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THE HASTINGS BANNER

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The 172nd Annual Barry County Fair concluded on Saturday. While final attendance numbers are still being tallied, fair organizers say they are pleased with the turnout. **Courtesy photo**

Dust settles on 172nd Barry County Fair

MOLLY MACLEOD
Editor

The dust has settled on the 172nd Annual Barry County Fair, which took place July 14-19. Though volunteers are still tallying the final numbers and reflecting on the week, organizers agree this year's fair was one of the best yet.

"It was a good turnout — it really was a good fair," said Barry County Fair Board President Dennis Redman.

Despite some rain on Thursday and Saturday, Redman said he saw a large turnout throughout the fair.

"Tuesday was a good day, Wednesday was a good day, Thursday we got rained out a little bit, Friday was a good day, and then Saturday we got rained out a little bit," Redman said.

"Kids Rock the Country" was this year's theme for the fair, and Barry County youth held up their end of the bargain. The final totals for this year's large and small livestock sales are still being tallied, but Redman said each sale is expected to set records.

Redman could confirm the large livestock sale total will be north of $1 million. He said small livestock sales were up roughly 30% from last year.

"All in all, it was a good fair for everybody," he said.

Those already missing the fair can look forward to next year. The 173rd Annual Barry County Fair is slated to take place July 18-25, 2026.

For more coverage on this year's Barry County Fair, look to the Thursday, Aug. 7, edition of *The Banner*.

Local group stages rally to coincide with similar events around the country



Protesters gathered in Hastings last Thursday for the "Good Trouble Lives On" rally and protest. **Courtesy photo**

JAYSON BUSSA
Contributing Writer

A local advocacy group assembled last Thursday in Hastings as part of a nationwide network of rallies and protests.

The non-partisan group MI Barry County Indivisible organized a rally to coincide with the national network of "Good Trouble Lives On" events, which was in honor of 17-term United States Congressman and civil rights leader John Lewis of Georgia. Last Thursday marked the five-year anniversary of Lewis's passing.

Rep. Lewis was known for his advocacy, which he labeled "good trouble." This phrase was in reference to the fact that Lewis's political action was, at times, disruptive, but it was ultimately for the greater good.

"We like to think that's what we're doing, too," said Ed Szumowksi, one of the co-leaders of MI Barry County Indivisible. "We're not out there trying to stir up negativity or hatred or bashing people as much as we are trying to point out to people what the values of the constitution are, what the values of freedom are and how many of the

See **RALLY** on 2

One injured in Tuesday crash

MOLLY MACLEOD
Editor

A motorcycle and semi-truck crashed in Baltimore township on Tuesday morning, according to Barry County Sheriff Dar Leaf.

Leaf said a female motorcycle rider was injured after colliding with a semi around 7 a.m. on Tuesday, July 22. The crash occurred at M-37 and Dowling Road in Baltimore Township.

The semi-truck was traveling westbound on Dowling Road and stopped at the stop sign, Leaf said. The motorcycle was traveling northbound on M-37 behind a pickup truck. After the pickup slowed down to turn on Dowling Road, the semi reportedly pulled out in front of the motorcycle. The motorcycle, still traveling north, then collided with the back of the semi.

The female rider was transport-

See **CRASH** on 2



Ian Rees, CPA, presented commissioners on Tuesday with Barry County's annual financial report. The county received a clean, unmodified opinion. **Photo by Molly Macleod**

County receives clean audit for 2024

MOLLY MACLEOD
Editor

Barry County's finances received a clean bill of health this week. Ian Rees, CPA, of Gabridge and Co. presented commissioners with the county's annual financial report at Tuesday's Barry County Board of Commissioners meeting.

The report assigns Barry County an unmodified opinion, the highest rating a governmental unit can achieve during an audit.

"It's the best opinion the county could receive," Rees said. "So in essence, you passed the audit. There's nothing that the administrator, clerk, treasurer, anybody could have done better to receive a better opinion."

Additionally, the county has maintained its AA credit rating.

Rees took commissioners through the highlights on the 149-page report. As of Dec. 31, 2024, the county exceeded its liabilities and deferred inflows of resources by $82,808,962 — an increase of $12,196,990 from last year. Of that amount, $25,380,162 is unrestricted funds.

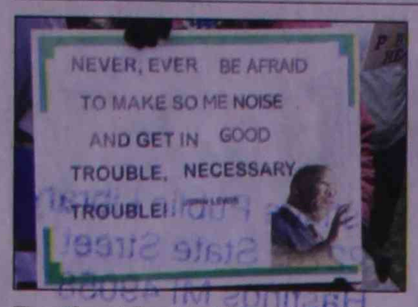
The county's governmental funds ended with a fund balance of $26,760,167 at the close of the fiscal year. That is an increase of $1,153,783 from last year. $2,236,311 of that fund balance is unrestricted.

The general fund's total fund balance tallied in at $4,961,160, a decrease of $4,878 when compared to the prior year. At the end of the year, the unassigned portion of the fund balance in the general fund was $2,236,311, approximately 10% of total general fund expenditures and transfers out for the year. Rees said 10% is typical for counties of Barry County's size.

The county's capital assets totaled $55,155,603 at the end

See **CLEAN AUDIT** on 2

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The "Good Trouble Lives On" rallies across the country were held on July 17, marking the fifth-year anniversary of the passing of long-time U.S. Congressman and civil rights leader John Lewis. **Courtesy photo**

RALLY

Continued from Page 1

policies of the current administration are going against those freedoms."

The group has ongoing efforts, too, staging protests on the Barry County Courthouse lawn on the third Saturday of each month at 10 a.m.

While Thursday's "Good Trouble Lives On" rally didn't pull as many participants as last month's "No Kings" rally at the Thornapple Plaza, Szumowski said that the group will continue driving home their point and also attempting to meet with U.S. Representative John Moolenaar (R-Caledonia)

"He's hiding, just like they all are," Szumowski said. "They're too afraid to talk to people that don't kiss the ring but we're willing to work on it."

"Good Trouble Lives On" rallies were held across the country, and Szumowski said that the sheer numbers of protesters who coordinated their efforts have helped to gain momentum.

"If you have 1,500 rallies across the country, it gets publicity," he said. "There were stories in the national news, and if it were just in Barry County, it probably wouldn't have."

Sanitary sewer briefly overflows in Carlton Twp.

A sanitary sewer overflow was discovered on the evening of Friday, July 18, in Carlton Township, according to wastewater officials.

Officials say the overflow was caused by a mechanical issue. The issue was quickly corrected that same evening.

Mike Stephens of Guardian Wastewater Services said the overflow only affected land at the aeration treatment facility. No surface waters were affected by the overflow. — *MM*

CRASH

Continued from Page 1

ed to a local hospital via Aero Med. Leaf said she was alert and conscious at the scene.

"At that time, they didn't think there were any life-threatening injuries," Leaf said. There were no further updates on the rider's condition as of press time.

Leaf said the rider's helmet left a dent on the semi.

"This was a classic 'motorcycle helmet saves the day,'" Leaf said.

Agencies responding to Tuesday's accident include the Barry County Sheriff's Department, the Michigan State Police, the Michigan Department of Transportation, Barry County Central Dispatch and local fire and emergency services.

CLEAN AUDIT

Continued from Page 1

of 2024, increasing from $49,629,943 in 2023.

Rees pointed out that the county reduced its long-term debt last year by $2,619,334, bringing the total down to $17,532,532.

Rees lauded county employees for their help throughout the auditing process.

"It was very easy to work with your treasurer and administrator and everybody," Rees said.

A full copy of the 2024 financial report can be found on the county's website, BarryCounty.org.

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269-945-9554
www.hastingsbanner.com

VIEW Newspaper Group
Rick Burrough, President
Wes Smith, Group Publisher
Molly Macleod, Editor

CONTACT US

EDITORIAL
mmacleod@mihomepaper.com

DELIVERY QUESTIONS
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Freeport Homecoming offers eclectic fun this weekend



A group of kids compete in a turtle race as part of the Freeport Homecoming celebration. Organizers provide turtles or participants can race their own. The next Freeport Homecoming is scheduled for July 26. **File photo by Jayson Bussa**

Jayson Bussa
Contributing Writer

Many decades ago, the Freeport Homecoming event featured activities like pig wrestling and rolling a giant hay bale down the road.

While some of its more vintage activities may have been deemed too dangerous and phased out over time, the annual event has persevered and still offers some classic small town summer fun.

The annual celebration, put on by local 501(c)(3) nonprofit Freeport Goodworks, takes place on Saturday, July 26, in downtown Freeport and serves as the cure for the common festival.

While Freeport Homecoming does feature a large car show that overtakes Division Street with typically over 100 vehicles, the celebration also features more offbeat activities like turtle racing and chicken poop bingo.

Today's edition of Freeport Homecoming serves as an effective way of bringing outsiders into the small town and boosting local businesses. But, the event has its roots that stretch back to the early 1900s, where it started as a village picnic and grew from there.

The festival provides a mix of modern Freeport along with the nostalgic charm that has stuck around since those early village picnics.

"It's a lot for the town to have the influx of people there but everyone is really great," said Maddison Buehler, one of the event's organizers. "They know that we're all small businesses and there might be a wait for things but we all try to accommodate as much as we can for anyone who wants to be involved."

The car show is typically the center piece of the annual event, featuring 4-foot trophies that are sponsored and handed out by local businesses. These businesses decide who gets to take home their golden prize.

For a town the size of Freeport, the car show is a strong draw for enthusiasts throughout greater Grand Rapids.

"We need a longer Main Street for (the car show)," Buehler said with a laugh. "It's growing and we love it. We love the fact that everyone is willing to come to our small town and support the town. It's just really good for the community that day."

New to this year's lineup is hay bale tossing, a re-imagined version of a past Homecoming favorite. This time, adults will compete to see who can toss a bale the highest, while kids will aim for distance with a smaller bale.

"We're excited to have it and be able to offer it and hope that it keeps people around for the second half of the day so everyone can enjoy the live bands we have and then the food truck we have that night," Buehler said.

Another returning favorite is the turtle derby, held at the Blough Auto lot. Participants are either provided a turtle or bring their own. The goal is to be the first turtle to run out of a marked circle.

The day's schedule is full of family-friendly events, including a kiddy car show, chicken poop bingo, a corn hole tournament, kids' games, swings on the community center lawn and a horseshoe tournament.

For those interested in local history, the two-story Freeport Historical Society Museum will be open from noon to 3 p.m. with free admission. The group will also offer free water and popcorn and will have books on local history available for purchase.

Live music begins at 5 p.m., with performances by The Blind Squirrels, Jordan Gerard and the Consequence, and Stevie Reidz and Company.

"We've always had a really great, supporting community," Buehler said.

