall, Forest Schondelmayer, Glenn Schondelmayer, Catherine Moma, and John Schondelmayer.

Ken was a man of many interests, including antiquing with his brother Glenn and woodworking. He took joy in the simple pleasures of life, such as cutting wood, watching Thornapple-Kellogg sports, and staying close to home. His love for the outdoors was evident as he spent countless hours working around the house and taking his grandkids for quad rides around the property. He developed many friendships at the Pennock Fitness Center, while mornings at McDonald's were brightened by his regular coffee gatherings. Ken was also a loyal fan of the Detroit Lions and Tigers, never missing an opportunity to cheer on his favorite teams.

Ken's family will receive friends on Saturday, May 31, 2025 from 10 a.m. – noon at the Beeler-Gores Funeral Home, Middleville. Private burial will take place at Mt. Hope Cemetery. Memorial donations to St. Jude Children's Hospital or Paws with a Cause Please visit www.beelergoresfuneral.com to share a memory or leave a condolence message for Ken's family.

SECURITY

Continued from Page 3

- Scheduled hearing date and time.
- Incomplete applications.
- Servicing office location.

Publications of interest, depending on the claim and current step in the process.

If you have questions about retirement, disability, Medicare, or survivor benefits, or about Supplemental Security Income, visit our webpage at ssa.gov/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.

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:

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Mary Mackaluso Arnold





After a long and full 89 years of life, Mary Mackaluso Arnold returned to the arms of her Heavenly Father. On Thursday, May 22, 2025, she passed peacefully in her sleep with several family members nearby.

Mary was the youngest of four children born to her Italian immigrant parents, Paul and Rebecca Mackaluso. She entered the world on August 4, 1935, in Battle Creek, MI where she spent her youth. In 1953, Mary graduated from Battle Creek Central High School where she was active in sports and music.

Mary and her former husband, James Partridge moved to Hastings, MI in 1962 where they raised their three children, Frank, Rosemary (Rose), and James (Jaimie). In 1966, they built Mary's dream home on State Road (not to be confused with State Street) in Hastings and she resided there until her last breath on earth. While Mary experienced multiple hardships over the course of her life, being a part of The Great Generation, she did not let that stop her from taking advantage of all that life on earth had to offer. She loved any reason to celebrate and hosted nearly every holiday/celebration in her home until her grandchildren were grown, complete with enough food to feed quadruple the attendees, themed desserts, and matching décor.

Mary created holiday magic for her children and grandchildren, and she found great joy in being able to give gifts to others. If you have met Mary, you have likely received a card from her as she was always very thoughtful in sending her friends and family cards for any occasion and just to brighten their day.

Mary was always active and had multiple careers throughout her life, starting at Kellogg's. She then started working at home by raising her children. She took great pride in her role as a mother and ultimately returned to the workforce later in life to support her children's college education. In 2000, Mary retired from the Battle Creek Federal Center after 25 years of dedicated service.

In addition to an active working life, Mary's social calendar was always full, and it seemed like she was always finding something new and interesting to do. This was especially true after she married the love of her life, Gary Arnold, in 2003. With this relationship, Mary gained the joy of two additional children (Gary [Lori] Arnold and Theresa [Rick] McDarmont), along with several grandchildren (Jared, Joel, and Jordan).

Together, Mary and Gary traveled the country and spent many winters with a community of friends in Bradenton, FL. They went square/line dancing multiple times a week, joined the Mid-Michigan Model-A Crank and Throttle Auto club, went boating/camping regularly, went to the Kellogg's store as former employees weekly, and went out to eat with friends at any possible opportunity. Mary (and Gary) loved attending events for their children and grandchildren and they celebrated their accomplishments across the world-a particular favorite was being MSU football season ticket holders for several years while their grandson played in the marching band.

Mary was a tenacious and opinionated person who made an impression everywhere she went. She was always dressed in coordinating outfits with matching accessories, and she never missed her important self-care (and social) rituals of having her hair and nails done.

Making connections with people was highly important to Mary and she loved to talk, resulting in her leaving nearly every place she ever went with a new friend. She seemed to win many more contests/raffles than is statistically probable (although she would tell you that she "never wins anything"). Mary always had an eye for beautiful things, and she collected many treasures, recipes, and mementos from her adventures over the years.

Music and the arts had a special place in Mary's heart all of her life. She performed with the Lakewood Area Choral Society and Sweet Adelines and sang in the church choir for many years. She was a season ticket holder at the Hastings Performing Arts Center and flew back from Florida every year to watch her grandchildren perform in musicals there.

Faith was important to Mary, and she loved her Lord and Savior and was eager to share that love with anyone who would listen. Mary was active in multiple faith communities over her life, spending the majority of her years as a member of Hastings Baptist Church. When it was difficult for her to attend church due to her health in her later years, she always watched her favorite pastors on television and spent time in the Word and in prayer.

While Mary lived a vivacious life, she looked forward to meeting her Heavenly Father more expectantly in her later years following the loss of her beloved Gary in 2017 and her daughter Rosemary in 2021. Mary was also preceded in death by her parents, Paul Dominic and Rebecca (Slayer) Mackaluso, siblings, Barbara Underwood, Robert Mackaluso, Paul Mackaluso, two of her nephews, Craig VanDongen and James Mackaluso, and the father of her children, James Partridge.

She is survived by her children, Frank (Ginger) Partridge and James II (Lainie) Partridge, Gary (Lori) Arnold, Theresa (Rick) McDarmont; her grandchildren, Matthew, Lindsey, Katherine, Jake, Jared, Joel, and Jordan and her great grandchildren, Isabella, Nolan, Donovan, and Rebel, along with many nieces and nephews, great nieces and nephews, and great great nieces and nephews.

In Mary's own words, she is now "dancing across heaven."

Visitation will be on Sunday, June 1, 2025 from 3 to 6:00 p.m. at Daniels Funeral Home (1401 N. Broadway, Hastings, MI 49058).

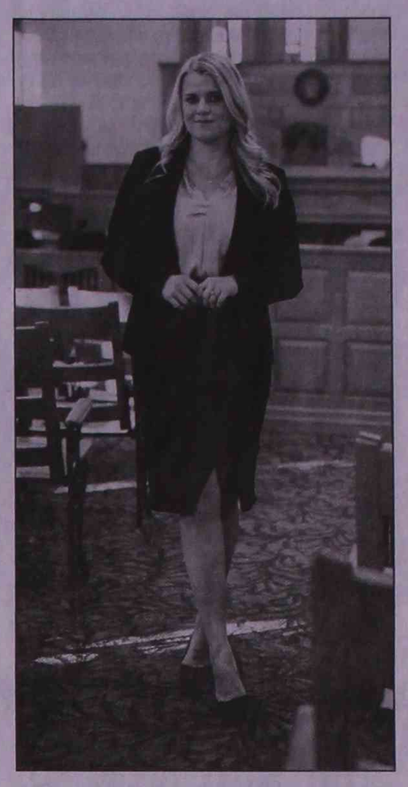
Funeral Services, officiated by Jake Partridge, will be held on Monday, June 2, 2025 at 11:30 a.m. at Daniels Funeral Home in Hastings, MI with a luncheon to follow at the same location. A graveside service, officiated by Reverend David Mackaluso, will be held at Floral Lawn Memorial Garden Cemetery (1490 E. Michigan Ave, Battle Creek, MI 49014) following the luncheon.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Wings of Hope Hospice Services, Spiritual Care of Hastings, and Commission on Aging of Hastings.

