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INSIDE
TODAY'S EDITION

SOLAR BUILDING INSTALLED
PAGE 4



INVASIVE SPECIES TOPIC OF NEXT BIOBLITZ
PAGE 9



HASTINGS LIVE ENTERS FOURTH WEEK
PAGE 5

VOL. 170, NO. 61

THE HASTINGS BANNER

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Commissioners approve body cam and radio purchase



The Barry County Board of Commissioners voted this week to approve the purchase of body cameras, in-car cameras, mobile and in-car radios for the Barry County Sheriff's Department. Pictured here at last week's Committee of the Whole meeting is Sheriff Dar Leaf discussing the department's need for the purchase. **Photo by Molly Macleod**

Molly Macleod
Editor

By the end of this year, officers with the Barry County Sheriff's Office, along with corrections officers at the Barry County Jail, will all be sporting new, body-worn cameras thanks to a purchase approved by the Barry County Board of Commissioners at its regular meeting this week.

The purchase agreement approved on Tuesday includes 30 new in-car cameras, 22 new in-car radios, the repurposing of 11 current in-car radios, four additional desktop radios, 36 new portable radios, the repurposing of current Kenwood radios to jail staff and 46 body cameras. Of those 46 cameras, 21 will be used by Barry County Jail staff. The rest will go to BCSD officers.

The county is purchasing the upgraded equipment from Motorola and Crouch Communications. Because the purchase came mid-budget year, the county plans to finance the purchase. County Administrator Eric Zuzga proposed financing the purchase with a $848,358.73 installment purchase agreement from Highpoint Community Bank for three years with an interest rate of 3.99 percent. That purchase agreement was approved unanimously, 7-0, on Tuesday. Commissioner Catherine Getty was absent.

An unbudgeted purchase of this size is unusual at this point in the budget cycle. Recent events helped push the purchase up in priority for commissioners.

Radio encryption standards are changing in the fall, and Motorola is including steep discounts not offered by competitors for the full technology package. In October, Barry County Sheriff's Department officers were involved in an officer-involved shooting in Delton. Though officers were cleared of any wrongdoing in that event, the need for

See **APPROVE** on 6

Judge resentences man behind 2021 Woodland gas station stand-off

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

Despite success at the Michigan Court of Appeals, Timothy Riddle's time in a state prison is set to continue for a long time.

The 52-year-old Riddle, who already had a lengthy criminal history dating back to when he was 15, was back in Barry County District Court 56B again before Judge Michael Schipper on Wednesday, June 18.

That's after the state court of appeals last year moved to vacate his conviction for armed robbery, the highest charge resulting from a series of crimes Riddle allegedly committed in August 2021 while leading authorities on a high-speed chase from Hastings to Woodland, where he then barricaded himself inside a gas station as part of

See **JUDGE** on 2



Attorney Michael Faraone (left) of Lansing argues before Judge Michael Schipper on behalf of his client, Timothy Riddle (middle), during a sentencing hearing in Barry County District Court 56B on Wednesday, June 18. Riddle was being resentenced on four felony charges stemming from a 2021 high-speed chase and standoff that ended in Woodland. **Photo by Dennis Mansfield**

Hastings City Council votes to move forward with Meijer 425 agreement

Molly Macleod
Editor

The City of Hastings and Rutland Township are nearing an agreement that would bring a Meijer grocery store to the corner of M-43 and M-37 west of Hastings.

Members of the Hastings City Council voted unanimously, 9-0, on Monday to agree in principle to the general terms of a 425 agreement with Rutland Township that would include the Meijer property with similar revenue-sharing terms as previous 425 agreements between the parties, retainage of the existing sewer agreement, and a new water agreement to include provision of service for Meijer only.

Monday's vote comes after negotiations between the two boards held last week.

"One of the reasons we brought this tonight is because we want to show Rutland Township that we are willing to work with them. I was in negotiations with (City Manager) Sarah (Moyer-Cale) and (Community Development Director) Dan (King) and I thought they went great. We agreed on pretty much everything. I think it's going to be a good deal for everybody," said Mayor David Tossava.

"It's the first time we've had something that both sides agree on," Moyer-Cale said.

The tentative agreement now

See **MEIJER** on 3

Lakewood school board considers changes to public comment policy

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

After a recent verbal clash with a state representative, as well as with district residents, the Lakewood Public Schools Board of Education is considering revamping its public comment policy.

Currently, residents or guests attending LPS board meetings are allowed to participate in one of two public comment periods, with any remarks being strictly limited to just three minutes.

But, at the board's June 23 meeting at the Lakewood High School Media Center, school board members discussed lengthening the time for public comments to five minutes per person, as well as allowing for a one-minute grace period.

"I was pleased to see you put this on the agenda," said district resident Linda Butler, who said she heard that several people had been "cut off" when addressing the school board. "Adding more time would be appropriate.

"You're saying you value (public input). You want to hear it all," she added. "I really hope you change the policy."

Jodi Duits, LPS superintendent, said one of her staff members researched the issue, only to find there's not one set standard.

"There are a variety (of time limits)," Duits said. "Most are three minutes, but there are some with five minutes."

But, Trustee Adam McArthur added restricting comments to just three minutes and then cutting off individuals,

See **POLICY** on 4

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REGISTRATION GOING ON FOR ANNUAL SUMMERFEST 5K, FUN RUN
PAGE 8

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First Gun Lake art competition underway

Karen Turko-Ebright
Staff Writer

Mitten sculptures are popping up at local businesses around the Gun Lake area. It's the first art competition of its kind in the community. Gun Lake Business Association President Deb Timmerman remembers the first discussion of bringing art to the Gun Lake community.

"This is the first. In our Tourism Task Force, we discussed how we could bring art to the lake," Timmerman said. "After chatting about what we could do that was different from other small cities and townships, Terry Cole came up with the mitten idea and had someone fabricate them. Together, we partnered to bring the project to life."

Cole is the co-owner of Chief Noonday Car Park in Yankee Springs and also the co-chair of the new Gun Lake art competition with the "Painted Peninsula: Gun Lake Artistry" contest idea which requires a fabricated Michigan mitten and local businesses.

"As the sculptures began to take shape with each artist's touch, it was incredible to see how much heart and hometown pride was poured into them," Cole said. "Every piece tells a story, not just of Michigan, but of the people and places that make the Gun Lake community so special. I hope it inspires others to explore, connect, and appreciate the creativity all around us."

The new art competition invites local residents and businesses to creatively paint sculptural renditions of Michigan's iconic Lower Peninsula. The final entries for the competition are in but anyone who wants to do so without competing can still participate. Call Cole at 616-262-9477 or visit gunlaketourism.com/events for more information.



Mitten sculptures are popping up at local businesses around the Gun Lake area. It's part of the first art competition of its kind in the community. This mitten is one of many that can be found around the lake. **Photo by Karen Turko-Ebright**

Sculptures will be displayed within a one-and-a-half-mile radius of Gun Lake, creating a public art trail throughout the summer. Visitors and locals alike will be encouraged to explore the displays and vote for their favorite entries via a QR code located near each sculpture. Public voting will take place from July 5 through Labor Day. Awards will be presented in two categories: Best Residential Entry and Best Business Entry, with winners announced at Fall Fest on Saturday, Sept. 27.

"I love that the business community is working together to create programs and events that bring people together and celebrate this beautiful place around us," Timmerman said.

More information on the contest and voting will soon be posted at gunlaketourism.com/painted-peninsula/.

JUDGE

Continued from Page 1

a standoff, which also involved a volley of gunfire.

According to news reports, Riddle racked up 28 counts of criminal offenses overall, many of which were felony firearms charges. And, Schipper originally had sentenced Riddle to just shy of 50 years in prison at a hearing in the fall of 2022.

As a result of the appeals court ruling, however, Riddle was back before Schipper on June 18 to be resentenced on four felony charges, including discharge of a firearm in a building, a felon in possession of a firearm, a felon in possession of ammunition and malicious destruction of property more than $1,000 and less than $20,000.

Riddle's attorney, Michael Faraone of Lansing, asked the court for leniency, stating his client was not looking to hurt anyone when the crimes occurred.

"We accept the gravity of the offense," Faraone said. "He never intended to hurt anyone. He was looking to commit suicide.

"But, he didn't hurt people," the attorney added. "He scared people."

Faraone said Riddle was himself a victim, having been "raised in prison" after being convicted of the murder of an elderly woman in Wayne County when he was just 15 years old.

Riddle was reportedly tried as an adult and sentenced to life in prison at the time. However, after nearly 30 years behind bars, he was paroled in 2017 when the United States Supreme Court ruled that law allowing for life sentences for juveniles was unconstitutional.

Riddle didn't last very long on the outside, though, having several run-ins with the law that led up to the fateful night in 2021.

That's when Faraone argued that Riddle was "trying to motivate the police to shoot him," after he became distraught over a failed romantic relationship, a relationship that had led him to Barry County.

Julie Nakfoor Pratt, Barry County prosecuting attorney, said she "wholeheartedly" disagreed with the appeals court decision and was seeking the longest possible prison sentence – again – for Riddle.

"All he did was scare, terrorize people," Pratt said afterward. "He was found guilty of many, many things.

"He's a bad man."

While stating he didn't "dislike" Riddle, Schipper sentenced him to 152 to 600 months on the felony charge of discharging a firearm, and 19 to 76 months for each of the other three felony counts.

"He's maxed out," Pratt said.

The sentences will reportedly be served concurrently, with Riddle receiving credit for 683 days for time served.

"I do think it's important to send a message," Schipper said. "You don't get another chance in this lifetime."

Still, Schipper said he also sympathized with Riddle.

"He had his first relationship when he was 50 years old and he picked the wrong person," the judge said. "It was a bad situation.

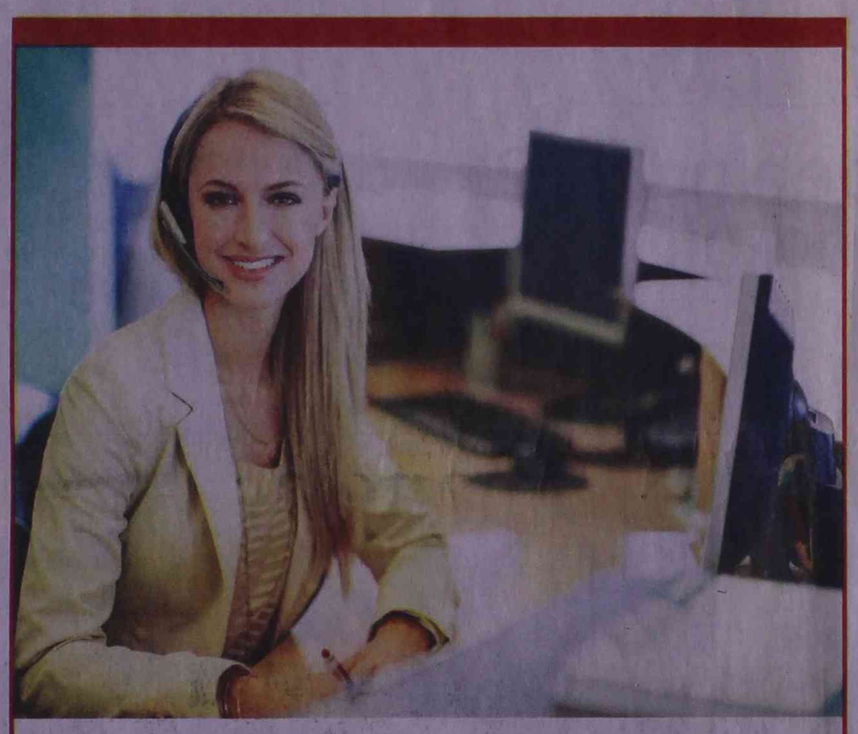
"I feel bad for Mr. Riddle," Schipper added. "Believe it or not, it was good to see you, Mr. Riddle. I wish you the best."

