

INSIDE
TODAY'S EDITION
BARRY COUNTY FAIR
PAGES 8-11



STATE REP. ADVOCATES FOR ODESSA TWP. FUNDING
PAGE 4



ALLERSMA A TWO-TIME RUNNER-UP AT JUNIOR OLYMPICS
PAGE 12

VOL. 170, NO. 67

THE HASTINGS BANNER

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF BARRY COUNTY SINCE 1856

www.HastingsBanner.com Thursday, August 7, 2025 $1.50

Hastings Public Library
227 E State Street
Hastings MI 49058

Community raises $15K for Thornapple Arts Council following unexpected grant loss



The Hastings High School Steel Drum Band performs at Thornapple Plaza in April as part of the Thornapple Arts Council's Jazz Fest. Jazz Fest is one of many arts programs across the county sponsored by TAC. **File photo by Jayson Bussa**

Molly Macleod
Editor

The Thornapple Arts Council is celebrating this month after community support helped put the organization back in the black following the unexpected loss of a $10,000 grant earlier this year.

With help from private individuals in the community, the Barry Community Foundation and the DeCamp Foundation, TAC received a $15,000 boon this summer after an unexpected setback this spring.

TAC Executive Director Megan Lavell explained that the past few months have been a bit of a whirlwind.

"In December (2024), we got notified from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) that we had been recommended for a $10,000 grant to support the jazz festival," Lavell said.

In April, just ahead of the 2025 TAC Jazz Fest in Hastings, Lavell said she and other TAC staff were informed that TAC's recommendation for the grant had been rescinded. The recission came as the Trump Administration canceled several NEA grants.

"I remember thinking, 'Oh, great, we've already spent that money,'" Lavell said.

Lavell said that with the funds already spent on the jazz festival, TAC's hands were tied. The arts council reached out to the Barry Community Foundation, which offered up to $5,000 to match donations from the community. Then, the DeCamp Foundation reached out, offering to match $5,000 as well.

"So, suddenly, our $10,000 loss turned into a $15,000 gift from the community," Lavell said.

After launching the fundraising campaign in May, Lavell said TAC reached its goal of $5,000 in community donations at its 40th anniversary celebration on June 27.

"We announced that at the concert that we had raised the remaining $5,000 — and then it was really a party," she said.

Looking ahead, Lavell said TAC isn't counting on federal grant money.

"We have hired a grant writer to

See **RAISES** on 4

Trumble Agency's 'Bash' equips students for return to school



Young kids enjoy sliding down a large inflatable slide during Saturday's Back to School Bash at Thornapple Plaza, put on by Hastings-based Trumble Insurance Agency. **Photos by Jayson Bussa**

Barry County United Way backpack registration still open

Jayson Bussa
Contributing Writer

Most parents want to see their children head into the first day of school with energy and excitement.

On Saturday afternoon, one Hastings-based business did an effective job of whipping up that excitement.

For the second straight year, Trumble Insurance Agency staged its Back to School Bash, teaming with a number of sponsors to not only equip local students with a free backpack and school supplies, but to also entertain with music, food, crafts and inflatables.

In an era where prices for most items, including school supplies, are steadily climbing, events such as the Back to School Bash are a welcome sight for parents who are looking to outfit their students with everything they need for a school year while staying on budget.

The marquee feature of the Back to School Bash, both this year and last, was the fact that organizers gave out over 1,000 backpacks for free. These backpacks were stocked with back-to-school essentials such as pencils, notebook paper, folders, pencil bag, glue sticks, highlighters and more.

In addition to the free goodies, kids got to enjoy the party atmosphere that took over Thornapple Plaza for the evening.

Trumble Insurance Agency and their co-sponsors for the Back to School Bash aren't the only ones ensuring that students walk into school in a couple of weeks ready for a year of learning, either.

The Barry County United Way and Volunteer Center still has registration open for its Backpack Program. This program takes a similar approach to the organization's Toys For Barry County Kids Program, giving students the opportunity to shop the stock of donated items for their own backpacks

See **EQUIP** on 4

Voters approve Delton Kellogg Schools operating millage renewal

Karen Turko-Ebright
Staff Writer

Voters in the Delton Kellogg School District cast their ballots in the Tuesday, Aug. 5, election and passed the renewal of the 19.2 mill authorization on non-homestead properties. The renewal is not a tax increase from the current millage.

Superintendent Jeremy Wright said the renewal is crucial to the overall funding of the school and thanked the community for its support.

According to unofficial results in Barry County, the millage renewal passed with 1,146 'yes' votes and 586 'no' votes — roughly two-thirds of voters approving the renewal.

The non-homestead revenue funds everyday operational expenditures such as teachers' salaries and instructional materials, special education, transportation and extracurricular activities. It does not fund expenditures for capital projects.

While the renewal does not impact taxes on primary residences, the approval allows for DK to receive its full per-pupil allowance from the state. That allowance makes up roughly 25 percent of DK Schools' annual budget, or about $4 million each year.

Wright said passing the renewal supports core district priorities, including hiring and retaining qualified teachers, aides, counselors and support staff. In addition, the millage-renewal enables the school to purchase up-to-date textbooks, technology and classroom supplies. Furthermore, it provides transportation, special education and extracurricular programs, plus

See **RENEWAL** on 3

CAR-RT LOT**C003
T1 P2 220 220
HASTINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY
227 E STATE ST
HASTINGS MI 49058-1954



LIVE CONCERT SERIES SET TO PLAY ON IN AUGUST
PAGE 5

SUBSCRIBE
TO SUPPORT LOCAL JOURNALISM
YOUR CONTRIBUTION MAKES TRUSTWORTHY REPORTING POSSIBLE
SUBSCRIBE TODAY: 269-945-9554

Spend it here.
Keep it here.
SHOP LOCAL
INVEST IN YOUR COMMUNITY.
VIEW Newspaper Group
THE HASTINGS BANNER



Potential resentencing of convicted murderer pushed back



Judge Michael Schipper conducts a hearing July 23 in Barry County District Court 56B. However, that didn't include a scheduled hearing for convicted murder Patrick Gilmore of Hastings, with that hearing being pushed back to January 2026. **Photo by Dennis Mansfield**

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

Patrick Gilmore of Hastings will have to wait a little longer to find out exactly how long he might stay in a state prison, as a conference hearing on a potential resentencing of the convicted murder was pushed back to January 2026.

In March 2022, Gilmore pleaded guilty to the September 2021 murder of 17-year-old Lane Roslund, also of Hastings, allegedly shooting Roslund with a crossbow and then concealing him in a shallow grave in Hastings Township. Gilmore, who was 17 at the time he reportedly killed Roslund, was sentenced to life in prison without parole.

However, Gilmore might still have a chance to see the outside of a prison cell thanks to a 2012 decision, Miller v. Alabama, by the U.S. Supreme Court. In its decision, the court found that a sentence of mandatory life without parole for juveniles is unconstitutional if age and other mitigating factors are not considered prior to sentencing.

Now, more than three years after he was originally sentenced, Gilmore's case was back before Judge Michael Schipper for a conference hearing on July 23 in Barry County District Court 56B.

David Banister, chief assistant prosecutor with the Barry County Prosecutor's Office, said the July 23 hearing was originally scheduled in regards to a potential future motion by an appellate attorney to obtain a sentence of a term of years, instead of life without parole.

"The scheduling hearing was just to see where the resentencing issue stood at this point," Banister said afterwards. "Nothing is new in the case's facts. It is all related to some appellate cases in which courts are becoming limited in sentencing juveniles who commit first degree murder to life without parole."

But, the hearing lasted mere minutes, with Gilmore's legal counsel requesting the hearing be rescheduled. According to Banister, there were no issues in pushing the date back to January 2026, as Gilmore will still be in prison for "many, many years" even if any appeal of his original sentence proved successful.

"Not a lot is happening at this time," Banister added. "We are kind of in a holding pattern on the Patrick Gilmore case, which is in the post-conviction time."

Even if successful in obtaining a new sentence, Gilmore is slated to spend decades behind bars. According to previous news reports, Schipper could opt for a term of imprisonment ranging from a minimum of 25 to 40 years to a maximum of no less than 60 years.

Ready for Liftoff



Locals gathered at Harold E. Classic Memorial Park in Woodland on Saturday to watch two hot air balloons take off for a leisurely flight around Woodland Township. The balloons traveled overtop corn fields, with passengers watching the sunset. **Photo by Molly Macleod**

JLTB to consider legal action after township board vote

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

The Jordan Lake Trail Board could consider whether it wants to take its battle with the Odessa Township Board of Trustees to court, after a split vote by the township board at its regular meeting Monday, Aug. 4.

The township board voted, 3-2, to officially close out a decade-old grant from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for the construction of the proposed Jordan Lake Trail and administered through the township, as well as transfer any remaining funds to the township's general fund.

The motion by Township Treasurer Sharon Rohrbacher received the support of Clerk Lisa Williams and Trustee Allan Baron II, with Township Supervisor Gary Secor and Trustee Brad Barrone voting in opposition.

Secor said he was "reluctant" to vote in support of the motion, as it might lead to a possible legal situation with the JLTB.

"We don't have a pending legal situation," Rohrbacher added. "I think we can close the account."

Along with closing out the MDNR grant, the motion also approved the transfer of more than $9,900 to the township's general fund. According to township officials, the monies will be used to cover legal and administrative expenses incurred by the township in relation to the trail project.

The JLTB had received state grants in 2015 from both the Michigan Department of Transportation and MDNR through the Village of Lake Odessa and Odessa Township, respectively, with the goal of building a 1.5-mile non-motorized trail through the village and township.

And, JLTB members scored a partial win in March, when after a lengthy closed-door session, the township board OK'd the release of $48,000 to the trail board.

But, after Monday's vote, JLTB chairperson Carolyn Mayhew said the non-profit board might consider legal action to reclaim the remaining funds being withheld by the township.

"I'm really disappointed that

See **ACTION** on 6

Want to feel the "care" in health care again? That's where we shine.

Whether you're hoping for easier access to care or a provider who truly listens, you can count on Beacon. That's how we've earned a reputation in our communities as the leader in comprehensive services – raising care standards and delivering an uplifting patient experience.

Learn how Beacon Health is creating a brighter future for patients across southwest Michigan at BeaconHealthSystem.org/Shine.

BEACON HEALTH SYSTEM



THE HASTINGS BANNER

(USPS #71830)
1351 N M-43 Hwy.
Hastings, MI 49058
269-945-9554
www.hastingsbanner.com

VIEWnewspaper Group
Rick Burrough, President
Wes Smith, Group Publisher
Molly Macleod, Editor

CONTACT US
EDITORIAL
mmacleod@mihomepaper.com
DELIVERY QUESTIONS
circulation@hastingsbanner.com
CLASSIFIED ADS
classifiedads@hastingsbanner.com

ADVERTISING
All advertising in The Hastings Banner is subject to the conditions in the applicable rate card or advertising contract, copies of which are available from the Ad Dept., 1351 N M-43 Hwy., Hastings, MI 49058 (269-945-9554). This newspaper reserves the right not to accept an advertiser's order. Our ad takers have no authority to bind this newspaper and only publication of an ad constitutes acceptance of the advertiser's order.
ADVERTISING MANAGER: Chris Silverman
csilverman@mihomepaper.com

DELIVERY
Circulation Hours: Mon.-Th. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Home delivery: 269-945-9554
Postmaster: Send address changes to:
The Hastings Banner
1351 N M-43 Hwy., Hastings, MI 49058
NEWSPAPER RATES
Mailed periodicals postage paid at Hastings, MI 49058 and additional offices. Published Thursday.
Barry County ..... $78/yr. or $14/mo
Adjoining Counties ..... $85/yr.
Elsewhere in Michigan ..... $90/yr.
Elsewhere in U.S. ..... $90/yr.
Single Copy $1.50

PRIVILEGE OF RESPONSE
Persons who believe they have been unfairly treated in this newspaper are always invited to telephone, or to make a written response. See the Opinion Page for contact information and our letters policy.

Copyright 2025
©2025 Jams Media, LLC
All Rights Reserved
Printed in the U.S.

Rep. Johnsen doubles down in support of Barry County Jail funding

Molly Macleod
Editor

State Representative Gina Johnsen (R-Portland) returned to Lansing last week on Thursday, July 31, for a second round of testimony before the House Appropriations Subcommittee in support of funding for a new Barry County Jail.

Johnsen also advocated for funding for other public safety and infrastructure projects in the 78th District. These include expanding Ionia County's radio system and replacing a bridge over the Little Thornapple River in Woodland Township.

In total, Johnsen called for the House Appropriations Subcommittee to consider allocating $10 million toward a new Barry County Jail and public safety building; $18 million to expand Ionia County's radio system and $2.54 million to replace the bridge on Brown Road.

"The people of my district deserve safe roads, reliable emergency response, and public safety infrastructure that works," Johnsen said. "These are not luxuries. They are basic, core functions of government."

Johnsen was joined last week by Barry County Administrator Eric Zuzga, Barry County Board of Commissioners Chair David Jackson, Dave Liddell of the Barry County Road Commission and Ionia County Central Dispatch Director Lance Langdon. Each testified in support of their respective projects.

"These projects reflect real needs in our rural communities," Johnsen said. "They're shovel-ready, community-driven, and will be built to last."

The Barry County Jail project would replace an aging jail and sheriff's office with a modern facility that would improve security, staff safety and emergency preparedness. In Ionia County, the proposed radio upgrades would fill communication gaps that currently endanger first responders in low-coverage areas. The Brown Road bridge replacement would improve driver safety and restore environmental health to the river corridor.

Johnsen also testified in support of other projects across the district earlier last month, on Thursday, July 24. (See related story on Page 4.) These include support for replacing the Odessa Township Fire Hall and funding bridge repairs across Ionia County. Johnsen is also seeking funding for upgrades to the Portland Water Treatment Plant.

Elected officials, county employees and court staff agree that a new jail is a dire need for Barry County. In February, the Barry County Board of Commissioners voted to approve a proposal from Kalamazoo-based consulting firm Abonmarche Byce to conduct a jail feasibility study, which would essentially jump-start the local government's attempts to address the outdated Barry County Jail.



Barry County Board of Commissioners Chair Dave Jackson (left) testifies in support of funding for a new Barry County Jail alongside State Representative Gina Johnsen in front of the House Appropriations Subcommittee in Lansing last week. **Courtesy photo**

Barry County paid the firm $42,000 for the process, which will provide insight into how to most effectively move forward with the project. The extensive study was expected to take from four to six months. The study results have not yet been shared.

Commissioners voted to establish a jail stakeholder committee in April to begin the planning process. Should all go to plan, the study results could help the committee craft a proposal to bring to voters.

The study probes the feasibility of a few different scenarios: building a new jail at a new site, building a new jail on the existing site, renovating the existing jail at its current site, renovating and expanding the existing jail at its current site and other alternatives that may arise during the study.

More than 50 attend second open house on wind project

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

More than 50 local residents, landowners and officials attended a second open house hosted by Cordelio Power on Thursday, July 31, at the Hughe House in Lake Odessa, with representatives of the Canadian-based power company looking to answer questions and ease concerns related to the Tupper Lake Wind Project.

"The event went well and we were glad to see both new and familiar faces in the community," said Stephanie Buway, senior director of development with Cordelio Power. "The attendees asked smart questions and we were happy with the level of engagement at the meeting.

"We are very appreciative to those that took the time to come out and visit with us."

The open house included a presentation by Buway regarding some of the most frequently asked questions, as well as addressing some of the misinformation about the wind generation project, including details about Cordelio itself, an overview of the project, why it is being located in Ionia County and what will happen when or if the project is decommissioned.