Funeral arrangements are 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.

Delton native returns to area to serve as assistant prosecuting attorney

Karen Turko-Ebright
Staff Writer



Allie Steele-Rouse took her oath of office last week before beginning her new position as an assistant prosecuting attorney with the Barry County Prosecutor's Office. **Courtesy photo**

While dreams can sometimes be fleeting, they also can come true. Just ask Allie Steele-Rouse, whose story seemingly has come full circle with the native of Delton moving back to her hometown to start a new career.

The 27-year-old Rouse, a 2016 graduate of Delton Kellogg High School, and her husband recently bought a home and landed a job as an assistant prosecuting attorney with the Barry County's Prosecutor's Office after passing the state bar exam.

"I've always imagined that my career would bring me to a job right here at home," Rouse said. "I just didn't think a job would open up so soon after I graduated and passed the bar."

Rouse, who currently works as an assistant public defender in Calhoun County, will start her new position as an assistant prosecutor at the end of the month.

Rouse took the oath of office at Barry County Circuit Court on Friday, May 16. It was the same courtroom where her mother, Jill Humphreys-Steele, took her oath in 1996 after she passed the bar.

This time, Steele was there for her daughter as her sponsor for admission into the State Bar of Michigan, a professional organization for lawyers and judges.

"I always imagined that I would be a prosecutor," Rouse said. "I like criminal law much more than civil law."

When first starting to work as a public defender, she added she was unsure would be good at it because of her interest in being a prosecutor.

"Ultimately, it ended up being a wonderful experience," Rouse said. "I learned so much, not just about procedure and the law, but I gained a lot of perspective about people in general and saw that some realities are very different than my own.

"I'm grateful that I had that opportunity to see the whole picture of the world of criminal law because I think it will make me that much better at truly seeking justice for people. Because, after all, the true job of a prosecutor is to be a minister of justice."

Rouse was seemingly destined to follow a path to a career in law, because every step along the way followed those by people she admired the most.

"I grew up with a lawyer mom, so I was always very aware of the career path of being a lawyer," she said. "But, growing up, that also meant that we talked about a lot of concepts and current events in the world or our community through the lens of the law, justice and fairness.

"When I was in college, I realized that was just how my brain works and since I was deeply passionate about law, politics, society and justice, my efforts would be best served in the world pursuing the things I was passionate about."

Rouse's mother recently retired after more than 15 years as the city attorney for Battle Creek. Before that, she was in private practice for 13 years.

"Allie went to court with me when she was about three weeks old," Steele said. "I was on the court-appointed criminal defense list at that time and had a hearing no other attorney wanted to take while I was on maternity leave," Steele explained, adding that the compensation back then was low. "So, I brought her with me, and when I had to go on the record, another attorney, Shane McNeill, held her for me."

Rouse attended high school at the Battle Creek Area Math and Science Center for half the day, and the other half of the day was spent going to school at DKHS, later graduating from both schools.

Rouse then attended Western Michigan University, where she was on the water ski team. She earned nationwide awards from the collegiate water ski circuit.

Steele said Allie met her boyfriend, now husband, at a waterskiing event.

"He skied for the University of Cincinnati," Steele said. "Allie transferred to UC for her final two years of school and graduated from there."

It wasn't until after she graduated from UC in 2020 with a bachelor's degree in political science that Rouse decided to go to law school. The next step was her graduating WMU Cooley Law School – the same law school her mother attended – in January.

"When I was in private practice in Delton, I had a Little Tykes desk in my office, where three days per week Allie was the official office baby," Steele said, with Rouse attending daycare the other two days per week. "So, I guess she was born into it."

Following a similar path traveled by her mother, Rouse said her "biggest goal in my career " is to be respected and trusted.

"Something I knew from the way that she carried herself but really got to understand on a deeper level once I started working in the field with people who had known my mom for decades, was that – my mom's reputation preceded her – and that was because she always chose the ethical path," Rouse said.

"As a profession, lawyers get such a wishy-washy name from what people see on TV and how some people choose to operate," she added. "So, it's always been really important to me to do everything the ethical way."

And with Rouse's mom a lawyer and her dad a teacher holding a master's degree in special education, Rouse said she's always felt a deep sense of responsibility to her community.

"I love my little town and all the wonderful people and beautiful parts of it," she said. "I'm all in on Delton and Barry County, so it just made sense to jump at the first opportunity I had to serve my neighbors, friends and home."

Along with her new job, Rouse serves on the Revitalize Delton Board and the Delton Kellogg Education Foundation.

Herb workshop scheduled for June 8

Area residents can learn about common herbs used for natural pest management at a free workshop this weekend.

Michigan State University Pollinator Champion and Master Gardener Robbin Glass will lead the workshop on Sunday, June 8, from 3 to 5 p.m.

Attendees of the class will learn about common herbs and their pest management uses, including how to deter harmful bugs and keep deer out of vegetable gardens. The workshop will be held at the Hastings SDA School at 904 Terry Lane in Hastings.

All are welcome to attend the class; there is no need to register. For more information, contact Glass at 517-652-3056. — *MM*

HPL dedicating Jane Arnold Storybook Walk June 3

The Hastings Public Library announced this week that a new Storybook Walk has been constructed along the Thornapple River in downtown Hastings in memory of Jane Arnold.

Locals are invited to join library staff and Arnold's family at a dedication ceremony on Tuesday, June 3, at 5:30 p.m. to officially launch the Storybook Walk. After the ceremony, attendees can grab a snack and take a walk along the river to enjoy the first story.

Arnold passed away in June 2024, and her family requested that donations to the library be one way for people to honor her. With the donations received, and in partnership with her family, the decision was made and approved by the Library Board of Trustees and Hastings City Council to install a Storybook Walk in support of the children of Hastings for whom Arnold cared so deeply.