But Pratt later said she was happy to see Riddle being led back to prison after last Wednesday's hearing.

"We're glad he's gone again," Pratt said. "Hopefully, this will be the end of it.

"I hope he doesn't get out."

Contributing writer Jayson Bussa contributed to this report.



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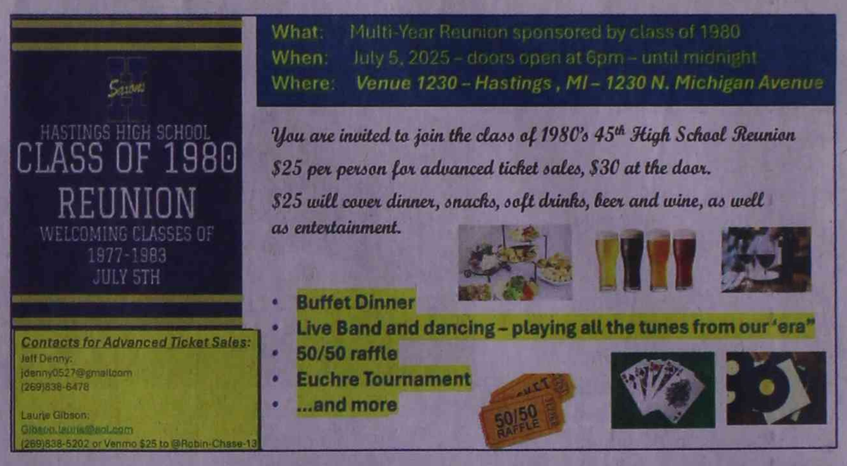
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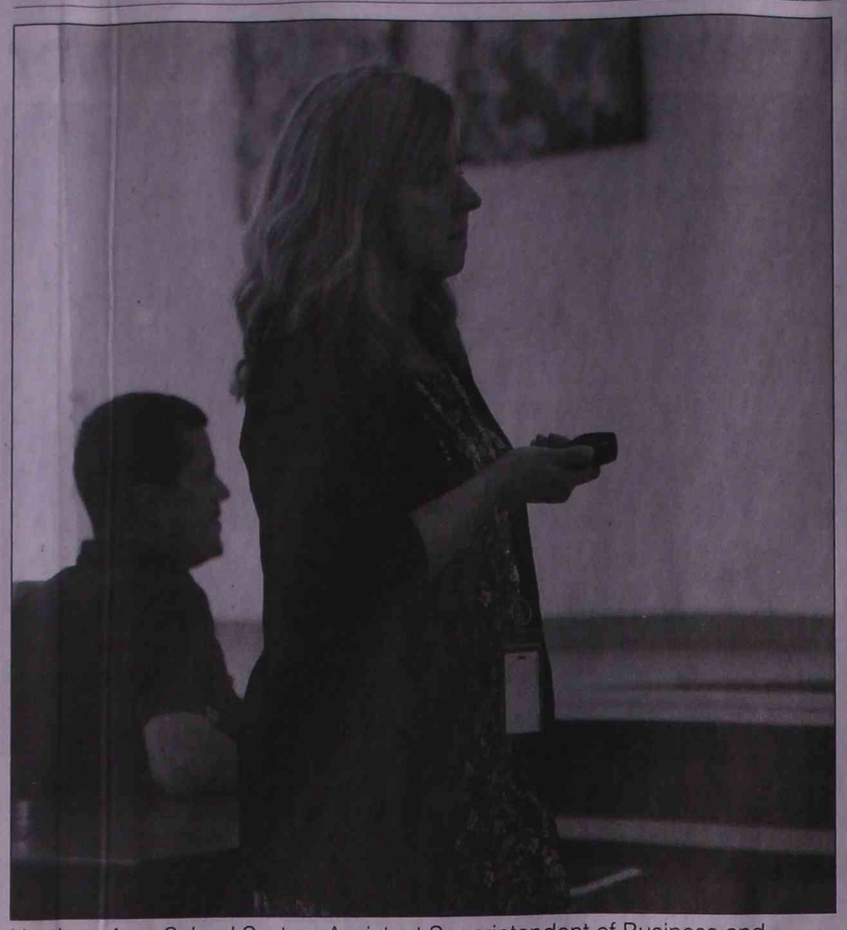
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Hastings Area School System Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance Amy Singleton goes over the 2025-26 budget at Monday's board of education meeting. **Photo by Molly Macleod**

Hastings Area Schools adopts 2025-26 budget

Molly Macleod
Editor

Hastings Area School System has its financial plan for the 2025-26 school year after board of education members voted on Monday in favor of the proposed budget. Though the budget passed unanimously on Monday, board members expressed frustration with the district's shrinking fund balance in the wake of disappearing COVID funds and dropping enrollment numbers.

The district's general fund expenditures are projected at $35,267,043 for the 2025-26 school year, with $34,294,237 in revenues. That leaves the general fund's fund balance at $2,336,440.

The debt retirement fund is expecting $4,896,576 in total revenues, with $4,858,000 in expenditures. The ending fund balance in 2026 is expected to be $1,544,154.

The food service fund projects $1,868,762 in revenues and $1,844,762 in expenditures, leaving a fund balance of $267,186.

The Community Education and Recreation Center (CERC), childcare and Hastings Performing Arts Center (HPAC) fund expects $724,984 in revenues in the coming year, along with a $390,000 contribution from the district's general fund. Expenditures are expected to be $1,114,984, leaving a fund balance of $1,506.

The sinking fund budget will see $722,203 in revenues in the 2025-26 school year, with $1,200,000 in expenditures. An ending fund balance of $585,022 is expected.

The student activities fund expects $425,000 in revenues and $400,000 in expenditures, leaving a fund balance of $501,085.

Finally, the district's building and site fund is expecting $525,000 in revenues, $4,925,000 in expenditures, and an ending fund balance of $8,533,748.

"We had a finance committee meeting last week to go over the budget amendment and go over the future budget. Here's my take on it: Things did not go as well as we thought they would in 2025, and our fund balance has decreased to approximately 9%. And our goal is 15% — so we're going backwards. And when we look at next year's budget (2025-26), we're going backwards," said HASS Board of Education President Luke Haywood. "We're honed in on things we want to focus on to improve our financial status."

Haywood praised Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance Amy Singleton and her team for their hard work on the budget. Board members said this year's team is new and different from the team that crafted last year's budget.

Board members discussed the myriad of issues facing the district that led to its current financial crunch. One issue the district is facing is declining enrollment across all grades. HASS expects to lose 71 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) students in the coming school year. Additionally, schools across the state are no longer receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds in 2025-26.

Trustee Brad Tolles expressed his frustration with the state's budget-making process. Because the state has not yet adopted a budget, districts are forced to estimate how much they will receive in FTE funding when making their budgets. That "guess" is why districts often borrow money to meet cash flow needs for the year ahead before state budgets are finalized.

HASS board members, waiting for word from the state, voted in favor of a $3,300,000 state aid anticipation note at Monday's meeting.

"Worst-case scenario, being conservative, we are looking at a 7% fund balance. Which, in my opinion, is unacceptable," said Haywood. "I will vote to support the resolution because we have to have a budget. But we will be making changes, and we will aggressively be making some cuts. And so, it's going to be a difficult process. But rest assured, just because the budget resolution says we have a 7% fund balance, it's not acceptable. So, we're going to have to figure out where we can start making some sacrifices and work at achieving financial stability."

Board members agreed the effort to put HASS back in stable financial standings will take multiple years.

MEIJER

Continued from Page 1

goes before the Rutland Township Board for approval before a final agreement can be voted on by both parties.

Last month, council members voted 5-2 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.

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



Hastings Superintendent Dr. Nicholas Damico (center) received an "effective" rating, the highest rating possible, after his first evaluation this week. **Photo by Molly Macleod**

Damico scores high marks in first evaluation as HASS supe

Molly Macleod
Editor

With one year under his belt as Hastings Area School System's superintendent, Dr. Nick Damico is now looking forward to his next three years at the helm of the district.

HASS Board of Education members met Monday night for Damico's first evaluation since being selected as the district's leader in April 2024. Damico took over for the late Matt Goebel, who died in May last year.

Board members agreed on Monday to give Damico an "effective" rating — the highest possible rating a superintendent can achieve. They also agreed to extend Damico's contract for another three years.

Full details of Damico's evaluation, including goals for the coming year, will be shared at next month's board of education meeting, said Board President Luke Haywood.

Damico said he is looking forward to what's ahead.

"It's exciting — it's a good time. We just finished our strategic plan, so we had a good year. Our sinking fund passed — that was our primary objective this year," Damico said. "I think we're very pleased with the community support for the sinking fund. That was a really big deal, so we're very proud of that."

Damico said the recently passed strategic plan will guide his and district staff's work for the next five years. He said he was proud of the collaborative community effort that went into shaping the plan.

"The Saxon story is on the rise. I think it's the place to be," Damico said.

One goal Damico and district staff will focus on in the next year and coming years is strengthening the district's financial stability.

"I know we have some budget issues that we face this year, largely because of not getting the pupil increase that we expected when the budget was made last June for this school year. And then when you combine that with declining enrollment, and you combine that ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief) funds, COVID funds not being provided to schools anymore, these are issues that you now need to address," he said. "And we started to address those issues this year. It's going to be a multi-year effort to develop a structurally-balanced budget. Fiscal responsibility is one of the cornerstones of our strategic plan."

The first step in getting the district back in better financial standings is evaluating its current programming, Damico said.

"We're going to evaluate and consider all programs for effectiveness and fiscal impact. We've been doing that this year, and we'll be doing that for the foreseeable future as part of our strategic plan. And we're also going to seek unique and creative funding sources to benefit students," Damico said.



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Is your retirement at risk?

It's important to save for retirement, but only half of Americans have calculated how much money they'll need, according to the 2024 Retirement Confidence Survey by the Employee Benefit Research Institute. Yet without knowing how much you'll need, it's hard to know if you're on track to reach your goals for retirement.

Here are a few considerations to help shape your retirement savings strategy.

Calculate how much you'll need. You may dream of retiring "comfortably," but how do you define "comfortable" in terms of actual money? Take the time to outline how much you spend now, and how much you think you'll spend in retirement. That will help you understand how much you need to save now to afford the retirement lifestyle you want later. A financial advisor can help with resources and knowledge for building and managing your retirement strategy.

Start saving now. It's easy to procrastinate, especially if you are younger and further away from retirement. But the earlier you start, the less you may need to save from each paycheck to build your funds over time. If you're closer to retirement, you can take advantage of catch-up contributions to most 401(k), 403(b), governmental 457 plans and the federal government's Thrift Savings Plan. If you're 50 or older, you can save pretax an extra $7,500 to your retirement account beyond the standard total limit of $23,500 allowed in 2025. Those 60–63 years old can contribute to these plans an extra $11,250 above the standard total limit. That's an annual total of $31,000 for people ages 50 and older; or $34,750 for those 60–63 years old in pretax retirement plan contributions.

Take the right amount of risk. You may think it's risky to put money away for retirement instead of keeping it handy for discretionary spending. But the biggest risk of all is not reaching your retirement goal. For example, a portfolio that's all in cash will have little increasing value over time and won't provide any growth potential even to keep up with inflation. It's as if you're losing money every year. Then again, if your investments are only keeping up with inflation, your money is not growing. Consider growth investments to help build the funds you'll need in retirement. The key is ensuring you have the appropriate amount of risk — not too much, but not too little — to achieve your growth goals.

