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LPS superintendent receives contract extension

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

Without any fanfare, the Lakewood Public Schools Board of Education voted to extend Superintendent Jodi Duits' contract.

The school board voted unanimously, 5-0, to add one year onto Duits' current contract, essentially making it a three-year deal, at its regular meeting Monday, Aug. 11, at the Lakewood High School Media Center. Board members Wendy Behrenwald and Paige O'Mara were absent.

According to LPS board President Jamie Brodbeck-Krenz, the board's vote Monday night effectively extends Duits' contract to June 30, 2028.

Brodbeck-Krenz added Duits will also receive a 3% pay increase "consistent with the percentage increase granted to administration and non-union at-will employees this year."

"We agreed to postpone this review until after teacher and administrative contracts were settled," Brodbeck-Krenz added.

The contract extension will also extend Duits' tenure with LPS, one that already dates back decades.

Duits started her career as a teacher at West Elementary, now Lakewood Elementary School, in 2001 until 2017 when she was named interim principal at Lakewood Early Childhood Center. She was eventually named permanent principal at LECC before becoming the district's curriculum and special education director in 2020.

She succeeded Steve Skalka as the school district's top administrator after Skalka's retirement in 2022, when she was appointed interim superintendent. The school board removed the "interim" from Duits' title in March 2023.

Duits, whose parents were both school administrators, graduated

See **CONTRACT** on 5



Lakewood Public Schools Superintendent Jodi Duits listens to discussions during a board of education meeting Monday, Aug. 11, at the Lakewood High School Media Center. At the meeting, school board members voted unanimously, 5-0, to extend Duits' current contract to June 30, 2028.
Photo by Dennis Mansfield

Middleville man receives new, reduced sentence

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

A Middleville man will still be serving years in a Michigan correctional facility, but that stay might now be shorter than originally anticipated and much shorter than some would have liked.

Scott Raymond Handley, 55, of Middleville was sentenced to 57 to 180 months in prison, with 938 days credit for time already served, during a hearing before Judge Michael Schipper in Barry County District Court on Tuesday, Aug. 12. That was after previously having entered a plea of no contest to a felony charge of operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated causing death in April 2023.

Tuesday's hearing was actually the second time Schipper had sentenced Handley to prison for his role in the death of 62-year-old Jenison resident Matthew Fuller, who perished in a head-on crash on M-37, near Whitmore Road in Rutland Township, on Jan. 27, 2023.

According to previous news reports, an investigation by the Barry County Sheriff's Office indicated Handley was driving a Chevrolet Silverado truck eastbound on M-37 when it crossed the center line and slammed head-on into a westbound Ford Transit van driven by Fuller, who was killed instantly.

Handley allegedly had a blood alcohol level of 0.16 at the time of the crash. In Michigan, operating a motor vehicle with a blood alcohol level of 0.08 percent or more is illegal.

At the original sentencing hearing in July 2023, Schipper sentenced Handley to 120 to 180 months in prison. That despite a recommendation by the county's Probation Department for a sentence of 29 to 57 months.

But Handley received somewhat of a reprieve from the Michigan Court of Appeals, which issued a ruling in November 2024 to vacate the sentence and remand the case back to the local court.

Jessica Payne, an assistant prosecuting attorney with the Barry County Prosecutor's Office, provided

See **REDUCED** on 3

Voice of Barry County retires after decades-long career



Monday, Aug. 11, 2025, was declared "Dave McIntyre Day," according to Hastings Mayor David Tossava. McIntyre officially retired on Monday after serving 65 years broadcasting for 100.1 WBCH. McIntyre delivered the 8 a.m. news for the last time on Monday, joined by the mayor. Here, McIntyre (right) stands with WBCH General Manager Steve Radant at McIntyre's retirement open house on Monday. Radant's father, Ken, hired McIntyre in 1959. **Photo by David Miller**

Banner building for sale

HASTINGS — View Newspaper Group, owner of 22 community newspapers including the *Banner*, is pleased to announce they will be relocating to a new office space following the sale of their current space on M-43 in Hastings.

"When View Newspaper Group acquired the *Banner*, the current office space for the newspaper was not part of the sale. As such, we knew a move would be in our future," said View Newspaper Group Publisher Wes Smith. "The current owners of the building announced recently their intention to sell the space. Some readers have contacted our team asking if the paper is also for sale. To be clear, the sale only relates to the building. View Newspaper Group and its 22 locally-owned, locally-connected newspapers are not for sale and not going anywhere. We are proud to be your community connection and look forward to serving readers for generations to come."

Smith added that the new office space will be near the current office space and more details will be announced when available.

Questions about the building can be directed to the number on the for sale sign located on the property.

Questions regarding View Newspaper Group can be directed to Brand Manager Emily Caswell at ecaswell@mihomepaper.com.

— *Molly Macleod*

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Barry Township water tower nears completion; solar shed built and panels installed

Karen Turko-Ebright
Staff Writer

Standing 135 feet tall with bold white letters spelling "DELTON," the Barry Township water tower gives the little town a big name. The name adorns the sphere of a 200,000-gallon water tank at the west end of Orchard Road in Delton.

Barry Township's maintenance technician, Jim Wensel, watched all the progress from down below as a painter applied the lettering on the sphere. Although it looks completed, Wensel said there's still work to be done before the water tower and solar panels are operational.

Wensel recently constructed the shed where the panels, electronics and generator are stored. "I spent 200 hours building the shed," Wensel said. BIG C Lumber donated $5,000 worth of materials to the project.

Kelly Parker is the general manager of BIG C Lumber in Delton. He said he was at a township meeting and learned of the need for materials and wanted to help. "I moved here three years ago. Delton is a great community and welcomed us with open arms," Parker said. "It's a tight-knit community, and I love it."