Families can get outside together and read a story as they enjoy the riverwalk. Stories will change periodically to keep the experience fresh. Twenty stations have been erected, starting at the bridge by Thornapple Plaza, and running east approximately one quarter-mile to Railroad St. Just behind the Library parking lot and near the solar-powered picnic table is the first station that contains a dedication plaque to Arnold. — *MM*

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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)

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)

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 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)

FORECLOSURE NOTICE (ALL COUNTIES)

AS A DEBT COLLECTOR, WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. 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 a.m./p.m. 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. Default having been made in the terms and conditions of a certain mortgage made by Leroy S. Martinez of Barry County, Michigan, Mortgagor to Kellogg Community Credit Union dated the 13th day of August, 2018, and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds, for the County of Barry and State of Michigan, on the 22nd day of August, 2018, in Document No. 2018-008112 of the Barry County Records on which mortgage there is claimed to be due, at the date of this notice, for principal of $189,442.57 plus accrued interest at 5.62500% percent per annum. Which said premises are described as follows: All that certain piece or parcel of land situated in the Township of Johnstown, in the County of Barry and State of Michigan and described as follows to wit: Beginning at a point in the highway running along the Southerly side of Fine Lake distant North 87 degrees 15 minutes West, 122 feet from the Northwest comer of the recorded Plat of Shore Acres Plat No. 1, on the Southwest fraction of Section 29, Town 1 North, Range 8 West, running thence South 87 degrees 15 minutes East, 69.2 feet; thence South 16 degrees 15 minutes East, parallel with and distant 3 feet Easterly from the East side of Cottage, a distance of 155 feet; thence South 73 degrees 45 minutes West 56 feet to Weed`s East Line; thence North 19 degrees 15 minutes West, along Weed`s East line, 176.8 feet to the place of beginning. Together with all right, title and interest of first parties in and to the land between the Northerly extension of Easterly and Westerly lines of parcel herein described and Fine Lake and subject to the rights of the public in and to the highway running over and across the Northerly end of the parcel herein described. Commonly known as: 60 East Hickory Road, Battle Creek, MI 49017 Tax ID: 09-029-022-00 If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale the borrower, pursuant to MCLA 600.3278 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. The redemption period shall be six 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. Dated: May 29, 2025 By: Benjamin N. Hoen #P-81415 Weltman, Weinberg & Reis Co., L.P.A. 5990 West Creek Road, Suite 200 Independence, OH 44131 Telephone: 216-739-5100 Fax: 216-363-4034 Email: bhoen@weltman.com WWR#: 25-000381-1

(05-29)(06-19)

Valley baseball and softball teams open postseason Friday at Bellevue

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Maple Valley varsity baseball and softball teams will start the MHSAA Division 4 state postseason Friday taking on Bellevue in the district semifinals in Bellevue at 3 p.m.

In the baseball district, Athens and Tekonsha meet in the day's first semifinal at 1 p.m. The two winners will meet in the district final at about 5 p.m.

The Lion varsity softball team will also go to Bellevue Friday, May 30, to take on the Broncos in a district semifinal contest at 3 p.m. Portland St. Patrick and Climax-Scotts meet in the other D4 softball district semifinal Friday at 1 p.m. The district final for softball is also slated for a 5 p.m. start there in Bellevue.

The Maple Valley boys closed the regular season Tuesday with a 7-1 loss to Charlotte in Vermontville Tuesday despite outhitting the Orioles 8-5. Charlotte took advantage of nine walks and scored one unearned run as the Lions rolled through five different pitchers in the district tune-up.

All eight Lion hits were singles. Bobby Bryson was 2-for-3 at the plate for the Lions. Nolan Hoefler walked twice and drove in a run. Jimmy Wiggs scored the lone Lion run in the bottom of the second after the Orioles built an early 6-0 lead.

Vikings beat Belding to earn Saturday trip to Ionia

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Ethan Guiles shut out Belding for six innings and the Vikings got an good early start offensively to open the MHSAA Division 2 postseason with a victory over the Black Knights at Lakewood High School.

Lakewood took a 6-1 win its MHSAA Division 2 Pre-District ballgame against the Belding varsity baseball team which played as the home team Tuesday. The Vikings head to Ionia Saturday to take on St. Johns at 10 a.m. in the district semifinals. Portland and Ionia meet in the day's second semifinal in Ionia.

Guiles got the win Tuesday striking out 11 while giving up five hits and five walks.

Lakewood scored a run in the first inning and then four in the top of the second to take control of the game. The Vikings added a sixth run in the top of the fourth. Belding's lone run came off Viking reliever Lucas Steward in the bottom of the seventh.

The Vikings had just five hits, all of them singles. Senior Seth Willette was 1-for-3 at the top of the line-up with a walk and two runs scored. Guiles walked once, scored a run and drove in one. Reily Teigeler, Brady Makley, Remi Horstman and Brody Hoppes had the other Lakewood hits. Makley and Hoppes had one RBI each. Michael Goodemoot, Tanner Haight and Hoppes each scored once.

Makley delivered an RBI single with two out and the bases loaded in the top of the first. A pair of walks and a hit batter loaded the bases in front of him.

Goodemoot walked, stole second, went to third on a passed ball and then scored on an RBI single from Hoppes to start the Vikings' four-run second inning. That single was the only hit of the inning.

Lion soccer squad falls to Bath in district match

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Maple Valley varsity girls' soccer season came to an end with a 7-0 loss against the Bees in Bath Wednesday, May 21, in the MHSAA Division 4 District Tournament's opening round.

The Bees, now 15-4-1, followed up the win over the Lions by outscoring the Lansing Christian girls 3-2 in the district semifinals Tuesday and will now head to Dansville this afternoon, May 29, to face Laingsburg in the district final.

"Bath is really tough, but both games against them we held our own and proved that we could keep up with the best team in our district," Lion head coach Richard Seume said.

"In a season full of hardships for our team and our community, the girls stuck together and continued to give their all. We're so thankful for our ten seniors and all they've done for the program, especially Makenna Barnum-Suttles, who made the tough decision to learn how to be a keeper in her last year. She had over 200 saves this season."

The Lansing Christian Pilgrims opened the state tournament with a 6-0 win over visiting Potterville in their district opener in Lansing last Wednesday.

The 13-6 Laingsburg girls beat Dansville 5-0 in their district semifinal match Tuesday.

The Lions closed out the regular season at Pennfield Monday, May 19, falling 7-1 to the Panthers in Battle Creek. Julia Mater scored her first varsity goal in the defeat.

Maple Valley ends the season with a 1-13 record.

TK ladies improve some PRs at scholarship invite

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

A handful of Thornapple Kellogg girls took part in the U of M Health-West Sports Medicine Scholarhip Invite at Byron Center High School Tuesday.

TK girls took victories in the two hurdles races. TK senior Brooklyn Harmon ran to a time of 14.90 seconds to win the 100-meter hurdles. Junior Mia Hilton improved her personal record time to 45.73 in winning the 300-meter low hurdles.

The Gater sisters both had top ten finishes in the 400-meter dash. Junior Payton Gater improved her PR to 1 minute .39 seconds to finish third in the race and the freshman Amya was ninth in 1:02.82.

The TK team also had sophomore Ellie Harmon set her PR in the 200-meter dash at 27.69 to place 20th overall.

The meet included athletes from all across West Michigan and beyond, with competitors from 33 different schools scoring in the girls' meet and 40 in the boys' meet. The Zeeland East girls and the Byron Center boys finished atop the day's point standings.

Brooklyn Harmon, Hilton, Payton Gater and Amya Gater have all also qualified for Saturday's MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 2 Track and Field Finals at Hamilton High School.