Save separately for emergencies. To protect your hard-earned retirement savings, build an emergency fund separate from your long-term investments. It can help ensure you have what you need to cover surprises like a large auto repair, unexpected medical bills, temporary loss of income from changing jobs or early retirement caused by health issues. For most people, three to six months' worth of total expenses is an appropriate amount for an emergency fund. And you'll want to keep it in an accessible, low-risk account that holds cash and equivalents. Above all, try to avoid taking money from your long-term retirement investments. Doing so could result in taxes, penalties and reductions to your overall principal investment, all of which could affect your retirement savings.

Retirement should be an exciting time to enjoy what you've worked so hard to earn. Planning for what you'll need and protecting those savings can help ensure a comfortable future.

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Solar building installed at new Delton water tower

Karen Turko-Ebright
Staff Writer

With the completion of the Barry Township water tower growing nearer, construction has begun on a building that will house electrical equipment and a backup generator for an off-grid solar panel system. That system will help power the new tower, located atop the hill at the west end of Orchard Road in Delton.

Barry Township Supervisor Barry Bower and Barry Township maintenance man Jim Wensel are helping construct the new solar building. The building materials were donated by Big C Lumber.

Bower picked up the solar panels back in the spring of 2024 at Wellspring Solar LLC in Shipshewana, Ind.

"The cement is already poured and the building is starting to take shape next to the water tower. The solar array will be installed 40 feet south of the shed," Wensel explained.

The conduit holding the power cables from the solar panels to the solar building has been trenched underground and will extend through a conduit pipe coming up through the concrete inside the solar building. Then, the wires will be connected to an electrical panel.

The solar panels will be wired into the new solar building and be the source of energy that operates Barry Township's water tower. There will be 14 solar panels installed in July that will generate 7,000 watts of power.

According to Bower, originally 70 percent of the solar panel system was paid for through a $62,000 grant from the Michigan Department of Environment Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) and a federal green energy grant covered the remaining 30 percent of the cost.

But recently, Bower said Wellspring management informed him that prices dropped and a new quote was sent for $56,000. Some of the parts are better quality than previously quoted, he explained. Bower said the leftover EGLE grant money will go towards water tower expenses.

"There is still a lot of work to do yet," Bower said.

Painters still have to come back to finish up some painting to the tower and apply the letters "Delton" on the 80,000-pound sphere at the very top of the tower. Baker Excavating will return before the solar panels are installed. Gentank Water Tower Services has to finish up some welding to the 135-foot-tall, 200,000-gallon water tower.

Bower estimates the construction of the new solar panel building should take about three months.

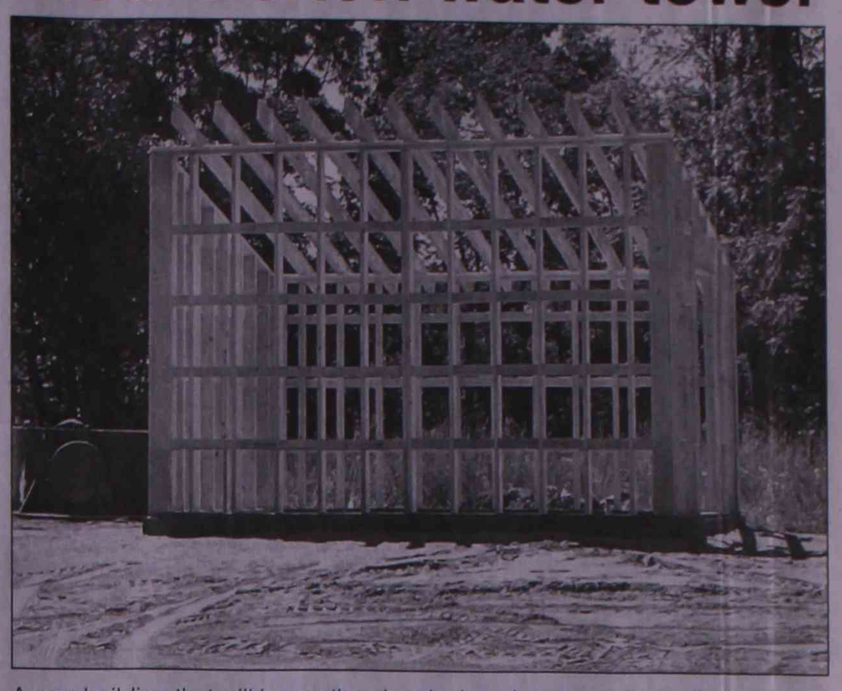
Looking back before the grant was approved, Bower said that the township intended to ask Consumers Power to install electrical but decided it was unnecessary because solar panels made more sense.

On May 7 last year, the Barry Township Board voted at a special meeting to invest in an off-grid solar system.

According to township records, Bower presented three quotes for solar panels that would be installed on the water tower site at the west end of Orchard Road. The following bids included Wellspring Solar with a bid of $61,500; Helios Solar offered $59,931.60; and lastly, Oak Electric's bid of $94,220.50.

After a thorough discussion, the board unanimously approved the bid for Wellspring Solar, based in Shipshewana.

Bower said solar is better because there is a 30-percent tax break right off the bat, and then the grant paid for the whole solar system.



A new building that will house the electrical equipment and a backup generator for an off-grid solar panel system is currently under construction in Delton. **Photo by Jim Wensel**

Rick Brubacher from Wellspring Solar is a field engineer for grid-tied and off-grid solar power systems and a service technician. He said the benefits of solar panels include producing 100 percent of electricity without an electric bill and avoiding risky power outages. Critical systems, including refrigeration, medical equipment and the water supply, will have a local power source.

Additionally, off-grid systems can provide electricity to remote or rural locations where the power grid is not connected.

Conservation district officials to treat roadsides for invasive species

The Barry Conservation District is going on the warpath, preparing to fight various invasive species along roadside right-of-ways in both Barry and Calhoun counties.

According to a recent announcement by BCD officials, the local conservation district based in Hastings has been contracted by Barry and Calhoun Counties to perform custom chemical vegetation control services for phragmites and knotweed – two state-prohibited invasive species – found along local road right-of-ways.

Technicians reportedly apply EPA-registered materials as part of the Barry-Calhoun-Kalamazoo Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area.

Work to complete the treatments will be conducted between June 23 and Sept. 30.

Persons who own a property adjacent to where treatment has occurred and wish for us to expand beyond the public right-of-way, or those seeking to report sightings of phragmites, knotweed, or other invasive species, are encouraged to contact Sara Huetteman, invasive species coordinator by calling 269-908-4136 or via email at bckcisma@gmail.com. — *DM*

POLICY

Continued from Page 1

many of whom he said are nervous while trying to read prepared statements, has become a public relations issue for the school district.

"When we're getting done (with meetings) in 40 minutes and cutting people off at three, that's not helping our strategic communications with the public," he said. "The way we treat them is critically important.

"Somewhere in the policy it needs to acknowledge they don't work for us, we work for them," he added.

Most board members seemed to agree with expanding the policy from three to five minutes.

"Personally, I'd like to see us go to five minutes," said Wendy Behrenwald, board secretary. "The majority of people come and have more than three minutes of things to say."

Trustee Paige O'Mara seemed to agree.

"Let them have the opportunity," O'Mara said. "They're here because they're disgruntled. They're going to be more disgruntled if we cut them off."

Trustee David Burd questioned whether increasing individual comments to a total of five minutes would be enough to solve the issue.

"My concern is at five minutes you'll still have to stop people," he said. "You're probably still going to have to stop people."

Jamie Brodbeck-Krenz, LPS board president, said she has "zero problems" with the potential time change. She added, however, there also needs to be a stated cut-off point, rather than leaving that up to the discretion of whomever is chairing the meeting.

"It's such a gray area," Burd said. "That's where you run into challenges.

"There's so many ways to do it," he added. "Having a little gentler tactic may take care of it."

McArthur suggested individuals be given a full five minutes – without any warnings on what time they might have left – to address the board, as well as a "grace" period of one additional minute to wrap up their comments. But, at six minutes, the person would be instructed to stop.

"The vast majority of people are close to being done in three minutes anyway," McArthur said. "It just takes that out of the equation.

"I think it's a much more gentle way to do that," he added.

After discussing the issue, Brodbeck-Krenz requested Duits work on a revised version of the policy for board consideration. Any change would require two readings, with the school board next set to meet on July 7 and then again on Aug. 2.

The potential policy change comes after State Rep. Gina Johnsen, who attempted to address the board at its June 9 meeting and had her comments cut short, let board members know she didn't appreciate how she was treated.

Johnsen, who represents the state House's 78th District, was seeking to address various issues, including transgender participation in high school sports and potential increases in state funding, that had been discussed by the board and other district officials earlier in the meeting.

But, Johnsen was seemingly annoyed when Brodbeck-Krenz interrupted her to inform the Republican she had just 30 seconds left to speak.

"Very rude," Johnsen said after leaving the podium. "I'll let you know I've never been treated like that at a board meeting.

"I'm here to help you," she added.

Both Brodbeck-Krenz said she has reached out to Johnsen's office since but, as of Monday's meeting, has yet to receive any response.

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 10th day of July, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.

The mortgage was made by BENJAMIN WILLIAMS and ASHLEY WILLIAMS, husband and wife (collectively, "Mortgagor"), to GREENSTONE FARM CREDIT SERVICES, FLCA, a federally chartered corporation, having an office at 3515 West Road, East Lansing, Michigan 48823 (the "Mortgagee"), dated February 10, 2020, and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for Barry County, Michigan on February 14, 2020, as Instrument No. 2020-001607, as partially released by a partial release of mortgage dated February 12, 2021, recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for Barry County, Michigan on February 19, 2021 as Instrument No. 2021-002163 (the "Mortgage"). By reason of a default under the conditions of the Mortgage, the Mortgagee elects to declare and hereby declares the entire unpaid amount of the Mortgage due and payable forthwith. Mortgagee is the owner of the indebtedness secured by the Mortgage.

As of the date of this Notice there is claimed to be due for principal and interest on the Mortgage the sum of Three Hundred Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty-Eight and 63/100 Dollars ($308,738.63). No suit or proceeding at law has been instituted to recover the debt secured by the Mortgage or any part thereof.

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

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

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

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

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

Commonly known as: 6400 Brown Road, Lake Odessa, Michigan 48849

P.P. #08-15-005-300-05; 08-15-008-100-02; 08-15-008-200-07

Notice is further given that the length of the redemption period will be six (6) months from the date of sale, unless the premises are abandoned. If the premises are abandoned, the redemption period will be the later of thirty (30) days from the date of the sale or upon expiration of fifteen (15) days after the Mortgagor is given notice pursuant to MCLA §600.3241a(b) that the premises are considered abandoned and Mortgagor, Mortgagor's heirs, executor, or administrator, or a person lawfully claiming from or under one (1) of them has not given the written notice required by MCLA §600.3241a(c) stating that the premises are not abandoned.

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

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

Dated: June 5, 2025
GREENSTONE FARM CREDIT SERVICES, FLCA
Mortgagee
Timothy Hillegonds
WARNER NORCROSS + JUDD LLP
150 Ottawa Avenue NW
Suite 1500
Grand Rapids, MI 49503-2487
(616) 752-2000

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
BARRY COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. and JUDGE 2025-30138-DE
William M. Doherty

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

Estate of Charlotte Ann Chappell. Date of birth: 06/23/1959.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Charlotte Ann Chappell, died 12/24/2024.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Deanna Duprie, 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.