Barry Township Supervisor Barry Bower said he is thankful for the community support on the water tower project and BIG C Lumber for their donation. Parker said Ramco Metal Roofing and Buildings in Middlebury, Ind., donated approximately $2,000 worth of steel siding for the solar shed.

"The largest challenge building that solar shed was the summer heat. I had to work very early in the morning, and then later on in the evening, I could not work during the daytime. It was just too hot," said Wensel.

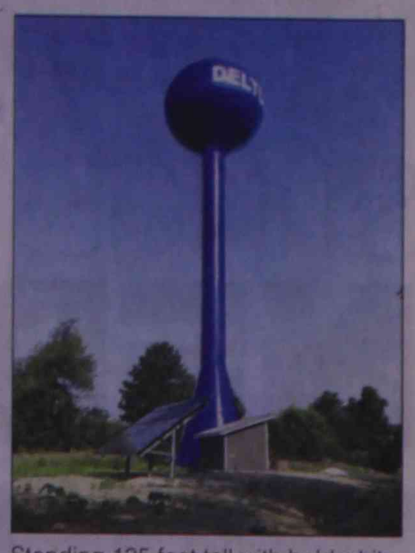
"As for completing the water tower, there are several things that need to be done yet," Wensel explained. "There's plumbing to be done. Electrical work needs to be done. It has to be sterilized."

Township officials approved Wellspring Solar, based in Shipshewana, Ind., to provide and install the solar panels, which were covered through a Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy grant.

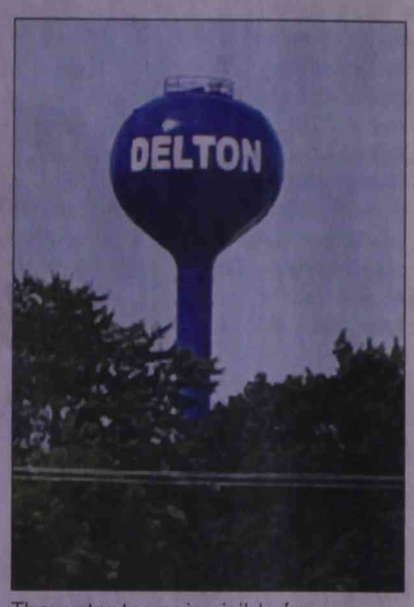
"The solar panel project is operational now — that's done. I have no timeline on the water tower being completed because there are several people involved in the rest of the processes that need to be done, but we're getting there," Wensel said.

Gentank Water Tower Services, based in Wisconsin, constructed the water tower. A crew contracted through Gentank Water Tower Services, Central Tank Coatings, out of Elgin, Iowa, painted the water tower tank.

Delton native Charlie VanHoose, who is a sales agent for Bay Crane Midwest, secured a crane to assemble the pieces of the Barry Township water tower.



Standing 135 feet tall with bold white letters spelling "DELTON," the Barry Township water tower gives the little town a big name for everyone passing through to see. The tower sits atop a hill on the west end of Orchard Road. **Photos by Jim Wensel**



The water tower is visible from several different angles in Barry Township for those living and passing through Delton. The water tower sits atop a hill on the west end of Orchard Road in Delton.

WATER TOWER HISTORY

Between 1985 and 1993, a Delton company named Delton Locomotive built high-end toy trains that sold for as much as $10,000. This company was deemed environmentally unsafe, dumping many gallons of water containing heavy metals into the ground.

The contaminated groundwater seeped into the wells in Delton. The federal government helped by installing wells and pumps by Pleasant Lake Road to provide clean water to the residents of Delton. Around 1995, Barry Township upgraded the pipes and installed fire hydrants for future use.

The location for a future water tower was selected at the end of Orchard Road, land deeded to Barry Township. An engineering firm was hired, and large-capacity pipes were laid to the side for future use of the water tower.

Township officials say more room is needed for community expansion, with the water system presently near capacity. Although the current water system provides fire hydrants scattered throughout the community, the fire department cannot use them because the water system would be depleted in a matter of minutes.

See **TOWER** on 4

LPS officials to delay possible bond request

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

While the needs still exist, officials at Lakewood Public Schools are going to wait before going back to voters for a fourth vote on any potential bond proposal to fund repairs and updates at the school district's facilities.

Superintendent Jodi Duits asked members of the LPS Board of Education on what direction they'd like to take regarding a possible bond proposal at their regular meeting Monday, Aug. 11, at the Lakewood High School Media Center.

The discussion comes just a few months after district voters rejected a $30.2 million request in a special election on May 6.

According to district officials, the failed proposal would have funded a variety of upgrades at the LPS' three primary school buildings, including renovations or reconfiguration of main entrances, replacing boilers and other HVAC improvements, reconfiguration of classroom space, roof upgrades or replacements, a new playground for third- through fifth-graders at the middle school, and a new track and fencing, as well as replacement of the tennis courts at Lakewood High School.

The proposal also called for the closure of the century-old Woodland school building, which currently serves as the home of the Lakewood Early Childhood Center. Closure of early elementary school would have, in turn, led to a shift of students and grade levels at LPS' three remaining school buildings.

"I'm looking for input from the board, possible directions," Duits said Monday night.

Before going back to voters, Trustee Adam McArthur said district officials need to have a longer, in-depth "running discussion" to get the needed feedback to rally support for another bond request.

McArthur said LPS officials seemingly ignored larger economic factors facing district residents when deciding to place the proposal on the ballot.

"Those are things we cannot ignore in our situation," he said, adding LPS officials needed to seek feedback "from every channel" possible before developing another bond request.