NOTICE OF
PUBLIC HEARING OF
THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF
BARRY INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT THERE WILL BE A PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE PROPOSED 2025-2026 BUDGET AT THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BARRY INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT:

DATE OF MEETING:	JUNE 10, 2025
PLACE OF MEETING	BARRY ISD ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
HOUR OF MEETING	8:00 A.M.
TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE:	(269) 945-9545
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES ARE LOCATED AT:	BARRY ISD ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE 535 WEST WOODLAWN AVENUE HASTINGS, MI 49058-1038
A COPY OF THE PROPOSED 2025-2026 BUDGET INCLUDING THE PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX MILLAGE RATE IS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION DURING NORMAL BUSINESS HOURS AT:	BARRY ISD ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE 535 WEST WOODLAWN AVENUE HASTINGS, MI 49058-1038

PURPOSE OF MEETING:

1. **Public discussion on the proposed 2025-2026 budget. The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing. The Board may not adopt its proposed 2025-2026 budget until after the public hearing.**

Deb Hatfield
Secretary, Barry Intermediate School District Board of Education

Grant tallies hat-trick in LHS girls' postseason opener

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

It took less than a minute and a half for the Vikings' offensive adjustments to pay off.

The Lakewood varsity girls' soccer team five times in the second half to pull away for a 7-0 win over visiting Kelloggsville in their MHSAA Division 3 District opener Wednesday, May 21, at Lakewood High School.

Lakewood took a 2-0 lead in the first half while controlling much of the play. Sophomore Ana Grant fired a centering ball in from the right and freshman Raelin Schrock ran onto it and hit a shot that skipped through the Kelloggsville keeper 85 seconds into the second half on a cool, wet evening.

It was the start of an onslaught that saw the Vikings score five times in eight minutes and five seconds to start the second half. Grant had three of those goals after that early second-half assist.

"I think we did really good building the play, like passing the ball, and I think we just did really good finishing and just working as a team together," Grant said after the win.

"I think it was the halftime talk. We came in, we were just more hype and more ready to play. I was really confident going in and I think the whole team was, and I think we finished going good."

Grant said that as the season has progressed, her second on the Viking varsity, she has seen her team improve on building up the offensive attack, passing the ball and not looking to just shoot through balls ahead quite as often, "but looking good at dropping the ball back, doing really good at getting to the flags and looking for those crosses. And then defensively, I think we've been doing really good, too."

Her coach, Adrian Almas, has seen those strides too, both overall this season and between the first half and second half Wednesday evening.

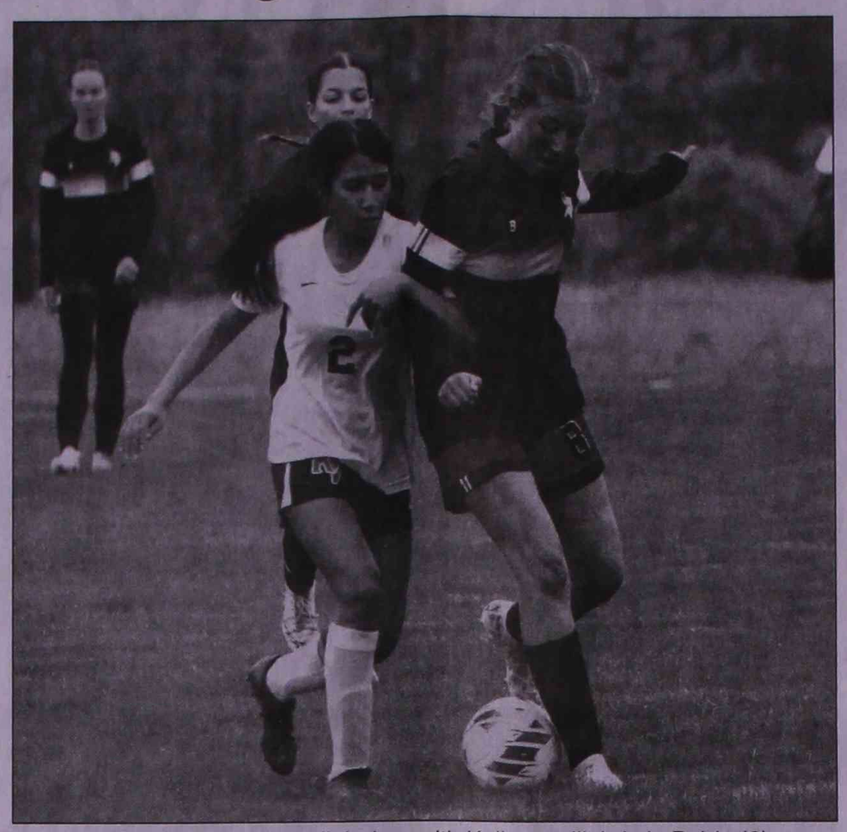
"They were in the right spots, they were hanging on to the ball when they should have been. They were getting rid of the ball when they should have been, and they were making the right passes. Now, were they all perfect, obviously not, but a lot more of them were better.

"Most of our offense flows through Ana and through Mayleigh [Raffler] and through Alana [Raffler] on the outside, but I mean, mostly really Ana is the one that does a lot of those transition passes, and that was the biggest thing in the first half. She was trying to find Mayleigh and the second half is just like, 'hey, Mayleigh is not our only person that can beat these girls. Get it to the flag. Let Bailey [Stickles], let Abby [Huisman] let Alana chase it down, and then let's get the ball through into the box.' So yeah, that was that was the biggest thing."

He said making the right pass at the right time, and not making it too soon was the big key.

"Ana does a lot of things right," Almas added. "Ana is a great dribbler. She can see the field probably better than anyone offensively at least. She's got that game-like mentality where emotions don't necessarily get to her all the time .. She's obviously athletic, but she's probably our best ball-handler and she just knows when to make that right pass, when to shoot, when not to. She has been a great player for us."

He said she had ten goals a year ago and is up to at least a dozen this spring. He expects she is the team leader in assists and looking over tape if a second assist was given for the pass that leads to an assist that leads to a goal she would be the leader in that too.



Lakewood's Liz Markwart is all tied up with Kelloggsville's Lyla Rubio (2) as they chase after the ball in the midfield during the MHSAA Division 3 District opener at Lakewood High School Wednesday, May 21. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

All the scoring was really a team effort Wednesday. Mayleigh Raffler had a goal and two assists and was attacking the Rocket net and was knocked to the ground while getting a shot off to earn a PK that Grant fired into the net in the second half.

Maylee Steward and Stickles had the first-half goals for the Vikings in the win, and Taryn Cusack had an assist in the second half.

Stickles scored the game's first goal 15 minutes and 32 seconds into the contest. She put a shot in from the right of the Rocket net that found its way across the goal mouth and into the far side. Mayleigh Raffler got an assist on the play.

Kelloggsville's best couple scoring chances came in the immediate moments after that first Viking goal. The Rockets had a point-blank shot go wide right about 30 seconds after the score, and then another minute after that had another shot fly just wide of the left post.

Goalkeeper Emma Tidd earned the shut out in net without having to worry much about a ball slipping through wet gloves in the the steady mist that fell all game long. The ball didn't even make it to her hands often with a defensive effort powered in large part by Sydney Tefft in the middle.