Nathan E. Tagg P68994
202 South Broadway
Hastings, MI 49058
269-948-2900
Deanna Duprie
660 112th Avenue
Martin, MI 49070
269-317-8051

NOTICE TO THE RESIDENTS OF BARRY COUNTY

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

Case Number V-09-2025 - Thomas Dailey (Applicant) Dailey Family Trust (Property Owner)

Location: Indian Hills Dr, Hastings in Section 6 of Hastings Township.

Purpose: Request a use variance, to construct an accessory structure with a restroom on a parcel without a primary structure pursuant to Sections 501 & 2357.

Meeting Date: July 14, 2025 Time: 7:00 PM. Place: Tyden Center Community Room, 121 South Church Street, Hastings, Michigan 49058

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

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

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

Sarah VanDenburg, Barry County Clerk

The buck stays here!
Spend it here. Keep it here.
Invest In Your Community.
VIEWspaper Group

Hastings Pride returns this Saturday



A performer dressed as a space alien performs at last year's inaugural Hastings Pride Festival. The festival will return for its second year on Saturday, June 28, from 1 to 6 p.m. at Thornapple Plaza. **File photo**

Molly Macleod
Editor

The Hastings Pride Festival will return for its second year at Thornapple Plaza from 1 to 6 p.m. this Saturday, June 28, after its inaugural event last summer.

The event, organized by the Hastings Pride Committee, raised over $3,000 in donations last year, more than enough to put on this year's event. The rest of the funds raised were donated to local nonprofit organizations that support LGBTQ youth.

Organizers say last year's event was "an unmitigated success," drawing in over 800 attendees.

Though organizers were prepared for protesters at last year's event, only a handful turned out and were not disruptive.

This year's festival will follow a similar blueprint to last year. Taking place at Thornapple Plaza in Hastings, community organizations will have booths on display. There will be activities for all ages, a DJ, live music and a family-friendly drag show.

Organizers emphasized the drag performance will be designed to be age-appropriate for all audiences. There will be no profanity, nudity or adult themes of any kind, organizers say.

More information on the event can be found on Facebook by searching "Hastings Pride Festival 2025."

Hastings Live enters fourth week

The 2025 Hastings Live Summer Concert Series will keep the hits coming, as it enters the fourth week in providing live music to residents and visitors in downtown Hastings.

"The last three weeks have been amazing, thanks to the performers, the crowds who attended, and our great sponsors," said Steve Hoke, arts and events coordinator for the City of Hastings.

The fourth week of Hastings Live started with the Wednesday night City Band performance featuring a full selection of chart toppers. The concert was held at the Thornapple Plaza on June 25.

The performance series will continue Thursday, June 26, as Stormy the Magician takes center stage at Thornapple Plaza for the Playing at the Plaza children's show at 11 a.m. According to organizers, Stormy, a.k.a. Dave Storms, has been creating smiles and laughter for children and families by entertaining them with magic shows, balloon twisting, playing Santa and running foam parties.

Based in Big Rapids, Jacob McLeod will bring his talents to Hastings for the Friday at the Fountain Series starting at noon on Friday, June 27, on the Barry County Courthouse lawn.

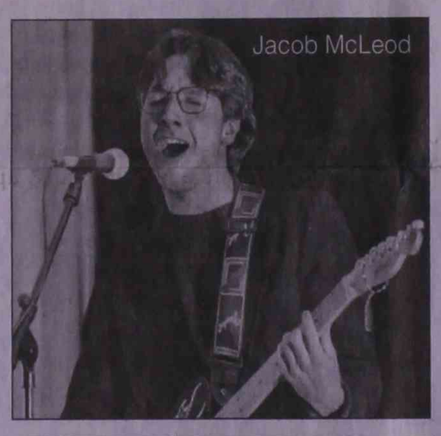
The 20-year-old McLeod has released numerous singles, a full-length album, performed across the state and just recently released his debut EP, "Mozart," all while attending Central Michigan University.

The six-member musical group Brena will also be performing on June 27 at the Thornapple Plaza starting at 7:30 p.m. for the Friday Night Feature. The band offers a wide variety of songs, ranging from oldies, to current top 40 hits, classic rock to smooth R&B, country, to high-energy dance music.

Hastings Live guests are encouraged to bring blankets or lawn chairs. The concession stand, operated by volunteers from Hastings' Kiwanis and Rotary clubs, will be open for evening performances.

Smoking, vaping, non-service animals, and outside alcohol are prohibited. There is no rain venue for Hastings Live. Unless there is thunder/lightning, each show will be held.

Hastings Live is made possible through support from the Michigan Arts and Culture Council, National Endowment for the Arts, and generous donations from Barry County Lumber, the Baum Family Foundation, Corewell Health Pennock Hospital, Highpoint Community Bank, and other local businesses.







Brena is this week's Friday Night Feature performance on Friday, June 27 at the Thornapple Plaza.

HHS Alumni Association seeking nominations for 'Alumnus of the Year'

Members of the Hastings High School Alumni Association are working to complete their planning for the group's 2025 banquet, which is set for Aug. 23 at the First Presbyterian Church in Hastings.

Part of that planning includes seeking nominations for the 2025 Distinguished Alumnus of the Year Award.

Nominations must be submitted by July 15 to be considered. The distinguished alumnus may be any graduate from Hastings High School. And, any classmate, friend, family member or community member may nominate an individual for the award.

Nominations must be typed and contain biographical information, along with an explanation of why the individual is being nominated. The reasons for the nomination can include accomplishments, vocational honors, awards received, community service, organizational memberships and any other helpful information.

A nominee may reside anywhere but must be an alumnus of HHS.

Nominations can be mailed to Merry Ossenheimer at 1303 E. M-79 Highway, Hastings, MI 49058 before the July 15 deadline.

Tickets for the upcoming HHSAA banquet must be purchased in advance and are on sale for $30 each at The General Store and the Hastings Public Library on State Street.

The next alumni association board meeting is June 29 at the offices of J-Ad Graphics on M-43. Anyone interested is encouraged to attend.

For more information on the annual banquet or the HHSAA, persons may call 269-948-8363. — *DM*

CLASSIFIEDS

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

526 WANTED

WANTED TO BUY: Standing Timber. Conscientious timber harvester. Saw Mill Office- 517-254-4463.

15 ESTATE SALE

AFTER ESTATE SALE sale! June 27th & 28th, 9am-5pm. 12330 S. Parker Rd., Delton. We will BARGAIN!!!!

HASTINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY SCHEDULE

Adventure awaits at the Hastings Public Library. Join the Summer Reading Challenge from June 7 through Aug. 16. Read anything for 15 minutes or more a day, log your days and win prizes.

No library card is required for library programs and activities.

Thursday, June 26 – Movie Memories and Milestones watches a 1948 movie starring Rex Harrison, Linda Darnell and Rudy Vallee, 5 p.m.

Friday, June 27 – Friday Storytime, 10:30 a.m.

Saturday, June 28 – Rockin' Tots, 10:30 a.m.

Monday, June 30 – Crafting Passions, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, July 1 – Baby Cafe, 10 a.m.; Powerful Tools for Caregivers (CareWell Services), 4 p.m.; mahjong, 5 p.m.; chess, 5 p.m.

Wednesday, July 2 – Community health workers, 10 a.m.; Itsy Bitsy Book Club, 10:30 a.m.; Open Art Studio, 11:30 a.m.

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

PIERCE CEDAR CREEK INSTITUTE EVENTS

– JUNE 26-JULY 3 –

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

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.

Friday, June 27 — Fun Friday, 10 a.m.-noon. Join the Institute for hands-on activities, special guests, games, and crafts centered around a new theme each week. This is a come-and-go event, and all caregivers must remain with their children during this free event.

July 1-31 — July Storybook Walk: "Emile and the Field" by Kevin Young; illustrated by Chioma Ebinama. Young Emile loves the field close to his home. He loves the trees, the flowers, the grass. But he doesn't love sharing this field with the other children who come to sled during winter. Can Emile learn to share his beloved field? The Storybook Walk is free and self-guided on the purple and green trails.

July 1-31 — Summer Wildflower Trail (free and self-guided). Follow the green trail and enjoy the bright blooms of summer.

Tuesday, July 1 — Trekkin' with Tots: Plant Parade, 10 a.m. Get your littlest ones excited about hiking! Each hike will include a destination, adventure or other program designed to keep your kids hiking and happy. Older siblings are welcome, too.

Thursday, July 3 — Social Hikes, 10 a.m. Join Institute staff for a social hiking experience. Bring a friend, or make a new one! Trails will have rocks, uneven terrain, mud and great views. All hikes are free. Water is required to hike. This is a safety precaution to prevent dehydration on the trail. The 1.2-mile hike is open to all.

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

THE GREATEST CHALLENGES OF OUR TIME

—AN EVENING WITH PRESIDENT—
LECH WALESA

USA & CANADA LECTURE TOUR | AUGUST 31 – OCTOBER 30, 2025



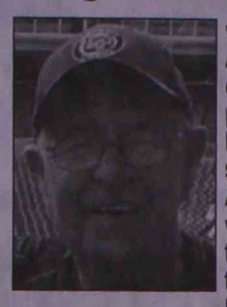
Meet the Nobel Peace Prize winner and one of the world's greatest leaders. Lech Walesa will take you behind the scenes of one of history's greatest turning points – and into the future we must build together.

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OBITUARIES

VIEW OBITUARIES ONLINE. HASTINGSBANNER.COM

Michael Eugene Martin Sr.



Michael Eugene Martin Sr., passed away peacefully on June 18, 2025, at the age of 78. Born on May 18, 1947, Mike's life was characterized by his unwavering dedication to Delton and its residents, his love for his family, and his passion for service.

Mike is survived by his beloved wife of 55 years, Helen (Kuhtic) Martin. His memory will be cherished by his devoted daughter Michelle (Brad) Van Buren, his son Michael Martin Jr., and his adored granddaughters Sydney Marie and Mackenzi Bailee Van Buren.

Mike's extended family, including his siblings-in-law Jerry Lass, Judy (Robert) Anderson, Joseph (Valerie) Kuhtic, Denise (Robert) Wisniewski, Marilyn (Tom) Wilcox, Cheryl Kuhtic, and several nieces and nephews, will miss his presence deeply. His special friend, JR Homister, will fondly remember the times they shared.

Mike was preceded in death by his parents, Howard and Helen (Geib) Martin, his sister Janice Lass, brother-in-law Paul J. Kuhtic, and his close aunt and uncle Glennice "Tootie" and Jim Hock.

A proud graduate of Delton Kellogg High School, class of 1965, Mike's work ethic was evident from an early age. His career at Family Fare in Delton spanned over 50 years, where he started as a bagger at 15 and rose through the ranks to become a meat cutter, assistant director, and finally the store director. After retirement, Mike dedicated over ten years as a funeral assistant at the Williams-Gores Funeral Home. His dedication to his professions was matched only by his commitment to his country as a veteran of the United States Army.

Mike's involvement in his community was extensive and heartfelt. A member of the Rotary for over 25 years, serving as past president, he forged many lifelong friendships. He was a supporter and volunteer at Casa Amparo in Reynosa, Mexico, where he made several mission trips, and a past member of the Lions Club. Mike's love for Delton was evident in his recent honor as the Grand Marshall of Delton's Founders Day Festival. He took pride in keeping his town beautiful as part of the Adopt a Highway cleanup crew.

A devout Detroit Tigers fan, Mike also enjoyed making his own sausage and was a beloved member of the "monthly haircut crew." His faith led him to be an active part of the St. Ambrose Catholic Church. Mike cherished his role as Papa, and he relished the time spent with his granddaughters. He told the girls he loved them more than the Detroit Tigers.