Consumers official states eagles' nest not found near solar farm project

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

If bald eagles are nesting in or near the Spring Creek solar farm project, Consumers Energy officials say they haven't been able to find and record them.

Gregory Moore, a community affairs representative with Consumers Energy, updated both the Barry County Board of Commissioners and the Johnstown Township Board of Trustees during recent meetings earlier this month.

"We've seen nothing," Moore said at the county meeting July 8.

That message didn't change after he also attended the Johnstown Township meeting a day later.

"No, we've found no evidence of eagle nests in the area," he added. "To date, nothing has been found with the information we've been provided.

"I think our designers did a good job of staying away from sensitive areas."

As part of the project, Moore said Consumers Energy officials have sought to keep a 600-foot buffer zone between the solar farm, which is currently under construction, and any known eagle nests.

"We're very careful," he said. "We follow all the rules."

Moore added that a statement from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was included in the company's initial application to the county.

But, the issue resurfaced at Johnstown Township meeting June 11, when Hope Township resident Mike Goddard expressed his concern about the impact the solar farm might have on the local bald and golden eagle population.

At the June 11 meeting, Goddard said the federal Bald and Golden Eagle Protect Act, first enacted in 1940, restricts any development that might impact or interfere with the eagles' breeding, sheltering or eating habitats.

Then, another local resident reportedly provided photos of eagles in the area at the next township meeting on July 9.

Despite following up on tips by local

See **EAGLES' NEST** on 6

Hastings Schools looks to BISD for regional enhancement millage

MOLLY MACLEOD
Editor

Hastings Area School System is getting the ball rolling for a regional enhancement millage that could hit ballot boxes as early as this November.

The 1-mill, 10-year regional enhancement millage, if approved, would allow another source of funding for the schools under the Barry Intermediate School District umbrella — which includes Hastings Area Schools and Delton Kellogg Schools.

BISD residents responded to surveys sent out this spring asking voters if they would support a regional enhancement millage and, if so, how much they would be willing to pay. After a meeting last month between the superintendents and the ISD, stakeholders settled on a 1-mill, 10-year millage.

Unlike money generated from a bond issue, funds generated from a regional enhancement millage can be used for almost anything — including hiring support staff. Bond funding is typically constricted in its uses, often only for building and facility improvements.

Delton Kellogg Schools will vote whether to support the millage or not at next month's board of education meeting. From there, the final hurdle is a vote from the BISD board.

If the millage goes to the ballot and passes, BISD would disseminate the funds generated to DKS and HASS. DKS and HASS will create an agreement for how those funds will be distributed.

Hastings BOE approves contracts ahead of new school year

Molly Macleod
Editor

The Hastings Area School System Board of Education approved a myriad of employee contracts on Monday, July 21. The move marks one of the final steps checked off ahead of the 2025-26 school year, which starts Monday, Aug. 18.

Board members voted unanimously on Monday to approve a 1-year master agreement with the Hastings Education Association. The agreement calls for 2% raises for all teachers and corrects pay scale freezes for 45 teachers implemented in the early 2010s.

For each of the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 school years, eligible teachers will advance two steps on the salary schedule: one step as part of their normal year-to-year progression and one additional step as a restoration of a previously withheld step. Teachers who exceed the maximum step on the salary schedule outlined in the collective bargaining agreement will receive their applicable longevity pay. Teachers no longer employed by the district are not eligible for these step advancements.

Another highlight of the master agreement with HEA is stipends for special education teachers. Special ed teachers with credentials can receive a $5,000 stipend. Those working on their credentials can receive $2,500.

Board members said they were pleased with the results of the 6-month negotiation with HEA. Last month, the district approved its budget. With COVID funds running out and enrollment in decline, the district is in a more dire financial position than in recent years.

"It's kind of hard to negotiate a contract when you don't have any money," said board president Luke Haywood.

"And we don't know what's coming from the state," Superintendent Nick Damico added.

"And I applaud our teams for finding some middles, because it was challenging with all the variables," Haywood said. "We did a 1-year contract because of the unknowns. We don't know what our funding is, we don't know what our enrollment is, and we hope that we can get the budget back on track again next year and maybe we can improve the position for our teachers and employees."

One contract approved by board members on Monday includes that of Superintendent Damico. Damico received an "effective" rating during his evaluation last month, the highest rating a superintendent can receive.

Consistent with other district staff, Damico will receive a 2% raise in the 2025-26 school year, netting $163,200 a year.

Damico's contract now extends through the end of the 2027-28 school year. There were no other changes to his contract, which was adopted upon his hire at the end of the 2023-24 school year.

Haywood said Damico's superintendent evaluation was a productive meeting, with board members sharing feedback with the superintendent.

"We're truly blessed to have Nick with us. We really appreciate his leadership and look forward to many more years to come," Haywood said.



The Hastings Area School System Board of Education approved several contracts on Monday for district staff ahead of the new school year. One contract approved on Monday includes a master agreement with the Hastings Education Association. **Photo by Molly Macleod**

Despite added work, M-43 culvert project remains on schedule

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

The addition of a second culvert to the ongoing project on M-43, south of Delton, should not result in any delays for motorists traveling through the area, according to county and state officials.

The $1.5 million project funded by the Michigan Department of Transportation originally called for the replacement of the aging Watson Drain culvert under Sprague Road and M-43, as well as resurfacing of a section of roadway and other improvements, about three-quarters of a mile north of Osborne Road.

But, officials recently announced an addition to the project.

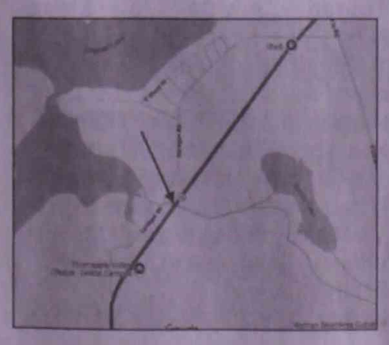
"A second culvert about 500 feet south of the box culvert is being added," said John Richard, MDOT Grand Region media representative. "But we are still on schedule to have everything open by early August."

Jim Dull, Barry County drain commissioner, said the installation of the second culvert, which will allow turtles to more safely travel back and forth under the roadway, was set to be completed and a bulk of the project finished by Friday, July 26.

"It was kind of out of the blue," Dull said, referring to the addition of the second culvert. "(But) they're planning on hitting the (July) 26th deadline.

"The road should be open by Monday (July 28)."

During the installation of the new culverts, officials had maintained access to the north and south of the culvert, though through-traffic was detoured at Milo Road and Delton Road.



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

According to Dull, the original concrete culvert being replaced possibly dates back to the 1920s, adding the most recent efforts to reinforce the structure occurred about 30-40 years ago when a steel culvert was "jammed in there" to allow for the roadway to be widened. Efforts to replace the structure reportedly started in 2017-18, with plans for a new 7-foot-wide, 6-foot-tall concrete culvert agreed upon last fall.

The project to install the new culverts got underway shortly after the end of the 2024-25 school year.

And, while a bulk of the work will soon be completed, Dull said the final resurfacing of the affected roadway won't be done until sometime in mid-August.

Holman's legacy will live on with Hope College athletics

Mary Jane Holman, Hope College's first women's golf coach and a four-time MIAA champion, passed away on Wednesday, July 16, at the age of 91.

On the links, the Hastings native Holman coached the Flying Dutch for seven seasons, beginning in 1991. The Flying Dutch won the first three women's golf championships in league history and claimed a fourth crown under her direction in 1996.

Holman coached the first All-American in program history and 26 All-MIAA golfers, including four MIAA Most Valuable Golfers: Lisa Stover (1991-1993) and Ellen Colenbrander (1996). Stover earned All-America honors at the 1994 NCAA Division III Championships by tying for fifth in a field of 29 golfers.

Holman also served the college in numerous other roles.

In 1973, Holman joined the staff as the secretary for the department of kinesiology. She subsequently became the athletic ticket manager. When the Dow Center opened in 1978, Holman became the building's office manager and facilities coordinator and held that role for 25 years.

In 1988, Holman succeeded faculty member Dr. George Kraft as the Dow Center director when he assumed additional responsibilities as chair of the department of kinesiology.

In 1994, Holman became the director of the DeWitt Tennis Center when it opened.

"Jane has just had a tremendous capacity to do work, to do a volume of work and to do it well," Kraft said in a 1998 Hope College story about Holman's retirement. "She just is an incredibly able person. She's doing so many things that it's just unbelievable. In a sense, it's taking five people to replace her."

Holman was preceded in death by her parents and her son, Jim Petersen, and is survived by her husband, Paul Holman; sons Frank (Liz) Petersen and Carl (Patti) Petersen; grandchildren Stephanie (Jamey) Forkins, Courtney (Ben) Glaze, Mitchell Petersen, and Jayden (Rebecca) Petersen.

In accordance with Holman's wishes, no formal services will be held. Arrangements are being handled by Girrbach Funeral Home in Hastings.

In Holman's memory, contributions can be made to Barry Community Hospice in Hastings, Hospice of Michigan, or Serenity Village in Hastings.

— BB



Mary Jane Holman, a Hastings native who was Hope College's first women's golf coach, passed away last week at the age of 91. **Hope College Photo**

Former COA director named 2025 Hastings High School Alumnus of the Year



Tammy Pennington, who served as executive director for the Barry County Commission on Aging from 1987 until 2022, was named this week as the 2025 Hastings High School Alumnus of the Year. **File photo**

The Hastings High School Alumni Association announced this week it has named Tammy Pennington as the 2025 HHS Alumnus of the Year

Pennington, former executive director of Barry County Commission on Aging, graduated in the Class of 1972. She will be honored at the annual Alumni Banquet on Saturday, Aug. 23.

After graduating from Hastings High School, Pennington attended Central Michigan University where she received a degree in secondary education. She was a substitute teacher in the Hastings Area Schools and Delton Kellogg Schools districts for a year. She then worked for the Hastings office of the Mid-Counties Employment and Training Consortium for over two years.

Pennington was named Barry County COA executive director in 1987 — a position she held until her retirement in 2022. Pennington grew COA staff from 18 to 34 individuals before she retired. Alumni Association representatives say she was instrumental in starting the county's Meals on Wheels program, adult daycare for Alzheimer's and dementia patients and many other COA programs and activities.

Outside of her work, Tammy has volunteered for her church, Barry County Blue Zones, the Hastings Education Enrichment Foundation and the Barry County Health Services Network. She is a lifetime member of the Barry County United Way board and the Patient-Family Advocacy Council at Corewell Health - Pennock Hospital. Pennington also served on the Hastings Area Schools Board of Education from 2006 to 2010.