The Vikings couldn't keep the postseason rolling beyond that opening round victory though. Covenant Christian took a 10-0 win over Wyoming Lee in their district opener Wednesday, and then knocked off the Lakewood girls 8-0 in a match hosted by Lee in Wyoming Tuesday, May 27.

Lakewood closes the season with an 8-11 overall record.

Covenant Christian (13-7-1) will host West Michigan Aviation Academy (15-5) in the district final Saturday morning, May 31. WMAA beat Godwin Heights 8-0 in its district semifinal hosted by Lee Tuesday too.

TK rolling through stretch against state's top D2 teams

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

A group of four of the state's top 15 ranked teams in Division 2 are a part of the MHSAA Division 2 District Tournament being hosted by Gull Lake High School this week and last.

The Thornapple Kellogg Trojans came out on top in the first match-up between two of those teams Wednesday, May 21, at Harper Creek High School. The 12th-ranked Trojans defeated the 13th-ranked Beavers 1-0 in Battle Creek to earn a spot in the May 28 district semifinals

TK was set to face eighth-ranked Otsego or Battle Creek Central in the district semifinals Wednesday, May 28, at Gull Lake High School. Game time is set for 5 p.m. Otsego and Battle Creek Central were set to play their opening round game Friday evening, May 23.

Third-ranked Gull Lake takes on Plainwell in the second district semifinal match of the day Wednesday, and the two winners will meet back at Gull Lake High School Friday, May 30, for the district final with a 6 p.m. scheduled start.

Madilyn Chivis fired a corner kick into the Beaver box in Battle Creek Tuesday and Tealy Cross finished it off to give the Trojans the lone goal of the district opener with just three minutes left in the game.

"The girls played really well in the game," TK head coach David Wood said. "Going into the game we knew it was going to be a close game. First half, we created chances we should have capitalized on. Same within the second, but it took until the final three minutes in the game to get the breakthrough goal."

Should the Trojans face the Otsego Bulldogs, big favorites in their contest with BC Central, it would be the third straight game against a top team in the D2 state rankings. TK closed the regular season against number five South Christian Monday.

The suspense lasted all season, but it didn't last too long Monday evening. South Christian clinched the 2025 OK Gold Conference 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

See **ROLLING** on 14

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
BARRY COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. and JUDGE 2025-30126-DE
Hon. William M. Doherty

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

Estate of Lilah J. Francisco. Date of birth: July 4, 1938.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Lilah J. Francisco, deceased, died August 17, 2022.

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

Date: 05/27/2025
Tyler J. Stewart P80750
211 E. Water Street, Ste. 401
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007
(269) 343-2106
Jacqueline Wahl
6908 Ringling Ave.
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49048
(269) 492-2083

NOTICE: SEEKING APPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Barry County Board of Commissioners is seeking applications from volunteers to serve on the following Boards:

Barry County Conservation Easement Board – 1 real estate/ develop interest, partial term; 1 Township designee, partial term – must be a resident of a township and willing to have the township board nominate them to the position. This is an annual appointment.

Mental Health Authority Board – 1 partial term, preference with lived experience in mental health diagnosis and/or substance use disorder

Applications may be obtained at the County Administration Office, 3rd floor of the Courthouse, 220 W. State St., Hastings; or www.barrycounty.org under the tab: How do I apply for: An Advisory Board or Commission and click to display the application. Applications must be returned no later than 5:00 p.m. on **Monday June 2, 2025**. Contact 269-945-1284 for more information.

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
BARRY COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. and JUDGE 2025-30126-DE
William M. Doherty

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

Estate of Buddy Lee Semrau. Date of birth: 06/03/1940.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Buddy Lee Semrau, died 01/24/2025.

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

Date: 05/21/2025
Nathan E. Tagg P68994
202 South Broadway
Hastings, MI 49058
269-948-2900
Dorothy M. Semrau
351 South M-66 Highway
Nashville, MI 49073
517-852-4212

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)

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)

Vikings and DK/Martin's Matteson shoot to state finals

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Vikings were closer to first than fourth.

Now they're headed to the state finals.

The Lakewood varsity boys' golf team earned a spot in the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 3 Boys' Golf Finals with a third-place finish at the D3 regional at Bedford Valley Golf Club Tuesday. The top three teams and top three individuals not on those teams at the regional earned spots in the state finals.

Delton Kellogg sophomore Grady Matteson will join the Vikings for the finals at The Meadows on the campus of Grand Valley State University the weekend of June 5-7. Matteson shot an 83 to tie for third individually while finishing among the three individual state qualifiers.

Kalamazoo Central senior Ian Tuin won the individual regional title in a playoff over Comstock senior Cayden Schultz. Both guys fired an 82, and Tuin's score helped the Comets to the team regional title too.

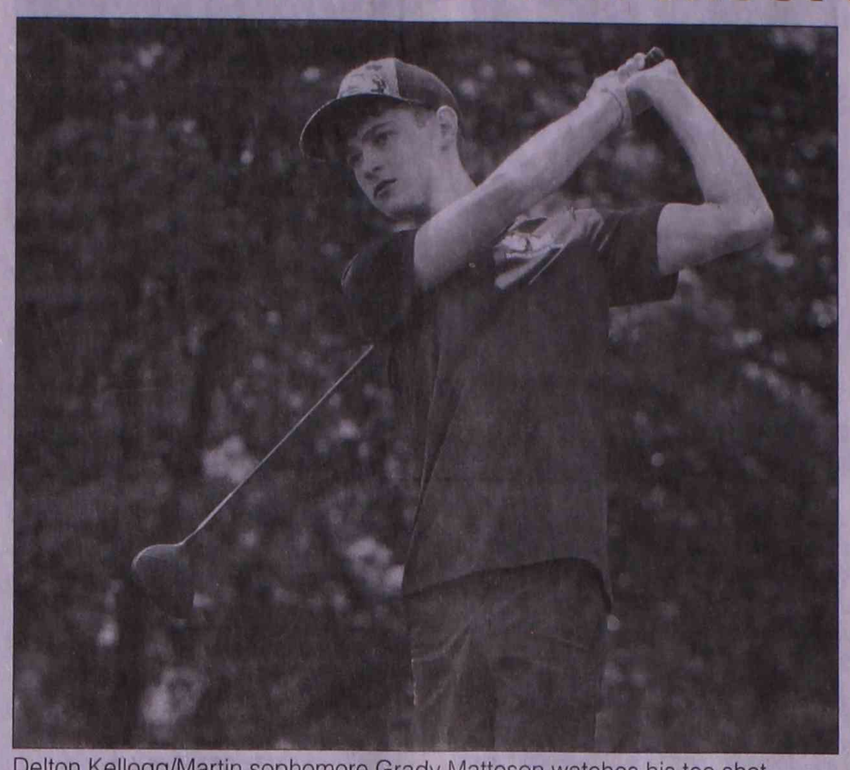
Schultz joins Matteson and Lawton senior Kaedon Miller, who also scored an 83, as the trio of individual state qualifiers.