Mike's life was a testament to service, family, and community. His warmth, generosity, and leadership will be profoundly missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him. The family has suggested that family and friends wear Tiger Apparel.

A funeral mass took place on Saturday, June 21, 2025 at St. Ambrose Catholic Church. Fr. Harold Potter officiated. Burial with military honors took place Monday, June 23, 2025 at Fort Custer National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making Memorial contributions to the Delton Rotary Club. Please visit www.williamsgoresfuneral.com to share a memory or leave a condolence message for Mike's family.

Arrangements made by Williams-Gores Funeral Home, Delton.

Ilse Maria Fechner



Ilse Maria Fechner, age 97, died peacefully at home on May 13, 2025.

She was born and raised in Kassel, Germany and emigrated to Hastings, MI in 1949. She married Wolfram in 1951. They bought a dairy farm where they worked and raised their three children until retiring in 1988. Ilse and Wolf then moved to Ocean Resorts on Hutchinson Island, FL which remained their home until their passing.

Ilse was a kind and caring person and touched the hearts of many. She enjoyed visits with family and friends, playing cards and her traditional afternoon coffee and cake.

She was a member of Our Savior Lutheran Church in Vero Beach. She had a strong faith that guided her through life.

Ilse is survived by her children, Nancy (Bill) Feldpausch, Christina and John; grandson, Jonathan; brothers, Gunter and Klaus (Maria) Bachmann; nephew, Eric; niece, Sonja.

She was preceded in death by her husband Wolfram of 57 years; sisters, Edith and Helga.

Celebration of life will be announced at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be made to Our Savior Lutheran Church, 1850 6th Ave. Vero Beach, FL 32960 or to a charity of your choice in her name.

Arrangements are by Thomas S. Lowther Funeral Home & Crematory, Vero Beach.

Patricia Kay Fussman



Patricia Kay Fussman, age 85, of Hastings, MI, passed away peacefully on June 19, 2025. She was born on June 2, 1940, in Grand Rapids, MI, the beloved daughter of Joseph Faiks and Florence Liszewski.

Patricia graduated from Union High School and earned her nursing degree from Mercy Central School of Nursing. She devoted many years to her career as a registered nurse at St. Mary's Hospital, where her compassion and care touched countless lives.

A woman of deep Catholic faith, Patricia was a devoted parishioner of both Holy Family and St. Rose of Lima Catholic Churches. Her life was anchored in prayer, daily Mass, Eucharistic adoration, and pilgrimages that nurtured her profound relationship with Jesus and His Blessed Mother.

Patricia found joy in life's simple pleasures—listening to music, solving puzzles, playing word games and euchre, and of course, "just putzing around." She cherished time with her family, always offering a listening ear, a warm hug, or a heartfelt prayer. Known for her love of games, she would teach them to others, especially the grandkids.

She often treated her grandchildren to "birthdays with Grandma," always ending with a "quick visit with Jesus" in adoration. She was always down for a baby cone at Dairy Queen which was the best way to finish errands. She was known to break into song, especially "Let There Be Peace on Earth," when her grandkids argued. Ever playful, she loved to tell jokes to anyone she met.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Glen Fussman; her daughter, Kari Thompson; her son-in-law, Stephen Feldpausch; and her parents, Joseph and Florence.

Patricia is survived by her children: Kelly (Edward) Maurer, Kevin (Martha) Fussman, and Kyle (Carla) Fussman; her siblings, Fred (Kathy) Faiks and Doreen (Dan) Chilver; grandchildren, John (Joan), Matt (Kate), Jennifer (Corey), Chris (Jenny), Mary (Daniel), Joe (Mara), Mark, Dylan, Tyler, Kayla, Nathan (Ashley), Megan, and Gabriella; and great-grandchildren, Gemma, Leo, Felicity, Isaac, Adelaide, Juliana, Isla, Santiago, Jordyn, and Harper.

Visitation was held Monday, June 23, 2025, with a Rosary at Girrbach Funeral Home, 328 S. Broadway St., Hastings. A Funeral Mass was celebrated Tuesday, June 24 at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church, 805 S. Jefferson St., Hastings. Interment followed at Mt. Calvary Cemetery with a luncheon at the church afterward.

Memorial contributions may be made to the family to help cover expenses. Patricia will be remembered for her unwavering faith, generous heart, and the joy she brought to all who knew her.

Worship Together



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

APPROVE

Continued from Page 1

body cameras was felt more acutely after that incident, said Zuzga.

Body-worn cameras can help protect the county from liability. In turn, if an officer commits a wrongdoing, body-worn cameras can help hold that officer accountable for his or her misdoings.

Body cameras can also streamline an officer's daily work.

"Having those body cameras allows us to record coming into the scenes, our interviews, things like that. I think it's extremely important every single one of us has one of those," said Sgt. Scott Ware during Tuesday's public comment period.

Though the purchase will spell a hit to county funds, the three-year financing allows Zuzga and his team time to whittle down the costs with grant funding. Commissioners voted on Tuesday to approve an application to the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority for up to $95,000 in grant dollars to help offset the cost of the Motorola purchase. Barry County Sheriff Dar Leaf also mentioned current efforts from Rep. Angela Rigas for a $230,000 state budget appropriation to the county to offset the cost of the camera and radio purchase.

"I appreciate our partnership with Motorola, thanks for coming here and answering our questions. And our jail and officers, we're looking forward to providing that additional safety and transparency for our community, for what that's going to bring. It's a new chapter for Barry County," said County Board Chair Dave Jackson. "We know it's a little bit incident-driven off of something that happened, and now different stories, we want to eliminate that in our future. We look forward to this next chapter with our law enforcement and with their protection and security going forward."

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TURNING BACK THE PAGES

HASTINGS' POST OFFICE: 'The mail must go through'

DAVID MILLER
Special to The Banner

Since 1839, the United States Postal Service has played a central role in the daily life of Hastings, Michigan—faithfully connecting this growing community to the wider world. Over the decades, as Hastings evolved from a frontier settlement into a bustling county seat, the post office kept pace—relocating multiple times within the downtown business district to meet the expanding needs of its citizens. Each move marked a new chapter in the city's development, reflecting both the growth of commerce and the changing rhythms of communication in small-town America.

Barry County received its name on April 29, 1829, when the Michigan Territorial Legislature officially created the county. The name honored William T. Barry, who was serving as U.S. Postmaster General in President Andrew Jackson's cabinet at that time. Although the county was formally organized a decade later, on March 15, 1839, it had borne the name "Barry" since its initial establishment in 1829. This naming was part of a broader trend in which several newly formed Michigan counties were named after members of Jackson's cabinet—often referred to as the state's "cabinet counties."

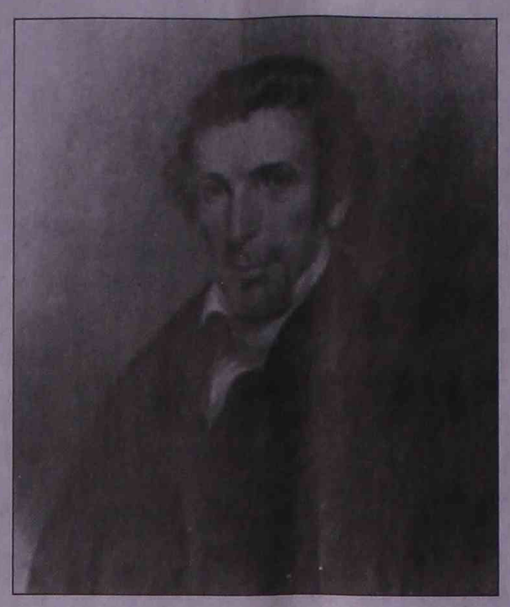
Before the spring of 1839, mail bound for Hastings had to be retrieved on horseback from Gull Prairie or Yankee Springs—a grueling 40-mile round trip over primitive forest trails. That year marked a turning point with the opening of a local post office and the appointment of Willard Hays as Hastings' first postmaster. Hays had arrived from New York in 1837 and was not only the town's inaugural postmaster but also Barry County's first sheriff and a printer by trade. At the time, postage for a single letter cost 25 cents, and, in its first year of operation, the post office collected less than one dollar. Hays would continue to serve in the role for the next 10 years.

In 1839, Willard Hays married Ann McClellan and constructed the first frame house in Hastings, near the corner of Jefferson and State streets. It was in this home that he established both his print shop and the town's first post office. The next significant relocation occurred when the post office moved to a brick storefront, now the site of Al & Pete's Sport Shop.

By 1879, the post office in Hastings was sending and receiving two daily mails, two trip-weekly mails, and one semi-weekly mail. Ford Motor wouldn't begin production of their Model A car until 1903, so the horse and buggy would continue as the principal mode of transportation for another 20 years. By the mid-1920s, automobiles were becoming increasingly common, thanks in part to the introduction of Ford's Model T in 1908 and the steady improvement of road infrastructure. However, mail delivery in rural areas still relied on horse-drawn wagons. During the winter months, sleighs were used to navigate the snow-covered roads throughout the county.

Sanborn's 1916 insurance map shows the post office at 149 W State St, which would later become Miller Ice Cream and is presently the location of Miller Real Estate Offices. They would remain at this location until 1925 when they moved to 109 S. Court St.

In 1923, the U.S. Post Office Department implemented a significant change to improve the efficiency of mail delivery by requiring every residence in Hastings to have either a mailbox or a mail slot. Prior to this mandate, letter carriers were expected to deliver mail directly to recipients at their doors, often waiting for someone to answer, which greatly slowed the process. Under the new regulation, announced in March of that year, households without a proper mail receptacle would no longer receive doorstep delivery. Instead, their mail would be held at the local post office until compliance was met. This policy, known as Order No. 196, marked a major step toward modernizing postal operations and served as a precursor to further innovations in home and rural mail delivery.



William Barry

On May 1, 1925, the Hastings Post Office moved into a newly constructed building at 109 South Church Street with William L. Shutters serving as postmaster. The post office would remain in the stately S. Church St. location for the next 38 years. After the post office vacated the premises in 1963, the building was repurposed for use as a public library. The doors opened in January 1965, with Florence Wilson serving as the first librarian. Forty-two years later, in June 2007, the Hastings Public Library relocated to its current facility at the east end of State Street. The original Church Street building, located across from the courthouse, now houses the MSU Extension and other county offices and has been renamed the "Tyden Center."

Another historically significant milestone in Hastings' mail delivery came on July 1, 1963, when the U.S. Postal Service introduced the five-digit ZIP code system. The first digit identified a broad geographic region (49058), while the remaining numbers pinpointed the destination with increasing precision. This innovation greatly improved the efficiency of mail sorting and delivery. In 1983, the system was further refined with the introduction of ZIP+4, which added four additional digits to identify even more specific delivery points within the original five-digit area.

Today, the Hastings Post Office is located at 209 W. Mill St., Hastings, MI 49058, and holds the designation of a First-Class facility, serving approximately 8,386 patrons in ZIP code area 49058. The current postmaster is Meagan Sheehy, overseeing a staff of 25 employees. This includes five city carriers, nine rural carriers, three clerks and one custodian.

With every relocation—from Hays' print shop to the brick storefront now occupied by Al & Pete's, to the longtime location at 109 S. Church, and finally to the current facility on Mill Street—the Hastings Post Office has remained a fixture of civic life. Today, under the leadership of Postmaster Meagan Sheehy, the office continues its tradition of public service with a dedicated staff and a legacy that reflects nearly two centuries of communication, connection and community.