Cordelio is a relative newcomer to the project, which dates back to 2007, with the Canadian company buying the project from the Dallas-based Leeward Energy in 2024. According to Buway, plans call for construction on the wind farm to start in the third quarter of 2027, with the project becoming operable in late 2028.

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 and Berlin townships. Two other townships – Orange and Boston townships – have been dropped from the project.

"We have about 11,500 acres under agreement," Buway said. "The final amount of acreage needed will be flexible and depends on the final project size.

"We're targeting a 198-megawatt project, but we are very close to being able to build a smaller project now with the current participating landowners," she added. "We're also continuing to advance our environmental and airspace studies as a prelude to the upcoming engineering and design work."

And, while Cordelio could push the project forward with approval from the Michigan Public Service Commission, Buway said it is also seeking to work with townships that have passed ordinances related to the permitting of wind or solar projects.

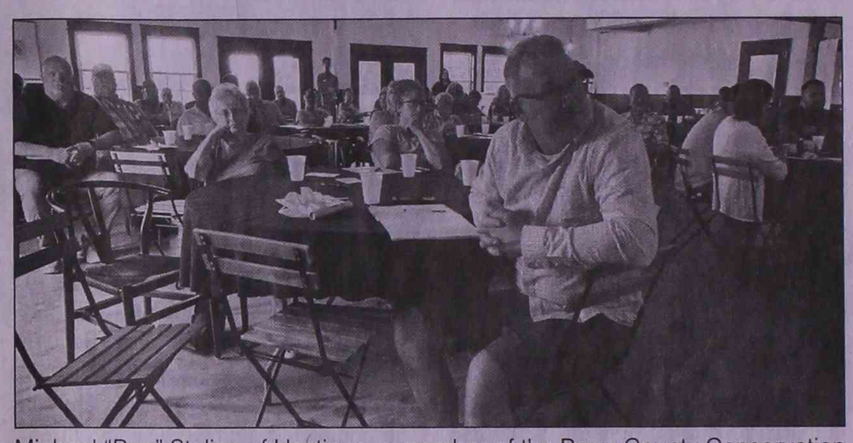
"We want to be members of the community," Buway said. "Cordelio wants to work with local communities first and foremost.

"We're still working with Odessa Township with its ordinance," she added.

There might be additional opportunities to learn about the Tupper Lake project for those who missed the July 31 event, with a third open house possibly being scheduled in the fall.

"We will likely wait until after harvest season," Buway said. "But … I anticipate a third meeting – and more as warranted."

Individuals may also email their questions or concerns on Cordelio Power or the Tupper Lake Wind Project to tupperlakewind@cordeliopower.com.



Michael "Ben" Stoline of Hastings, a member of the Barry County Conservation Easement Board, listens to a presentation during an open house hosted by Cordelio Power on the Tupper Lake Wind Project. More than 50 people attended the event at the Hughe House in Lake Odessa on Thursday, July 31. **Photo by Dennis Mansfield**

MDOT resurfacing M-43 south of Delton

■ Project begins Aug. 11

Drivers may need to find an alternative route when traveling between Delton and Hickory Corners this next month. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is investing $1 million to resurface M-43 from Sheffield Road north to Bush Street south of Delton.

Crews are expected to begin work this coming Monday, Aug. 11. MDOT officials say the project is expected to wrap up in mid-September.

Lane closures will be in effect throughout the project. Both directions of traffic will share one lane and alternate via traffic regulators. Short-term intersection closures will be in place during paving. — *MM*

RENEWAL

Continued from Page 1

maintains safe, inclusive learning environments, Wright said.

The millage renewal approved on Tuesday applies to commercial property, rental property, and vacation homes, and is not a tax on voters' primary residences. The state requires that non-homestead millages be voted on every 5 years and that all school districts levy at least 18 mills annually to secure their full per-pupil foundation allowance.

The cost to a taxpayer with non-homestead property with a taxable value of $200,000 will be $3,800 (19.2 mills/$1,000 x $200,000). If the millage renewal had not passed, the school district would have been faced with cutting teachers, programs, transportation and other services.

"We are so appreciative of the overwhelming support from the community," Wright said. "We are grateful that time and time again, the community comes to bat for the schools."



Financial FOCUS®



Provided by the Barry County offices of Edward Jones

Wendi Stratton CFP®
Financial Advisor
423 N. Main St.
Nashville, MI 49073
(517) 760-8113

Member SIPC

Madison Cove
Financial Advisor
421 W. Woodlawn Ave.
Hastings, MI 49058
(269) 945-3553

Why rebalancing your portfolio matters – and how to do it

In life, balance is everything — whether it's finding time between work and family or maintaining a healthy diet. The same goes for your investments. Keeping your financial portfolio balanced is a smart way to stay on track toward your long-term goals, even as the markets shift.

That's where portfolio rebalancing comes in. Rebalancing is the process of adjusting your investments — like stocks, bonds and cash — so they stay in the right mix for your needs. This mix, known as your asset allocation, is designed to reflect your comfort with risk, your investment goals and how long you have until you'll need to use the money for a major life event like retirement or the purchase of a new home.

For example, let's say your target portfolio is made up of 60% stocks, 30% bonds and 10% cash. Over time, as the value of each investment changes, your portfolio may become unbalanced. If stocks have a great year and rise in value, they could end up making up 70% of your portfolio. That means you're taking on more risk than you originally intended.

To get back to your 60/30/10 target, you would sell some stocks and possibly buy more bonds or cash investments. This helps bring your portfolio back in line with your goals.

Markets go up and down. That's normal — but it also means your portfolio can shift without your even touching it. If you don't rebalance regularly, you might be taking on too much (or too little) risk.

Rebalancing offers several benefits. It helps keep your investment plan on track and manages your exposure to risk. It also encourages disciplined decision-making, rather than chasing trends.

It might feel strange to sell investments that have been doing well and buy ones that haven't. But this strategy can help you "buy low and sell high," which is one of the key ideas behind successful investing.

You may be wondering how often you should rebalance your portfolio. There really is no one-size-fits-all answer. Some people rebalance once a year. Others do it more frequently based on how far their investments drift from their target percentages.

What's important is that you check your portfolio regularly — at least annually — and make adjustments when needed. After big market movements, whether up or down, it's a good idea to take a closer look.

Keep in mind that if you rebalance by selling investments in a taxable account, you might owe capital gains taxes. Also, some brokers charge fees for trades. But if you own similar investments in a retirement account like an IRA or 401(k), you can often rebalance without triggering taxes. A financial advisor can help you choose the best approach — and may even be able to help you avoid or reduce costs.

Your ideal investment mix will probably change as your life changes. Younger investors might favor stocks for growth. As you near retirement, you may want to focus more on income and stability. Rebalancing helps you adjust as your goals evolve.

Think of your portfolio like a car on a road trip — regular check-ins and small course corrections will help you stay on the right path. A financial advisor can help you design a strategy that keeps your investments aligned with your goals every step of the way.

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

Edward Jones, Member SIPC

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.



Lyons Septic Tank Service
Thanks you all for your business in 2024! We appreciate your business!

Extra long hose to protect your lawn

NEW Services offered in 2025
· Septic Tank Install
· Line Repair
· Risers Install
· Land Clearing
· Light Excavation

Bonded
Licensed by State of Michigan #96-001-2
Jesse Lyons, Owner

FAST, RELIABLE SERVICE SINCE 1961

945-5379 623-2089

Odessa Twp. included in package of local infrastructure projects

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

Odessa Township could be the beneficiary of efforts by State Rep. Gina Johnsen's efforts to highlight potential funding of various regional infrastructure projects.

Johnsen (R-Portland), along with Odessa Township Treasurer Sharon Rohrbacher and local Fire Chief Chad Perkins, testified before a House appropriations subcommittee on July 24 in support of two key infrastructure investments in the 78th District, including $2 million in funding for a new fire station for the Lake Odessa Fire Department, which serves both Odessa Township and the Village of Lake Odessa.

"These are taxpayer dollars going to roads, bridges, water systems, and public safety," Johnsen said. "This is exactly what responsible government should fund."

Johnsen also spoke directly on the Odessa Township request, citing the current fire hall's outdated and undersized condition as a threat to public safety.

"This is not just a building. It is a lifeline," she added. "Our firefighters deserve a safe, functional space to serve our community."

According to Rohrbacher, she and Perkins addressed the House subcommittee via Zoom.

"It went smoothly," she said.

But, while appreciative of the potential of receiving state funding, Rohrbacher said the proposed $2 million in appropriations would fall far short of paying for a new fire station.



State Rep. Gina Johnsen testified in front of a House appropriations subcommittee last week in support of $2 million in funding for a new station for the Lake Odessa Fire Department. **File photo**

"It's just a drop in the bucket of what we need," she said. "(But) it would get us started."

Currently, the Lake Odessa Fire Department operates out of a pole-style building reportedly constructed in the late 1970s on First Street, just east of Fourth Avenue, in the Village of Lake Odessa.

But, according to local officials, the fire station is nearing the end of its usable life, and its age and state of disrepair make it difficult, if not impossible in some cases, for the local fire department to meet newer state regulations.

To come up with a design for a new station house, the township board agreed to a contract with Williams Architects of Grand Rapids earlier this year. And, they might already have the site for the project – on a 10-acre site already owned by the township located just east of the Odessa Township Hall on M-50.

The new station house would need to have room for the fire department's fleet of seven emergency vehicles, as well as housing all the necessary equipment and training space for its current staff of 22 on-call firefighters.

Rohrbacher said the total cost for a new fire hall has yet to be determined, but some estimates have put the bill as high as $9 million.

"It depends on what we choose," the township treasurer said.

The township board of trustees also recently approved a pair of contracts at its regular monthly meeting July 7 to test for possible wetlands and to take soil borings on township-owned property. Officials hope to have the results of the tests back in time for a special meeting set for 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 13.

"All the preliminary work is just about done, so we can look at the numbers," Rohrbacher said. "We won't know how much (a new fire barn) will cost until we find out if the ground (at the site off of M-50) will hold a fire station.

"Then, we can make some decisions," she added. "We want to do it right, so we're going step by step."

Perkins said he believes the property next to the township hall would be a good site for a new fire station.

"I believe it's going to be a good location," he said. "It's easy in and out, a straight shot into town."

And, while patiently working through the planning process, Perkins added a new fire house will need to be built "sooner or later," with the number of calls handled by the LOFD continuing to rise.

According to the local fire chief, the LOFD is projected to respond to 450-490 calls for service in 2025 That's double the number from just five years ago.

"Our call numbers keep going up," Perkins said. "In just a few years, we've doubled the number of calls, or even tripled it."

Barry-Roubaix-affiliated event scheduled; Registration opens Aug. 8

Jayson Bussa
Contributing Writer

The Barry-Roubaix gravel cycling race overtakes Hastings for one spring weekend of the year.

Still, many cyclists enjoy traveling to the area to ride portions of the course during the offseason.

The race's organizers have leveraged that desire to hit the dirt one more time before winter by hosting what they have dubbed the Barry-Roubaix Fall Fondo.

This week, organizers announced a date for the latest installment of the more leisurely ride. It is slated for Sunday, Oct. 12, with registration opening on Friday. Registration for the event can be completed at: bikereg.com/fallfondo-barryroubaix.

Participants can enjoy an 18-, 36- or 62-mile ride around Barry County's dirt and gravel roads while raising money for two local causes. This year, proceeds go to benefit the Barry County Animal Shelter and Imagination Library, which is a national initiative championed by famed musician Dolly Parton that has been implemented locally by Hastings Rotary Club.

The Fall Fondo lends a dynamic to riders that they won't get during the Barry-Roubaix, most notably the fall colors along the course.

The event also features refreshments and a giveaway.

Fish Hatchery Park in Hastings will again serve as the staging area for event, in addition to the start and finish lines.

memorial
Butterfly Release

Celebrate the life of a loved one at our community Butterfly Release.



Saturday August 16
Arrival 9:30 a.m.
Memorial 10:00 a.m.

FISH HATCHERY PARK
Hastings

This event is free to attend.

Find out more and reserve your butterfly at CentricaCare.org.

centrica CARE NAVIGATORS


Dave Storms entertains kids at Saturday's Back to School Bash by whipping up some balloon animals.

EQUIP

Continued from Page 1

and school supplies. This allows families to make selections that fall in line with their student's unique preferences.

This program is open to students in grades kindergarten through 12th grade. Families must meet the income criteria to be considered eligible. For a household of one, the maximum annual income would be $31,300 and $42,300 for a household of two, and so forth.

Those who wish to participate in the program must register in advance by calling the Barry County United Way and Volunteer Center at 269-945-4010.

RAISES

Continued from Page 1

look for grants through private foundations throughout the country rather than relying heavily on state- and government-funded grants. We're also reviewing our programs to see how to shore them up to make them all break even a little more — whether that's increasing program costs to participants, seeking more sponsorships, seeking more donations. If I'm being honest, we're a small organization without a lot of fat to cut from our budget, and so, for us, it's not really a matter of cutting expenses, it's a matter of increasing income," Lavell said.

TAC staff will also be looking at how to more creatively use its sponsors' money.

"For instance, some programs get a lot more support than other programs, so we've been having conversations with our sponsors to say, 'Hey, have you considered putting your dollars toward this other program with these benefits rather than this program that already receives a lot of support,'" Lavell said.

TAC's fundraiser in November could look different, too, with hopes of having a bigger financial impact for the organization.

Lavell said she and the staff at TAC are grateful for the community's support now and always.

TAC was founded in 1985 and supports arts education and programming across the county. More information about TAC can be found at ThornappleArts.org.

Nelsons's Spray Foam LLC
FREE Estimates
• Closed-Cell Foam Insulation
• Blown-in Attic Insulation
517-983-0954
Start Saving Today ~ Use Spray Foam

Live concert series set to play on in August

As the calendar turns to August, the Hastings Live Summer Concert Series is still going strong.

"With only 4 more weeks of shows, we have definitely planned on a week of amazing performances," said Steve Hoke, arts and events coordinator for the City of Hastings. "From jazz to rock/country covers to scorchabilly, this week's performers will not let you down."

Tricia Kjolhede is bringing "Tunes N Tales" to the Thornapple Plaza for Playing at the Plaza children's series on Thursday, Aug. 7, 11 a.m.

"Tricia is a teacher from the bottom of her heart, spending most of her adult life in pre-K, kindergarten and first-grade classrooms," Hoke said. "Her favorite moments of learning and growing often included good stories and some strumming on guitar – and an occasional visit from a friendly puppet."

The concert series moves to the Barry County Courthouse Lawn for the Friday at the Fountain performance at noon on Friday, Aug. 8, with Steve Pesch, a Kalamazoo musician who brings years of a guitar picking style that is purely his own. Pesch has performed as a solo musician, entertainer and songwriter around the West Michigan area since 2005.

The fun and entertainment returns to the Thornapple Plaza at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 8, with Mama's Hot Sauce taking the stage.

Hastings Live guests 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. Unless there is thunder/lightning, each show will be held.

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



Singer Song Writer Steve Pesch explores rock to country music in his performances. Pesch will be the featured artist for the Friday at the Fountain performance at the Barry County Courthouse Lawn at noon on Friday, Aug. 8.