The HHS Alumni Association is extending an invitation for all graduates of Hastings High School to attend the annual Alumni Banquet on Saturday, Aug. 23. Tickets are available in advance at the Hastings Public Library and The General Store on S. Jefferson Street in Hastings for $30 each until Aug. 15. Tickets include a punch bowl at 4:30 p.m. and a catered dinner at 5:30, along with a short program. The banquet is held at the First Presbyterian Church in Hastings, 405 M-37 Hwy.

— MM



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Hastings, MI 49058
(269) 945-3553

You Have An Estate Plan – Whether You Know It or Not

Think estate planning is only for the wealthy or elderly? Think again. If you own anything — a home, a car, a savings account, even a pet — you already have an estate plan. The only question is: Did you create it, or will your state do it for you?

When someone passes away without an estate plan, state laws take over, deciding who gets what and when. This legal process may not reflect your wishes. That's why taking control of your assets through a personal estate plan should be a top priority.

At its core, estate planning is about clarifying your wishes and making things easier for your heirs. It ensures your assets are distributed according to your preferences, designates who will make decisions on your behalf if you can't and provides guidance for your care in a medical crisis. Most plans include four key components:

1. **A Will** – This document outlines how your assets should be distributed after your death and names an executor to oversee the process in probate court. It can also designate guardians for minor children. Keep in mind that a will doesn't cover everything — certain transfer on death (TOD) accounts and jointly held property may bypass your will entirely.

2. **Power of Attorney** – If you become incapacitated, you'll want someone you trust to be able to make decisions on your behalf. A durable power of attorney designates such a person, helping to ensure your bills are paid, your business continues (if you have one) and your wishes are honored.

3. **Health Care Directive** – Sometimes called a living will, this document spells out your preferences for medical treatment if you're unable to speak for yourself. It can also designate someone to make health care decisions for you.

4. **Beneficiary Designations** – Accounts like 401(k)s, IRAs, and life insurance policies transfer directly to the people you name, regardless of what your will says. It's essential to review these beneficiary designations regularly, especially after significant life events such as marriage, divorce, death of a spouse or the birth of a child.

One common myth is that a will is all you need. But wills only take effect after death; they don't help if you're alive but unable to make decisions. Another misconception is that estate planning is only for the wealthy. In truth, planning is about more than money — it's about making things easier for the people you love during difficult times.

An effective estate plan can prevent costly legal battles, reduce confusion and give your loved ones a clear roadmap to follow. It also allows you to leave a legacy that reflects your values and priorities.

As your life changes, your estate plan should change along with it. Review your documents every few years or after major life events. It's often a good idea to seek help with such reviews. Your financial advisor or attorney can guide you through the process, ensuring your plan fits your unique circumstances.

In the end, estate planning isn't just about planning for what happens when you are gone. It's about feeling confident, knowing that what matters most — your family, your purpose, your legacy — is protected.

Edward Jones, its employees and financial advisors cannot provide tax or legal advice. You should consult your attorney or qualified tax advisor regarding your situation.

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, July 24 – Movie Memories and Milestones watches a 1940 film starring Margaret Sullavan and James Stewart, presented by Terry Dennison, 5 p.m. The Roth family leads a quiet life in a small village in the German Alps during the early 1930s. After the Nazis come to power, the family is divided and Martin Breitner, a family friend, is caught up in the turmoil

Friday, July 25 – Friday Storytime, 10:30 a.m.

Saturday, July 26 – Rockin' Tots, 10:30 a.m.; The Ancient Sport of Falconry in Today's World, noon.

Monday, July 28 – Crafting Passions, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, July 29 – Baby Cafe, 10 a.m.; Youth Makerspace with 4-H: Cardboard Construction (grades 3-12), 10:30 a.m.; Teen Art Studio (grades 6-12), 1 p.m.; mahjong, 5 p.m.; chess, 5 p.m.

Wednesday, July 30 – Itsy Bitsy Book Club, 10:30 a.m.; Open Art Studio, 11:30 a.m.; walk-in tech help, 2 p.m.; Candy Sushi (grades K-5), 2 p.m.

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

PIERCE CEDAR CREEK INSTITUTE EVENTS

— JULY 24-31 —

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

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.

Thursday, July 24 — Shinrin-Yoku Experience (ages 15+, under 18 with an adult), 6:30-8:30 p.m. Join Certified Forest Therapy Guide Katie Venechuk as she introduces the practice of Shinrin-Yoku (also known as "forest bathing"). Organizers say this restorative series will help participants experience nature in a new way—encouraging you to slow down, notice new things in the world around you and enjoy the peace of nature.

Friday, July 25 — Fun Friday, 10 a.m.-noon.

Thursday, July 31 — Social Hike, 10 a.m.-noon. Join the Institute for a free social hiking experience. Bring a friend, or make a new one. Water is required to hike — this is a safety precaution to prevent dehydration on the trail. This is a 2.2-mile hike open to all.

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

Hastings Live series hits midway point of 2025 performance slate

Newlyweds and a puppet and music production are set to take the stage in Hastings, as the city's Hastings Live Summer Concert Series reaches its halfway point for 2025.

Hastings Live programming continues this week at 11 a.m. to noon on Thursday, July 24. "Palamazoo" by Susan Harrison will be at Thornapple Plaza performing for children.

Harrison is the founder of Palamazoo puppet and music productions and she continues to wow audiences with upbeat, interactive performances that include a mix of playful original songs, colorful puppet characters, enchanting stories, rhythmic dance, humor and words of wisdom.

"I want to come out and play, embrace the day and share the joy," she said.



Palamazoo, a puppet and musical production founded by Susan Harrison, is set to delight children during its performance on Thursday, July 24. **Courtesy photos**

The concert series moves to the Barry County Courthouse lawn for its "Friday at the Fountain" performance at noon on Friday, July 25, featuring the Best Day Ever Band comprised of newlyweds Benjamin Gauthier on guitar and vocals and Emily Hewitt on lead vocals.

Then, on Friday night, Hastings Live will be partnering with the Hastings Performing Arts Center, Thornapple Arts Council and the Grand Rapids Symphony for a special performance of "Back To The Future." The HPAC will be hosting the showing of the movie, with the Grand Rapids Symphony performing the musical sound track live.

Unlike all of the rest of Hastings Live events, the Friday night performance is a ticketed event and there will not be a performance at the Thornapple Plaza that evening.

Guests attending Hastings Live performances are encouraged to bring blankets or lawn chairs. A 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 and each show will be held as scheduled, unless there is thunder/lightning.

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

— *DM*



Guests to the Hastings Live Summer Concert Series are invited to come soak up some pure sunshine and good vibes with the Best Day Ever Band at noon on Friday, July 25, on the Barry County Courthouse lawn.

ANNIVERSARY ANNOUNCEMENT



Larry & Janet Neil Celebrate 65th Wedding Anniversary

Larry & Janet Neil will be celebrating their 65th wedding anniversary on July 30th. They were blessed with three children, 15 grandchildren and 24 great grandchildren. Please help them celebrate with cards. Cards can be mailed to 4905 E. State Rd. Hastings, MI 49058.

HASS HEADLINES

Dr. Nick Damico



New strategic plan to guide the 'Saxon Story'

The "Saxon Story" is on the rise, guided by our 2025-2030 strategic plan, which emphasizes three core pillars: staff commitment, community partnership and fiscal responsibility. These pillars shape our mission to provide a rich school environment where every Saxon's potential is realized, ensure the ongoing success and legacy of the Hastings community and effectively allocate resources to maximize impact.

Our dedicated teachers deliver high-quality education tailored to diverse needs, from free preschool and affordable daycare for children ages 0 to 3 to a variety of Advanced Placement (AP) and Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs at the high school level. These programs prepare students for college, careers, and beyond, fostering critical thinking, problem-solving and practical skills. Our staff's commitment ensures that each student receives personalized support, helping them navigate their unique educational journey with confidence and purpose.

Hastings Area Schools are deeply rooted in our community. Our success is interdependent with the community's success, thriving together through shared goals and mutual support. Through transparent communication, we engage in two-way feedback, actively listening to families, businesses, and organizations to align our programs with community needs. This collaboration strengthens our ability to offer relevant, impactful educational opportunities that reflect the values and aspirations of Hastings.

Our virtual school (Hastings Virtual Academy) offers parents flexibility, allowing students to participate in athletics, clubs and other extracurricular activities while receiving an education that meets the individual needs of each Saxon. This option ensures that families can choose the learning environment best suited to their needs while remaining connected to the broader school community.

By collaborating with local businesses and organizations, we provide students with real-world experiences, such as internships and mentorships, equipping them with the skills and values to be responsible, engaged citizens who contribute to the legacy of Hastings for generations.

Effective resource allocation is vital to sustaining our programs. We practice fiscal responsibility through strategic budgeting, grant acquisition, and community support, ensuring every dollar enhances student outcomes. Transparent financial practices build trust with stakeholders, fostering a sense of shared ownership in our schools' success.

The Saxon Story reflects our dedication to empowering every student. Through staff commitment, community partnership, and fiscal responsibility, we are building a future where every Saxon thrives, no matter their chosen path. Join us in creating a world-class learning community that supports every student, every day, ensuring the enduring strength and pride of Hastings Area Schools.

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WANTED

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

ESTATE SALE

ESTATE SALE Friday, August 1st & Saturday, August 2nd at 9am. 1330 W State ROAD, Hastings.

GARAGE SALES

HUGE MOVING/ YARD SALE-, Friday through Sunday, July 25th-27th and August 1st-3rd at 9am. Antiques, crafts, clothes, scrapbooking items, holiday decorations, some medical supplies, and a lot more.

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OBITUARIES

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David Wayne Solmes, Sr.



David Wayne Solmes, Sr., age 75, of Hastings, MI, formerly Lake Placid, FL, passed away peacefully at his residence on July 20, 2025, surrounded by family and love. Born on September 6, 1949, in Hastings, David was a devoted husband, loving father, grandfather, and great grandfather, proud business owner, and active community member.

David married the love of his life, Joan Kay Solmes (Cole), on December 22, 1972. Together they shared 53 years of marriage, building a strong and loving family rooted in love of the outdoors, humor, and travel.

He is survived by his wife, Joan and their children: Stacey (Bob) Vandenberg, Christina (Wade) Woytal, and David (Tracy) Solmes. David was the proud grandfather of six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren, each of whom brought him immense joy.

David joined the family business, Dewey's Auto Body in Hastings, as a teenager. In 1984, he and his brother Russell took over the business, where David's work ethic and commitment to quality service were well known in the community. He retired in 2000, and his legacy proudly continues through his son, David Solmes Jr.

An avid outdoorsman, David found joy in hunting, fishing, and camping with his family. He loved traveling across the United States with Joan and spent many happy days riding his TerraTrike through the streets of Tomoka Heights.