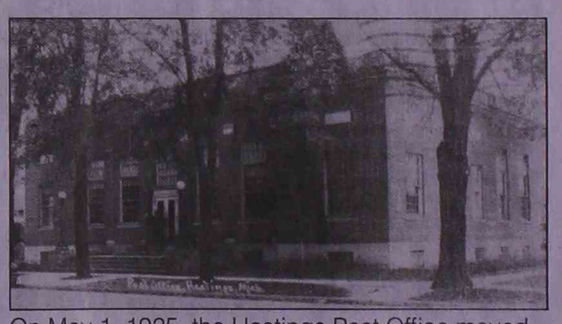
David Miller is a moderator for the "Hastings History" Facebook group.



The Hastings Post Office has had many homes throughout its history. This photo was taken around 1912 – when mailing a letter cost three cents – in front of what is now Al & Pete's Sport Shop. **Courtesy photos**



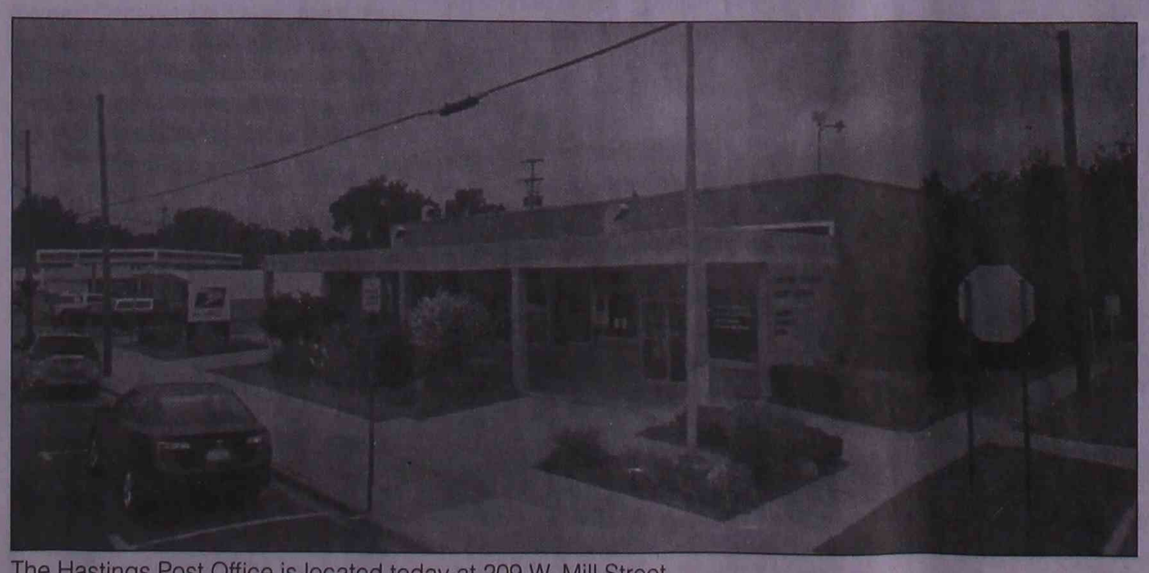
The photograph at right, taken around 1901, shows three mail wagons operating out of Hastings, with the town's fire barn visible in the background.



On May 1, 1925, the Hastings Post Office moved into a newly constructed building at 109 S. Church Street. Today, the building is home to the Tyden Center.



During the winter months in the early days of mail, sleighs were used to navigate the snow-covered roads throughout the county. Pictured here in this early 1900s photo, standing beside his U.S. Mail sleigh, is Charles Gaskill.



The Hastings Post Office is located today at 209 W. Mill Street.

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FORECLOSURE NOTICE

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Barry County, starting promptly at 01:00 PM, July 17, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Michael David Soya, an unmarried man to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as Mortgagee, as Nominee for Amerifirst Financial Corporation, its successors, and assigns, Mortgagee, dated November 19, 2019, and recorded on December 26, 2019, as Document Number: 2019-012696, Barry County Records, said mortgage was assigned to Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC by an Assignment of Mortgage dated May 30, 2025 and recorded June 04, 2025 by Document Number: 2025-004591, , on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Fifty-Nine Thousand Two Hundred Ten and 15/100 ($59,210.15) including interest at the rate of 4.25000% per annum. Said premises are situated in the Township of Assyria, Barry County, Michigan, and are described as: Beginning at a point 10.12 chains South of the Northwest Corner of Section 22, Town 1 North, Range 7 West; Thence South 16 1/2 feet; Thence East 3.162 chains; Thence North 16 1/2 feet; Thence West 3.162 chains to the place of beginning. Also conveying commencing 41 rods, 12.4 links South of the Northwest Corner of Section 22 of said Assyria Township; Thence East 12 rods, 16.2 links; Thence South 12 rods 16.2 links; Thence West 12 rods, 16.2 links; Thence North to beginning, all in Town 1 North, Range 7 West. Commonly known as: 13165 S M-66 HWY, BELLEVUE, MI 49021 If the property is eventually sold at foreclosure sale, the redemption period will be 6.00 months from the date of sale unless the property is abandoned or used for agricultural purposes. If the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241 and/or 600.3241a, the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of sale, or 15 days after statutory notice, whichever is later. If the property is presumed to be used for agricultural purposes prior to the date of the foreclosure sale pursuant to MCL 600.3240, the redemption period is 1 year. Pursuant to MCL 600.3278, if the property is sold at a foreclosure sale, the borrower(s) will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages are, if any, limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Dated: June 19, 2025 Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C. Attorneys for Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC 43252 Woodward Avenue, Suite 180, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302, (248) 335-9200 Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Case No. 25MI00398-1 (06-19)(07-10)

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 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. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Pamela Wurm, a single woman Original Mortgagee: United States of America acting through the Rural Housing Service or successor agency, United States Department of Agriculture Date of mortgage: March 05, 2004 Recorded on March 10, 2004 Recording Instrument 1123431. Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Forty-Two Thousand Six Hundred Forty-Five and 34/100 Dollars ($142,645.34) Mortgaged premises: Located in the Township of Hastings, Barry County and described as: LOT 20 OF BROOKFIELD ACRES, ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN LIBER 5 OF PLATS ON PAGE 29. Commonly known as 1989 Campground Rd, Hastings, MI 49058. The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 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. ALAW 5404 Cypress Center Drive, Suite 300, Tampa, FL 33609 (813) 221-4743 24-031216

(06-05)(06-26)



Registration is open now on runsignup.com for the annual Hastings Summerfest 5K Run/Walk and Fun Run which will be held Aug. 23 in downtown Hastings. **File photo**

Registration going on for annual Summerfest 5K, Fun Run

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Registration is already underway for the annual Hastings Summerfest 5K Run/Walk and Fun Run as a part of the annual celebration in downtown Hastings the final weekend of August.

The race is set for Saturday, Aug. 23. The cost to participate in the 5K Run/Walk is $35 for those over 18 and $25 for those 18 years old or younger. The price increases beginning Aug. 1 for those over 18. Registration can be done online at the Hastings Summerfest page of runsignup.com.

The free kids 1-mile Fun Run begins at 9 a.m. There will be free T-shirts for the kids. Adults receive a 5K race T-shirt as part of their registration. Sign-up for the fun run can be done on runsignup.com as well.

Packet pick-up and late registration for the race can be done Friday, Aug. 22, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Corwell Health Pennock Wellness Center. Day of packet pick-up and late registration will be held at Thornapple Plaza from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. for the 5K and from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. for the fun run Aug. 23.

The 5K race opens at the corner of Railroad Street and State Street in downtown Hastings and mostly follows the riverfront before returning to finish at Thornapple Plaza.

The race, hosted by the Corwell Health Pennock Wellness Center, will take off at 8 a.m. All proceeds go to the Corwell Health Foundation at Pennock Hospital to reinvest in programs offered through the Pennock Wellness Center.

GO ONLINE TO HASTINGSBANNER.COM

NOTICE

Case No. 24-629-CZ, Barry County Trial Court – Circuit Division NOTICE OF SALE BY COMMISSIONER TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to the Order of the Circuit Court for the County of Barry, entered on May 12, 2025 and in accordance with Michigan Court Rule 3.403(B), the undersigned Commissioner, William Buhl, having the authority to do so, will sell at public auction the real property situated in the Township of Baltimore, County of Barry, State of Michigan, more particularly described as: Parcel I: The East ½ of the Southeast ¼ and the Southeast ¼ of the Northeast 1/4, Section 16, Town 2 North, Range 8 West, EXCEPT: that portion of the Southeast ¼ of the Southeast ¼ of Section 16, Town 2 South, Range 8 West, lying South of the centerline of Maple Grove Road. Also: Any portion of the North ½ of the North ½ of the Northeast ¼ of Section 21, Town 2 North, Range 8 West, lying North of the centerline of Maple Grove Road, Baltimore Township, Barry County, Michigan. Parcel II: Commencing at the Southwest corner of the North one-half of the Southwest one-quarter of Section 15, thence North on the West line of said Section 100 rods, thence East at right angles to said Section line 20 rods, thence Southeasterly to a point 40 rods North of a point on the South line of said North one-half of the Southwest one-quarter of said Section 15, 60 rods East of said Southwest corner, thence South 40 rods to said South line of said North one-half of the Southwest one-quarter, thence West on said South line of the North one-half of said Southwest one-quarter of Section 15, 60 rods to the place of beginning, Baltimore Township, Barry County, Michigan. Commonly Known As: Vacant Land Parcel Nos: 08-02-016-276-00 and 08-02-015-301-00, respectively (the "Property"). The Property is comprised of the two (2) parcels referenced above. For the purposes of the sale, the legal description shall not be separated, and the Property shall be conveyed in its entirety to the successful bidder. If the street address or tax identification number(s) above are inconsistent with the legal description above, the legal description shall govern and control. The sale will be conducted on July 17, 2025 at 1:00 PM at the following location: The Barry County Courthouse, in the City of Hastings, County of Barry, State of Michigan, being the building where the Circuit Court for the County of Barry is held. Terms of Sale 1. The sale will be conducted by public auction to the highest bidder. 2. The successful bidder will be required to pay in cash or certified funds the full purchase immediately at the time of sale. 3. The property is sold "as is" and "where is," without any warranties or representations as to the condition of the property. 4. The sale is subject to all existing encumbrances, easements, and restrictions of record. 5. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property, and potential purchasers are encouraged to contact the Barry County Register of Deeds Office or a title insurance company for additional information, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Additional Information For further information regarding the sale, interested parties may contact the undersigned Commissioner at: William Buhl 35903 64th Ave, PO Box 411 Paw Paw, MI 49073 269-716-0318 Dated: May 27, 2025 (06-05)(07-10)

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 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.

Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Perry Snook, married man, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Union Home Mortgage Corp., Mortgagee, dated April 1, 2021 and recorded April 5, 2021 in Instrument Number 2021-004544 and Loan Modification Agreement recorded on June 20, 2024, in Instrument Number 2024-004599, 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 One Hundred Eighty-Two Thousand Six Hundred Eighty-Five and 48/100 Dollars ($182,685.48).

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 venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Barry County, Michigan at 1:00 PM on JULY 3, 2025.

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

Lot 34, Sundago Park, Township of Hastings, Barry County, Michigan, according to the recorded plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 2 of Plats, Page 71, Barry County Records.

65 Sundago Park St, Hastings, Michigan 49058

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: June 5, 2025
File No. 25-007226
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400

(06-05)(06-26)



The Community Education and Recreation Center pool in Hastings (pictured) and the recently refurbished pool at Thornapple Kellogg High School in Middleville both have morning and afternoon hours for those looking to get in the water in town this summer. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

Pools open in Hastings and Middleville throughout the summer

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

In addition to the multitude of lakes and ponds and the Thornapple River rolling through the heart of Barry County, a couple community pools are open to help area residents try and beat the heat this summer too.