"We want relentless feedback from the public," McArthur said. "Relentless."

Jamie Brodbeck-Krenz, LPS board president, said officials also needed to better clarify the concept of "streamlining" grade levels and condensing classes from four to only three school buildings.

"I've heard that, too, that it wasn't spelled out," Duits added.

Brodbeck-Krenz said another misstep by the board might have been the failure to adopt a long-term master plan after voters defeated a $39 million proposal in August 2023, seeking to avoid past mistakes when voters in the Clarksville and Sunfield areas supported funding requests to only see schools there closed shortly afterwards.

"That's because there was no long-term vision," Brodbeck-Krenz said. "(But) that's all in the past. We need to move forward from that.

"We're thinking long term, not short term. We're thinking 30-40 years out" she added. "I think that will help."

District voters also defeated a $64 million funding request in November 2022.

To gain support and help voters understand the needs of the district, Brodbeck-Krenz said LPS officials need to first develop a long-term master plan, as well as a short-term strategic plan, before placing another bond request on the ballot.

"I think people would appreciate that leadership from the district," she said. "(But) at this point, I think it'd be irresponsible for us to go for a bond."

However, McArthur questioned how long the school district could wait, considering the needs of operating aging facilities such as the LECC.

"What is our timeline for that building?" he said. "Can we keep it limping along for another two to three years, for four or five years?"

While understanding the need to pass a bond proposal, Trustee David Burd said he was concerned the school district has already gone to voters once too often.

"I think we all see it as a necessity," Burd said. "They've said 'no' three times.

"When my kids ask for candy four times, I get frustrated."



DID YOU SEE?



LAYING THE FOUNDATION

Walls are going up at the site of the future Hastings Riverwalk Lofts. Located at 328 and 420 W. Mill Street in Hastings, the three-building project will create 135 housing units upon completion. Additionally, developers plan to construct a fourth building dedicated to community use. The building will house a commercial kitchen and market space, a local food co-op and a daycare center. CopperRock Construction, the project's Grand Rapids-based developer, expects construction to be wrapped up by June 2026. **Photo by Molly Macleod**

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Community leaders, residents start planning for country's 250th anniversary

Leila Wood
Contributing Writer

More than a dozen community leaders and interested residents met at Two or Three Together in Nashville on Tuesday, Aug. 5, to begin planning the village's celebration of the country's 250th anniversary coming up in 2026.

Those in attendance tossed around ideas to celebrate the anniversary throughout 2026 and tentatively set the date for the culmination of those festivities for the second weekend of July.

Most of the details are still to be determined, but organizers said they want to go big.

According to initial discussions on Tuesday, people can look forward to a full day – or possibly two days – of games, ceremonies and entertainment.

Organizers hope to include the local Veterans of Foreign Wars post, MOOville, the Sunfield Curtenius Guard of the Sons of Union Veterans, and as many other local organizations and businesses as possible in the celebration.

A key element of the celebration will be honoring local American Revolutionary War veteran Sgt. John Quick, who is buried in Quaker Cemetery, a short distance south of town.

"John Quick actually crossed the Delaware with George Washington," said Kermit Douse, president of the Nashville Michigan Area Historical Society. "He also went to the Battle of Trenton, and he spent the winter at Valley Forge."

Douse said Quick moved to the Nashville area in the 1840s, roughly 20 years before it was incorporated as a village.

According to Douse, two of Quick's descendants are planning to come to Nashville for the anniversary celebration.

Although neither of the descendants are local, they came with the Sons of the American Revolution to rededicate their great-great-great-grandfather's gravestone in 2019, the week after the village celebrated its sesquicentennial.



Community leaders and interested residents gathered at Two or Three Together in Nashville on Tuesday, Aug. 5, to begin planning the village's celebration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States in 2026. **Photo by Leila Wood**

Douse said they have expressed interest in coming back to be part of the celebration next July and will try to bring the Sons of the American Revolution color guard with them.

Nashville Village President Mike Kenyon said the discussion of what to do for the anniversary came up over coffee with Douse and his wife, Debbe, earlier this year.

"We started talking about it, and we said, 'Let's get something going for the Village of Nashville for 2026,'" Kenyon said. "So, we put a small steering committee together."

"We had maybe four meetings, as our steering committee, and we put a few things in place," he added. "Now it's time to get the whole town involved, kind of like very similar to what we did for the sesquicentennial."

Terra Nassif has been appointed secretary of the planning committee, and Kallen Swift has been appointed treasurer. A couple of subcommittees were also established at Tuesday's gathering.

The next planning meeting has been scheduled for 7 p.m. at Two or Three Together on Tuesday, Sept. 9.

Douse said he hopes to see more people get involved as the planning process continues.

Local educator marks 30 years' involvement with KCC

Molly Macleod
Editor

When Maggie Murphy moved to Barry County in 1995, she knew right away that she wanted to get involved with her new community. Growing up near the campus of Hillsdale College, her next move was a no-brainer.

"I thought, well, one of the first things you can do when you move to a new place is take classes at the local college," Murphy said.

Murphy signed up as a guest student at Kellogg Community College in Battle Creek. Her involvement with KCC has continued since then, with Murphy celebrating 30 years with the institution this month.

"I signed up as a guest student, and I just loved it. I loved the community college vibe — just that whole idea that a lot of professors are professionals within the community, and this bridge between academia and a career," Murphy said.

After a few months as a guest student at KCC, Murphy got wind of a new KCC location being built in Hastings. The KCC Fehsenfeld Center will celebrate its 30th birthday next summer, with construction being completed in 1996. Murphy has been along for the entire ride.