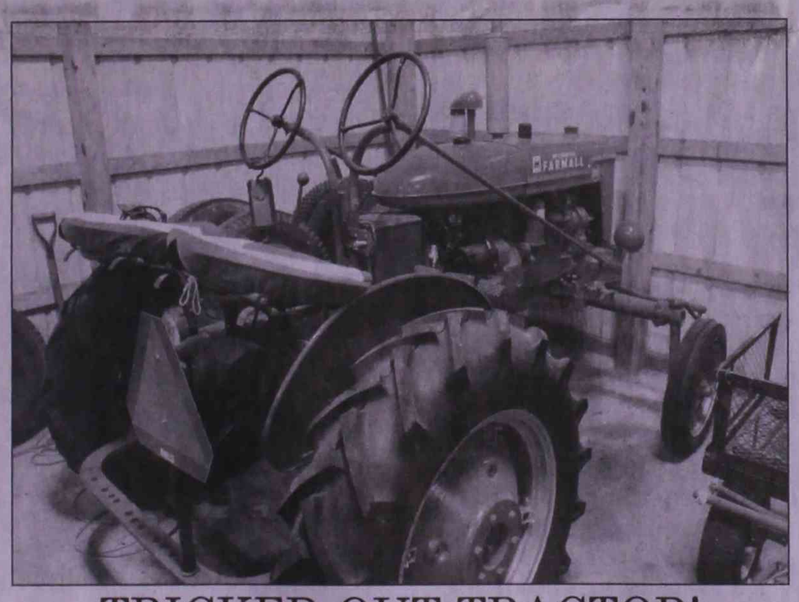


Having traveled around Michigan venues, Tricia Kjolhede brings "Tunes N Tales" to the Playing at the Plaza children's series at noon on Thursday, Aug. 7. **Courtesy photos**



Organizers of Hastings Live say that Mama's Hot Sauce will not let concert-goers down. The group's performance is set for Friday, Aug. 8, at 7:30 p.m. at the Thornapple Plaza.

DID YOU **SEE?**



TRICKED-OUT TRACTOR!

This one-of-a-kind McCormick Farmall model BN sports a 12-volt electric starter, two matching seats and two identical steering wheels. It is part of local farmer Louis Wierenga's collection. He assembled the creation at his farm in Hastings, hand-crafting many of the tractor's custom features. Locals should keep an eye out for the vehicle — it may be seen at local parades and shows in the near future. **Photo by George Hubka**

'Rock the Block' event set for this Saturday

Downtown Hastings will again be the site of a "Rock the Block" street dance on Saturday, Aug. 9, on South Jefferson Street in front of Full Moon Saloon.

The event will celebrate the newly issued "social district license" at Full Moon Saloon, according to organizers.

Music will begin at 6 p.m. on Aug. 9 with the mellow sounds of Lew Russ, followed by the Grand Rapids-based group, Mustang Band from Grand Rapids.

Organizers stated the Aug. 9 event will be the third and final street party event for the 2025 summer season, though plans are already underway for the 2026 summer series.

Rock the Block is a function of the Hastings Business Connection, sponsor of the Girls' Night Out and Jingle Mingle events. — *DM*

Visit us online at mihomepaper.com

Garden workshop is this Sunday

Area residents can learn about composting and organic garden fertilizers at a free workshop this weekend.

Herbalist, Michigan State University Pollinator Champion and Master Gardener Robbin Glass will lead the workshop on Sunday, Aug. 10, from 3 to 5 p.m.

Attendees of the class will learn how to compost and how to solve common composting problems. Glass will also explain organic fertilizers and which fertilizers are harmful to pollinators.

Glass encourages attendees to ask gardening questions during the question-and-answer portion of the class.

Attendees have the chance to win prizes from a free drawing.

The workshop will be held at the Hastings SDA School at 904 Terry Lane in Hastings.

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

NOTHIN' BUT A GOOD TIME



BILL ENGVALL
HERE'S YOUR SIGN: IT WASN'T MY TIME
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

LITTLE BIG TOWN
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4

Tickets available now at the FireKeepers Box Office or FireKeepersCasino.com.
FIREKEEPERS CASINO · HOTEL BATTLE CREEK GET YOUR VEGAS ON™
I-94 to Exit 104 | 11177 Michigan Avenue | Battle Creek, MI 49014
Must be 21 or older. Tickets based on availability. Schedule subject to change.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

WANTED

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

AUCTIONS

NOTICE - PUBLIC LAND AUCTION The Barry County Treasurer will offer tax- reverted real estate at public auction online at www.tax-sale.info. The first auction will be held on August 26th, 2025 from 10:00am to 7:00pm EDT. Bids can also be placed up to 30 days in advance on the website. Assistance is available for those without computer or internet access. Incomplete or voided sales from the August 26th, 2025 auction, if any, will be re-offered on September 26th, 2025 from 10:00am to7:00pm EDT. Unsold tax reverted real estate from either of the previous auctions, if any, will be re- offered on October 31st, 2025 in a sealed- bid auction. All bids must be placed by 7:00 pm EDT for this final sealed-bid auction. Answers to common questions about the auction process and additional information can be found at www.tax-sale.info/faq For more information and to view a list of the properties being offered, please visit www.tax-sale.info or call 1-800-259-7470. Auction listings may also be available at the County Treasurer's office.

CAMPERS/RVS

1988 AVIAN Model X 34' RV for sale. Updated plumbing. New tires. Needs TLC. $8,000 OBO. 269-993-2529

EMPLOYMENT

WANTED: UPFRONT SALES & PARTS PERSON. 25-40 hours per week at Joe's at Long Lake Power Equipment. Self-motivated and good customer service skills a plus. Should be computer-wise for posting and handling some over-the-wire sales and business. Mechanical knowledge and customer-oriented a plus. Some Saturday mornings during in-season. Apply in person at 6901 Ackers Point Drive, Delton. 269-207-1560.

STUMP REMOVAL

NEED STUMP GRINDING? Call 269-908-6227. Rooted Outdoor Services.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Joanna Faye Marlette, born at Corewell Health Pennock on June 29, 2025 to Kaitlyn Marlette and Colton Marlette of Nashville.

*****

Joshua James Woodman Jr., born at Corewell Health Pennock on July 3, 2025 to Melissa Woodman and Joshua Woodman of Delton.

*****

Asaph Nathaniel, born at Corewell Health Pennock on July 4, 2025 to Heather Collins and Nathan Collins of Woodland.

*****

Gabriel Gerald Maupin, born at Corewell Health Pennock on July 11, 2025 to Desirae Maupin and Isaiah Maupin of Nashville.

*****

Michael James Mesecar, born at Corewell Health Pennock on July 18, 2025 to Emmalee Mesecar and Brandon Mesecar of Hastings.

Tyden Park - Saturday, Aug. 23

The Jim Jensen MEMORIAL 3 ON 3 BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT
THE HASTINGS BANNER
VIEW Newspaper Group
T-Shirts for first 100!

Regsiter online now through August 18 on the events page at mibarry.com
Check in begins 8:30 a.m.
Games begin 9:30 a.m.

$25 per 3-4 person team
Make checks payable to Hastings Summerfest 2025

Paper entries must be to the Barry County Chamber of Commerce 138 W. State Street, Hastings, MI 49058 by August 18. Include team name, players names, player ages and captain contact info.

☐ Boys & Girls (Ages 12-14) ☐ Boys & Girls (Ages 15-17) ☐ Men & Women (Ages 18-25) ☐ Men & Women (Ages 25 & up)
Age brackets subject to change based on participation.

Questions ?? ... email bbremer@mihomepaper.com or call (269) 351-1304

OBITUARIES

VIEW OBITUARIES ONLINE. **HASTINGSBANNER.COM**

William "Bill" John Roush





William "Bill" John Roush of Hastings, MI, passed away July 30, 2025, after a brief but courageous battle with cancer. He was 86.

Born March 19, 1939, in Highland Park, MI, to William John and Meride (Hartman) Roush, Bill graduated from Springfield High School in 1957. At just 17, he began a lifetime of service, first joining the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves, then active duty with the Marines from 1958–1961. Only 41 days after his discharge, he enlisted in the U.S. Army, serving in Korea, training with the 11th Air Assault, and completing four tours in Vietnam. During his final tour, he was wounded while serving with a Special Forces "B" Team in the Mekong Delta, earning the Purple Heart among numerous decorations.

In Vietnam in 1967, Bill met and married the love of his life, Xuan Mai Thi. Together they shared 53 years of marriage until her passing in 2023.

After returning home, Bill served with the Michigan Department of Corrections for 17 years and later ran his own tax service. A man of deep faith, he was known for his humility, generosity, and dry wit. He gave freely of his time to the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Disabled American Veterans, the American Legion Post 45 Honor Guard, and the Battle Creek VA Hospital.

Bill was preceded in death by his first wife, Carolyn Anita; his wife, Mai; his parents; four siblings; and one grandson.

He is survived by five children, seven grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, three siblings, and a community that loved him.

Funeral services will be held Tuesday, August 12, 2025 at 11 a.m. at Thornapple Valley Church in Hastings, followed by a luncheon. Military honors provided by American Legion Post 45 of Hastings.

Arrangements by Girrbach Funeral Home, visit www.girrbachfuneralhome.net to leave condolences.

ACTION

Continued from Page 2

you'd just up and vote to keep $10,000 from the Jordan Lake Trail project," Mayhew said during the public comment portion of the Aug. 4 meeting. "Tonight, you kind of put the seal on it, that you'd just move that money into your checking account.

"I'm really disappointed we couldn't get this resolved."

Afterwards, Mayhew confirmed the JLTB might soon meet with its legal counsel to discuss potential options.

"That's the next step," she added. "We'll just have to see."

To date, only a ½-mile portion of the trail has been completed in Odessa Township. That was a section in Lake Odessa in 2023. Another section of the trail previously was completed in Woodland Township.

Further construction of the trail, originally set to cost an estimated $1.36 million, has been held up due to at least one property owner along the trail's proposed route along Jordan Lake not agreeing to a temporary easement, according to JLTB officials.

Worship Together



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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. Pick up your prizes at the library any time.

No library card is required for library programs and activities.

Thursday, Aug. 7 – Movie Memories and Milestones watches a 1938 film starring Ronald Colman and Basil Rathbone, 5 p.m. Vagabond poet François Villon rises to high office in 1463 Paris.

Friday, Aug. 8 – Friday Storytime, 10:30 a.m.

Monday, Aug. 11 – Crafting Passions, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, Aug. 12 – Baby Cafe, 10 a.m.; mahjong, 5 p.m.; chess, 5 p.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 13 – Itsy Bitsy Book Club, 10:30 a.m.; Open Art Studio, 11:30 a.m.

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

PIERCE CEDAR CREEK INSTITUTE EVENTS

– AUGUST 7-14 –

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

Aug. 1-31 — Aug. Storybook Walk: "Mnoomin maan'gowing: The Gift of Mnoomin" by Brittnay Luby; illustrated by Joshua Mangeshig Pawis-Steckley; translated by Mary Ann Corbiere. A seed is a gift to the future and a story you can hold. Follow the journey of mnoomin, or wild rice seed, as it encounters the wetland animals that prepare its way and the people who harvest it. Hike the trail and discover the forces that keep a wetland ecosystem balanced for mnoomin. The Storybook Walk is free and self-guided on the purple and green trails.

Aug. 1-31 — Walk the Planets. Take a hike around our solar system. Visit each planet and discover the solar system that surrounds Earth with a free, self-guided hike on the green trail.

Thursday, Aug. 7 — Sip and Ride accessible tours (ages 15+, under 18 with an adult), 10 a.m.-noon. Interested in wild, foraged drinks, but not interested in hiking the trails? This is for you! Tour and taste along the Institute's trails from the comfort of an all-terrain vehicle. Learn to ID the plants that make excellent teas, sodas, mocktails and more. Members must pay $7 for this experience; non-members must pay $10.

Friday, Aug. 8 — Sip and Stroll (ages 15+, under 18 with an adult), 6-8 p.m. Grab a friend and join the Institute for a foraged "happy hour." Take a leisurely stroll through the Institute property and sip on the flavors of the summer. Along the way, learn to identify the plants that make excellent tease, sodas, mocktails and more. The Sip and Stroll costs $5 for members and $8 for non-members.

Saturday, Aug. 9 — 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 2.1-mile hike that is open to all.

Saturday, Aug. 9 — Pierce Cedar Creek Institute Open House, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Join the Institute for a free open house. The free family event will offer MOO-ville ice cream, hot dogs and treats, yard games and activities, the Institute's new art exhibit and an opportunity to explore the Institute's trails and facilities.

Thursday, Aug. 14 — Stroll and Read Foam Party, 3-5 p.m. at Fish Hatchery Park in Hastings. Close out the summer by bringing the family to play in foam, eat some ice cream, choose a free book, explore local preschool options and visit with community organizations.

Thursday, Aug. 14 — Social Hike, 6-8 p.m. 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 2.1-mile hike that is open to all.

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

SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

Are you 70 or older and not yet receiving benefits?

HILLARY HATCH
Social Security Administration

Retirement is not one-size-fits-all. It can mean different things to different people. Perhaps you have not applied for Social Security retirement benefits because you're still working or are delaying applying so you can get a higher benefit. If you're age 70 or older, you should apply now for the benefits you're owed. Your benefits will not increase if you continue to delay applying for them because you are 70 or older.

Did you know that you can receive benefits even if you still work? Your earnings can increase your monthly benefit amount – even after you start receiving benefits. Each year that you work, we check your earnings record. It's possible your latest year of earnings is one of your highest 35 years. If so, we will automatically recalculate your benefit amount and pay you any increase due.

The best and easiest way to apply for your benefits is with a personal my Social Security account. You can create your free account at ssa.gov/myaccount. Once you create your account, you can get an estimate of how much you might receive each month based on when you want to start receiving benefits and then apply.

In your account, you can also:

- Access publications – like our fact sheet for workers ages 70 and up at ssa.gov/myaccount/assets/materials/workers-70andup.pdf.
- Learn about benefits for your spouse and family members.
- Manage your benefits once you start receiving them.

We're here to help you secure today and tomorrow and we invite you to learn more about applying for retirement benefits at ssa.gov/apply.

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

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

FROM HATCHERY TO PARKLAND: The transformation of Hastings' historic Fish Hatchery site

DAVID W. MILLER
Special to The Banner

When visitors arrive at Fish Hatchery Park on Green Street in Hastings—perhaps to enjoy a soccer match, a game of softball, or an afternoon at the playground—they are walking across a site rich in conservation history. From 1919 to 1975, this 10-acre tract served as one of Michigan's state-operated fish hatcheries, producing hundreds of thousands of game fish for inland lakes and streams across southern Michigan.

The story begins in 1919, when the Michigan State Board of Fish Commissioners acquired the first parcels of land from local residents. That October, the state purchased 8.75 acres and a small adjoining plot (0.02 acres) from Chester, Richard, and Frances W. Messer. Later that fall, on Nov. 5, another 24.2 acres were purchased from Henry and Myrtil Trimm, followed by an additional 9.33 acres from the same family in July 1921. In between, the state also bought 19.15 acres from Richard and Alice Bates on November 18, 1919. This latter parcel, with its spring-fed headwaters, proved critical—it not only fed the hatchery ponds but also served as the source of the east branch of West Creek. These contiguous lands formed the foundation of the Hastings State Fish Hatchery.

Official operations began in 1920 as part of a broader initiative by the state to replenish game fish in Michigan's waters. The facility was well-suited for this purpose. Nine earthen ponds, designed for the rearing of fish, were fed by West Creek and connected by a gravity-fed system of underground pipes. The hatchery operated year-round and became a source of local pride and employment. Among the staff were men like Ira Shultz, Clyde Lydell, John L. Brass, Raymond Fitch and Robert Fortney, who helped raise countless thousands of fish that would eventually populate rivers and lakes in Barry, Eaton, Calhoun, Ingham and Jackson counties.