David will be most remembered for his extraordinary sense of humor. He had a gift for lighting any moment with a joke or quick wit, bringing smiles and laughter to those around him. Even in his final days, he asked for jokes to be shared with him, and delivered a few of his favorites in return.

He was a committed member of the Hastings Rotary Club and an active supporter of his community.

David was preceded in death by his parents, Dewey and Anna Mae Solmes, and his brother, Russell Solmes and sister, Leslie Solmes.

A private family celebration of life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly asks that donations be made to the Barry Community Foundation – Coleman Agency MJ Scholarship Fund for Trades, in honor of David's passion for supporting hardworking tradespeople and continuing education, https://www.barrycf.org/funds/coleman-agency-mj-scholarship-fund/.

David's warmth, laughter, and legacy will live on in all who knew and loved him.

Services provided by Girrbach Funeral Home, Hastings, Michigan. To leave online condolences, visit www.girrbachfuneralhome.net.

County transit officials set to launch new software, phone app

DENNIS MANSFIELD
Staff Writer



Barry County Transit will launch its new smartphone app on Monday, Aug. 4. **Courtesy photo**

Local residents will soon be able to schedule a ride, or check the status of a request, through the use of a phone app, according to Barry County Transit officials.

According to a recent announcement by BCT, the county agency will launch new dispatch software and upgraded tablets for drivers, as well as a new smartphone application, on Monday, Aug. 4.

BCT director Mary Bassett said the new software, tablets and phone app are all hoped to streamline services and enhance a rider's experience.

"When we go live, the app will become available," Bassett said.

Once a rider has downloaded BCT's new phone app, they will be able to schedule rides and communicate directly with transit representatives, including being able to do the following:

Schedule rides;

- Track current and upcoming trips
- Check cash balances;
- Receive automated ride reminders; and
- Receive notifications on when a driver is on the way.

BCT officials stated the features are designed to improve communication, increase transparency and provide additional flexibility for riders.

"It takes more of the guesswork of wondering when your ride will be there," Bassett said. "It gives them more control over their experience.

"It gives (riders) easier access."

According to Bassett, BCT officials will be conducting a limited trial run of the new software and app prior to the scheduled Aug. 4 launch date.

"There's always a learning curve," Bassett said. "With any new software, there's always a negative, a glitch.

"(But) I think it will be a very smooth transition," she added.

For those who might be less tech savvy, Bassett said residents and riders may contact BCT representatives for assistance to download the app and learn its functions. That could even include a free ride to the BCT's office in Hastings and back "to get it set up properly," she said.

For more information, individuals may contact BCT by calling 269-948-8098 or through its website, barrycountytransit.com, as well as on Facebook by searching "Barry County Transit."

Cordelio Power set to host second open house on wind project

DENNIS MANSFIELD
Staff Writer

If one open house was good, a second open house to help inform local officials and residents on the Tupper Lake Wind Project should be twice as nice.

After hosting an open house in March, representatives of the Canadian-based Cordelio Power recently announced they will host a second, similar event at the Hughe House on Velte Road in Lake Odessa from 5 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, July 31.

Stephanie Buway, senior director of development with Cordelio Power, said the event will include a brief presentation at 5:30 p.m., with a question-and-answer period afterwards. Light snacks and refreshments will be provided.

"We're looking forward to hosting the event," Buway said. "My intent is to go through the frequently asked questions on the project and frequently asked questions about Cordelio.

"There's quite a bit of misinformation out there (about the Tupper Lake Wind Project)," she added. "We want to make sure people have the facts."

Cordelio purchased the proposed wind farm project from the Dallas-based Leeward Energy in 2024 and company representatives are still working to acquire leases on land for the project, as well as on other related design aspects.

And, according to officials, the Tupper Lake project is projected to have a capacity of 198 megawatts, with between 44 to 47 – depending on the type used – interconnected wind turbines to be installed in Campbell, Odessa, Sebewa, Boston and Berlin townships.

Currently, plans call for construction on the wind farm to start in the third quarter of 2027, with the project becoming operable in late 2028.

Buway said county and other local officials, as well as landowners either already agreeing or considering participating in the project, are being encouraged to attend the July 31 open house.

"It's very much a community event," she added. "We're welcoming anyone who is interested in coming."

Those planning to attend the open house are urged to RSVP by calling Buway at 989-292-9924 or via email at tupperlakewind@cordeliopower.com.

EAGLES' NEST

Continued from Page 3

residents, Moore said Consumers Energy officials have yet to find evidence of any active nests in the area.

"We're always open to looking, though," Moore said. "We have people who can check it out.

"That's where we need the public's help," he added.

According to Moore, people with knowledge of any active nesting sites may contact him directly via email at gregory.moore@cmenergy.com. Reports on possible nesting sites should include specifics on the location of the nests, when the nests were sighted and photos, if possible, as well as the person's contact information.

Still, Moore's recent statements on the lack of any verified eagle sightings haven't completely quieted concerns of local officials.

"None of us are happy about it," said Karmen Nickerson, Johnstown Township treasurer. "They're obviously out there. People aren't making it up."

While understanding any new information on eagles or eagle nests is unlikely to stop the Spring Creek solar farm from becoming a reality, Nickerson said it is an issue township officials might continue to explore.

"Maybe it can still go somewhere," she added. "It's worth making some phone calls."

The Barry County Planning Commission approved plans for the solar farm located on what previously was about 1,500 acres of farmland in Johnstown Township during a meeting last September. The vote came about a month after county commissioners OK'd an ordinance regulating the operations of solar farms within the county.

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

Moore's most recent update to the county board may be viewed on YouTube by searching Barry County "Board of Commissioners 7/8/2025."

Worship Together



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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TURNING BACK THE PAGES

A monument to good intentions: The story behind Hastings' Civil War statue

DAVID W. MILLER
Special to The Banner

Many Hastings residents pass by the Civil War monument at the entrance to Tyden Park without giving much thought to its story. But the gray granite statue of a solemn Union soldier once stood in the very heart of downtown, at the intersection of State Street and Broadway. Installed in 1889, the monument was intended to honor the more than 1,000 men from Barry County who served in the Civil War. Yet few today recall the drama, determination and financial hardship behind its creation—a saga that reflects both the town's patriotic spirit and its early civic challenges.

The idea for a public monument was born during the Barry County Soldiers and Sailors Reunion held in 1887. Inspired to create a lasting tribute to the county's veterans, local leaders formed the Barry County Soldiers and Sailors Monument Association, with David R. Cook as president and Loyal E. Knappen as secretary. The association approved a $4,500 proposal from A. Black and Son, a local monument firm based in Hastings.

Black and Son quickly contracted with a granite company in Barre, Vt.—renowned for its durable stone and expert craftsmanship. The design called for a gray granite monument standing 42 feet tall and composed of 19 interlocking pieces. However, the order was placed before the necessary funds had been secured.

In early 1888, the Vermont firm notified Black and Son that the monument was completed and ready to ship. Unfortunately, Mr. Cook had fallen ill and had been unable to lead the fundraising effort. Black and Son attempted to delay shipment, but the Vermont company insisted on payment. Frank Black was sent to Barre to explain the situation, but when it was confirmed that the funds were unavailable, he was briefly jailed for non-payment. A firm shipping order for the spring of 1889 was eventually provided, and Black was released.

To raise the required funds, committees and subcommittees were established throughout Barry County, with each school district appointing a representative to lead local fundraising efforts. "Monument Shares" were sold, and donors contributing one dollar or more received a lithographed image of the monument printed on a certificate suitable for framing. In rural districts, schoolchildren faithfully contributed pennies, nickels and dimes. One such certificate still hangs in the Michigan Room on the second floor of the Hastings Public Library. The Bowens Mills district averaged $2 per family, the highest of any, but many districts failed to participate. In the end, less than $2,000 was raised. A. Black and Son absorbed the financial shortfall, and the project came to be known locally as a "Monument to Good Intentions."

The completed monument, carved by the Ryegate Granite Company in Vermont, was likely shipped in 19 crates along a rail route passing through New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio before arriving at the Hastings depot. While early discussions considered placing the statue on the northwest corner of the courthouse lawn, it was ultimately erected in the center of the intersection at Broadway and State Street in 1889. There, the Union soldier stood for the next 74 years, gazing eastward down State Street.



Hastings' Civil War monument today stands near the entrance of Tyden Park.
Courtesy photos

Over time, the monument became a prominent civic landmark. Parades often circled the statue before proceeding, and it served as a focal point for community gatherings. By the 1950s and '60s, circling the monument became a kind of local rite of passage, with young drivers—sometimes irreverently—squealing their tires as they rounded its base.

Ken Hamp remembers his grandfather telling a whimsical tale—that the soldier would climb down from his pedestal late at night and slip into Betty Murphy's B & B Snack Bar, located between the Strand Theatre and the old fire barn. Open late into the night, the snack bar was a popular stop after the bars had closed. According to the story, the soldier would quietly sip a cup of coffee before returning to his post at dawn, ready to resume his silent watch over the city.

In 1963, the Michigan State Highway Department announced that the monument would need to be removed to accommodate the expansion and realignment of M-43 through downtown Hastings. On August 12 of that year, the monument was carefully dismantled by Douglas Floria of the Mount Hope Monument Company of Lansing, under contract with the state. It was relocated to Tyden Park, just three blocks north of its original location.

During the relocation process, a sealed copper time capsule was discovered hidden within the monument's base. Inside were carefully preserved documents, including a roster of Barry County Civil War enlistees, a copy of "Michigan in the War" by John Robertson, and the Rules and Regulations of the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.). Also included were editions of the *Hastings Banner, Hastings Journal, Barry County Democrat,* and *The Re-Union* published in Sparta, along with rosters from the Woodland and Freeport veterans' posts and progress reports from the original fundraising campaign.

The capsule was opened during a Hastings City Council meeting, where its contents were read aloud before a crowd of interested residents and local historians. Before resealing the box, the City added contemporary items to its contents, including a copy of the *Hastings Centennial Banner, Nashville News, The Reminder,* and a recent city audit report. The time capsule was then returned to the monument's new foundation in Tyden Park, preserving both the original and modern documents for future generations.