The Comets won the team title with a score of 338. Schoolcraft was second with 344 strokes and Lakewood third with 347. There wasn't too much pressure on the Vikings. They got off to a good start and finished 18 strokes better than the fourth-place Pewamo-Westphalia team.

The P-W Pirates closed the day with a score of 365. Delton Kellogg/Martin was fifth with a score of 366.

Matteson sank a birdie putt on the par-4, number 18 to finish off his round after a par on 17.

Quincy junior Braylon Estlow shot an 85 to finish two strokes back of Matteson and Miller in the chase for a finals spot.



Delton Kellogg/Martin sophomore Grady Matteson watches his tee shot fly on number six at Bedford Valley during the MHSAA Division 3 Regional Tournament Tuesday. Matteson earned a spot among the three individual state qualifiers from the event. **Photos by Brett Bremer**



Delton Kellogg/Martin freshman Jason Marshall fires a ball towards the green on number seven during the MHSAA Division 3 Regional at Bedford Valley Tuesday.



Lakewood freshman Max Thrun taps a putt towards the hole on the number eight green Tuesday during the MHSAA Division 3 Regional at Bedford Valley. Thrun tallied the Vikings' fourth best score as the Lakewood team placed third and qualified for the MHSAA L.P. Division 3 Boys' Golf Finals.

Freshman Jason Marshall shot a 93 for the DK/Martin team, and junior Carter Brickley and junior Gabe Smoczynski both scored a 95. Junior Tyler Howland was right behind them in the fifth spot with a 96.

Lakewood senior Cole Thrun led his team with an 85 that had him in a tie for sixth individually. Shooting par on seven of his final ten holes helped him hold his spot towards the front of the pack.

Lakewood had three guys in the top 20. Senior Kenny Dutkiewicz was tenth overall with an 86, sophomore Bryson Boucher was 13th with an 87 and freshman Max Thrun was 18th with an 89.

The Viking's number five was sophomore Vance O'Mara who finished with a 91 that was helped out by an eagle on the par-5 number 13 late in his round.

Kalamazoo Christian sophomore Brixton Devries placed third in the individual final standings with an 83 and the Comets also got an 86 from freshman Owen Adams and an 87 from freshman Ian Riggs. All five Comets were in the 80s with senior Isaac Riggs shooting an 89.

The runner-up Schoolcraft team was led by 85s from seniors Lucas Wheeler and Tucker Walther. Senior Luke Ryske shot an 86 for the Eagles and freshman Ethan Demaso scored an 88.

Late putts put Jensen into Division 2 State Finals

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Every shot turned out to be an important one, but the last one really took the pressure off.

Hastings junior Daniel Jensen qualified for the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 2 Boys' Golf Finals by shooting a 76 at the regional tournament at Stonehedge North in Augusta Tuesday.

He rolled in a five-foot putt for par on number nine to finish off his 18-hole regional round. That putt falling into the cup kept him out of what would have been a four-person playoff for the last state qualifying positions.

The top three teams and top three individuals not on those three teams qualified for the June 6-7 Finals that will be played at Bedford Valley Golf Club.

Grand Rapids Christian won the team regional title with a score of 301 strokes ahead of South Christian 304 and Unity Christian 310. Wayland's Theo Eddy was the first of the three individual state qualifiers from the regional shooting a 73.

Behind Eddy and Jensen, a group of three guys scored 77 and had to go into a playoff for the last state qualifying spot – which wound up going to Plainwell junior Drew Rayman. He bested Otsego senior Spencer Shearer and Holland Christian sophomore Linus Vandenberg in the playoff.

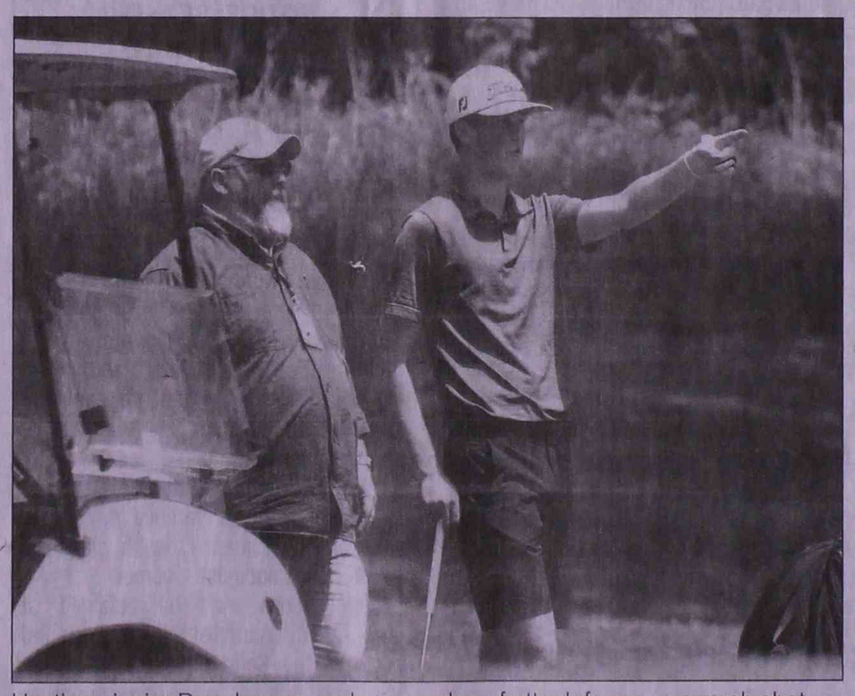
"Last year I was close with like three holes left, and I had a little bit of a blow up," Jensen said. "It was definitely my number one goal coming into the year. I got really nervous last year. I just tried to stay calm, keep the ball in play definitely and stay in the fairways."

He said he was in the rough a fair amount Tuesday, but never too far. He didn't lose a ball all day.

"I stopped hitting my driver halfway through the round and started hitting my five wood, which kept me in the round. I was missing fairways by just a couple yards," Jensen said.

He closed out his round with solid two-putts for par on holes eight and nine. Jensen said that other than staying mentally strong, figuring out the greens was one of the toughest parts of the day.

"The greens out here are tough. They are really slopey, and the speed was tricking me a little bit," Jensen said. "Sometimes they were faster, and sometimes they were slower. I knew they were decently quick, kind of similar to ours at The Legacy. They were a little bit slower when I thought they'd be fast, and a little bit fast when I thought they'd be slow."



Hastings junior Dan Jensen works on a plan of attack for an approach shot on number nine at Stonehedge North Tuesday during the MHSAA Division 2 Regional Tournament. Jensen shot a 76 to earn a spot in the state finals for the first time. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

Saxon head coach Ross Schueller said pars came at a premium throughout the round.

"Dan just stayed in control all day," Schueller said. "He played smart, mature golf - nothing flashy, just exactly what you want to see in tournament conditions."

Jensen was four-over on the back nine after starting on hole number ten, and then shot an even-par 36 on the front nine with a birdie putt falling on the par-3, number four for his lone birdie of the day.