Sweezy Pond and West Creek, which fed into the Fish Hatchery, have a west branch on the M. L. Cook farm. The two branches combine on Kim Sigler's farm and flow across and under the highway to the hatchery. A dam with a 30-inch head at the bridge just north of the highway diverts the water through a 12-inch pipe to No. 1 Pond. From there, the creek water went to the other ponds by gravity flow. The water was used in nine different ponds. It was directed as it flowed from one pond to the other. After being used in the five ponds, it would be returned to West Creek below the hatchery.

In 1928, a 2,000-square-foot structure was erected as the centerpiece of the Hastings State Fish Hatchery. Designed with purpose and precision, this principal building housed four large breeding and research tanks—each integral to the scientific study and propagation of game fish in Michigan. Within its walls, hatchery workers monitored water conditions, observed fish behavior and conducted experiments that helped refine techniques in species cultivation. More than just a utility building, it stood as a symbol of the state's growing commitment to conservation and fisheries research during a time when natural resource management was entering a new and more deliberate era. Today, it is managed by the Hastings Parks and Recreation Department and is available for rent.

By 1930, the Hastings hatchery had reached peak productivity—reporting the distribution of over 20,000 smallmouth bass, more than 62,000 largemouth bass, and an astonishing 450,000 bluegill in a single year. Schoolchildren and residents regularly visited the hatchery, fascinated by the spectacle of fish darting through clear water under the watchful care of state workers. Many of the local adults have fond memories of ice skating on the ponds at the Fish Hatchery, while one pond was always reserved for ice hockey.

Another notable structure on the property sits atop the hill west of the entrance road—a modest 1,130-square-foot house built in 1923 to serve as the official residence of the Fish Hatchery Supervisor. Over the years, it became home to two longtime hatchery leaders: John Brass and, later, Robert Fortney, each of whom resided there for more than a decade while overseeing operations at the facility. Today, the former supervisor's home remains standing and has since been converted into a private residence, quietly preserving a chapter of the hatchery's working legacy.

As the decades passed, advances in fish propagation technology and a shift toward larger, more centralized hatcheries led to the gradual obsolescence of smaller operations like Hastings. The hatchery staff dwindled, and it eventually ceased operations by 1975. And in the years that followed, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources declared the land surplus.

In the late 1970s, Michigan Representative Wayne Sackett of Portage introduced legislation to transfer roughly 9 to 10 acres of the former hatchery property to the City of Hastings for public park use. Although his initial bill passed the Michigan House of Representatives, it failed to reach a vote in the Senate before the legislative session adjourned. Sackett reintroduced the bill the following year, and it passed the House unanimously (100–0). The measure was eventually approved by the Senate and signed into law by Governor William G. Milliken.

The legislation conveyed the land to the City of Hastings for a token fee of $1, with the stipulation that the site must be developed for public recreational purposes. If not, ownership would revert to the state. City leaders embraced the opportunity. Director of Public Services Michael Klovanich confirmed that the hatchery's conversion into a city park had already been identified as a top priority in the municipal development plan. A grant application for $35,000 was submitted to the state's Bureau of Outdoor Recreation to support the project.

The initial park development phase focused on constructing a baseball diamond, with later proposals including tennis courts, basketball and handball courts. The site—adjacent to Pennock Hospital and easily accessible via Green Street—quickly became an integral part of the city's recreational landscape.

The Fish Hatchery Park was dedicated in 1988; while the fish are gone and the earthen dykes have given way to grassy fields and playground equipment, the spirit of the Hastings State Fish Hatchery lives on. Its transformation from a hub of aquatic conservation to a community gathering space represents a thoughtful preservation of public land for public good. The quiet legacy of those nine ponds endures—not only in the streams once stocked with fish, but in the memories still made each day in the park that bears its name.

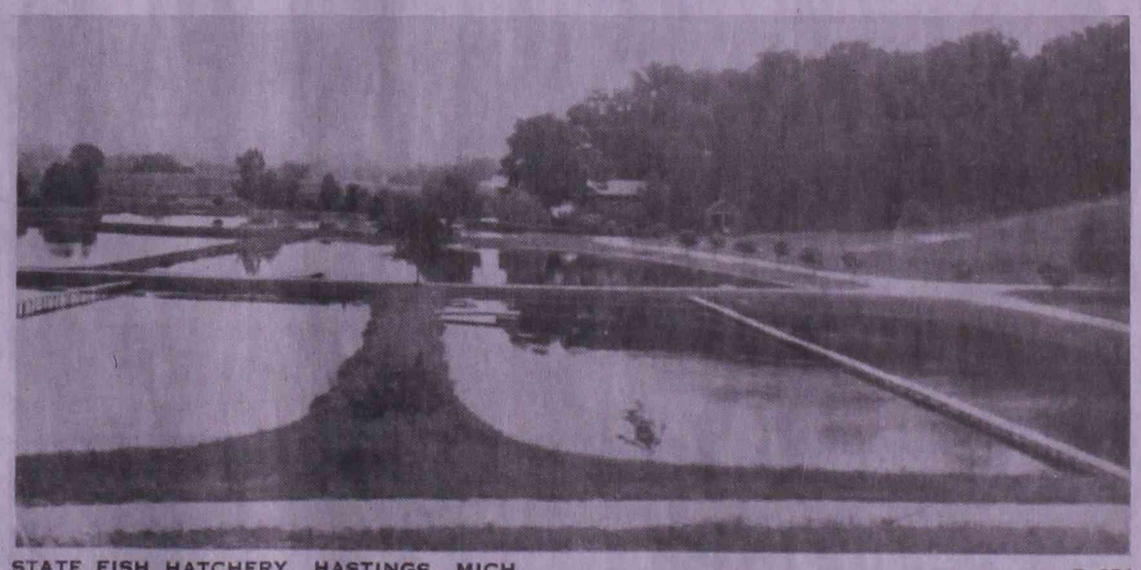
David Miller is a moderator for the "Hastings History" Facebook group.



An overheard view of Hastings' Fish Hatchery Park. **Courtesy photos**



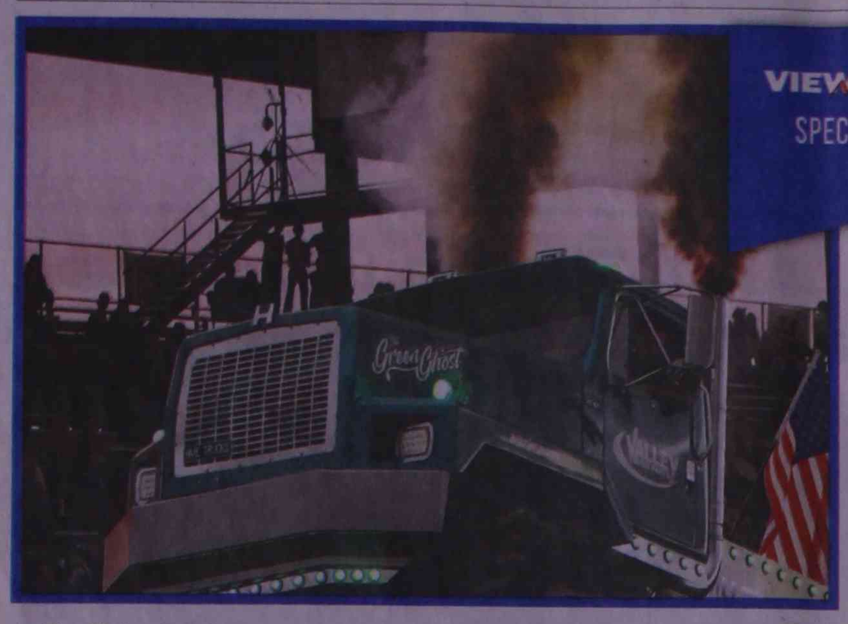
This building, still found at Fish Hatchery Park today, originally housed four large breeding and research tanks—each integral to the scientific study and propagation of game fish in Michigan.



This undated photo shows some of the nine ponds used for breeding and replenishing Michigan's game fish at the current Fish Hatchery Park in Hastings. The Hastings State Fish Hatchery was established in 1919. It closed in 1975.



This house, built in 1923, served as the official residence of the Fish Hatchery supervisor. Today, it is a private residence.



VIEW Shopper Group
SPECIAL PAGES



The Valley Truck Parts "Green Ghost" entertains the crowd during the Michigan Pullers truck and tractor pull at the Barry County Fair July 17.

BARRY COUNTY FAIR

Mike Schandorf pulls his way to a victory in the V-8 Hot Rod, LLSS Tractors, class during the Michigan Pullers Truck and Tractor Pulls July 17 at the Barry County Fair grandstand.

Records broken and champions crowned at annual fair grandstand shows

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

It was another fair week that grew into long lines, big crowds, loud engines, long cheers and lasting memories at the Barry County Fair grandstand shows in 2025.

A couple track records fell during the Michigan Harness Horseman's Association competitions the opening weekend of the fair July 12-13 and wrapped up the following weekend, July 19, with some local kids really getting up to speed in the SJO Productions State Fair Series Motocross races.

In between there were mud runs, rodeo, a couple evenings of Off Road Derby and demolition derby and Michigan Pullers truck and tractor pulls capped off by the usual celebrity appearance from the Valley Truck Parts Green Ghost monster semi.

Bentley Hewitt of Hastings was one of the first champions crowned at the July 13 motocross event, winning both motos in the 65 7-9 class to take the title. Lake Odessa racer Gatlyn Mesecar won two motos too in the 65 10-11 division for a title. Sunfield rider Kyle Petrie took the 250 All Star A/B division by winning both motos on his Kawasaki. Vermontville racer Parker Molnar won the Trail 4-11 division with a pair of moto wins too.

Delton racers had a pretty great evening. Tucker Tack took both motos in the 250 Intermediate class for a win. Colton Warnken won the 50 Trail 4-6 contest by taking both motos in his class. Eli Schierbeek won both motos in the Pit Bike 16+ for a title too.

In all 39 different division were contested at the fair motocross.

Those contests came on the heels of the previous night's Unique Motor Sports Off Road Derby and Demolition Derby Friday, July 18, where championships were won in powder puff, youth, 4-cylinder and V6 Off Road Derby classes as well as the demolition derby at the end of the night.

John Kubek of Hastings was the last one left at the end of the V6 Off Road Derby, the big race at the end of the evening. Brynn Bolo's car had petered out and Travis Kirby's car banged into Bolo as he tried to maneuver around the first turn of the final lap.

Other winners from the last Off Road Derby evening of the week included Lilly Stoike from Zeeland in the youth feature, Dave Tossava from Hastings in the 4-cylinder feature, and Madison Pettengill from Hastings in the Powder Puff feature.

The Wednesday, July 16, Super Kicker Rodeo just raced its grandstand show to the finish line before a massive thunderstorm rolled through the area – pushing some slack events late into the evening. Cowboys, and girls, competed for points and prizes in Women's Barrel Racing, Team Roping, Bull Riding and Ranch Bronc Riding.

A first night of Unique Motor Sports Off Road Derby entertained the grandstand crowd Tuesday, July 15, a night after an opening night show of Mud Mitten Racing Series mud bog runs.



Cecilia Noe holds on to the sheep as Trent Noe holds on to her during the mutton busting competition for youth in the middle of the July Super Kicker Rodeo show at the 2025 Barry County Fair. **Photos by Brett Bremer**



AJ Timm is out in front of Matt Rowley and the rest of the field during a heat of the V6 competition in front of the grandstand at the Barry County Fair July 18 on what was the second night of Unique Motor Sports Off Road Derby at the 2025 fair.

We support the youth of Barry County and the 172nd Barry County Fair

BCTC & MEI Telecom Services
Fiber - Voice - Data

623-9005 • 945-0043
www.mei.net

Yoder's Portable Buildings
2033 M-43 Hwy, Hastings, MI
Proud Supporter of the FFA & 4-H
"YOU CAN'T BEAT QUALITY"
YODER'S PORTABLE BUILDINGS
"Come see Chuck
269-200-2299

BARRY COUNTY FAIR BEEF WINNERS



Hudson Jousma stands with his Grand Champion steer at the 2025 Barry County Fair Large Livestock Sale. His steer weighed 1,450 pounds and sold for $7 a pound. Michigan Pipe & Valve purchased the steer.

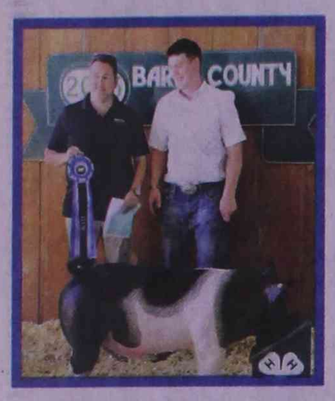


Lucas Wilson stands with his Reserve Champion and Champion Home-Grown steer at the 2025 Barry County Fair Large Livestock Sale. His steer weighed 1,370 pounds and sold for $3.70 a pound. Yankee Springs Dairy purchased the steer.



Weston VanEeuwen raised the Grand Champion beef carcass at the 2025 Barry County Fair. His carcass weighed 770 pounds and sold for $7 a pound. Three Brothers Pizza purchased the carcass.

BARRY COUNTY FAIR SWINE WINNERS



Case Shellenbarger of the Lakewood Community 4-H club raised the Supreme Champion market hog at this year's Barry County Fair, weighing in at 265 pounds. His hog was purchased for $10 a pound by Nutrien Ag Solutions.



Silas Potter of the Cloverleaf 4-H club raised the swine category's Grand Champion carcass this year. Carpenter Gravel Inc. purchased the 160-pound carcass for $14.50 a pound.



Emma Mae Bush of the Thornapple Roots club raised this year's Barry County Fair Grand Champion gilt, weighing in at 276 pounds. Her hog was purchased by Caledonia Farmers Elevator for $7.75 a pound.

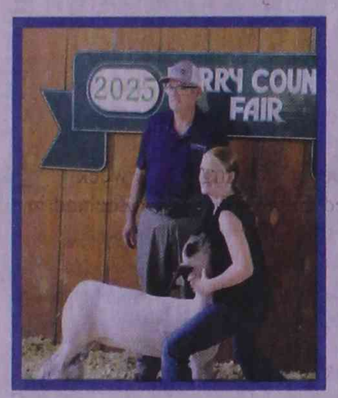


Jackson Hayes poses with his Reserve Champion gilt. His 260-pound hog sold for $5.50 a pound to K & V Management.



Jackson Hayes poses with his Reserve Champion barrow, which also sold to K & V Management. His 235-pound hog sold for $7.25 a pound.

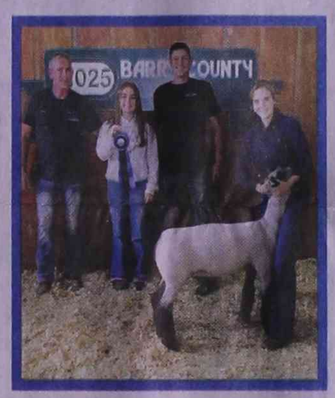
BARRY COUNTY FAIR SHEEP WINNERS



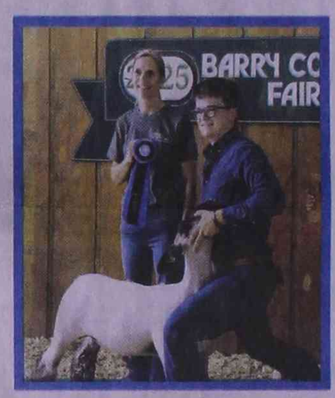
Tessa Shellenbarger of the Lakewood Community 4-H club stands with her Supreme Champion ewe at last month's Barry County Fair Large Livestock Sale. Crystal Flash purchased the 109-pound ewe for $14 a pound.