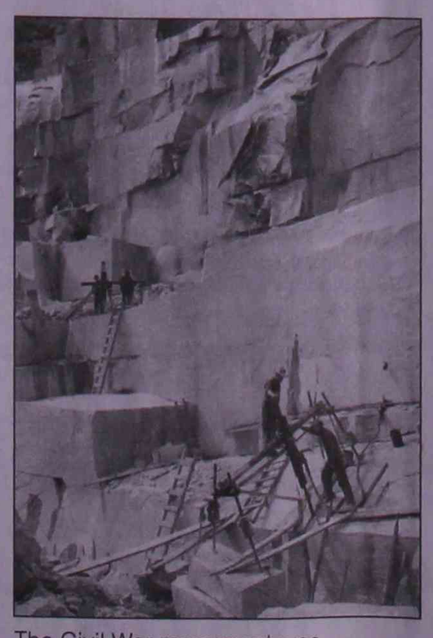
Many still recall the soldier's quiet presence in the heart of downtown Hastings, where he once stood as a familiar sentinel and one of the most widely photographed symbols of the city. Today, his figure remains the focus of community remembrance. Each Memorial Day, residents gather at Tyden Park to lay a wreath at the base of the monument, with an honor guard standing at attention. Though he no longer occupies the intersection of Broadway and State, the soldier now rests in a tranquil setting, where Hastings' gratitude and memory endure.

What the State Highway Department once deemed an impediment to traffic—prompting the removal of the Soldiers and Sailors Monument from the center of Broadway and State Street 62 years ago—has taken on new relevance in modern traffic design. A "mini-roundabout" is now planned for the intersection of Green and Market streets, a project that will fit entirely within the existing right-of-way. Ironically, Green Street was once part of M-43, the very highway whose realignment necessitated the monument's relocation in 1963. According to current projections, construction could begin as early as this fall, with work continuing through the summer of 2026 and completion expected between April and July. It's a subtle twist of fate that what was once removed for the sake of progress now finds a parallel in today's efforts to manage traffic more efficiently.

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



To raise the funds for Hastings' Civil War monument in 1899, committees and subcommittees were established throughout Barry County, with each school district appointing a representative to lead local fundraising efforts. "Monument Shares" were sold, and donors contributing one dollar or more received a lithographed image of the monument.



The Civil War monument was constructed from granite and shipped in 19 separate pieces.



The Hastings Civil War monument was relocated from its post at the intersection of Broadway and State Street to its new home at Tyden Park in 1963.

NOTICE

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISMENT. 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 1pm, on Thursday, August 21, 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 foreclosure sale is pursuant to the terms and conditions of a Mortgage made by CHRISTOPHER B. WALKER and SHANNON J. WALKER, Mortgagors, to First National Bank of America, Mortgagee, dated November 9, 2004, and recorded November 17, 2004, in Instrument Number 1137316, of Barry County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due as of the date of this notice $82,990.36, including interest at 9.95% per annum. Said premises are situated in Irving Township, Barry County, Michigan, and are described as: Beginning at the NW corner of the SE 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 9, T4N, R9W; thence 26 2/3 rods East; thence South 12 rods; thence West 26 2/3 rods; thence North approximately 12 rods to the place of beginning. Together with rights of ingress and egress over the currently established road, except that part deeded to the State of Michigan in Liber 246 on Page 589; c/k/a 6153 Cain Creek, Freeport, MI 49325. The redemption period shall be six months from the date of the sale, unless the premises are determined to be abandoned pursuant to MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be one month, or until the time to provide the notice required by MCL 600.3241a(c) expires, whichever is later. The redemption period further may be shortened pursuant to MCL 600.3238(10) if the property is not adequately maintained, or if the purchaser is denied the opportunity to inspect the property. Please be advised that if the mortgaged property is sold at a foreclosure sale by advertisement, 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. Dated: July 24, 2025 Randall T. LeVasseur P41712 LeVasseur Dyer & Associates, PC Attorneys for Mortgagee 3233 Coolidge Hwy Berkley, MI 48072 (248) 236-1765

(07-24)(08-14)

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 1:00 PM on AUGUST 14, 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 Derek Morris, an unmarried man and Sara Juarez, an unmarried woman, as joint tenants, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Equity Prime Mortgage LLC., its successors and assigns, Mortgagee, dated September 22, 2023 and recorded October 4, 2023 in Instrument Number 2023-007868 and Affidavit Affecting Realty recorded on July 7, 2025, in Instrument Number 2025-005506, Barry County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by MIDFIRST BANK, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Two Hundred Twenty-Three Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty-Two and 41/100 Dollars ($223,962.41).

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 AUGUST 14, 2025.

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

THE EAST 200 FEET OF THAT PART OF THE WEST 1/2 OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 15, TOWN 2 NORTH, RANGE 7 WEST, MAPLE GROVE TOWNSHIP, BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THAT LAYS NORTH OF HIGHWAY M-66.

6600 S M 66 Hwy, Nashville, Michigan 49073

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: July 17, 2025
File No. 25-008915
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400
(07-17)(08-07)

FORECLOSURE NOTICE

ATTENTION TO HOMEOWNER: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than ninety (90) days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the Notice of Lien at the telephone number stated in this notice. Default has been made by Douglas Cisler and Debra Cisler (the "Owner"), in the terms and conditions of the recorded Master Deed for Thornapple Hills Site Condominiums located in the Township of Thornapple, County of Barry, State of Michigan dated November 18, 1992, recorded in Liber 560, Page 417, Barry County, Michigan records, as amended, by reason of Owner's failure to pay annual dues and other sums owed to THORNAPPLE HILLS SITE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, a Michigan nonprofit corporation (the "Association"). A Notice of Lien for nonpayment of Association assessments ("Notice of Lien") was recorded with the Barry County Register of Deeds on April 7, 2025, as Instrument No. 2025-002828, and has been served upon the Owner. The amount owed under the Notice of Lien as of the date of this Notice is Four Thousand Six Hundred Ninety-Two and 50/100 Dollars ($4,692.50). Notice of foreclosure by advertisement – notice is given under Section 3212 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212 and under the power of sale contained in the Master Deed for Thornapple Hills Site Condominiums dated November 18, 1992, recorded in Barry County, Michigan records, that the above Notice of Lien will be foreclosed by a sale of the liened premises, or some part of them, at public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Barry County, (that being the Barry County Courthouse, 220 W. State St., Hastings, Michigan, 49058), starting promptly at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, the 14th day of August, 2025. The amount due on the Notice of Lien may be greater on the day of the sale and may include interest, costs, charges, and expenses, including attorney fees, and also any sums which may be paid by the Association in order to protect its interests. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the premises. 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. Said premises are situated in the Township of Thornapple, County of Barry, State of Michigan, and are described as: Unit 6, Thornapple Hills Site Condominium, a Condominium according to the Master Deed recorded in Liber 560, Page 416, Barry County Records, and designated as Barry County Condominium Subdivision Plan No. 5, and amendments thereto, if any, together with rights in general common elements and limited common elements as set forth in the Master Deed, as amended, and as described in Act 59 of the Public Acts of 1978, as amended; PPN: 08-14-185-006-00 Commonly known as: 4191 Thornapple Hills Dr., Middleville, MI 49333 The redemption period shall be six (6) months from the date of such sale unless the premises are determined to be abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241 or 600.3241a, as the case may be, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the premises is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, as amended, then under applicable law, including MCL 600.3278, the owner of the premises will be held responsible to the person who buys the premises at the foreclosure sale and/or to the Association for damaging the premises during the redemption period. ATTENTION PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the undersigned. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Dated: July 8, 2025 Stacey A. George, Attorney for Thornapple Hills Site Condominium Association VARNUM P.O. Box 352 Grand Rapids, Michigan 49501 (616) 336-6000
(07-17)(08-07)

SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - BARRY COUNTY

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Barry County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on July 31, 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): Sabrina L. Wright, single woman Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender`s successors and assigns Date of mortgage: March 29, 2022 Recorded on March 31, 2022, in Document No. 2022-003411, and re-recorded via Affidavit of Correction on May 29, 2025, in Document No. 2025-004462, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): M & T Bank Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Sixty-Four Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety-Six and 27/100 Dollars ($164,996.27) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Barry County, and described as: Lot 5, Block 6, Chamberlain`s Addition to the City, formerly Village of Hastings, according to the recorded plat in Liber 1 of Plats, Page 7, Barry County Records. Commonly known as 236 W Nelson St, Hastings, MI 49058 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. M & T Bank Mortgagee/ Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400

1565878
(07-03)(07-24)

BARRY COUNTY
NOTICE OF ELECTION
FOR AN ELECTION TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2025

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an election will be held in the following Townships on TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2025. At the following locations:

BARRY TOWNSHIP	*Barry Township Mtg. Hall,* 155 E. Orchard St., Delton
HOPE TOWNSHIP	*Hope Township Hall,* 5463 S. M-43 Hwy., Hastings
JOHNSTOWN TOWNSHIP	*Johnstown Township Hall,* 13641 S. M-37 Hwy., Battle Creek
ORANGEVILLE TOWNSHIP	*Orangeville Township Hall,* 7350 Lindsey Rd., Plainwell
PRAIRIEVILLE TOWNSHIP	*Prairieville Township Hall,* 10115 S. Norris Rd., Delton

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

BALTIMORE TOWNSHIP voters will vote at *Johnstown Township Hall,* 13641 S. M-37 Hwy., Battle Creek

YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP, PRECINT 2 voters residents will vote at *Orangeville Township Hall,* 7350 Lindsey Rd., Plainwell

The polls will be open from 7:00 A.M. – 8:00 P.M.

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

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.

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

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

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

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

Baltimore Township Clerk, Jana Bishop
Barry Township Clerk, Debra Knight
Hope Township Clerk, Deborah Jackson
Johnstown Township Clerk, Sheri Babcock
Orangeville Township Clerk, Melody Risner
Prairieville Township Clerk, Rod Goebel
Yankee Spring Township Clerk, Tom Hopkins

Hope Township
Notice of Adoption of Hope Township Ordinance No. 99

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

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that at its meeting on Monday, July 14th, 2025 at 6:30PM at the Hope Township Hall, 5463 S M-43 Hwy, the Hope Township Board of Trustees adopted Ordinance #99, Consumers Energy Company Gas and/or Electric Franchise Ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE, granting to CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY, its successors and assigns, the right and authority to lay, maintain and commercially operate gas lines and facilities including but not limited to mains, pipes, services and valves and to construct, maintain and commercially use electric lines and related facilities including but not limited to towers, masts, poles, crossarms, guys, wires and transformers on, under, along, and across public places including but not limited to highways, streets, alleys, bridges, and waterways, and to conduct a local gas and/or electric business in the TOWNSHIP OF HOPE, BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN, for a period of thirty years.

THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPE ORDAINS:

SECTION 1. GRANT and TERM. The TOWNSHIP OF HOPE, BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN, hereby grants to Consumers Energy Company, its successors and assigns, hereinafter called "Consumers" the right and authority to lay, maintain and commercially operate gas lines and facilities including but not limited to mains, pipes, services and valves and to construct, maintain and commercially use electric lines and related facilities including but not limited to towers, masts, poles, crossarms, guys, wires and transformers on, under, along, and across public places including but not limited to highways, streets, alleys, bridges, and waterways, and to conduct a local gas and/or electric business in the TOWNSHIP OF HOPE, BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN, for a period of thirty years.