"As the Fehsenfeld Center approaches its 30th anniversary next year, I'm reminded of what a blessing it is to have this learning institution in our town. Community colleges change lives, and I'm proud to be part of this wonderful tradition," Murphy said.

Before her move to Hastings, Murphy earned her bachelor of arts in secondary education and history, minoring in English, from Hillsdale College in 1995. Murphy said she was able to take on an adjunct instructor role at KCC around the same time the Fehsenfeld Center was wrapping up construction. She taught nighttime transitional English classes while working on her master's degree.

After earning her master's in adult and higher education with an English emphasis from Grand Valley State University in 2008, Murphy transitioned into teaching freshman composition, which she still teaches at the Fehsenfeld Center today. She has another role these days, too, serving as the Fehsenfeld Center assistant since 2017. In the office, Murphy helps students with enrollment, financial aid, scheduling, registration, technology access and more. A wearer of many hats, she also hosts a writing lab once a week.



Maggie Murphy is celebrating 30 years of teaching and learning at Kellogg Community College this month. Most of her career has taken place at the college's Fehsenfeld Center in Hastings. **Photo by Molly Macleod**

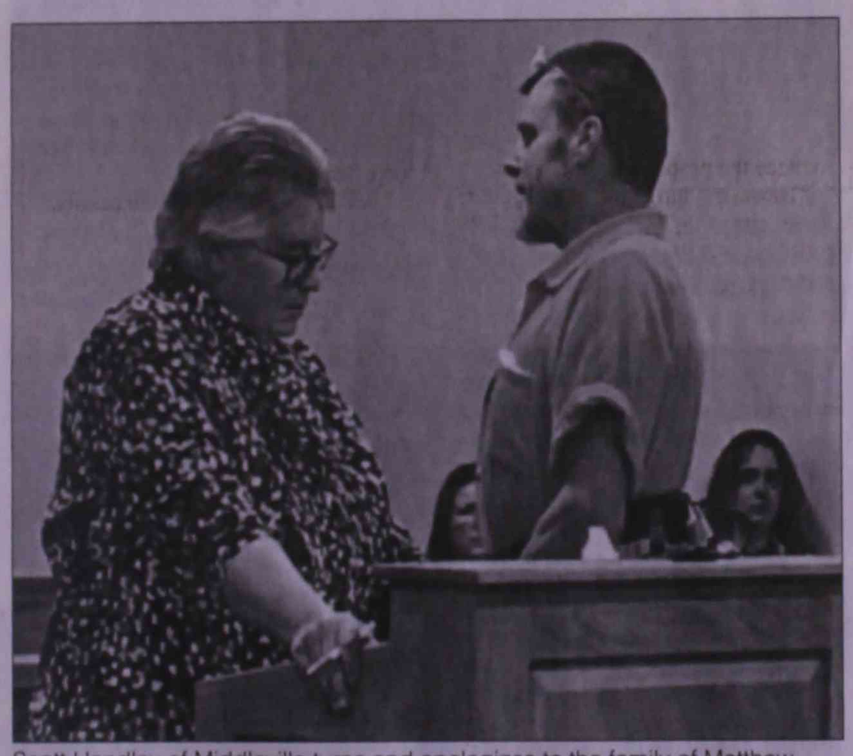
"One of the nice things here at the Fehsenfeld Center, we're generalists. We know the basics of every department, and so we're a great, one-stop shop for customer service. They can come in, and they might have things they need addressed in three different departments, and we can at least get the ball rolling for them," Murphy said.

Throughout her career, Murphy has taught at every KCC location and seen generations of students succeed.

"What I love about (the Fehsenfeld Center) is while we've seen all the tech advancements over the past 30 years, the thing that hasn't changed here is the learning community," Murphy said. "Every semester, I walk in here and you have students here studying together for exams. You have students stopping in the office to share, 'Oh, Mrs. Murphy, I need help with this paper!' or 'What's a thesis statement? How do I write this?' And then they come in later and say, 'I got a B-plus!'

"And then my favorite is running into them in the community years later, sharing their career updates, their family — a lot of them become leaders in the community. That's just a great continuous cycle of people coming in and giving to the community, helping each other. And then they come back and become leaders in the community."

See **EDUCATOR** on 5



Scott Handley of Middleville turns and apologizes to the family of Matthew Fuller, who died in a fatal wreck caused by Handley, during his 2023 sentencing hearing. Handley was resentenced to 57 to 180 months in prison, with 938 days credit for time already served, during a hearing before Judge Michael Schipper on Tuesday, Aug. 12. **File photo**

REDUCED

Continued from Page 1

Schipper with a photo of Fuller at the start of Tuesday's hearing.

"I have to speak for the (Fuller) family," Payne said. "They want you to remember that just isn't a name.

"This did not just take the life of a good man; it took a whole family," she added. "To them, he was very much murdered. They feel strongly about that."

According to Payne, Handley still needed to be held responsible for Fuller's death, having allegedly been found "highly intoxicated" and "with drugs in his system" at the time of the fatal crash.

"This was not an accident," Schipper said. "It was (Handley's) decision to drink and his decision to drive.

"It wasn't murder. It wasn't an accident," the judge added. "It was something in between."

Fuller's wife, Kim, said that drinking was a "lifestyle" for Handley and questioned whether he'd change, even after being sentenced to prison.

"I'm not OK," she added. "I got sentenced to life."

Schipper apologized to her and the Fuller family "for the whole system" that he said reduces the loss of a family member to a number.

"Is 15 years enough?" he said. "It's not going to seem right."

However, Handley's defense attorney, Susan Walsh, said he suffered from alcoholism and had used marijuana to deal with previous work-related injuries.

"He did not ask for this disorder," Walsh said.