The recently refurbished pool at Thornapple Kellogg High School in Middleville is open Monday through Friday from 1 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. with its four 25-yard swim lanes, music playing, updated locker rooms and floaties, noodles, kickboards and more available upon request. Admission is $2 per person per visit, and there are also options available for 12-visit passes and yearly passes. Children under three are free.

The pool in Middleville is also open from 5 a.m. to 8 a.m. Monday through Friday for lap swimming.

Swimmers are asked to enter the high school through door B9, near the weight room on the south side of the high school.

There are also Aqua Motion and Gentle Aquafit classes going on on Monday and Wednesday evenings. Aqua Motion classes run from 6:30 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. and Gentle Aquafit classes from 7:30 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. The two independent, drop-in water fitness classes are open to everyone for $2 per class. No registration is needed.

The TK pool will be closed July 3, 4, 5 for the 4th of July holiday.

The Community Education and Recreation Center pool in Hastings is also open throughout the summer. There are lap swim times from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. Monday through Friday, and from 7 a.m to 10 a.m. on Saturdays.

There is open swim at the CERC from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Monday through Friday, and from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings. Those morning sessions are extended to 11:30 a.m. on Wednesdays at the pool. On Saturdays, there is also open swim from 10 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

The CERC hours for the summer are 6 a.m. to 11 a.m. and then 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday. The CERC is open Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

The CERC summer schedule also includes yoga, martial arts, Pilates, water aerobics and other activities.

Boaters can help report invasive species during next week's Bioblitz

Those spending time on or in the water this summer can help the Michigan Invasive Species Program by identifying and reporting aquatic invasive species. Early detection of new or emerging invasive species, like those on Michigan's Watch List, greatly improves chances to slow their spread or possibly eradicate a population.

The 18 aquatic invasive species on Michigan's Watch List have been identified as posing an immediate or potential threat to Michigan's economy, environment or human health. These species have either never been confirmed in the wild in Michigan or have a limited known distribution. The list includes 10 aquatic plants, five fish, two crayfish and the New Zealand mudsnail.

Populations of watch list aquatic species, including yellow floating heart, water lettuce, parrot feather and red swamp crayfish have been detected in Michigan through reports from people just like you who noticed something unusual in the water, took photographs and reported what they found. Information about watch list species, including identifying characteristics, photos and illustrations, can be found on the Watch List webpage of the michigan.gov website.

Sightings of aquatic plants on the watch list can be reported year-round to EGLE's Aquatic Invasive Species Program. All watch list species can be reported through the Midwest Invasive Species Information Network's website or smartphone app, found at MISIN.MSU.edu.

To encourage public involvement in reporting aquatic invasive species, the Michigan Clean Water Corps (MiCorps) is hosting its first-ever statewide aquatic invasive species BioBlitz from June 28 – July 6, 2025.

Volunteers are asked to use the iNaturalist app to document suspected aquatic invasive plants and animals across Michigan's lakes, rivers, wetlands and streams. Boaters, paddlers, anglers, nature lovers, and anyone interested in contributing to invasive species early detection can simply snap photos of aquatic species they encounter. The MiCorps team of experts, along with the iNaturalist user community, can help with identification. Folks can join the project by visiting the MiCorps website or find the MiCorps AIS Detection BioBlitz on iNaturalist.

Volunteers are asked to upload photos of aquatic species while enjoying Michigan's waters. Observations will help experts monitor and manage invasive species. All confirmed reports of aquatic invasive species will be communicated to EGLE and MISIN by MiCorps staff.

Reports of watch list species are investigated by the Michigan Invasive Species Program, a joint effort of the Michigan departments of Agriculture and Rural Development; Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy; and Natural Resources. When a report is confirmed as positive, staff assess the risk posed by the invading species, review response options and, if feasible, plan and implement a response.

"For aquatic invasive plants, responses are tailored to the situation," said Billy Keiper, aquatic biologist with EGLE.

Keiper has worked on Michigan's aquatic invasive plant early detection and response team, part of the MISP, since the team's inception in 2011. The team's responses are supported by funds from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

"If we find large populations or they span multiple locations, we reach out to partners like cooperative invasive species management areas, volunteers and contracted pesticide applicators who work with us to remove or treat the invasive plants and educate the affected communities on how to prevent spread," said Keiper.

Smaller discoveries, such as those found in private ponds, may provide the opportunity to eradicate the plant from the area entirely. For watch list aquatic plants, eradication is usually the goal when feasible. Response actions often require one to two years of treatment, followed by three years of post-treatment monitoring to ensure regrowth doesn't occur.

To date, 11 populations of aquatic invasive plants on the watch list have been eradicated. Several additional locations are nearing eradication status, as regrowth hasn't been observed for consecutive years following treatment.

Keiper is leading the response to the first detection of hydrilla in Michigan. Hydrilla, considered the world's most invasive aquatic plant, was confirmed by EGLE staff in two small, adjacent private ponds near Berrien Springs in Berrien County in 2023. After surveying the extent of the infestation and completing an initial herbicide treatment to prevent spread, the response team initiated a major dredging project in 2025 to eradicate the species.



New Zealand mudsnail in a Michigan stream. The snail is one of a number of plants and animals on the Michigan's Invasive Species watch list. **Michigan DNR Photo**

Keiper will walk through the hydrilla response effort from detection to the recent excavation in the upcoming NotMISpecies webinar, "Digging in: Michigan's Unconventional Response to Hydrilla" (9 a.m. Wednesday, June 25).

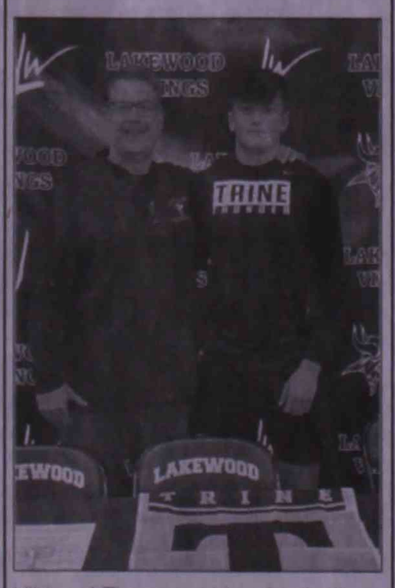
Boaters are reminded to follow state law by taking steps at the launch site after trailering boats, and before getting on the road. Ensure that the watercraft, trailer and any conveyance used to transport them are free of aquatic organisms, including plants. Remove all drain plugs and drain all water from bilges, ballast tanks and live wells.

If possible, allow boats, trailers and gear to dry in the sun for 5 to 7 days or wash with a pressure washer or chemical disinfectant or dry surfaces with a towel to prevent the spread of hard-to-see zebra mussel larvae, New Zealand mudsnails and didymo cells.

Michigan's Invasive Species Program is cooperatively implemented by the Michigan departments of Agriculture and Rural Development; Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy; and Natural Resources.

The Michigan Clean Water Corps (MiCorps) is a statewide volunteer water quality monitoring program established by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) to engage citizens in monitoring and understanding Michigan's water resources. MiCorps is administered by Michigan State University Extension under the direction of EGLE and in partnership with the Huron River Watershed Council and the Michigan Lakes and Streams Association. *-BB*

Vikings' Thomas taking football talents to Trine



Vikings' Thomas taking football talents to Trine Recent Lakewood High School graduate Jackson Thomas celebrates signing on with the Trine University Football program alongside Lakewood head coach Tim Swore this spring. Thomas played wide receiver, corner back and did some punting for the Vikings last fall during his senior season. Trine opens the 2025 football season at Christopher Newport, in Newport News, Va. **Photo provided**

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STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
BARRY COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. and JUDGE 2025-30133-DE

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

Estate of Sandra Lee Addison. Date of birth: January 21, 1943.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Sandra Lee Addison, died April 19, 2025.

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

Date: June 18, 2025
Benjamin J. Herbert P70082
5830 Venture Park Dr.
Kalamazoo, MI 49009
269-459-1432
Lanita Parks
5362 Wakley Dr.
Delton, MI 49046
269-924-4476

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STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
BARRY COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. and JUDGE 25-30145-DE
William M. Doherty

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

Estate of Mark Andrew Krause, II, Deceased. Date of birth: August 30, 1981.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Mark Andrew Krause, II, died September 22, 2024.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Shaelyn Krause, 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: June 23, 2025
Howard T. Linden, P.C.
Howard T. Linden P25438
29100 Northwestern Hwy., Suite 370
Southfield, MI 48034
(248) 358-4545
Shaelyn Krause
1948 118th Avenue
Allegan, MI 49010
(616) 655-6682

PUBLIC NOTICE OF HERBICIDE APPLICATION

The Daltons Inc., its main office at 8857 N. Syracuse-Webster Rd., Syracuse, IN 46567, has been contracted by Barry Co Road Commission to perform custom chemical vegetation control maintenance services at designated roadside locations throughout the county.

In doing so, they will be broadcast applying the following EPA-registered materials: Alligare Triclopyr 3SL (Triclopyr) or Corteva Garlon 3A or Corteva Element 3A and Envu/Bayer Escort XP or Alligare MSM 60(Metsulfuron Methyl).

Do not enter or allow entry into treated areas until sprays have dried.

This application will be completed by certified applicators employed by The Daltons Inc., during the months of August and/or September.

Additional information may be requested by contacting David Mohler or Brad Bolinger at 574-267-7511.

WE APPLY EXCELLENCE

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
BARRY COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. and JUDGE 25-30135-DE

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

Estate of Robert J. Carter, Jr. deceased. Date of birth: 8/21/1951.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Robert J. Carter, Jr., died 11/02/2024.

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

Date: 6-18-25
Todd M. Gambrell P57171
1605 Ashman Street
Midland, MI 48640
989-631-7626
Zia Shook
16826 Birchview Drive
Nunica, MI 49448
616-890-4127

TOWNSHIP OF PRAIRIEVILLE
BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN

NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES

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

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the following are summaries of Ordinance No. 181 and No. 182, which were adopted by the Prairieville Township Board at a regular meeting held on June 18, 2025.

ORDINANCE 181
REZONING OF PROPERTIES IN LAND SECTION 2

SECTION I REZONING PROPERTY IN LAND SECTION 2. The Zoning Map as incorporated by reference in the Prairieville Township Zoning Ordinance is hereby amended by rezoning two parcels containing approximately 22.4 acres on South Norris Road in Land Section 2, from the "R- Low Density Residential District" zoning classification to "A, Agricultural District" zoning classification, which properties are further described as 10991 South Norris Road tax parcel 12-002-012-00 and 10949 South Norris Road tax parcel 12-002-013-00, respectively.

SECTION II SEVERABILITY. The provisions of this ordinance are severable.

SECTION III. REPEAL/EFFECTIVE DATE. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed. This Ordinance shall take effect eight days following publication after adoption.

ORDINANCE 182
VARIOUS ZONING ORDINANCE TEXT AMENDMENTS

SECTION I AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE VI, SECTION 6.6 A DISTRICT. This section amends Article VI, Section 6.6, A Agricultural District regarding land uses associated with commercial agricultural operations, including, but not limited to horse boarding and riding stables, housing for transient labor in connection with a farm operation, processing of agricultural products, and greenhouses and nurseries.