SECTION 2. CONDITIONS. No public place used by Consumers shall be obstructed longer than necessary during construction or repair, and shall be restored to the same order and condition as when work was commenced. All of Consumers' gas lines, electric lines and related facilities shall be placed as not to unnecessarily interfere with the public's use of public places. Consumers shall have the right to trim or remove trees if necessary in the conducting of such business.

SECTION 3. HOLD HARMLESS. Consumers shall save the Township free and harmless from all loss, costs and expense to which it may be subject by reason of the negligent construction and maintenance of the lines and related facilities hereby authorized. In case any action is commenced against the Township on account of the permission herein given, Consumers shall, upon notice, defend the Township and its representatives and hold them harmless from all loss, costs and damage arising out of such negligent construction and maintenance.

SECTION 4. EXTENSIONS. Consumers shall construct and extend its gas and/or electric distribution system within said Township, and shall furnish gas and electric service to applicants residing therein in accordance with applicable laws, rules and regulations.

SECTION 5. FRANCHISE NOT EXCLUSIVE. The rights, power and authority herein granted, are not exclusive.

SECTION 6. RATES and CONDITIONS. Consumers shall be entitled to provide gas and electric service to the inhabitants of the Township at the rates and pursuant to the conditions as approved by the Michigan Public Service Commission. Such rates and conditions shall be subject to review and change upon petition to the Michigan Public Service Commission.

SECTION 7. REVOCATION. The franchise granted by this ordinance is subject to revocation upon sixty (60) days written notice by either party. Upon revocation this ordinance shall be considered repealed and of no effect past, present or future.

SECTION 8. MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION JURISDICTION. Consumers remains subject to the reasonable rules and regulations of the Michigan Public Service Commission applicable to gas and electric service in the Township and those rules and regulations preempt any term of any ordinance of the Township to the contrary.

SECTION 9. REPEALER. This ordinance, when enacted, shall repeal and supersede the provisions of any previous Consumers' gas and/or electric franchise ordinance adopted by the Township including any amendments.

SECTION 10. EFFECTIVE DATE. This ordinance shall take effect on July 16, 2025.

We certify that the foregoing Franchise Ordinance was duly enacted by the Township Board of the TOWNSHIP OF HOPE, BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN, on the 14th day of July, 2025.

The amendment will become effective eight days after the date of this published notice pursuant to the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act, as amended.

Deborah Jackson, Clerk
Hope Township
5463 S M-43 Hwy
Hastings, Michigan 49058
(269) 948-2464

More than 150 playing HYAA flag football this summer

BRETT BREMER
Sports Editor

Former Saxon football star, now Saginaw Valley State University Cardinal, Jett Barnum jogged around the track inside Baum Stadium at Johnson Field with his ear buds in Thursday evening.

He circled the Saxons' future stars as he got a mid-week workout in.

A group of six 3rd-6th grade Hastings Youth Athletic Association (HYAA) flag football teams were hustling to huddle with their water bottles for halftime at that moment. The evening included four simultaneous games for the eight HYAA K-2nd grade teams followed by the three games by the older set of players.

In all, HYAA has 157 youth playing flag football for six weeks this summer – a few more than last summer. There are currently almost 80 players signed up for the 3rd-6th grade tackle football season that kicks off Aug. 4. Those tackle teams play each season in the West Michigan Junior Football League with teams.

"It's quite a sight," said Hastings varsity football coach Jamie Murphy, both of the nearly 100 youngsters playing football on the turf at the same time and the crowd of parents and spectators around the track and in the stands watching and cheering them on.

"The sheer number of kids they have out there, it is mind-boggling," he added.

The flag teams are nearing the end of their six-game season right now. Their final evenings on the turf will be July 30 and 31.

"I wish we could do a little longer, and I would like to start playing other districts. Middleville has a pretty good flag program. I would like to eventually not just play each other and make it a little bit bigger," HYAA Tackle Football Director Chad Aicken said.

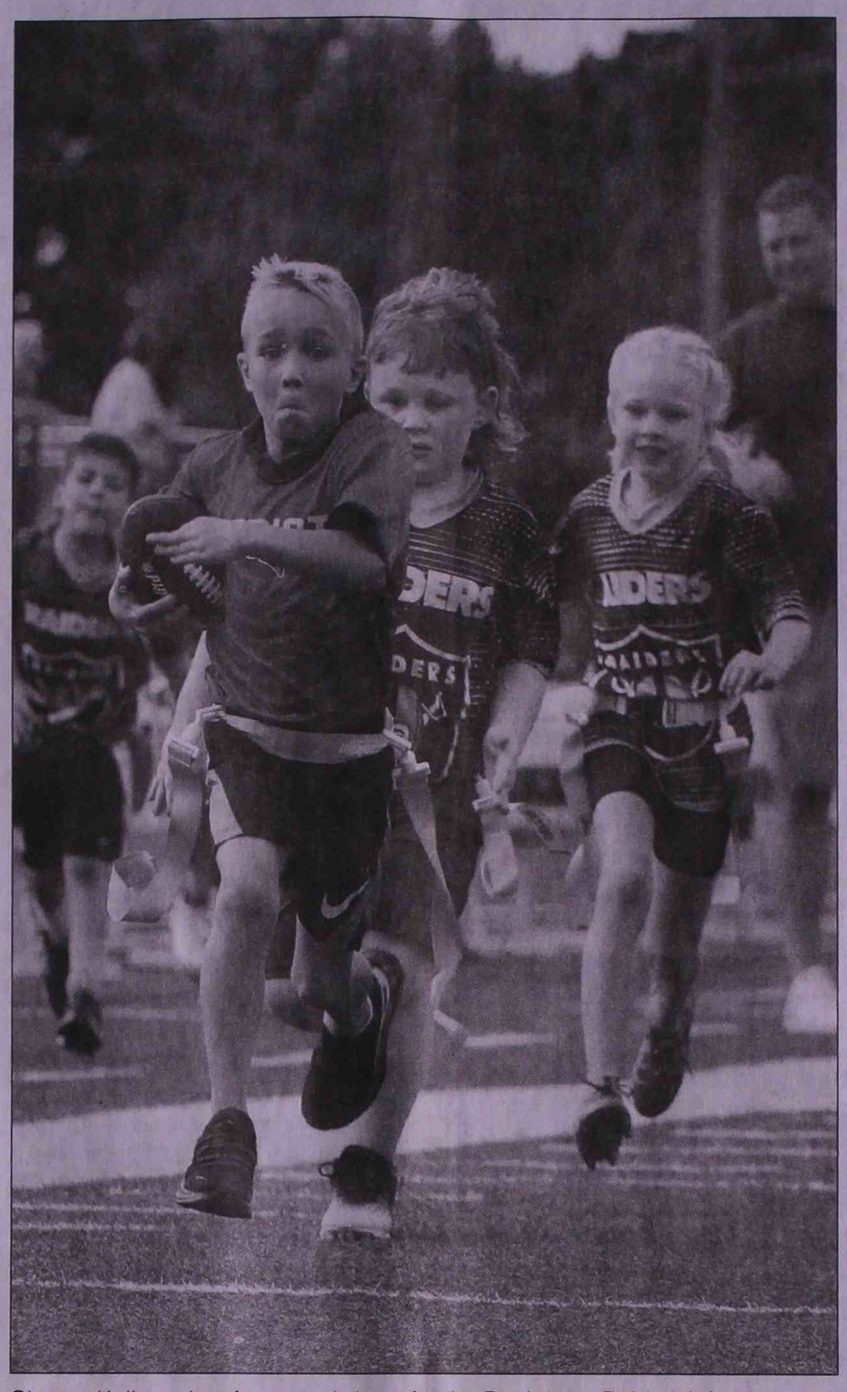
This week is football camp week – one of coach Murphy's favorite week's of the year. Murphy, varsity cheer coach Linsey Jacinto, varsity boys' basketball coach Jess Webb and varsity girls' basketball coach Ben Wilson are all HYAA coach liaisons for their respective sports.

The Saxon Youth Football Camp hosted by the Hastings varsity players and coaches for those in grades 3-8 was planned for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, July 21-23. The HYAA Tackle Football Camp for those in grades 3-6 is Friday and Saturday, July 25-26.

There is also some strength and agility testing going on in the weight room for the middle school and high school players this week as those players work for their maxes and spots in the Saxon strength and conditioning record book.

In addition to football, sign-up is going on now for the fall cheer season which starts in August. Registration for the cheer season is open through Aug. 1. HYAA brought basketball into its mix a couple of years ago and the organization is exploring the possibility of adding volleyball and soccer to its roster of youth sports offerings.

Aicken said that he had to do a little bit of shuffling of coaches this summer for the flag season, but for the most part he didn't have trouble finding volunteer coaches for the season. Most teams had at least two coaches, and he tried to pair some experienced assistants with the new coaches.



Clayton Kelly sprints for a touchdown for the Patriots as Raider defenders chase after him Thursday during the K-2nd grade HYAA flag football games inside Baum Stadium at Johnson Field. Kelly is one of 157 youngsters in the flag football program this summer. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

"We have a set of rules that they all use. They can agree to kind of tweak them here a little here and there based on what they feel comfortable playing with. A set of plays, most of them have been tackle coaches so they kind of run some of the plays they already have. I have never provided anybody with a play," Aicken said.

He does put it out there for coaches that if they need help with a playbook or a practice plan he would be happy to help out with that.

"We actually start running the high school plays at our third grade [tackle] level. [Hastings varsity football coach Jamie] Murphy is the liaison for our tackle program and Linsey Jacinto, the high school varsity cheer coach, is the liaison for our cheer program. Murphy, he does two camps. He does a camp the HYAA kids can come to, and then HYAA does their own camp … and then he will do a coach clinic with all our tackle coaches before the season starts and will give us all the plays that he would like us to run. It is basically just the basics that they start out in, that way when they get into seventh grade there they will already have some knowledge of them."

HYAA runs the football programs for youth up to sixth grade in Hastings. The school system took over the seventh and eighth grade football program about five seasons ago. Murphy was happy to see the flag program really take off when the HYAA saw the enthusiasm was there to stretch it all the way down to the kindergarten level.

The Saxon varsity coach estimated that there used to be about 25 percent of the youth players who would make it through high school and still be playing football their season year, and the HYAA has helped that number move up closer to 50 percent in recent years. He said he thinks the football experience of carrying the ball, throwing a block and running a play that the HYAA is able to provide players when they're five and six year old really helps them understand and enjoy the sport more as they grow. He loves to see the youngsters inspired by the game.