But Schipper said alcoholism should not be an excuse for a person to commit a crime, nor should it be compared to any "real" diseases, such as cancer.

"I just think that's an offense to people with real diseases," the judge said. "That's not what (alcoholism) is.

"He chose to drink that day and he chose to drive," he added. "And, he put people at risk. He killed someone."

Schipper stated he wanted to reinstate Handley's original sentence for 10-15 years in prison, believing it was appropriate. However, he said he believed the state court would simply reassign the case to another court if he did so and did not want the local court to lose its oversight of the case.

"I can disagree with it, but it is what it is," Schipper said. "It's sad.

"I don't know if this is grace for you," he added, in addressing Handley directly. "It's not coming from my heart."

During Tuesday's hearing, Handley stood to apologize to members of Fuller's family, stating he couldn't express the grief and remorse he felt since the fatal crash.

"I'm very, very sorry," Handley said. "I'm hoping you someday can accept my apology."

It was not a sentiment that was well-received by Kim Fuller.

"Today is not your day," she said.



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Does the 4% rule still make sense for your retirement?

You may have heard of the "4% rule" when it comes to retirement. The idea is simple: After you retire, you withdraw 4% of your investment portfolio each year. In theory, this helps ensure your savings last for your lifetime. While this rule can be a helpful starting point, it's not a one-size-fits-all — and it's definitely not a substitute for a plan tailored to your specific needs, wants and wishes.

The truth is, how much to withdraw in retirement depends on factors like when you retire, if you'll work part time, how long you expect retirement to last, your lifestyle goals, inflation and whether you want to leave a financial legacy to heirs. So, the 4% rule should be viewed as more of a guide than a strict rule.

Let's start with age. The 4% rule is often based on someone retiring at 65 and expecting to live until about 92. But if you retire earlier, you may want your portfolio to stretch further. In that case, you might need to start with a lower withdrawal rate, maybe closer to 3%. And if you retire later, you might safely withdraw a little more — perhaps 4.5% to 5% — depending on your financial situation.

Your retirement lifestyle also plays a big role. Are you planning to travel the world or spend more time at home? If you expect higher spending in the early years of retirement, you may need to adjust your withdrawal rate or plan to reduce spending later to balance things out.

Your financial flexibility matters too. If you have less wiggle room with your expenses, rely heavily on your portfolio for income or want to preserve wealth for your heirs, a more conservative approach might be wise. In this conservative scenario, your portfolio withdrawals may be met from interest and dividends. Think of your withdrawal rate as existing on a spectrum from more conservative to less conservative, with your personal situation determining where you land.

Then there's inflation. A well-built strategy usually includes small annual increases in withdrawals to keep up with rising costs — about 2.75% per year. But you don't need to take a raise just because the calendar says so. If the markets have had a tough year or you don't need the extra income, it might be smart to skip an increase. Being flexible can improve the chances your money will last.

It's also important to understand what's known as your "portfolio reliance rate" — how much of your retirement income comes from your investments versus other sources like Social Security or pensions. The higher this percentage, the more conservative you may want to be with withdrawals.

And don't forget the IRS. If you're drawing from a traditional IRA or 401(k), you'll need to take required minimum distributions (RMDs) once you reach age 73. Your RMD for any year is the account balance as of the end of the prior calendar year divided by a life expectancy factor according to the IRS. These RMDs need to be accounted for in your strategy.

The bottom line? The 4% rule is a useful starting point, but it's just that — a starting point. A good financial advisor can help you build a strategy that reflects your age, your goals and your full financial picture. By revisiting your plan regularly and staying flexible, you'll give yourself the best shot at turning your savings into a secure, fulfilling retirement.

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

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Barry County Brewfest returns to downtown Nashville for the second time in the event's history. It will run in conjunction with the M66 Unique Antique Flea Market Saturday, Aug. 16. Brewfest and its joyous volunteers (pictured) were last in Nashville in 2019. **File photo**

Brewfest pours into Nashville Saturday

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The beverage list is finally settled.

The volunteer list is nearly full.

The ninth annual Barry County Brewfest opens at noon Saturday, Aug. 16, in downtown Nashville. This is the second time the Barry County Chamber and Economic Development Alliance (BCCEDA) traveling adult beverage festival will be in town. It last hit the streets of downtown Nashville in 2019.

The Barry County Brewfest was first held in Middleville in 2016, and currently rotates each year between Nashville, Hastings, Middleville and Delton.

The event runs from noon to 5 p.m. Tickets for the event can be purchased online at mibarry.com/brewfest/. Tickets are $30 (plus some online fees) or $40 at the event.

Being that volunteers are granted entry into the event after their shift, there continues to be no lack for volunteer help according to BCCEDA business manager Kim Martin. The group of volunteers this summer includes members of the Maple Valley Junior High football program. Event organizers like to get a local group to help with the event teardown at the end of the day.

Martin said Maple Valley Athletic Boosters president Tal Gearhart suggested the middle school football program as it is looking to fundraise to help pay for bussing to games this fall. The chamber will make a donation and also allow the football program to take the returnable cans and bottles from the event to collect the deposit.

The Maple Valley Athletic Boosters will have a big part in the day's festivities hosting a food tent alongside Brewfest with plans to serve items like hot dogs, chicken wings and french fries.

The Brewfest is being held in conjunction with the 66 Unique Flea Market along M-66 in Nashville Saturday. That event runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be an antique tractor show as well as food vendors, music and the three antique shops in downtown Nashville will be open downtown visitors too.

"We do this because we wanna bring people into different parts of Barry County, and hopefully in doing that they're gonna visit the business in the area … Hopefully some of the restaurants in Nashville get some foot traffic from Brewfest. Hopefully, some of the stores get some foot traffic from Brewfest. That is what we're hoping for from it. Then again, it gets people from other parts of the state or different places into the Barry County area."