Charles Mattice of the Lakewood Community Club raised this year's Grand Champion carcass lamb. The 76-pound carcass was purchased by Chapple Realty at the price of $16 per pound.



Emma Geukes stands with her Reserve Champion ewe, purchased by CoDee Stamping for $14 a pound.



Charles Mattice stands with his 130-pound Grand Champion wether at the 2025 Barry County Fair Large Livestock Sale last month. His wether sold to Joe & Barb's Septic Services for $10.50 a pound.



Tessa Shellenbarger poses with her Reserve Champion wether at last month's Large Livestock Sale. Her wether sold to Nutrien Ag Solutions for $16 a pound.

Congratulations 4-H & FFA Members on a Job Well Done at the Barry County Fair!
GIRRBACH FUNERAL HOME
269-945-3252
www.girrbachfuneralhome.net

Congratulations to All Barry County Fair Participants!
from
GREEN STREET CHURCH
Located in the Heart of Hastings for a Purpose
We Feed People!
Worship Sundays at 10:00 am and Tuesdays at 5:00 pm
Green Street Church is located at 209 W. Green St.
For more info: www.greenstreetumc.faith or 269-945-9574

JB Joe & Barb's
SEPTIC SERVICE
Joe Lyons & John Curtis,
Owner/Operators
Congrats to all the participants of 4-H and FFA.
3305 West Quimby Road, Hastings, MI 49058
269.945.4240

WE CONNECT COMMUNITIES
Let us connect you to your next customer!
VIEW Newspaper Group
We reach more than 352,000 homes each week
and know how to make the most of your advertising budget.
— Schedule a consultation today —
Contact Advertising Director Pete Clinton • 810-664-0811 • pclinton@mihomepaper.com

BARRY COUNTY FAIR ★ WINNERS



Best of Show winners in the non-livestock category pose for a picture at this year's Barry County Fair.



Outstanding winners in the 2025 Barry County Fair non-livestock category.

Area youth take part in non-livestock shows at Barry County Fair

MOLLY MACLEOD
Editor

There are dozens of projects area youth can get involved with through 4-H. Not all 4-Hers raise animals for the fair. The following are this year's Barry County Fair Non-Livestock winners.

Food Preparation Level 1
Best of Show: Clair Benedict.
Outstanding: Kayden Mizer, Cate Sporer, Desmond Thaler, Marjorie Hesselschwardt.

Food Preparation Level 2
Best of Show: Kailee White.
Outstanding: Lucy Sporer.

Food Preparation Level 3
Best of Show: Nora Patrick.
Outstanding: Emma Koons.

Creative Food
Best of Show: Samantha Pavlik.
Outstanding: Evalou Gates.

Cake Decoration
Best of Show: Clair Benedict.
Outstanding: Paisley Miller.

Any Other Food
Best of Show: Emma Koons.
Outstanding: Jonah Bendict.

Canning
Best of Show: Jadeyn Trudgeon.
Outstanding: Cara Nummers.

Metal Art
Best of Show: Kassandra Harton.
Outstanding: Madison Ward.

Wood Art
Best of Show: Jack Greenland.
Outstanding: Kypton Peters, Mylee Wiers.

Paper Craft
Best of Show: Olive Westcott.
Outstanding: Leah Hirdes.

Card Making
Best of Show: Elaina Thompson.

Scrapbooking
Best of Show: Victoria Tack.

Fabric Painting/Stenciling
Best of Show: Victoria Tack.
Outstanding: Aiden Spear.

Weaving
Best of Show: Josey Stanton.
Outstanding: Nora Patrick.

Themed Gift Baskets/Box/Bag
Best of Show: Paisley Miller.
Outstanding: Marley Manszewaki.

Holiday Decorations
Best of Show: Ariella Wilson.
Outstanding: Elaina Thompson

Recycled Craft
Best of Show: Misha Haskins.
Outstanding: Natalie Miller.

Drawing
Best of Show: Lillian Alkema.
Outstanding: Harper Dakin, Noah Schnittker, William Bever.

Drawing
Best of Show: Kelsey Baker.
Outstanding: Ethan Devroy, Liam Roodvoets.

Drawing
Best of Show: Quinn Heyboer.
Outstanding: Karlee Baker.

Painting (9-11yr)
Best of Show: Liliana Fox.
Outstanding: Paisley Miller, Gavin Seibrisht, Leana Gyekis.

Painting (12-14yr)
Best of Show: Marjori Hesselschwardt. Outstanding: Lauren Freidnoff, Natalie Miller.

Painting (15-18yr)
Best of Show: Annabella Tobias.
Outstanding: Baylie Guernsey, Audrey Wieringa.

Sculpture
Best of Show: Marley Manszewaki.

Sculpture
Best of Show: Jaci Goodroe.
Outstanding: Marley Manszewaki.

Pottery
Best of Show: Liliana Fox.
Outstanding: Lindsay Potter.

Photo w/ Phone Camera (15-18yr)
Best of Show: Payton Billotti.
Outstanding: Annabelle Pennington, Mia Miller, Karen Titus, Samantha Pavlik, Brooklyn Bracy.

Youth Science/ Printed Project 3D
Best of Show: Kayden Mizer.

Computer Programming
Best of Show: Anna Tietz.

Woodworking
Best of Show: Victoria Tack.
Outstanding: Ethan Devroy, Mylee Wiers.

Welding
Best of Show: Huck Flower.

Metal Cage
Best of Show: Chloe Webb.

Goat Market
Best of Show: Adalyne O'Heran.
Outstanding: Addison Girrbach, Anna Tietz.

Goat Notebook
Best of Show: Gerrit Taber.
Outstanding: Bridget Kayser, Addison Petersen.

Goat Educational
Best of Show: Nathanial Blasen.
Outstanding: Liam Roodvoets.

Youth Educational Projects
Best of Show: Victoria Tack.
Outstanding: Emma Koons, Madison Koons, Addilyn Delnay, Cora Schanhals, Jordynn Bellgraph.

Youth Educational Projects
Best of Show: Baylie Guernsey.

Sheep Market Journal (9-11yr)
Best of Show: Skylar Wurm.
Outstanding: Addilyn Delaney.

Sheep Market Journal (15-18yr)
Best of Show: Annalyn Dakin.
Outstanding: Kaylie Carl, Emma Reil.

Sheep Market Journal (12-14yr)
Best of Show: Marian Perry.
Outstanding: Jordyn Dakin.

Photo w/ Phone Camera (9-11yr)
Best of Show: Makayla Strouse.
Outstanding: Claire Benedict, Kayden Mizer.

Photo w/ Phone Camera (12-14yr)
Best of Show: Charlie Bolthouse.
Outstanding: Natalie Miller, Sophie Lebeck, Marjone Hesselschwardt.

Dairy Feeder- Intermediate Dairy Feeder Notebook
Best of Show: Easton Thelen.
Outstanding: Macy Wenger, Johnny Schnittker.

Dairy Feeder- Senior Dairy Feeder Notebook
Best of Show: Hunter Seaben.
Outstanding: Carisa Rosenberger.

Continued on next page

Thank You... to the 4-H and FFA Small Animal Auction Buyers

Grand Champion Homegrown Pen of 3 Fryer Rabbits	Danny Maass
Grand Champion Homegrown Pen of 3 Roaster Rabbits	G & H Concessions
Grand Champion Homegrown Single Fryer Rabbit	Bonnie Meredith
Grand Champion Homegrown Single Roaster Rabbit	David Vandlen
Grand Champion Purchased Pen of 3 Fryer Rabbits	R & R Rabbitry
Grand Champion Purchased Pen of 3 Roaster Rabbits	Northern Lights Cleaning Servcies
Grand Champion Purchased Single Fryer Rabbit	Stanton Farms
Grand Champion Purchased Single Roaster Rabbit	Barry County Clerk - Sarah VanDenburg
Grand Champion Dozen Eggs	State Senator Thomas Albert
Grand Champion Pen of 3 Market Ducks	Pratt Valley Farms
Grand Champion Single Market Duck	Thrivent - Philip Maass, CFP, Wayland
Grand Champion Roaster Chicken Hen	Bradford White Corporation
Grand Champion Roaster Chicken Cock	Sweat Family
Grand Champion Pen of 3 Fryer Chickens	Beam Farm
Grand Champion Single Fryer Chicken	Osborne Farms, LLC
Grand Champion Market Turkey Hen	J & C Property Maintenance, LLC
Grand Champion Market Turkey Tom	Chad Miller Southside Auto Body
Grand Champion Market Goose	Edward Jones - Andrew Cove & Madison Cove
Grand Champion Dairy Doe - Quart of Milk	J & C Property Maintenance, LLC
Grand Champion Market Goat	Lake Odessa Livestock

LEADING THE WAY 4-H TO THE FUTURE

AIS Construction
Anlaan
Art & Dee's Kitchen & Bath
BC Veterinary Service
Back Woods Search & Rescue
Barry Co Fairboard
Barry County Clerk - Sarah VanDenburg
Beam Farm
Berens Farm Repair Service LLC
Bob Green Trucking
Bonnie Meredith
Bradford White Corporation
Bush Family Farm
CLE Farm
Caledonia Farmers Elevator
Carbon Concrete
Centrie Concrete Cutting & Drilling
Chad Miller Southside Auto Body
Christie Seeds
Coldstone Transport
Congressman John Moolenaar
D&D Soft Water
Dan Shepler
Danny Maass
David Vandlen
DeVore Family
Dykstra & Son Excavating
Edward Jones-Andrew Cove & Madison Cove
Electric Motor Service
Falconer Family Farm
Flower Horseshoeing
G & H Concessions
George and Ruth Broadhurst
Gibson Family
Gless Brothers
Green Goddess Farms
Greenstone Farm Credit Services
Hastings Pro Auto Service
Highpoint Community Bank
In Memory of Bob & Iva Osborne
In Memory of Matt Pennington
J & C Property Maintenance, LLC
Jim Hostler
Jimmy Vanderwall
Joe & Barb Septic Service
K-S Transport, LLC
Keen Pest Control
Ken & Heather Jones
Ken Osborne & Kelly Springer
Kentwood Excavating
Kristan Mattheis
Lake Odessa Livestock
Lanna Andrews & Ken Kenyon
Lauren Ringwold
Lynn Denton Farm Bureau
Lynn Zandbergen
MCP Ranch
MJR Electric
Martin Electric
Michigan Pipe & Valve
Mid State Plumbing
Miller Real Estate
Mohan
Morgan Electric Services
Nancy Allerding
Northern Lights Cleaning Services
O'Heran Livestock
Osborne Farms LLC
Otto Turkey Farm
Our Legacy Hobby Farm
Patrick Construction
Pickard Meats
Pratt Valley Farms
R & R Power Solutions
R & R Rabbitry
Redwood Construction
Rhino's Plumbing
Rice's Shoes
Rick Reed Builders
Rob Oosterheert
Rock Hill Farms
Rodney & Connie Vaughn
Roede Family
Rose Construction
S.D.E. Sawdust Express
Sean Teeples OVD Insurance
Shelly Huntington
South Kent Veterinary Hospital
Spencers Towing
Stacey Garrison DDS
Stanton Farms
State Senator Thomas Albert
Sweat Boyz Welding & Fabricating
Sweat Family
Swisslane Farms
The VanDenburg Family
Thornapple Vet Med Center
Thrifters Oasis, B.C.
Thrivent - Philip Maass, CFP - Wayland
Tim O'Heran
Tom & Gail Robinson
Trademark Electric
Triple T's (TTT) Outdoor Adventures
Trudgeon Family
Tyler & Stephanie Wenger
Valley Grove Dairy
Wahlfield Drilling
Wasikowski Family
Wayland Hopkins Livestock

Thank you Yutzy's Auction & Appraisal, Thornapple Credit Union and Moo-ville for your services

Congratulations on another successful Fair!

HASTINGS Pro Auto SERVICE, LLC

- Major & Minor Repairs
- Check Engine Light & Electrical
- Diagnosis
- Transmission Flushes
- Coolant Flushes
- Fuel System Cleaning

269-948-2121
229 N. Broadway, Hastings
Owners Jerry & Patty Ballard
OPEN M-F 8am-5pm

Blue Seal of Excellence

Livestock sales set high marks in 2025

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 attendance 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.

"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 set records, with the small livestock sale numbers up 30% from last year. The large livestock sale brought in a grand total of $1,180,115 in 2025. This is up from the $1,057,642.75 raised in 2024.

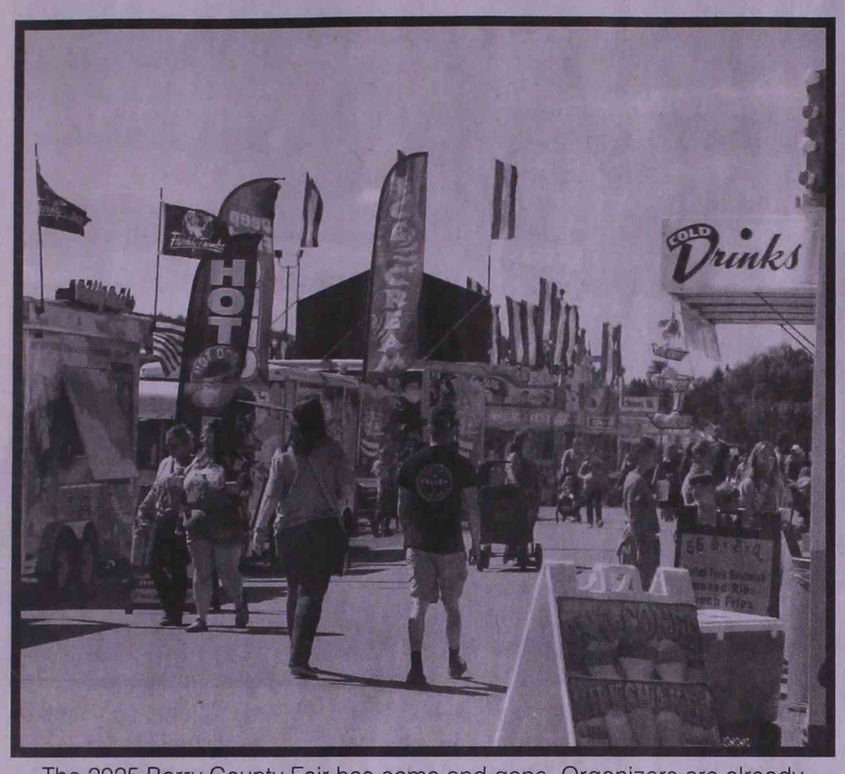
"All in all, it was a good fair for everybody," Redman said.

In total, area 4-Hers sold 430 animals in the 2025 large livestock sale: 95 lambs, 88 beef and 247 swine. That's 191,943 pounds of animals raised by local youth. On average, bidders spent $7.55 per pound across the large livestock sale categories.