The Hastings High School varsity football team has reached the state playoffs in each of the past five seasons, won one district championship and won nearly 80 percent of its games over that stretch.

The Hastings High School football program is allowed to open practice for the 2025 football season Aug 11. The Saxon varsity opens competition Aug. 28 at Thornapple Kellogg High School in Middleville.

The HYAA tackle youngsters test themselves against some tough competition throughout the season. The fifth and sixth graders compete in the West Michigan Junior Football League with teams from the Grand Rapids area and the lakeshore like Grandville, Hudsonville, Unity Christian, Zeeland Byron Center, Grand Haven, Holland and Holland Christian, Middleville, South Christian, West Catholic, Jenison and others.

The HYAA works to spread the talent throughout the flag football teams as much as possible, and tries to make sure that there is close to an even amount older and younger players on each squad. The teams have six games on the schedule for this summer, and each game consists of two 25-minute halves.

Murphy said one of the good things the HYAA does is also spread the responsibilities for running the programs well. There is currently a five-person governing board headed by president Anastasia Denton.

Krista Walther is the flag football director, Aicken the tackle football director and Jacinto the cheer director. All together there are ten members on the football/cheer board, eight on the cheer board and the four high school coach liaisons.

Murphy took that spot on the board about ten years ago when he took over the high school program, and was happy to get to integrate the youth program with the high school program a bit. He said the HYAA tackle program mostly now runs the same offense and a similar defense to the high school program.

"It has a big impact on what kind of success we're having right now. I really applaud them for being open and accepting, even though there were a lot of concerns about having the youth run the Wing-T and play the defense that we run. They have accepted it and it has done well with them," Murphy said.

He said his coaches on the varsity staff take a lot of pride in helping the HYAA coaches have the drills and skills they need to make the kids successful.

"A lot of coaches ask how we do stuff and they're trying to get things started the way we're doing them," Murphy said, noting that there are other communities with similar programs to the Hastings model and some that can be very successful where there is much less connection between the youth and high school programs too.

SYNOPSIS
PRAIRIEVILLE TOWNSHIP
Regular Meeting July 16, 2025

Called to order at 6:30 p.m.
Present: Stoneburner, DeVries, Doster, Goebel, Pence
Agenda and Minutes approved
Commissioner's Report
Public comments were received.
Department Reports were received.
Approved: Payment of bills
Budget Adjustment
Cremation Space
Public and Board comments were received.
Meeting adjourned. 7:06 p.m.
Submitted by:
Rod Goebel, Clerk

Attested to:
Jim Stoneburner, Supervisor

NOTICE TO CREDITORS, TRUST ESTATE

TO ALL CREDITORS:
The Settlor, Lucile J. Broach, (date of birth) 9-7-1930, who lived at 603 South Grove Street, Delton, Michigan, died May 30th, 2025. There is no personal representative of the settlor's estate to whom Letters of Administration have been issued. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the Lucile J. Broach Rev Living Trust dated July 25, 2016, as amended, will be forever banned unless presented to Kristin Jones Successor Trustee, within four months after the date of publication.
Notice is further given that the Trust will thereafter be assigned and distributed to the persons entitled to it.

Date: July 16, 2025

Kristin L. Jones
603 South Grove Street
Delton, MI 49046
(269) 623-8994

GIVE US YOUR SCOOP!

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

EMAIL EDITOR MOLLY MACLEOD AT mmacleod@mihomepaper.com

THE HASTINGS BANNER
VIEW Newspaper Group

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

View Newspaper Group publications accept letters to the editor. Letters should refer to an article that has appeared within this publication or ary sister View Newspaper Group publication in the last 14 days or refer to a local event that has taken place in the last 30 days.

All writers must provide their full name, home address and phone number. All letters must be original and are subject to editing for clarity and liability. Letters may not exceed 250 words and writers may not submit more than one letter per 30-day period. View Newspaper Group reserves the right to withhold publication of any letter.

Election-related letters are limited to 150 words and endorsements are limited to no more than three per candidate, per election cycle. View Newspaper Group will not publish letters from candidates for elective office or their campaigns, form letters or letters sent to other publications. Election-related letters will not be published in the final two weeks before Election Day.

Glory Days division added as tournament keeps growing

BRETT BREMER
Sports Editor

It has been more than 20 years since the first Emily Duits mEMorial Sand Volleyball Tournament, and while the tournament has aged better than anyone ever expected some of the volleyball players from those early days aren't looking to go as hard as they used to.

In comes the "Glory Days" division for the 2025 edition of the tournament, which will be held Saturday, July 26, at the Lake Odessa Fairgrounds.

"It was a creation of some of our tried and true Lakewood folks who are just maybe older, and not as good at volleyball anymore as they used to be back in the day when the tournament started," mEMorial committee member Chelsea Brehm said. "They said, 'we just want to come up and kind of play for fun. We don't necessarily want a ton of games. We're not trying to die in this heat and play five or six games to make it to a championship. We don't even care if we win a prize. We just kind of wanna come up and get some court time and and play on this day.'

"So we decided to create this division after some long, long discussion, we finally landed on the name Glory Days division and so we have four teams that are signed up to play in that this year. We'll fit them in when we can on the courts. There's no set tournament format. There's no rules. We don't really care what they do or what their volleyball looks like. It's more like family reunion style backyard volleyball."

Finding teams looking for competition was no problem either this summer. Brehm said she closed registration a bit early with the max allotment of 50 total teams reached early this month. Contests will be played out in youth, high school, recreational and competitive divisions Saturday.



The annual Emily Duits mEMorial Sand Volleyball Tournament will fill the six volleyball courts at the Lake Odessa Fairgrounds throughout the day Saturday, July 26. The tournament hit its current max of 50 teams with a few 'Glory Days' squads looking forward to getting a few turns too. **File photo**

There is a flip in the schedule this year, as the plan is to start recreational and competitive contests in the morning with youth and high school contests getting rolling after the break for the lunch hour.

Lunch will once again be provided for a free will offering for anyone in the community who would like to attend. DJ Ron returns to provide a soundtrack for the day. MOO-ville Ice Cream will be dished out for free as well.

Brehm said the registration list currently has 16 teams high school and recreational divisions and eight teams in the youth and competitive divisions, along with the handful of Glory Days squads. There is a wait list for any openings into the recreational division that might pop up.

Games are slated to being at 8 a.m.

The lunch hour will also include prize raffle drawings. There has been a bit of a change to those raffles this summer. There may be fewer prizes, but local sponsors and supporters have teamed up to make the raffle prizes more impressive than ever.

"The community support has still just been so overwhelming in terms of the registration and their willingness to give dollars and prizes for the cause," Brehm said. "It's just something that we've been blown away by. I met with Selena [Duits] late last week and and talked to her and filled her in on stuff and I mean she just gets moved to tears every time, you know, every year this comes around, it's like 'how are people still this generous and willing to to give an Em's name, and so it's it's pretty special."

The generosity flows from the community through the tournament and back out into the community. A total of $5,000 in scholarships was awarded to three Lakewood High School students from the graduating class of 2025. This years award winners were Alana Cappon, Jennifer Behrenwald and Kora Boucher.

The Duits mEMorial Scholarship fund also continues to work through the FarOut Volleyball Club in Grand Rapids where another 2025 Lakewood graduate, Abby Pickard, was named the club's annual Emily Duits Scholarship Award winner.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
FOR
WWTF IMPROVEMENTS
FINAL CLARIFIER #2
CITY OF HASTINGS
BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Encrypted Bids will be accepted on the Bid Express site until 11 a.m., local time, on Wednesday, September 4, 2025, and then publicly opened and read aloud at the City of Hastings, 201 East State Street, Hastings, Michigan 49058.

Bids will be on the basis a lump sum as listed on the Bid Form, and may only be submitted using the ebidding system.

The major items of work are as follows:

Demolition and replacement of the existing structural bridge, mechanical drive, torque tube, and sludge scrapper system for Final Clarifier #2. The Work includes horizontal concrete cutting, field painting of steel structures and equipment, underground electrical and control improvements, salvaging a portion of the existing structure and equipment for the Owner's use, site restoration, and furnishing of safety equipment.

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

City of Hastings
201 East State Street
Hastings, Michigan 49058

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

Builders Exchange
2007 Eastcastle Drive SE
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49508

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

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

Plans and Specifications will be available after 1 p.m. on July 28, 2025, at M+B Bid Express (https://www.bidexpress.com/businesses/34301/home?agency=true).

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

A mandatory pre-bid meeting will be conducted by Moore & Bruggink at the Hastings WWTF (825 West Apple Street, Hastings, Michigan 49058) at 10 a.m., Tuesday, August 13, 2025. All general contractors are required to attend and subcontractors are encouraged to attend.

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

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

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

CITY OF HASTINGS
BY: LINDA PERIN, CITY CLERK

JOHNSTOWN TOWNSHIP
BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN
NOTICE OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT PUBLIC HEARING
MILL LAKE AQUATIC PLANT CONTROL

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

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Township Board of Johnstown as authorized by PA 188 of 1954, as amended, proposes to undertake an aquatic plant control project (with associated activities) in Mill Lake in Johnstown Township as more particularly described below and to create a separate special assessment district for the recovery of the costs thereof by special assessment against the properties benefited.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the special assessment district within which the foregoing improvements are proposed to be made and within which the costs thereof are to be specially assessed include all parcels with frontage on and/or access to Mill Lake in Johnstown Township and are more particularly described as follows:

JOHNSTOWN TWP PROPOSED DISTRICT: The properties indicated by parcel numbers:

09-021-001-00	09-040-011-00	09-040-040-00	09-040-057-00	09-040-078-00	09-125-006-00	09-125-022-00
09-021-003-00	09-040-012-00	09-040-041-00	09-040-058-00	09-040-080-00	09-125-007-00	09-125-023-00
09-021-004-00	09-040-015-00	09-040-042-00	09-040-059-00	09-040-081-00	09-125-008-00	09-125-024-00
09-021-005-00	09-040-018-00	09-040-043-00	09-040-060-00	09-040-082-00	09-125-009-00	09-125-025-00
09-021-006-00	09-040-019-00	09-040-044-00	09-040-061-00	09-040-083-00	09-125-010-00	09-125-026-00
09-021-007-00	09-040-020-00	09-040-046-00	09-040-062-00	09-085-001-00	09-125-011-00	09-185-001-00
09-021-026-00	09-040-023-00	09-040-047-00	09-040-063-00	09-085-002-00	09-125-012-00	09-185-001-10
09-021-027-00	09-040-027-00	09-040-048-00	09-040-067-00	09-085-003-00	09-125-014-00	09-185-002-00
09-021-028-00	09-040-028-00	09-040-049-00	09-040-069-00	09-085-005-00	09-125-015-00	09-185-002-10
09-021-029-00	09-040-029-00	09-040-050-00	09-040-070-00	09-085-006-00	09-125-016-00	09-185-003-00
09-040-003-00	09-040-031-00	09-040-051-00	09-040-071-00	09-085-007-00	09-125-016-01	09-185-004-00
09-040-004-00	09-040-033-00	09-040-052-00	09-040-072-00	09-125-001-00	09-125-017-00	09-185-005-00
09-040-005-00	09-040-034-00	09-040-053-00	09-040-073-00	09-125-002-00	09-125-018-00	09-185-006-00
09-040-006-00	09-040-036-00	09-040-054-00	09-040-075-00	09-125-003-00	09-125-019-00	09-185-007-00
09-040-007-00	09-040-038-00	09-040-055-00	09-040-076-00	09-125-004-00	09-125-020-00	09-185-008-00
09-040-009-00	09-040-039-00	09-040-056-00	09-040-077-00	09-125-005-00	09-125-021-00	