Live music will be performed by SilentBark during the Brewfest.

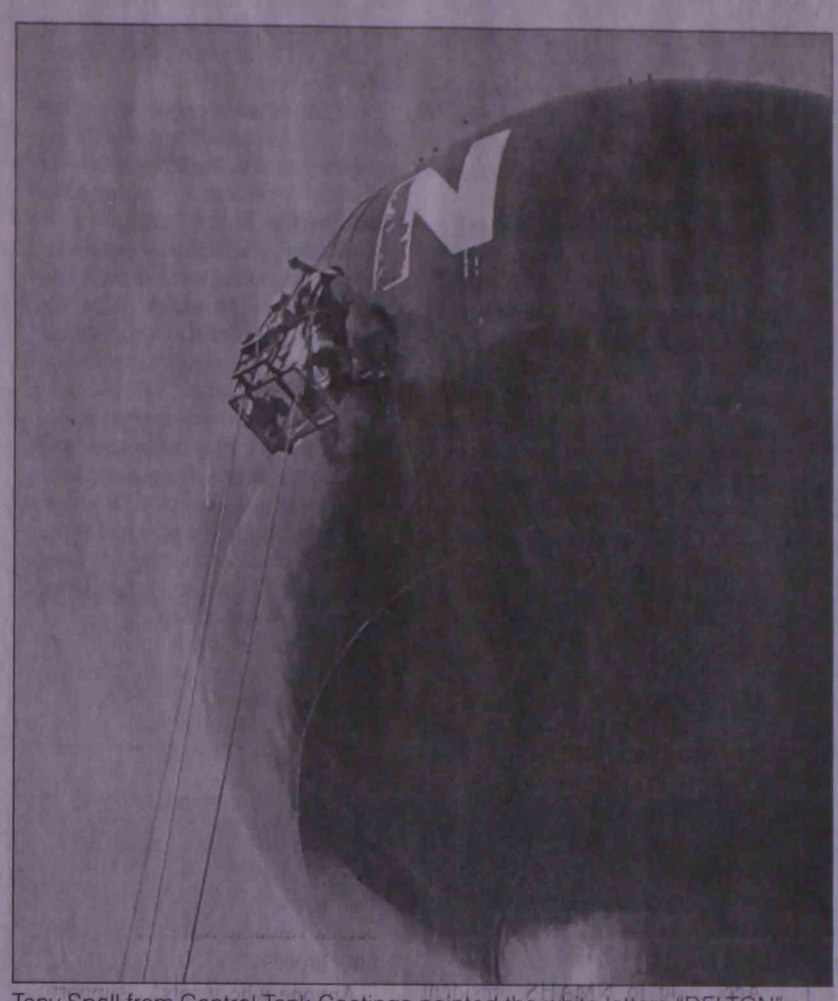
Martin said the event is up from 35 beverage vendors to 38 this summer – with a Michigan focus as usual and a special emphasis on local breweries and the like including places like Walldorff Brewpub, Glass Creek Winery and Brewery and Gull Lake Distillery. The big boys will be there too with offerings from Founders, Bell's, New Holland Brewing Co., Short's, etc.

A local addition to the line-up this year is Brothers Brew a non-alcoholic brewery based out of Hastings with a mission to provide alcohol-free options while also putting an emphasis on helping veterans through the business. Brothers Brew beverages on the menu include their signature hoppy "Icy Hops" as well as "Pink Mist," a hibiscus and lime forward beverage.

While the ninth Brewfest is just a few days away, plans are already underway for the tenth to come to Hastings Aug. 8, 2026.



The solar building houses the solar controls and generator. Barry Township maintenance technician Jim Wensel completed construction on the shed this summer. Big C Lumber in Delton donated materials for the building.



Tony Spall from Central Tank Coatings painted the white letters "DELTON" on the water tower sphere. The tower stands 135 feet tall, and the tank will hold 200,000 gallons of water.



On top of the water tower sphere is the vent for the tank, three hatches to access the tank and the ladder to go through the tank to the ground. **Photo by Tony Spall**

TOWER

Continued from Page 2

The water tower will not only provide long-term expansion capabilities but also benefit current and future businesses and residential housing.

According to Bower, grants have been unsuccessfully pursued over the years. However, after COVID-19, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds became available for water, sewer and broadband infrastructure projects. Enough money became available for the water tower in Barry Township. The project's cost is $1.4 million, and the township has $1.7 million to spend in ARPA funding.

Barry Township officials agreed to purchase the refurbished water tank at a regularly scheduled board meeting on May 9, 2023.

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THE HASTINGS BANNER

Concert series begins to wrap up 2025 schedule

Hastings Live is starting to wrap up its 2025 summer concert series.

"This week will be the end of our weekly schedule and on Aug. 22 and 23, the annual end of summer celebration – Hastings Summerfest – will take place," said Steve Hoke, arts and events coordinator for the City of Hastings. "Those two days of entertainment will not let you down."

John Ball Zoo is bringing their traveling zoo to the Thornapple Plaza's "Playing at the Plaza" children's series on Thursday, Aug. 14, at 11 a.m. John Ball Zoo offsite programs allow everyone to learn about wildlife conservation through hands-on learning experiences.

Participants will have the opportunity to see up to four different animals. John Ball's trained educators will teach about natural history, individual stories, and conservation measures.

"Friday at the Fountain" on the Barry County Courthouse lawn will feature Matthew Ball starting at noon on Aug. 15.

"Matthew presents live music fun with a fresh boogie-woogie piano twist to classic American songs we all know and love from yesteryear, movies and pop culture," Hoke said. "His performances are family-friendly and for all ages."