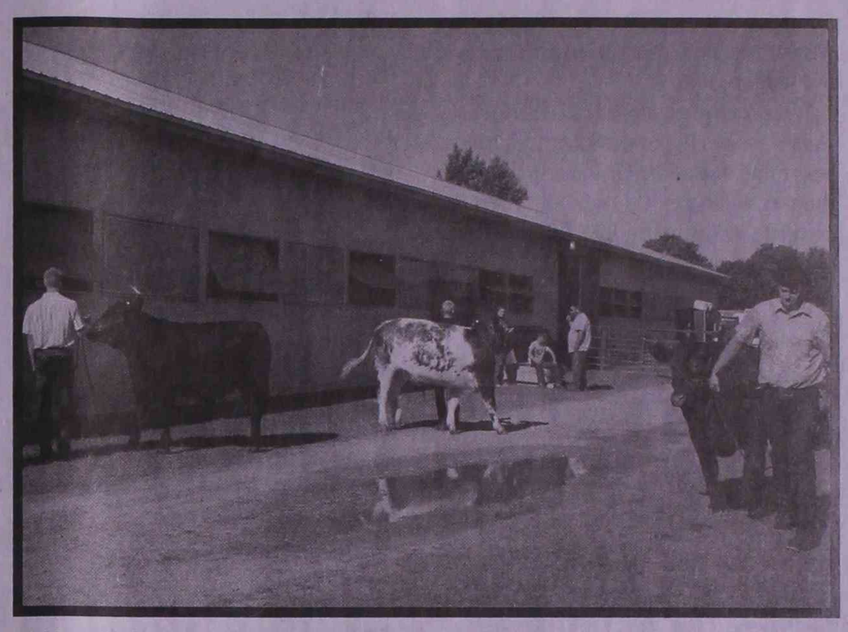
Those already missing the fair can look forward to next year. The 173rd Annual Barry County Fair is slated to take place July 18-25, 2026.



Rabbits, cavies, poultry and goats — oh my! The 2025 Barry County Fair Small Livestock Auction saw an increase in sales by roughly 30% from last year. Here, Lucas Wilson stands with his Grand Champion market goat.
Courtesy photo



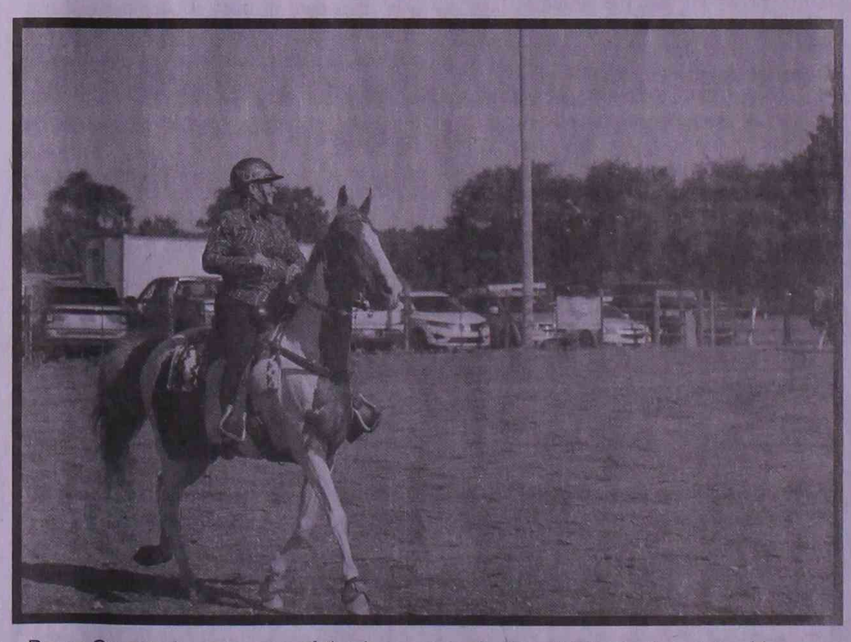
The 2025 Barry County Fair has come and gone. Organizers are already looking forward to next year's fair.



4-Hers line up their steers for auction at last month's Barry County Fair Large Livestock Auction.



Dozens of area businesses and individuals supported Barry County youth at this year's Barry County Fair Large Livestock Auction.



Barry County boasts one of the largest agricultural fairs in the state. Here, a 4-Her participates in a horse show on Friday, July 18.



This lamb warms up in its sweater ahead of its livestock sale debut on Friday, July 18. **Photos by Molly Macleod**

Continued from previous page

Dairy Feeder- Junior Dairy Feeder Notebook
Best of Show: Madilynn Wenger.
Outstanding: Jordyn Blaauw, Noah Schnittker, Desmond Thaler.

Dairy- Junior Dairy Notebook
Best of Show: Claire Benedict.
Outstanding: Paisley Miller.

Dairy- Senior Dairy Notebook
Best of Show: Karlee Baker.
Outstanding: Rebecca Snyder.

Dairy- Intermediate Dairy Notebook
Best of Show: Kelsey Baker.
Outstanding: Mason Westendorp.

Creative Writing 12-14
Best of Show: Leigha Jones.

Creative Writing 15-18
Best of Show: Anna Dakin.

Other Art 9-11
Best of Show: Hudson Milleson.

Creative Writing 9-11
Best of Show: Nora Patrick.
Outstanding: Maci Osborne.

Drawing Ages 12-14
Best of Show: Emily Coe.

Community Service
Best of Show: Jaci Goodroe.

Entrepreneurship
Best of Show: Chloe Wymer.

Any Other Craft
Best of Show: Lillian Fox.
Outstanding: Victoria Tack, Nathan Mosqueda, Mia Miller.

Photography, Other Camera
Best of Show: Lyla Tietz.
Outstanding: Emma Koons, Kayden Mizer, Catilyn Helms.

Quilting
Best of Show: Jordyn Dakin.

Quick and Showing
Best of Show: Amelia Mattice.

Clothing
Best of Show: Leana Gyekis.
Outstanding: Emerson Leary.

Creative Sewing
Best of Show: Tillie Roodvoets.
Outstanding: Abbigail Stoutjesdyk

Needlework
Outstanding: Olive Wescott, Cora Schanhals.

Ceramics
Best of Show: Annabella Tobias.
Outstanding: Sophie Lebeck.

Glass Craft
Best of Show: Leana Gyekis.

Leather Craft
Best of Show: Liam Roodvoets.

Decoupage
Best of Show: Lyla Tietz.

Wax/Gel Craft
Best of Show: Jaci Goodroe.

Soap Making
Best of Show: Nora Patrick.

Jewelry
Best of Show: Brent Zurface.
Outstanding: Chloe Wyne.
Individual Exhibitor
Best of Show: Annalyn Dakin.

Felting
Best of Show: Charlie Bolthouse.

Demonstrations Shoot Sports
Best of Show: Johnathan Dornbush.

Competitive Shooting
Best of Show: Gavin Sebright.
Outstanding: Emily Coe, Sawyer Jones.

Outdoorsmanship
Best of Show: Gavin Sebright.

Fins, Feathers, Furs, and Hides
Best of Show: Abbigail Stoutjesdyk.

Conservation, Energy, Water, and Land
Best of Show: Madison Ward.

Entomology
Best of Show: Brent Zurface.

Flowers 9-18
Best of Show: Maci Callihan.
Outstanding; Madelyn Miller.

Flowers 9-11, 12-14, 15-18
Best of Show: Jaci Goodroe.
Outstanding: Makayla Strouse.

Indoor/Outdoor Garden
Best of Show: Victoria Tack.
Outstanding: Paisley Miller, Elanina Thompson.

Lawn and Garden Ornaments
Best of Show: Lillian Alkema.

SPORTS

Allersma a two-time runner-up at Junior Olympics

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Her chores include things like taking care of the chickens, cats and goats.

The goats like to get out of their pen. Good thing for her, she's faster than them.

At 11, she's faster than almost everybody else her age too. And she is closing in on being as fast as the high school girls.

Delton Kellogg sixth grader Arabelle Allersma finished as the national runner-up in the girls' 3,000-meter and 1,500-meter races at the AAU Junior Olympic Games in Houston, Texas, last week. Allersma also placed ninth in the 800-meter race.

With continued work and a little luck, she might be able to work her way up to becoming one of the GOATs of distance running at Delton Kellogg. She'll get to compete with the middle school cross country team for the first time this fall.

"We're going to do a bleacher run later," Allersma said Monday from the side of the Delton Kellogg High School track where she gets in a lot of her training.

"They're pretty cool," she said with a big smile. "They're fun."

Her father Michael Allersma, a Delton Kellogg Middle School cross country coach and track and field coach, and Delton Kellogg High School track and field assistant coach Tyler Bourdo have been guiding her in her quest to get faster and faster. Bourdo coaches the Delton Kellogg Track Club and coached her during her winter indoor season.

Arabelle set her personal record in the 1,500-meter run at the AAU Junior Olympics with a time of 4 minutes 54.19 seconds. Another PR of 2:28.28 in the 800-meter run nearly put her on the medal stand in that event too. She placed ninth. She earned a time of 11:05.86 in the 3,000-meter run to place second in that race.

She said the 1,500-meter run was her favorite race of the week. She was one of three girls to finish the race in less than five minutes. Kalliah Boddie from the Maryland Blaze Track Club ended up outracing Arabelle at the end for a winning time of 4:51.46. She was just over two and a half seconds in front of Arabelle.

"It was close between me and her," Arabelle said. "There was a different girl that didn't win the race, at first, that went out too fast. So, I just stayed on her. Then a girl at the end (Boddie) at the end, with like 400 meters to go, she passed me and we were right together. She got a pretty good gap on me by the 200-meter mark. At the 200 I really kicked it though and almost caught up to her."

Allersma had also competed with Boddie at the AAU Indoor National Championships back in March. That time Allersma took the national title with a time of 10:50.15, beating out Boddie by a little over seven seconds in the 3,000-meter championship.



Delton Kellogg sixth grader Arabelle Allersma celebrates with her two medals from the AAU Junior Olympics during a practice session at the Delton Kellogg High School track Monday. Allersma was the national runner-up in the 3,000-meter run and the 1,500-meter run last week in Houston, Texas. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

The 3,000-meter run was the very first race of the day at the Junior Olympics Monday morning, July 28. Arabelle said her plan was to stick with Boddie throughout that race, calling her one of her "best competitors."

"That did not go so well. We went out too hard and had a fast 400 and then we died, both of us," Allersma said. Arabelle was second in that race with Boddie third. Yate Hirbo, from the COOSA Elite team out of Alabama, raced for the win thanks to a time of 10:53.09 finishing about 12 seconds better than Arabelle.

Arabelle had Tuesday off in Houston and ran the 800-meter race Wednesday, July 30.

The 800-meter run is her least favorite of the three, but she performed pretty well in Houston. An 800-meter run is basically an all-out sprint for two laps around the track, and a lot of young runners agree it is one of the toughest races in their sport. She was really happy with her performance in that one.

"My arms die out fast in that race," Arabelle said.

Arabelle's time at the Junior Olympics closed out Thursday, July 31, with the 1,500-meter race.

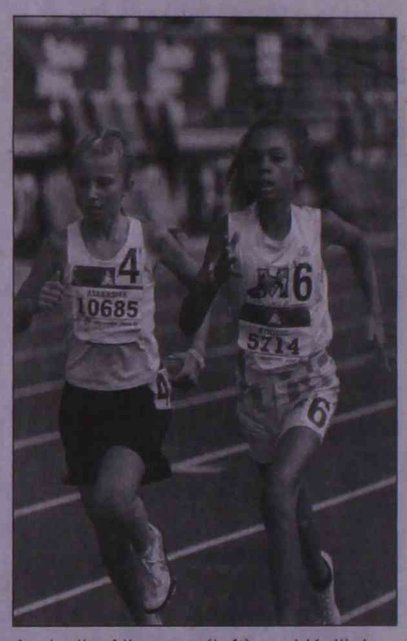
She got to take a trip down to the Atlantic Ocean on her off day in Houston Tuesday, July 29.

Arabelle started running as a fourth grader when her big brother Malachi Allersma started running with the Delton Kellogg Middle School cross country team.

She started competing for the first time last fall, and got into the AAU Track and Field indoor competitions during the 2024-25 winter season. She was the 3,000-meter champion and the runner-up in the 1,500-meter run at the AAU Indoor National Championships in Virginia back in March, and also placed sixth in the 800-meter run there. She set an age group record at the indoor championships in the 3,000 with her time of 10:50.15.

The first competitive race Arabelle remembers was last September's 1-mile Pups race at the annual Otsego Bulldog Invitational where high school runners compete on a 5K course and middle school runners race a 2-mile course. She won her mile race in 6:25.62 while finishing almost a minute ahead of her nearest competitor.

She is still adjusting to the changing of the seasons. Running 3,000 meters can take a lot of laps on a smaller indoor track, but she said the outdoor 400-meter track looked dauntingly long once her competitions moved outside this spring.



Arabelle Allersma (left) and Kalliah Boddie race alongside each other in the 1,500-meter race at the AAU Junior Olympic Games inside Humble High School's George Turner Stadium in Houston, Texas, July 31. **Photo provided**

Arabelle won regional championships in the 3,000 and 1,500 and was the runner-up in the 800 at the Region 12 Qualifier in Ypsilanti in the June to earn her spots in the Junior Olympics.

She ran a couple of 10K races this summer with her dad, but so far said she prefers the 3,000-meter distance.

"I just run and try and keep up with her," Michael said. "I am not really a runner, I just try to keep up with them.

"I ran cross country and track in high school and then I got out of it for a long time, then [Malachi] got into it so I got right back in to running again."

When Arabelle isn't training on the track at Delton Kellogg, she said she does a lot of running on the North Country National Scenic Trail. She prefers the trail running to running on the track, which bodes well for the fall cross country season. She's looking forward to cooling off after middle school runs with slushies.

Her next planned race is the Founders Day 5K in Delton this Saturday, Aug. 9.

STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF BARRY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Trust

In the matter of: THE JAMES L. MCMILLEN AND DOROTHY A. MCMILLEN REVOCABLE LIVING TRUST, dated November 3, 2016

TO ALL CREDITORS: *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedents, James L. McMillen who died on October 28, 2020 and Dorothy A. McMillen who died on July 18, 2025, lived at 265 West Casgrove Street, Nashville, Michigan 49073, died on October 28, 2020 and July 18, 2025, leaving a certain trust under the name of JAMES L. MCMILLEN AND DOROTHY A. MCMILLEN REVOCABLE LIVING TRUST, dated November 3, 2016, wherein the decedents were the Settlors and Mark E. McMillen, Thomas A. McMillen and Robert D. McMillen were named as Successor Co-Trustees serving at the time of or as a result of the decedent's deaths.

Creditors of the decedent and of the trust are notified that all claims against the decedent or against the trust will be forever barred unless presented to Mark E. McMillen, Thomas A. McMillen and Robert D. McMillen, the named Successor Co-Trustees, at Tripp, Tagg & Storrs, Attorneys at Law, 202 South Broadway, Hastings, Michigan 49058 within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: July 29, 2025
NATHAN E. TAGG (P68994)
202 SOUTH BROADWAY, HASTINGS, MI 49058
(269) 948-2900
Mark E. McMillen, Thomas A. McMillen
and Robert D. McMillen, Co-Trustees
1882 South Pease Road, Nashville, MI 49073
517-983-8328

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
BARRY COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. and JUDGE 25-30176-DE

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

Estate of Terry Lynn Weiler. Date of bith: 10-13-1955.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Terry Lynn Weiler, died 6-29-2025.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Shanell Headworth, 703 E. Clinton Street, Hastings, MI 49058, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 206 West Court Street, Hastings, MI 49058 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: 07/28/2025
Michael J. McPhillips P33715
121 West Apple Street, Suite 101
Hastings, Michigan 49058
269-945-3512
Shanell Headworth
703 E. Clinton Street
Hastings, Michigan 49058
616-633-1449

STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF BARRY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Trust

In the Matter of The Elisabeth I. Springer Trust. Date of birth: March 25, 1937.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Elisabeth I. Springer, died July 9, 2025, leaving the above Trust in full force and effect. Creditors of the decedent or against the Trust are notified that all claims against th decedent or trust will be forever barred unless presented to Sandra N. Taylor and David C. Springer, Trustees, within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: 8/4/25

Rhoades McKee PC
Stephanie S. Fekkes P43549
607 North Broadway, Suite A
Hastings, MI 49058
(269) 945-1921
Sandra N. Taylor and David C. Springer
c/o Rhoades McKee
607 North Broadway, Suite A
Hastings, MI 49058
(269) 945-1921

BARRY COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION
FULL-TIME ROAD WORKER

The Barry County Road Commission has an excellent opportunity for a Road Worker. We are seeking skilled, qualified applicants to fill the position. Preferred applicants would have 2+ years of experience, a high school diploma, or GED, **a Michigan Commercial Driver's License with A&N endorsements & current Medical Card**. This is a full-time position with a starting pay rate of $26.63/hour and a competitive benefits package. A valid Michigan Driver's license, criminal background, and a pre-employment drug screen are required.