The Hastings boys were 13th as a team and Thornapple Kellogg placed 15th at the 19-team event.

The top three teams were well ahead of the field with Wayland fourth with a score of 325 – 15 strokes back of the last of the three state qualifying teams. Otsego was fifth with a score of 326 ahead of Zeeland West 330, Holland Christian 334, Hamilton 335, Plainwell 342, West Michigan Aviation Academy 344, Ionia 345, Hastings 354, South Haven 355, Thornapple Kellogg 356, Portland 362, Zeeland East 368, Allegan 406 and Lansing Waverly NTS.

"We're still building a culture of consistency," Schueller said. "Dan showed what that looks like today. The goal going forward is to raise the floor so we have four or five guys grinding out rounds like that—regardless of how they're hitting it."

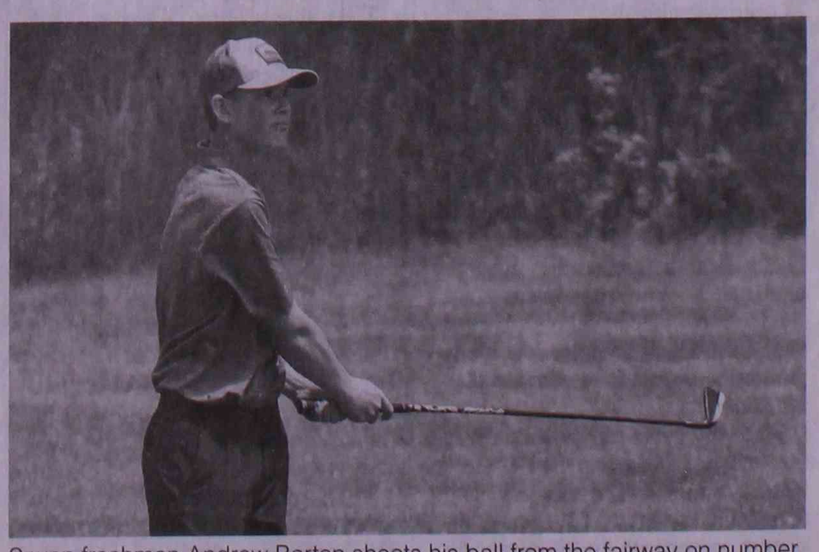
Freshman Andrew Barton shot an 89 for the Saxons, junior Bronson Elliott scored a 92 and junior Cayden Cappon carded a 97. Elliott matched Jensen's birdie total with one on the par-5, number one midway through his round.

Senior Kylan Pratt led Thornapple Kellogg with a score of 84. Sophomore Parker Dahley scored an 87 for the Trojans, and TK also got a 90 from senior Tyler Voss and a 95 from senior Ryan Skidmore.

Grand Rapids Christian senior John Cassiday was the day's individual champion with a four-under-68. There were three Eagles among the top ten scorers. Junior Sawyer O'Grady shot a 74 and junior Cooper Reitsma shot a 77. The regional champs also got an 82 from junior Ty Erickson.

South Christian sophomore Harris Hoekwater was the day's individual runner-up with a 73. The Sailors had the only team with four guys under 80. Senior Brody Montsma shot a 76, sophomore Drew Vanderheide a 77 and junior Caleb Krosschell a 78.

The third-place team from Unity Christian got a 74 from senior Noah Besterman, a 78 from senior Lucas Vanmaanen, a 79 from senior Jack Veldhouse and an 81 from junior Brogan Sherd.



Saxon freshman Andrew Barton shoots his ball from the fairway on number nine during the MHSAA Division 2 Regional at Stonehedge North in Augusta Tuesday.

Saxon make Wildcat bats work for pre-district win

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Madi Ludema clanged a shot off the fence in left center field and hustled all the way around the bases to finish off the Hastings Saxons' tough postseason draw Tuesday.

Ludema and the Wayland Wildcats took a 16-0, four-inning win over the Hastings varsity softball team in the MHSAA Division 2 Pre-District contest at Wayland Union High School.

Ludema was 2-for-2 at the plate with a walk, a double, four runs scored and four RBIs, and she was also the winning pitcher for the Wildcats. She led the Saxons to one hit through four innings in the circle.

That lone Saxon hit was a single by senior Zoey Bennett in the top of the first inning.

While the Wayland bats got the job done, the Saxons made the Wildcats work for everything they got. Ludema only had three strike outs.

That was exactly what Hastings head coach Dennis Redman was looking for out of his girls. He has told them that all year. He was pleased with the way his girls made the Wildcats earn it.

"It is not the big things they're doing, it is the little things they need to do to get better. The big things will come if the little things get better," Redman said.



Saxon senior Zoey Bennett tries to bunt for a base hit during the top of the fourth inning of her team's MHSAA Division 2 Pre-District ballgame against the host Wildcats at Wayland Union High School Tuesday.

The Wayland offense had to put the ball in play against Saxon pitchers Kylee Bosworth and Meredith Ansorge.

Wayland had four girls with multiple hits. Shelby VanHouten was 2-for-4 with three runs scored in the leadoff spot. Harmony Laker was 3-for-3 with two RBIs and three runs scored. Rae Stallard was 2-for-2 with two runs and three RBIs. Laker and Stallard both tripled once.

The Saxon defense had a play or two it would have liked to have had back, but also made a couple plays. Bennett started a double play to stymie one Wildcat rally, snagging a line drive from her second base spot and then firing to teammate Kayden Brown at third to catch a Wayland runner for a second out.

Brown and Bosworth were two of three freshmen on the Saxon roster this fall along with their classmate Lily Dingena, who was behind the plate Tuesday. Ansorge was one of three sophomores on the roster.

Bennett and Victoria Tack were the Saxons' only seniors this spring. Tack struck out in her lone at-bat. Bennett tried to bunt for a second hit in the fourth, but couldn't quite beat out the throw on the infield.

The Wildcats are among the honorable mention teams in the state's Division 2 rankings entering the postseason. Wayland will head to Middleville Saturday to face the host Trojans in the district semifinals beginning at 10 a.m. Allegan and Hopkins meet in the other district semifinal in Middleville Saturday.

Thornapple Kellogg fell to the Wayland girls in their two OK Gold Conference meetings this spring, but knocked off the Wildcats for the first time in years to win the title at the TK Invitational soon after that conference set.



Saxon freshman third baseman Kayden Brown reaches for a throw from across the diamond to double up Wayland's Rae Stallard during their MHSAA Division 2 Pre-District ballgame at Wayland Union High School Tuesday. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

Maroon Giants walk it off against Saxons in the ninth

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Kalamazoo Central scored twice in the bottom of the ninth to steal a 4-2 win over the Hastings varsity baseball team at Derek Jeter Field in Kalamazoo Tuesday.

Colin Hoenle belted a two-run home run to right field for the walk-off win for the Maroon Giants.

Hastings had a 2-0 lead in the ballgame after scoring twice in the top of the second inning. The Giants rallied for a run in their half of the second and then evened the score with a run in the bottom of the seventh.