Hastings Live returns to Thornapple Plaza at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 15, when The Women of Country take the stage to take the audience on a steel-guitar filled journey, with music from iconic female country music royalty such as Patsy Cline, Loretta Lynn and Tammy Wynette.

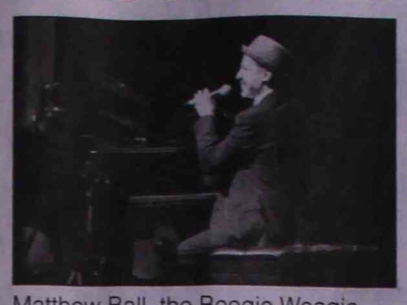
Hastings Live guests are encouraged to bring blankets or lawn chairs. A concession-stand, operated by volunteers from Hastings Kiwanis and Rotary clubs, will be open for evening performances.



John Ball Zoo brings the zoo to the Thornapple Plaza's "Playing at the Plaza" children's series on Thursday, Aug. 14, at 11 a.m. **Courtesy photos**

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 as scheduled.

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*



Matthew Ball, the Boogie Woogie Kid, brings music to all on the Barry County Courthouse lawn at noon on Friday, Aug. 15.



The Women of Country is set to feature Michigan Country Music Hall of Fame members during its upcoming performance on Friday, Aug. 15, at Thornapple Plaza, as part of the 2025 Hastings Live Summer Concert Series.

NMAHS bake sale set for Aug. 16

Leila Wood
Contributing Writer

The Nashville Michigan Area Historical Society will host a bake sale fundraiser on Saturday, Aug. 16, during the ninth annual Barry County BrewFest.

NMAHS members plan to be set up in front of their headquarters at 208 N. Main St. from 9 a.m. until the baked goods sell out.

According to NMAHS president Kermit Douse, organizers are pleased to have a handful of people who have committed to donate baked goods for the sale. And, while preparations for the event are going well, Douse said he hopes more people will join in the effort in the coming week.

The fundraiser is being organized by NMAHS member Carol Simon with the help of Zelma Cheeseman Geary, who has experience with the Kalamazoo Farmer's Market and has been a valuable resource in the planning process.

Anyone who wants to support the NMAHS with a donation of baked goods may contact Douse by calling 517-582-0481.

DO YOU **REMEMBER?**



A TEACHABLE MOMENT

— BANNER AUG. 13, 2020 —

With students preparing to go back to school, the tractor parked outside the John Deere dealership in Hastings seemed like a parent next to its child (which just so happens to be a lawn mower). Time to learn how to handle farm fields so you can grow up and do some useful work, that big parent seems to be saying. Sadly, the lawn mower sat there in silence because it was, in fact, just a lawn mower. We can let it in on a little (no pun intended) secret: Mowing lawns is useful work, too. **File photo**

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CONTRACT

Continued from Page 1

from Haslett High School in 1994 and attended Lansing Community College and Central Michigan University for teaching. Duits later went to Michigan State University, earning a degree in educational administration.

None of the school board members present at Monday's meeting commented before approving the motion to extend Duits' contract.

"Lakewood Public Schools is blessed to have a thoughtful caring leader who is committed to the distinct long term," Brodbeck-Krenz said afterward. "The board is pleased to extend Superintendent Duits' contract and we look forward to working with her for years to come."

EDUCATOR

Continued from Page 3

Murphy's students come from all walks of life, she said. In the past 15 years, she has seen a particular increase in local high school students taking advantage of dual enrollment options.

"I also see a lot of students that are the traditional first semester (students) out of high school. And, my favorite, and I decided to get my master's degree in this… I love teaching night classes with adult learners. They are almost like teaching assistants in the classroom. They set the tone, they are this mature presence in the classroom, and it builds on that learning community where they take younger students under their wing—and then the younger students help them, especially with the tech, if they need a little bit of a brush-up on the tech," she said.

Murphy reminds her students often that their time at KCC can be used as a stepping stone for any institution in the United States — even ones like Harvard University.

"We are literally a stepping stone," she said. "I tell my students, this class could be a stepping stone to Harvard, if that's where you want to go. And here, it's just a few miles away from where you live. And what a gift to have that in town."

Murphy encourages anyone interested in taking a course at KCC to make a list of their interests. She said the academic advisors are happy to discuss pathways with learners of all ages and backgrounds.

"One of the things I learned while I was at Hillsdale, my mentor, who was telling me about Westward Expansion, said that a big portion of the history of this country can be tied to the study of family, church and local community," Murphy said. "And when I think of that message from him, I think of KCC and that KCC and the local community is part of that continued growth we see in this great country."

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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.

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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.
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OBITUARIES

VIEW OBITUARIES ONLINE. HASTINGSBANNER.COM

Judy Burkhart



Judy Burkhart, 89, passed away Sunday morning, August 10, 2025, after a long and fruitful life as a wife, mother, (great) grandmother, friend, and teacher.

Judy was born November 29, 1935, and grew up on the family farm in Shelby, MI, with her parents, Howard J. and Nedra Ann (Wing) Garver, and her younger sister, Linda. Due to an illness to her dad, she managed the fruit farm, including about 10-12 employees, throughout her high school years.

After graduation from Shelby High School as valedictorian, Judy attended Western Michigan University, where she met her husband, Fred Burkhart. They married in September 1955, and started a family with the birth of John in October 1956, while still in Kalamazoo. They continued to build their family with two more boys, Scott and Bob, when Fred began teaching in Pinconning the following year.

Judy taught part-time, and then full- time while the boys were young, and while working to get her degree from Central Michigan University. She achieved that degree in English and Remedial Reading in 1972, and taught with Fred at Pinconning.