Benefits
- Health insurance
- 401K
- Paid vacation, sick & personal time
- Paid holidays
- Boot, clothing, eyeglass allowance
- Overtime opportunities
- Training opportunities when applicable

Application & job description can be picked up at the Barry County Road Commission office at 1725 W. M-43 Highway, Hastings, MI 49058, Monday-Friday from 6 AM – 3:45 PM, or found on our website at www.barrycrc.org. You may email your completed application to bcasey@barrycrc.org. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

The Barry County Road Commission is an equal opportunity employer.

Visit us online at mihomepaper.com

HASTINGS AREA SCHOOL SYSTEM

www.hassk12.org
269.948.4400 (phone); 269.948.4425 (fax)
232 West Grand Street, Hastings, Michigan 49058

Hastings Area Schools
August 1, 2025

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Please take a moment to complete the form and return it to your student's school. The Education Benefits Form collects information needed to ensure the school receives state and federal funding for education programs. **Without this information, Hastings Area Schools could lose important funding for education programs that our students need.** These supplemental grants and programs have the potential to offer supports and services for our students including, but not limited to:

- Instructional staff (ex. Reading Interventionists, Math Tutors, Academic & Behavior Aids)
- Teaching supplies and materials
- Counselors and Social Workers
- School Nurses
- Professional Learning for staff
- Parent and Community engagement supplies and activities
- Technology

Why is Hastings Area Schools requesting financial information? The Education Benefits Form determines eligibility of a student or household. The total count of eligible students is used to determine the funding amounts that will be made available to a school. The more forms returned the better.

What do I need to do? Please complete the attached form and return it to Hastings Area Schools, 232 W Grand St. Hastings, MI 49058

What else might my student or household be eligible for? Based on the information you provide on your Education Benefits Form, your child may qualify for other programs such as:

- Programs that provide food support
- Programs that provide field trip support
- Programs that provide school supplies or assist with school fees

If you have any questions, please contact Matt Moore, Food Service Director at 269-948-4417.

Sincerely,

Dr. Nick G. Damico
Superintendent

Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines

(This form is for school personnel use only.)

Family income criteria to be used for the 2025-2026 school year for School Lunch, School Breakfast, or Special Milk Programs.

	A. Scale for Free Meals or Free Milk					B. Scale for Reduced-Price Meals				
Total Family Size	Annual	Monthly	Twice per Month	Bi-Weekly	Weekly	Annual	Monthly	Twice per Month	Bi-Weekly	Weekly
1	20,345	1,696	848	783	392	28,953	2,413	1,207	1,114	557
2	27,495	2,292	1,146	1,058	529	39,128	3,261	1,631	1,505	753
3	34,645	2,888	1,444	1,333	667	49,303	4,109	2,055	1,897	949
4	41,795	3,483	1,742	1,608	804	59,478	4,957	2,479	2,288	1,144
5	48,945	4,079	2,040	1,883	942	69,653	5,805	2,903	2,679	1,340
6	56,095	4,675	2,338	2,158	1,079	79,828	6,653	3,327	3,071	1,536
7	63,245	5,271	2,636	2,433	1,217	90,003	7,501	3,751	3,462	1,731
8	70,395	5,867	2,934	2,708	1,354	100,178	8,349	4,175	3,853	1,927
	7,150	596	298	275	138	10,175	848	424	392	196

*For each additional household member add this amount.

All children from families at or below the income levels in Column A are eligible to receive meals, after school snack, or milk at no cost, if available (Special Milk Program only). Column A is used for the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program, or Special Milk Program.

In addition, Federal P.L. 94-105 makes mandatory the service of reduced-price meals to those children from families within the range of incomes in Column B. These children must be provided with lunches at a price not exceeding 40 cents. If the Breakfast Program or an after-school snack program is available, all children qualifying for free and reduced-price lunches will also qualify for free and reduced-price breakfasts and/or snack. The charge for a reduced-price breakfast may not exceed 30 cents; the charge for reduced price snack may not exceed 15 cents. Column B must therefore be used in providing reduced price meals.

INCOME TO REPORT

Earnings from Work	Public Assistance/Alimony/ Child Support	Pensions/Retirement/All Other Income
• Salary, wages, cash bonuses, commission • **Net** income from self-employment (farm or business) • Strike benefits, unemployment compensation **If you are in the U.S. Military:** • Basic pay and cash bonuses (*do NOT include combat pay, FSSA or privatized housing allowances*) • Allowances for off-base housing, food, and clothing	• Unemployment benefits • Worker's compensation • Supplemental Security Income (SSI) • Cash assistance from State or local government • Alimony payments • Child support payments • Veteran's benefits • Pensions	• Social Security (including railroad retirement and black lung benefits) • Private Pensions or disability benefits • Income from trusts or estates • Annuities • Investment income • Earned interest • Net Rental income • *Regular* cash payments from outside household • Adoption assistance payments

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE EDUCATION BENEFITS FORM

This form is used to determine eligibility for state benefits for which your child(ren)'s school may qualify. Please complete, sign, and return this form to your child's school.

If any member of your household receives benefits from the Food Assistance Program (FAP), Family Independence Program (FIP), or FDPIR, please follow these instructions:

Part A: Student Information – For each student in the household Pre-K through 12th grade, list the last name, first name, grade level, school, and H if homeless, M if Migrant, R if Runaway or F if a Foster Child.

Part B: Benefits Received – If any household member, including adults, receives Food Assistance Program (FAP), Family Independence Program (FIP), or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), provide the name and case number. Bridge Card Numbers and Medicaid Numbers are NOT ACCEPTABLE case numbers.

Part C: Household Size - Check the box for the total number of individuals living in your household. This should include all children and adults, related and un-related, that live in a single dwelling and share income and expenses.

Part D: Annual Household Income – Skip this part

Part E: Certification - Sign the form. Print your name and date.

If your household <u>does not</u> receive benefits from the Food Assistance Program (FAP), Family Independence Program (FIP), or FDPIR, please follow these instructions:

Part A: Student Information - For each student in the household Pre-K through 12th grade, list the last name, first name, grade level, school, and H if homeless, M if Migrant, R if Runaway or F if a Foster Child.

Part B: Benefits Received – Skip this part

Part C: Household Size – Check the box for the total number of individuals living in your household. This should include all children and adults, related and un-related, that live in a single dwelling and share income and expenses.

Part D: Annual Household Income – Moving across the same row as the household size check box, check the box that shows the range of annual income for all people in your household. Make sure to include all of the following income sources: work, welfare, child support, alimony, pensions, retirement, Social Security, SSI, VA benefits, child income and/or all other income. The amount should be before any deductions for taxes, insurance, medical expenses, child support, etc.

Part E: Certification - Sign the form. Print your name, date, and contact information.

EDUCATION BENEFITS FORM SY 2025 - 2026

District: **_Hastings Area Schools_** School: _____

Part A: STUDENT INFORMATION - Complete for each student Pre-K through 12th Grade

Student's Last Name	Student's First Name	Grade Level	School	Identify H if Homeless M if Migrant R if Runaway F if Foster

Part B: BENEFITS RECEIVED (if applicable)

If any member of your household receives Food Assistance Program (FAP), Family Independence Program (FIP), or FDPIR, provide the name and case number for the person who receives benefits. Bridge Card Numbers and Medicaid Numbers are NOT ACCEPTABLE case numbers.

Name: _____ Case Number: _____

Part C: HOUSEHOLD SIZE	Part D: ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME - Select the appropriate range of combined annual income for all people in the household (Include all income before taxes)		
❑ 1 →	❑ At or below $20,345	❑ Between $20,346 and $28,953	❑ At or above $28,954
❑ 2 →	❑ At or below $27,495	❑ Between $27,496 and $39,128	❑ At or above $39,129
❑ 3 →	❑ At or below $34,645	❑ Between $34,646 and $49,303	❑ At or above $49,304
❑ 4 →	❑ At or below $41,795	❑ Between $41,796 and $59,478	❑ At or above $59,479
❑ 5 →	❑ At or below $48,945	❑ Between $48,946 and $69,653	❑ At or above $69,654
❑ 6 →	❑ At or below $56,095	❑ Between $56,096 and $79,828	❑ At or above $79,829
❑ 7 →	❑ At or below $63,245	❑ Between $63,246 and $90,003	❑ At or above $90,004
❑ 8 →	❑ At or below $70,395	❑ Between $70,396 and $100,178	❑ At or above $100,179

*** Special Instructions for households with more than 8 people: DO NOT check the boxes above. Instead, fill in items below:**

Household size (# people): _____ Total annual income: _____

Part E: CERTIFICATION - The head of household or adult designee who completed this form must complete this certification section

I certify (promise) that all information on this form is true and that all income is reported to the best of my knowledge. I understand that this form may impact the amount of State or Federal funding allocated to my local school district. I understand that the information I have provided may be verified.

(Signature) (Printed Name) (Date)

(Address) (City) (Zip)

(Email Address) (Home Phone) (Work Phone)

Do NOT fill out this section. This is for school use only.

Status: F _____ R _____ N _____ Determining Official's Signature: _____ Date: _____

ADMINISTRATION
Dr. Nick Damico, Superintendent
Amy L. Singleton, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance
Beth A. Stevens, Assistant Superintendent of Achievement

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Luke E. Haywood, President
Valerie A. Slaughter, Vice President
Jennifer L. Eastman, Secretary
Michael N. Nickels, Treasurer
Brandy S. Nofz, Trustee
Justin R. Peck, Trustee
Bradley W. Tolles, Trustee

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 28, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Joyce J. Dennie, unmarried

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

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing

Date of Mortgage: July 17, 2014

Date of Mortgage Recording: July 30, 2014

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $9,797.45

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Woodland, Barry County, Michigan, and described as: Lot Twelve (12) of Innovation Subdivision according to the recorded plat thereof being located in the Northwest one-quarter of Section 3 Town 4 North Range 7 West, Woodland Township, Barry County, Michigan.

Common street address (if any): 7795 Woodland Rd, Lake Odessa, MI 48849-9323

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

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

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

This notice is from a debt collector.

Date of notice: July 31, 2025

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

1568098
(07-31)(08-21)

GO ONLINE TO HASTINGSBANNER.COM

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)

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
BARRY COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. and JUDGE 2025-30174-DE

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

Estate of Brian Michael Preston. Date of bith: 03/20/1977.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Brian Michael Preston, died 09/05/2024.

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

Date: 07/28/2025
Nathan E. Tagg P68994
202 South Broadway
Hastings, MI 49058
269-948-2900
Rebecca Preston
2832 South Price Road
Nashville, MI 49073
517-213-3703

MORTGAGE SALE

Pursuant to the terms and conditions of a certain mortgage and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, made by Christopher Bruining and Kylie Bruining, husband and wife, Mortgagors, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc (MERS) as nominee for Flagstar Bank, NA, Mortgagee, dated the 24th day of February, 2023 and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds, for The County of Barry and State of Michigan, on the 27th day of February, 2023 in Inst# 2023-001327 said Mortgage having been assigned to Select Portfolio Servicing, Inc. on which mortgage there is claimed to be due, at the date of this notice, the sum of One Hundred Forty-Two Thousand Eight Hundred Thirty-Five and 69/100 ($142,835.69). 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 Barry County, starting promptly at 01:00 PM o'clock Local Time on the 11th day of September, 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 bid may include interest thereon at 5.87500 per annum and all legal costs, charges, and expenses, including the attorney fees allowed by law, and also any sum or sums which may be paid by the undersigned, necessary to protect its interest in the premises. Which said premises are described as follows: All that certain piece or parcel of land, including any and all structures, and homes, manufactured or otherwise, located thereon, situated in the City of Hastings, County of Barry, State of Michigan, and described as follows, to wit: Lots 7 and 8, Block 2, RJ Grant`s First Addition to the City, formerly Village of Hastings, as recorded in Liber 1 of Plats, Page 15, Barry County Records. Commonly known as 128 W COLFAX ST, HASTINGS, MI 49058 During the six (6) months immediately following the sale, the property may be redeemed, except that in the event that the property is determined to be abandoned pursuant to MCLA 600.3241a, the property may be redeemed 30 days after the foreclosure sale or when the time to provide the notice required by the statute expires, whichever is later. Pursuant to MCLA 600.3278, the mortgagor(s) will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Dated: 08/07/2025 Select Portfolio Servicing, Inc. Mortgagee HLADIK, ONORATO & FEDERMAN, LLP Athena Aitas (P61824) Attorney for Servicer 3290 West Big Beaver Road, Suite 117 Troy, MI 48084 (248)362-2600 24-02032 - 24-02032
1568699
(08-07)(08-28)

New Lion leader comes from Charlotte football program

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Mitchell McClintock got an early start with his new team, and pretty soon he'll get to see what kind of benefits come of that as the 2025 Maple Valley varsity football season nears its start.

McClintock's hiring as a high school math teacher and varsity head football coach at the was approved at the April 13, 2025, meeting of the Maple Valley Schools Board of Education. He got some time to meet the Maple Valley students in the high school setting and has gotten to spend the summer working with his new team.

McClintock was formerly a varsity assistant coach at Charlotte High School.

He's keeping some Maple Valley traditions alive. The Lions once again made the trip in July down to Fort Custer in Battle Creek for some offseason training and conditioning.

Trent Harvey opened the 2024-25 season as the Lion head coach, while also serving as the principal for Maple Valley's Maplewood and Fuller Street elementary buildings. He decided to step away from the football program in late September 2024 after coaching four games. Harvey was replaced on a interim basis by Bryan Faurot.

The 2024 Lions played their way to a record of 2-7 overall. They were 1-6 in what was their first Big 8 Conference season.



Mitchell McClintock is beginning his first season leading the Maple Valley varsity football team this fall. Practice begins Monday for MHSAA member football programs.

Harvey followed Marty Martin who coached the program from the 2014-15 season through the fall of 2023. Martin's tenure included MHSAA 11-player playoff appearances in 2017 and 2018 and a five-season stint with the Lion varsity playing 8-player football from 2019 through 2023. The Maple Valley program returned to 11-player football on the varsity level last fall. Martin has since moved into a role as an assistant coach at Pennfield High School.

Maple Valley High School athletic director Landon Wilkes said the expectation currently is for the Maple Valley program to continue on in 11-player football this fall at both the varsity and junior varsity level. Robert Jarosz returns as the JV head coach for the second consecutive season.

Those 8-player seasons were a bit tumultuous for Maple Valley. The Lions had a mix of successful and lean seasons, but also had an overall high school enrollment number too high to be allowed into the state postseason per MHSAA rules.

Charlotte has had a bit more success recently than the Lions having reached the MHSAA state postseason each year from 2020-2023. The Orioles weren't able to win a playoff game during that stretch though, falling to the Hastings Saxons in the opening round of the Division 4 postseason in 2021, 2022 and 2023.