SECTION II AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE VI, SECTION 6.6-1 AP DISTRICT. This section amends Article VI, Section 6.6–1, AP Agricultural Preservation District regarding land uses associated with commercial agricultural operations, including, but not limited to, horse boarding and riding stables, housing for transient labor in connection with a farm operation, processing of agricultural products, and greenhouses and nurseries.

SECTION III AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE III, SECTION 3.1 DEFINITIONS AMENDMENTS. This section adds a definition of "fence".

SECTION IV AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE IV, SECTION 4.32 FENCES, WALLS AND SCREENS. This section amends provisions regarding fences and screening, including but not limited to, height restrictions, design restrictions, type restrictions, maintenance, and approval process.

SECTION V AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE IV, SECTION 4.41 SCHEDULE OF LOT, YARD, AND AREA REQUIREMENTS TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE. This amendment revises the maximum lot coverage requirements across zoning districts (Schedule of Lot, Yard and Area Requirements).

SECTION VI AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE IV, SECTION 4.11 REMOVAL OF SOIL, SAND OR OTHER MATERIAL. This section amends requirements regarding removal of soil, and other materials, as well as regulations regarding clearing, grading, cutting, filling, excavation, removal of vegetation for property use.

SECTION VII SEVERABILITY. The provisions of this Ordinance are severable.

SECTION VIII REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES/EFFECTIVE DATE. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed. This Ordinance shall take effect eight (8) days after its publication.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the full text of these Ordinances has been posted in the Office of the Prairieville Township Clerk at the address set forth below and that a copy of the Ordinances may be purchased or inspected at the office of the Prairieville Township Clerk during regular business hours of regular working days following the date of this publication.

PRAIRIEVILLE TOWNSHIP
Rod Goebel, Clerk
10115 S. Norris Road
Delton, Michigan 49046
(269) 623-2664

Caledonia hockey co-op announces new head coach

Tyler Jaenicke has been named as the new head coach of the Caledonia varsity boys' hockey team.



Tyler Jaenicke

Most recently, Jaenicke led multiple Bantam-level teams with the Grand Rapids Blades to league championships, a District 6 title, and a State Championship semifinal appearance.

Jaenicke served as assistant coach at Grand Rapids Christian High School and was a three-year assistant captain when he played for Davenport University's Men's DII Hockey Team.

"Tyler's experience, leadership, and commitment to student growth make him a perfect fit for Caledonia," said Fred Townsend, the now former Caledonia High School athletic director who presided over Jaenicke's hiring. "We're excited to have him lead our hockey program into the future."

While rebranded in recent seasons as the Caledonia High School hockey team, the program remains a co-op along with student-athletes from Lowell and Thornapple Kellogg.

Jaenicke replaces Jeremy Bultema who guided the program to an 18-7-1 record last winter in what was his third campaign with the team.

- *BB*



New Caledonia varsity hockey coach Tyler Jaenicke in action as a member of the Davenport University's Men's DII Hockey Team. **Photos provided**

Lions improving their basketball skills this summer

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Between 25 and 30 young basketball players filled each of the two gyms at Maple Valley Jr/Sr High School Wednesday during day three of the Maple Valley Youth Basketball Camps going on in Nashville.

Players in grades K-3 filled the west gym while ballplayers in grades 6-8 filled the east gym each afternoon last week. Sessions for 4-6 graders and a continuation of the 6-8 grade camp is going on this week, through Friday.

Maple Valley Youth Basketball director Tony Joostberns said the number of attendees at the camp this summer is a pretty regular number for recent years.

Joostberns ran the young group through dribbling relays late in their Wednesday sessions, right-handed, left-handed, backwards, etc.

"They've come a long way in three days, kids who couldn't dribble at all. It's amazing," Joostberns said.

"We do our jump stop, our dribbles, the perfect shot is a key to us. What is amazing is on the floor how quick they catch on," he added.

He learned from a traveling basketball camp that came through a few years ago to get tape on the floor to mark foot positions for the "perfect shot," to avoid having to spend so much time lining kids up and making sure their feet are just right. The kids know where to get their feet when it is time for a shooting drill, and return to that spot over and over again throughout the week.



Lyle Jones takes off during a dribbling relay at the Maple Valley Youth Basketball Summer Camp at Maple Valley Jr/Sr High School Wednesday afternoon, June 18m while Maple Valley Youth Basketball director Tony Joostberns looks on. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

"If I start out in that drill and I go, 'toe.' They'll always go 'knee, elbow wrist!' If we can put that in muscle memory every time that this is where we start. If you don't have a good foundation, you don't have a good shot," Joostberns said.

Throughout the camp sixth graders who feel they are up to the challenge can work out with the middle school group or work on more of the basics with the fourth and fifth graders.

As usual, lunch is provided for participants and they each get a blue, rubber basketball. Joostberns said it makes him smile when he notices youngsters throughout the summer dribbling those balls along the downtown Nashville sidewalks.

The camps have been open to all youngsters from around the area, not just Maple Valley students.

NOTICE OF REGISTRATION AND PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST FOR THE SPECIAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2025

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

REGISTRATION:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that any qualified elector of Delton Kellogg Schools who is not already registered, may register to vote at the office of the appropriate Township or Village Clerk, the Office of the County Clerk, a Secretary of State branch office or other designated state agency; or can use the Online Voter Registration System at www.Michigan.gov/vote.

Voters who are already registered may update their registration at www.expressSOS.com.

The last day to register by mail or online with the local clerk is **Monday, July 21, 2025**.

After this date, anyone who qualifies as an elector must register to vote in person with proof of residency up to and including through the day of election *(MCL 168.497)* at the appropriate Clerk's office listed below at the following times:

Municipality	Address	Regular Business Hours	Hours August 2, 2025
Baltimore Township Jana Bishop, Clerk (269)721-3502	3100 E. Dowling Rd. Hastings, MI 49058	By Appointment	8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Barry Township Debra Knight, Clerk (269) 623-5171	11300 S. M-43 Hwy. Delton, MI 49048	Wednesdays 9:00 a.m. - noon & 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Hope Township Deborah Jackson, Clerk (269) 948-2464	5463 S. M-43 Hwy. Hastings, MI 49048	Wednesdays 9:00 a.m. - noon & 1:15 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. and by appointment	8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Johnstown Township Sheri Babcock, Clerk (269) 721-9709	13641 S. M-37 Hwy. Battle Creek, MI 49017	Monday & Wednesday 8:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. and by appointment	8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Orangeville Township Melody Risner, Clerk (269) 664-4522	7350 Lindsey Rd. Plainwell, MI 49080	Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.	9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Prairieville Township Rod Goebel, Clerk (269) 623-2664	10115 S. Norris Rd. Delton, MI 49046	Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Yankee Springs Township Tom Hopkins, Clerk (269) 795-9091	284 N. Briggs Rd. Middleville, MI 49333	Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Fridays 9:00 a.m.-noon	8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

All offices will be open on Election Day from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT THE FOLLOWING JURISDICTIONS WILL BE VOTING ON THE PROPOSALS AS PRESENTED AND LISTED BELOW:

DELTON KELLOGG SCHOOLS
OPERATING MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSAL

Full text of the ballot proposition may be obtained at the administrative offices of Delton Kellogg Schools, 327 North Grove Street, Delton, Michigan 49046-9701, telephone: (269) 623-1500.

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

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

Persons with special needs as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the appropriate clerk's office.

PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Public Accuracy Test for the electronic equipment that will be used for the August 5, 2025 Special Election are scheduled for the following dates, times and locations in the respective jurisdiction as listed below.

The Public Accuracy Test is conducted to demonstrate that the computer program used to tabulate the votes cast at the election meets the requirements of Michigan election law.

Barry Township – 155 E. Orchard St., Delton on July 22, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

Hope Township – 5463 S. M-43 Hwy., Hastings on July 16, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

Johnstown & Baltimore Townships – 13641 S. M-37 Hwy., Battle Creek on July 14, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

Orangeville & Yankee Springs Townships – 7350 Lindsey Rd., Plainwell on July 9, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

Prairieville Township – 10115 S. Norris Rd., Delton on July 22, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

**For this election only, the voters in the following municipalities will be consolidated as follows:*
Baltimore Township residents will vote at Johnstown Township Hall, 13641 S. M-37 Hwy., Battle Creek, MI 49017
Yankee Springs, Precinct 2 will vote at Orangeville Township, 7350 Lindsey Rd, Plainwell MI 49080

Sarah M. VanDenburg, Barry County Clerk on behalf of:
Baltimore Township Clerk, Jana Bishop
Orangeville Township Clerk, Melody Risner
Barry Township Clerk, Debra Knight
Prairieville Township Clerk, Rod Goebel
Hope Township Clerk, Deborah Jackson
Yankee Springs Township Clerk, Tom Hopkins
Johnstown Township Clerk, Sheri Babcock

This notice is given as required by law (MCL 168.498(3))

Saxon athletic, P.E. facilities getting facelift

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The year was 1980. Delton Kellogg met Lakewood in a varsity boys' basketball district tournament game at Hastings High School. The Vikings defeated current Hastings High School athletic director Mike Mohn and the Panthers in his last varsity ballgame before he went on to star at Oakland University – then an NCAA Division II institution.

The locker rooms the Delton Kellogg and Lakewood teams used that evening in Hastings remained virtually unchanged until Hastings Area Schools voters approved a bond in 2023 that led to massive renovations beginning this spring.

Demolition and construction are progressing on the athletic end of the Hastings High School building. Both boys and girls locker rooms are being completely gutted and redone.

Those working on the project asked for approval to get an early start, by spring break 2025, in an effort to have the project completed by the time school resumes in the fall. High school physical education teachers Jamie Murphy and Joann Vandenhout had their offices and class locker rooms moved into the Community Education and Recreation Center for the remainder of the 2024-25 school year.

For now, inside the closed athletic lobby there isn't much to see – crumbled brick, walls coming down, open ceilings.

"As you enter into the main athletic entrance, that is going to be completely different," Mohn said. "You'll be blown away when you walk in. Both restrooms are being gutted and redone. Athletic commons area, where the old Saxon Store was across from the concession stand, will be an open area with work tables, spots that folks can plug in devices. It'll all be graphics, ornate stuff, we'll probably get a couple of video boards, and it will give people that go out to get concessions a place to sit, hang out and chit chat. There will be tables, and students and athletes will be able to hang out there as well. A place to sit and chill."



Demolition work continues on Monday inside the space that will be the new Saxon commons area in front of the concession stand near the Hastings High School gymnasium. The projects are being paid for with funds from the bond passed by Hastings Area School voters in 2023. **Photos by Brett Bremer**



Concrete blocks are loaded to go into Hastings High School Monday as part of the projects which are bringing major improvements to the locker rooms at the high school gymnasium and the common areas around the athletics entrance to the school.

The locker rooms will be brighter with Saxon graphics on the walls. Mohn said overall they will just be more welcoming, but also more useful, safer and more secure. He said the Saxons have had to tell opponents in the gymnasium to keep valuable by the bench rather than in the locker room because of an inability to close off certain areas of the locker rooms.

"The biggest change for our kids will be the varsity locker rooms," Mohn said. "Our varsity basketball teams, boys and girls, share the same locker room. It has always been that way. They just got used to it. ?Now there will be a varsity side for the girls and a visiting side for the girls, and same thing on the boys' side … they'll be a little more what I would consider normal locker rooms."

The changes will also include moving the high school athletic offices from the west end of the main offices on the front of the high school over to the back side of that end of the school, and those offices will overlook the new Saxon commons area. Mohn said there will also be updated trophy cases throughout the area, and is excited to get to display some recently found Saxon hardware.

"They said they've been cruising right along. We're hanging in there. Fingers crossed we'll be done by the time everybody is back," Mohn said of the progress.

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