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township Board has received plans showing the proposed aquatic plant control project, associated activities, any proposed improvements and locations thereof, together with an estimated total project cost of $64,000 (including legal and administrative costs). The Township's project cost will be raised through a special assessment district upon benefitted properties in the Township. The Township Board has passed Resolution No. 2025-7-1, tentatively declaring its intention to undertake such project and to create the above-described special assessment district at its meeting held on July 9, 2025 at the Township Hall, 13641 S. M-37 Highway, in the Township.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township Board has placed the project plans and costs estimate on file with the Township Clerk and said plans, cost estimate and the special assessment district may be examined at the Clerk's office from the date of this Notice to the date of the public hearing and may further be examined at such public hearing. PROPERTY SHALL NOT BE ADDED TO THE PROPOSED SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT AND THE ORIGINAL ESTIMATE OF COST SHALL NOT BE INCREASED BY MORE THAN 10% WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE AND PUBLIC HEARING.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township Board proposes to make a per-parcel special assessment each year for a period of six (6) years (2026-2031 inclusive). Assessments will be billed beginning in December 2025 for treatment to begin in 2026.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that a public hearing on the plans, the district and cost estimates will be held at the Johnstown Township Hall, 13641 S. M-37 Hwy, Battle Creek, Michigan, on August 13, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. At the hearing, the Board will consider any written objections and comments to any of the foregoing matters which are filed with the clerk at or before the hearing, and any objections or comments raised at the hearing; and at the hearing (or any adjournment of the hearing which may be made without further notice), the Township Board may revise, correct, amend, or change the plans, cost estimates, or special assessment district.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that if written objections to the project are filed with the Township Board at or before the hearing, signed by the record owners of land constituting more than 20% of the area within the proposed special assessment district, then the Township may not proceed unless petitions in support of the project, signed by record owners of more than 50% of the area to be made into a special assessment district, are filed with the Township. Written comments or objections may be filed with the clerk at the address set out below. Appearance and protest at the public hearing is required in order to appeal the amount of the special assessment to the State Tax Tribunal within 30 days after the special assessment roll is confirmed. An owner or party in interest, or his/her agent, may appear in person at the hearing to protest the special assessment, or shall be permitted to file at or before the hearing his/her appearance or protest by letter and, in such case, his/her personal appearance shall not be required. All interested persons are invited to be present in person or by representative and to submit comments concerning the establishment of the special assessment district, the plans and the cost estimates.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that if the Township Board determines to proceed with the special assessment, the Board will cause a special assessment roll to be prepared and another hearing will be held, after notice to record owners of property proposed to be specially assessed, to hear public comments concerning the proposed special assessments.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the foregoing hearing and all proceedings associated with this special assessment matter shall be conducted in accordance with and pursuant to 1954 Public Act 188 and in accordance with and pursuant to the Michigan Open Meetings Act and any other applicable law.

Johnstown Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids to individuals with disabilities at the hearing upon four (4) days-notice to the Township Clerk.

Sheri Babcock, Clerk at Johnstown Township, 13641 S. M-37 Hwy., Battle Creek, MI 49017
(269) 721-9709 Ext. 202



Super Kicker Rodeo clown Christopher DeBaeke rushes over to give an cowboy a "cat scan" during a skit Wednesday, July 16, at the Barry County Fair in Hastings.



Taylor Pyne rides to a fourth-place finish in the women's barrel racing competition during the Super Kicker Rodeo Wednesday at the Barry County Fair in Hastings. **Photos by Brett Bremer**



Jake Maher rides the bull Obrian to a winning score of 78 points during the Super Kicker Rodeo in front of the grandstand at the Barry County Fair in Hastings Wednesday, July 16.

Bull riders beat the storm at county fair rodeo show

The thunder rolled and lightning struck.

One last big clap of thunder seemed to the all the motivation the bull "Come With Me Now" needed to fling bull rider Sam Graveling off his back at the end of the Super Kicker Rodeo in front of the Barry County Fair Grandstand in Hastings Wednesday, July 16.

A pair of guys lasted the full eight seconds in the bull riding competition Wednesday in front of a full grandstand. Jake Maher took the day's championship with a score of 78 points. Jayson DeBaeke had a score of 66 points on his ride.

The evening's competition included bull riding, ranch bronc riding, team roping and girls barrel racing as well as a couple contests for youngsters including a one-shoe race and some mutton busting.

Bobbie Marsh took the victory in the ranch bronc riding competition with 73 points, ahead of Jimmy Millbrooker's 65 points.

Team roping and barrel racing were a part of the show for the grandstand folks, and then after storms rolled through those two events continued on until champions were crowned.

The duo of Mark Herr and Wyatt Ferreire won the team roping competition with a time of 8.00 seconds. Connor Madry and Garett Madry were second at 8.30 and Trace Hughston and Logan Nemeth third at 8.49.

The girls' barrel racing was won by Ashley Baumbach with a time of 14.515 seconds. Angela Farris was second at 14.755 and Devyn Baumbach third at 15.120. Ashley and Devyn sat at one and two in the overall Super Kicker Rodeo barrel racing standings for the summer heading into the weekend.

Synopsis
Hope Township
Regular Board meeting
July 14, 2025

Meeting opened at 6:30 pm
Approved:
Consent agenda
Resolution 2025-WL 1
Resolution 2025-HWA 1
Ordinance No. 99 Consumers Energy Gas and Electric Franchise Ordinance
Adjourned at 7:22 pm

Submitted by:
Deborah Jackson, Clerk

Attested to by
Doug Peck, Supervisor

SYNOPSIS
RUTLAND CHARTER TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
July 9, 2025 – 7:00 p.m.

Regular meeting called to order and Pledge of Allegiance.
Present: Hawthorne, Greenfield, Watson, Mayack, Hall, James
Absent: Bellmore
Approved the Agenda as amended
Approved the Consent Agenda
Monthly Treasurer's Report
Monthly Clerk's Voucher/Payroll Report
Motion to agree in principle of the terms presented by COH. Roll Call Vote – 4-2, motion passes
Motion to approve Ordinance #2025-297 Construction Code. Roll Call Vote – All Ayes, motion passes

Adjournment 8:40 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Hawthorne, Clerk

Attested to by,
Marti Mayack, Supervisor

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
BARRY COUNTY
ROAD COMMISSION

Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Barry County Road Commission, 1725 West M-43 Highway, P.O. Box 158, Hastings, MI 49058, until 11:00 A.M. July 30, 2025 for the following project.

Specifications and additional information may be obtained at the Road Commission Office at the above address or at our web site at www.barrycrc.org.

Exterior Painting of (3) Buildings at the Barry CRC

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

BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF BARRY

David Solmes	Chairman
Jim James	Vice Chairman
Jamie Knight	Member



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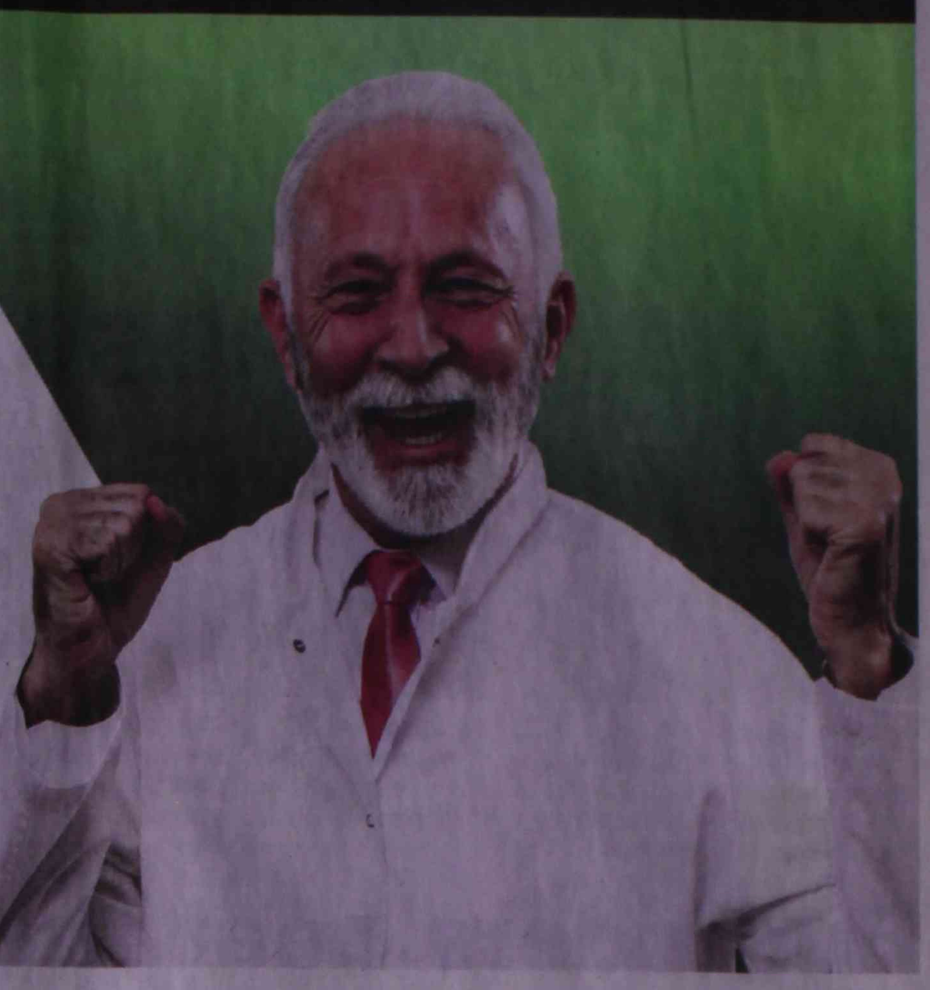
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