"He has hit the ground running since he has been here," Wilkes said of McClintock. "We let him focus on getting started and getting used to teaching here and dealing with the classroom stuff. He had done it before, but it is still a brand new district. Once I felt, and the principal felt, he was ready we started doing football stuff … Once everything got rolling, he got his summer program rolled out. We have had quite a few meetings, like an AD and a coach would. He got his summer program lined up, then opened up the weight room for the boys three-days a week, started doing 7-on-7s and took them off to football camp. It has been a pretty good transition."

Wilkes is happy to have a head football coach who is in the high school building.

The athletic office is going through the process now of getting through the Final Forms athletic sign-ups. If pressed for a number, Wilkes said currently he expects about 40 student-athletes in the high school football program at the start this fall. McClintock and the Lions will get to have their first official practices of the 2025 season beginning Aug. 11. The first football games of the season are set for the final week of August. The Lion varsity is set to visit Saranac Thursday, Aug. 28. The JV plays at home against Saranac Aug. 27.

"He is itching to get going. I think everybody in the state right now is," Wilkes said.

The Lions' first home game of the season is scheduled to also be the Big 8 Conference opener against Union City, Sept. 5.

Wilkes said McClintock was chosen from a group of about five "good" applicants for the position.

"He had a good base on both sides of the football, offense and defense, and was willing to kind of take those reigns and run with it," Wilkes said. "He is very down to earth. He knows his X's and O's, no question about that at all. Everything I have heard from the summer from the kids, and coaches and people around him have said he is doing a really good job. Now, what that means for once the season starts – your guess is as good as mine if that makes any sense.

"I think any program's goal when someone is hired, or even if somebody has been there for a while, is to win. But there is more than X's and O's that go into everything. You have to be able to relate to the kids and build good relationships, and I think as a whole the coaching staff here at Maple Valley just seems to get better and better at that."

MHSAA provides resources to beat the heat as season starts

This summer has seen several stretches of hot and humid weather, and as student-athletes prepare to begin practices and competition schedules this month, the Michigan High School Athletic Association is again ramping up awareness of hot-weather precautions as schools and families prepare for activity.

Each year, the MHSAA provides information to its member schools to help them prepare for hot-weather practice and game conditions during the late summer and early fall. Practices for all Fall 2025 sports – cross country, girls field hockey, football, Lower Peninsula girls golf, boys soccer, Lower Peninsula girls swimming & diving, Lower Peninsula boys and Upper Peninsula girls tennis, and volleyball – may begin Monday, Aug. 11.

The "Health & Safety" page of the MHSAA Website has links to several information sources, including the MHSAA preseason publication Heat Ways, which is available for download and includes valuable information on heat management in addition to requirements and resources regarding head injuries, sudden cardiac arrest and emergency action plans. Heat Ways also includes a statement on air quality and its potential effects on activity, given especially the recent conditions resulting from wildfires and smoke they have created.

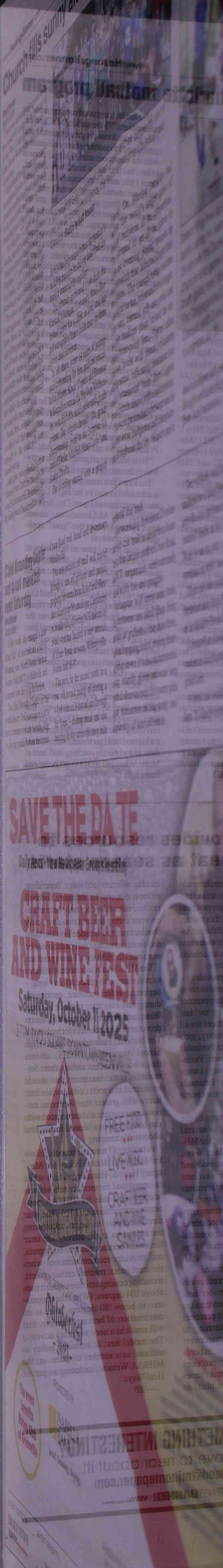
The first days of formal practices in hot weather should be more for heat acclimatization and instruction than the conditioning of athletes, and practices in such conditions need planning to become longer and more strenuous over a gradual progression of time. Schools also must consider moving practices to different locations or different times of day, or changing practice plans to include different activities depending on the conditions. Furthermore, football practice rules allow for only helmets to be worn during the first two days, only shoulder pads to be added on the third and fourth days, and full pads to not be worn until the fifth day of team practice.

The MHSAA advises student-athletes to make sure to hydrate all day long – beginning before practice, continuing during and also after practice is done. Water and properly-formulated sports drinks are the best choices for hydration. The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) advises that a 6-to-8 percent carbohydrate formulation is the maximum that should be utilized in a sports drink, while fruit juices with greater than 8-percent carbohydrate content and carbonated soda can both result in a bloated feeling and abdominal cramping.

A number of member schools follow the MHSAA's Model Policy for Managing Heat & Humidity, which while not mandated for member schools was adopted as a rule for MHSAA postseason competition in 2013. The plan directs schools to begin monitoring the heat index at the activity site once the air temperature reaches 80 degrees, and provides recommendations when the heat index reaches certain points, including ceasing activities when it rises above 104 degrees. (When the temperature is below 80 degrees, there is no combination of heat and humidity that will result in a need to curtail activity.) The model heat & humidity policy is outlined in a number of places on the MHSAA Website, including as part of Heat Ways.

— *BB*

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



Church fills sunny afternoon with hoops in Lake Odessa

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

There was all kinds of mayhem on the two basketball courts in the parking lot of the First Congregational Church of Lake Odessa Wednesday, July 23, but in a good way.

Teams named the Mayhem won championships in divisions for third and fourth grade boys and third and fourth grade girls at the church's final youth three-on-three basketball event of the summer.

The Mayhem "2" team of Brady Keilen, Stetson King, Lane Pung, Dawson Spohn took the boys' championship. The Mayhem "1" team of Ruby King, Hadley Smith, Emma Snellenberger, Lena Wambaugh won the girls' championship.

The silver haired ladies from the First Congregational Church sat with their chairs lined up in the grass along the edge of the parking lot with an excellent view of both courts on the west side of the church, some of whom have had a relationship with the game of basketball for decades and others who are just finding their affinity for the game as it becomes intwined with their congregation.

Parents, fans, neighbors and ballplayers filled in all the space around them, especially in the shade, on the sunny humid evening.

Josh Liggins, who played at Cornerstone University from 2002 to 2006, emceed the event. He lives near the church with his family, and the love of basketball in the Liggins family has helped spawn the congregation's budding passion for the way basketball can bring a community together.



The crowd of 3-on-3 basketball players gathers together before the start of the July 23 tournament hosted by the First Congregational Church of Lake Odessa. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

The church sponsored a visit from the Central Michigan University Men's Basketball team for a clinic in June, and has had a couple of these quick three-on-three events this summer.

In all, there were 14 teams of youngsters competing for fun, pride and prizes. Julian Mater, Knox Copelin and Braxton Williams known as the Big Dogs Wednesday, won the fifth, sixth and seventh grade contest. The eighth through 12th grade championship went to the Surprise Us team of Drake Mitchell, Ethan Cassel and Keaton Zander.

The evening started with a prayer from Rev. Dr. Marilyn Danielson and included "the world's longest game of lightning" between all the competitors. They managed to get all the games in during one evening playing contests up to seven points that lasted no longer than five minutes. The championship matches were played to ten points and a bit longer. Points were earned with one-point and two-point baskets (from behind the traditional three-point line.) Players called their own fouls with church volunteers offering some officiating assistance too and the occasional "help" from Liggins from his perch above with a microphone.

There were prizes that were surprises for those that won ballgames and championships throughout the day. Winners got to draw envelopes with cash prizes or things like gift certificates for pizza or ice cream from local businesses.



Stetson King fires up a shot for two points during his team Mayhem 2's win over the Ducks in the championship game of the third and fourth grade boys' division of the First Congregational Church of Lake Odessa's youth 3-on-3 basketball tournament July 23.

Chief Noonday Chapter set to cut more trail next Saturday

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

A July work day managed to clear about half of the mile and a half of planned new North Country National Scenic Trail (NCT) in Middleville, and a second work day is on the horizon.

The Chief Noonday Chapter of the North Country Trail Association is set to host a chapter work day Saturday, Aug. 16, in the woods between the current Crane Road trail head and downtown Middleville.

The new section of trail will travel through a mix of private and public property between Crane Road and Sheridan Street near Mount Hope Cemetery in Middleville, allowing NCT hikers to avoid what has become a busy stretch of Crane Road between Whitneyville Avenue and M-37.

The work for the second month in a row will consist mainly of clearing a 4-foot wide and 8-foot tall area through the forest – clearing brush and also benching the way across the many hilly sections of the trail.

A June workday drew about 25 volunteers who cut trail for about three hours through the brush south of Crane Road, and NCT organizers were extremely pleased with the day's progress.

The chapter will supply some tools, but volunteers are asked please bring mattocks or pulaskis if they have them, as well as lopping shears, pruning shears or pruning saws. It is also recommended to bring sturdy gloves and wear long pants and sleeves even if it's warm; plan to wear sunscreen and bug spray; and bring plenty of water and snacks.

The workday will begin at the NCT trailhead on Crane Road, east of Whitneyville Ave and just west of the youth baseball fields at the end of the road. Work is set to start at 9:30 a.m. and continue on until "around lunchtime."

There are also plans for an optional breakfast meet-up at Thornapple Kitchen in Middleville at 8 a.m.

Contact Ryan Bowles for more information at chiefnoondaytrailmanager@gmail.com.

A third trail workday is planned for Sept. 20, ideally to finish up the project.

SAVE THE DATE

Daily News - View Newspaper Group is hosting

CRAFT BEER AND WINE FEST

Saturday, October 11, 2025

2-7 PM, TIVOLI SQUARE, DOWNTOWN GREENVILLE

BOTTLES, BREWS & NEWS

FREE FOOD
LIVE MUSIC
CRAFT BEER AND WINE SAMPLES



VIEW NEWSPAPER GROUP'S CRAFT BEER AND WINE FEST

Oktoberfest -2025-

SPONSORED BY:

The event benefits Rotary Club of Greenville

ISABELLA BANK
Local. Growing. Staying.

ADVANCE TICKETS:

VIP ADMISSION $50
Includes one hour early entry, exclusive food and drink pairing experience, Hops & Grapes 101 with local brewer, commemorative Bottles Brews & News Oktoberfest lanyard, souvenir glass, five drink sample tickets and food

GENERAL ADMISSION $30
Includes souvenir glass, five drink sample tickets and food

Scan QR code or visit thedailynews.cc/oktoberfest for tickets

Additional tasting tickets will be available for purchase at event for $1 each.

EVENT HOSTED BY: DAILY NEWS VIEW Newspaper Group

EVENT BENEFITS: Rotary Club of Greenville, MI

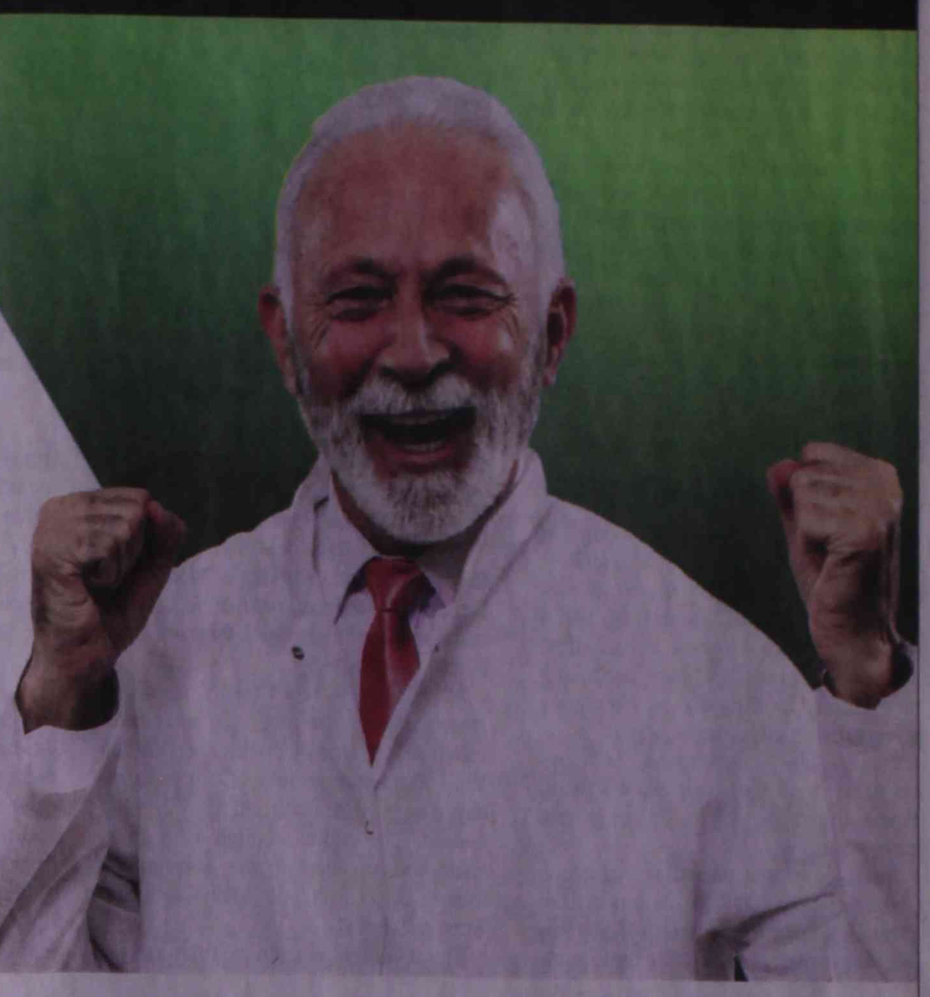
Sponsorships available.
Contact Amber Rood at
arood@thedailynews.cc or at **616-548-8257**

HURRY! LIMITED-TIME ONLY!

AudioNova

HEARING AID SALE

Stay connected with BETTER HEARING!



Call us today to make your appointment for a FREE HEARING SCREENING!

- RISK-FREE TRIAL*
- SAME-DAY SERVICE
- LATEST TECHNOLOGY
- PERSONALIZED SOLUTIONS

EXCLUSIVE OFFERS

BOGO OFFER

BUY 1 GET 1 50% OFF



Buy one Phonak Audéo Sphere™ Infinio 70 or 90 hearing aid and get one 50% off![1]

FINANCE OFFER

EXCLUSIVE FINANCING STARTING AS LOW AS $89/month[2]

HURRY! OFFERS EXPIRE 08/15/25!

AudioNova

Your Hearing Experts

CALL US NOW 269-257-5205

Formerly Hear Michigan

HASTINGS
618 W. State Street

*Certain types of hearing loss may require a hearing instrument model that is not appropriate for the trial. Hearing evaluation required. See clinic for details. Only available for selected hearing instruments. [1]Buy one Phonak Audéo Sphere™ Infinio 70 or 90 level hearing aid at our retail price and get another of the same make & model 50% off. Discount is based on binaural purchase. This limited-time offer may not be used in conjunction with any other offer or promotion. New orders only. Private pay only (not combinable with insurance or network). Not available on all levels of technology. [2]With $89 payment to start, a total of $2,901 will be financed at 19.90% APR on approved credit for 48-months. Additional upgrades and other financing options are available. Terms are subject to change without notice and other restrictions may apply. Please see office for details. Offers expire 08/15/25.