Dustin Lampart led off the top of the second for the Saxons and reached on an error. He stole second, and then a walk to Jackson Hayes put two on for the Saxons. Mason Tossava came on to run for Hayes, and Hayes and Lampart eventually came around to score on a two-out error by the hosts.

Hayes doubled once and walked twice in the ballgame to lead a three-hit Saxon attack. Spencer Wilkins and Tyler Frazer had the other two Hastings hits.

Hunter Tomlinson threw the first three innings for the Saxons. He allowed one run on three hits and two walks. Colten Denton tossed 3.1 innings of relief, allowing a run on one hit and four walks. Lampart was hit with the loss allowing two runs on one hit and three walks.

The Maroon Giants didn't strike out all ballgame, and finished with five total hits including a pair of doubles and the home run. Eliot George as 2-for-2 with a walk and a double, and he earned the win on the mound shutting out the Saxons over the final three innings in which he struck out two and didn't give up a hit or a walk.

Hastings goes to Harper Cree High School Saturday for its MHSAA Division 2 District Tournament. The Saxons take on Thornapple Kellogg at 10 a.m. in the first of two district semifinal ballgames. Harper Creek and Gull Lake meet up in the second around noon. The district final is slated for a 2 p.m. start.

DK sweeps Fennville allowing three earned runs in two games

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Delton Kellogg varsity baseball team swept a doubleheader at Fennville Friday scoring 11-1 and 10-8 wins.

A group of four pitchers teamed up in the five-inning win to start the afternoon. Elliot Rogers started and tossed two scoreless, hitless innings in which he struck out three and walked one. The Panthers led 7-0 when he exited the mound after the third inning.

In all, the DK trio of Dylan Fichtner, Brock Hickerson and Owen Rogers tossed three innings of relief in which it allowed just two hits. Hickerson tossed two scoreless innings and Owen Rogers threw one scoreless inning. Fichtner was charged with the one run.

Offensively, Fichtner was 1-for-2 at the plate with a double and a walk. He drove in two runs and scored twice. Elliot Rogers was 2-for-2 with two runs scored and two walks. DK also got two hits from Rucker Tack and Keegan Hill. Hill scored three times in the lead-off spot for DK. Mitchell Swift was 1-for-3 with an RBI and two runs scored.

In the two-run win in game two, another five-inning ballgame, DK struck early. The Panthers scored eight runs in the top of the first and then one in the second and another in the fourth.

Fennville's big inning was the third in which it moved within 9-7 at the time with six runs.

The Panther offense consisted of eight singles and five walks in that win. Tack was 2-for-2 with two RBIs and two runs scored. Hill, Gauge Stampfler, Fichtner, Swift, D Menck and Mason Ferris had the other DK hits. Brock Hickerson walked twice. Stampfler and Hill tied Tack for the team lead in RBIs with two each.

Of the eight Fennville runs, only two were earned. Stampfler started for DK and allowed one earned run (six total) on three hits and two walks. He struck out five in his 2.2 innings. Owen Rogers and Tack teamed up to close out the Blackhawks.

Delton Kellogg heads to Olivet Saturday for its MHSAA Division 3 District Tournament. The Panthers face Galesburg-Augusta in the district semifinals. Game time is slated for 12:30 p.m. following the first semifinal between Olivet and Comstock. The host Eagles beat Climax-Scotts 6-5 in their Pre-District ballgame Tuesday.

The Panthers closed the regular season falling 8-3 to Barry County Christian Tuesday.

Eagles get a win at DKHS, one at Martin too

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Barry County Christian School varsity baseball team moved its record closer to .500 at 15-16 with a couple wins over Southwestern Athletic Conference teams from the MHSAA in the past week.

The Eagles took an 8-3 win over a Delton Kellogg team prepping for its state postseason tournament Tuesday on the heels of a split of a doubleheader with Martin last Friday.

Nathan Loerop, Dawson Weemhoff and Cayman Joppie each threw two innings for the Eagles in the win over Delton Kellogg without allowing an earned run. Weemhoff was hit with one unearned run, but he struck out six in his two innings. None of those three guys gave up a hit. Loerop struck out three and Joppie had two Ks.

Teegen Whitmire was 2-for-4 with a pair of triples with three RBIs and two runs scored to lead the Eagle attack. Jonathan Hawkes, Ryan Wise and Grant VanderWoude had one hit each. Wise doubled. Hawkes, Jude Birmingham and Kenen Fogt had one RBI each.

Last Friday, the Eagles fell 8-7 in game one at Martin and then rallied for a 14-6 win in game two.

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.

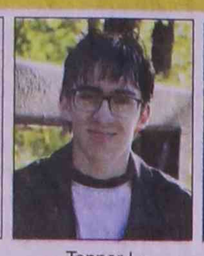
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the Mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

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

Elisabeth M. Von Eitzen
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Trial set for Delton woman charged in June 2024 fatal crash

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

A Delton woman could be headed to trial for her role in a June 2024 crash in Baltimore Township that left a Middleville resident dead and another injured.

Kylee Lynn Brooks of Delton was back before Judge Michael Schipper in Barry County District Court 56B on Wednesday, May 21, with a pretrial hearing being scheduled for Sept. 10 and a potential trial slated for Oct. 13-14.

Brooks currently faces four felony charges, including reckless driving causing death, as the result of the fatal accident on June 14, 2024, on Dowling Road, west of M-37.

According to previous news reports, a preliminary investigation by the Barry County Sheriff's Office stated that the accident occurred while a line of vehicles was headed east on Dowling Road where the lead vehicle was pulling a trailer and slowing down to turn right into a driveway.

At the same time, a black Buick behind the trailer, reportedly driven by 60-year-old Susan Alcala of Middleville, was turning left into a gravel pit driveway.



Delton resident Kylee Brooks (left), along with her legal counsel, stand before Judge Michael Schipper in Barry County District Court 56B during court proceedings in Hastings on Wednesday, May 21. Brooks faces four felony charges resulting from her alleged role in a June 2024 accident in Baltimore Township that left one woman dead and another injured. **Photo by Dennis Mansfield**

Brooks, who was 19 at the time of the accident, was driving a Ford Maverick in the same direction when she allegedly attempted to pass the slower vehicles ahead of her and crashed into Alcala's vehicle.

Alcala's mother, 84-year-old Arlene Willis, a passenger in the Buick, was taken to a local hospital where she later died.

Along with the one count of felony reckless driving causing death, Brooks was also charged with a moving violation causing death, reckless driving causing serious impairment of a body function and moving violation causing serious impairment of a body function. If convicted on the top charge, the Delton resident faces up to 15 years in prison.

During last Wednesday's court proceedings, Barry County assistant prosecutor Josh Carter said Brooks has been offered a plea agreement on the top charge of the indictment, with all other charges being dismissed if she were to plead guilty.

Brooks remains free on a $3,000 bond, which Schipper said would continue as long as she followed the conditions of her release.

ROLLING

Continued from Page 9

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 12-3-2 overall,

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.

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