Fred and Judy retired, and in 1992 moved to Bellevue, MI. There Judy enjoyed traveling the U.S. and abroad, visiting Europe, Mexico, Iceland, Canada, and every state except Hawaii. They especially enjoyed their trips to Alaska.

Judy also raised Arabian horses, and loved literature and being with family. She especially enjoyed attending her grandkids and great-grandkids events.

Judy was predeceased by her sister, Linda Garver, and granddaughter-in-law Karen Adijandra.

She is survived by husband, Fred Burkhart, and sons, John (Demitra) Burkhart, Scott (Renee) Burkhart, and Robert (Sara) Burkhart, as well as seven grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Daniel's Funeral Home is taking care of preparations.

A memorial will be held on Monday, Aug. 18, 2025 at Bellevue Methodist Church, 122 W. Capital, Bellevue. A celebration of Judy's life will begin at 11:30 a.m., with a service beginning at 1:30 p.m. A light lunch will follow.

In lieu of flowers a donation to Bellevue Methodist Church, 122 W Capital Ave, Bellevue, MI 49021 would be appreciated.

Funeral arrangements are entrusted to the Daniels Funeral Home - Nashville, conveniently located at 9200 E M79 Hwy, Nashville, MI. For more information, please visit our website at www.danielsfuneralhome.net.

Kevin Joseph Kurr



Kevin Joseph Kurr, age 73, of Hastings, MI passed away Monday morning, Aug. 4, 2025, at Pennock Hospital in Hastings, MI.

Kevin was born in Hastings on June 7, 1952, the son of Thomas E. Kurr and Dorothy G. Kurr. He remained in the Hastings area all his life. Kevin worked in machine repair at Viking Corp. for 44 years until his retirement in 2017.

Kevin enjoyed fishing, hunting, traveling, and spending time with his kids, grandkids, and many friends. Kevin truly understood the power of a good laugh and used it generously, whether it was to brighten a day or simply sharing a life moment.

Kevin is survived by his sister, Pam (Stuart) Sanders; daughter Kelly (Tim) Voshell; son, Kevin Kurr II (Crystal); daughter, Katilyn (Grant) Harville; grandchildren, Aubree, Kaiden, Grace, Jozzlyn, Grant J, Jerin, Justin; nieces/nephews and many dear friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Thomas and Dorothy; his brother, "Buck" Tom, and sons, Shane and Shannon Kurr.

A Celebration of Life service will be held on Saturday, Aug. 23, 2025, at 11 a.m. at the Daniels Funeral Home - Hastings. Guests are invited to remain at the funeral home immediately following the service for a luncheon and time of sharing.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions can be made in Kevin's name to the Moose Lodge or charity of choice.

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

Correction:

In the Thursday, Aug. 7, edition of *The Banner*, the article titled "Voters approve Delton Kellogg Schools operating millage renewal" erroneously stated "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." While districts must indeed levy at least 18 mills to secure their full per-pupil foundation allowance, statute limits districts to levying only up to 18 mills. We regret the error.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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. 14 – Movie Memories and Milestones watches a 1955 film starring James Dean and Natalie Wood, 5 p.m. A rebellious young man with a troubled past comes to a new town, finding friends and enemies.

Friday, Aug. 15 – Friday Storytime, 10:30 a.m.

Saturday, Aug. 16 – Warhammer and Dungeons & Dragons, 9 a.m.

Monday, Aug. 18 – Crafting Passions, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, Aug. 19 – Baby Cafe, 10 a.m.; Youth Garden Club, 3:30 p.m.; mahjong, 5 p.m.; chess, 5 p.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 20 – 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

— AUG. 14-21 —

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. 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.

Thursday, Aug. 21 — 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 2.3-mile hike that is open to all.

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

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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

THE VANISHING BRIDE: A quiet shift in wedding traditions

DAVID W. MILLER
Special to The Banner

Now you can quite literally "Turn Back the Pages" by visiting *The Hastings Banner* archive, accessible through the Hastings Public Library's website at barrycountyhistoryportal.org. This resource offers digitized copies of *The Banner* and other local newspapers dating back to 1862. In the course of my research, one trend has become strikingly clear: the gradual disappearance of bridal photographs from the pages of *The Banner* over time.

In the decades prior to 1960, divorce carried a heavy social stigma. It was often regarded as a moral failing, and women in particular faced serious consequences: diminished social standing, limited economic opportunity, and little legal recourse. These societal pressures helped reinforce marriage as a permanent and defining institution in a woman's life. As a result, marriage was viewed with a sense of finality and public pride.

By the early 1960s, marriage had become a near-universal milestone, especially among young adults. Brides were often in their early twenties, and weddings were seen not just as private commitments but as public celebrations. Wedding announcements and formal bridal portraits—frequently featuring a bride in a white gown—were staples of local Michigan newspapers. There was a cultural expectation, especially in small towns and suburban communities, that a wedding would be accompanied by a photograph in the paper.

We have subscribed to *The Hastings Banner* since our college years. As newlyweds living away at school, my wife and I looked forward to finding *The Banner* in our mailbox each week. We would turn immediately to the social pages to see the latest brides, elegantly posed in their gowns. In addition to the brides in gowns, there were engagement announcements and wedding licenses filed with the county clerk.

During the 1960s and 70s, June was universally regarded as the "Wedding Month," and it was not uncommon to see three or four local brides featured in a single issue. While the baby boom generation likely accounts for some of the sheer volume of weddings during that era, the decline that followed points to deeper cultural shifts. Today, October weddings have become the preferred time of year. The graph displays the number of bridal portraits published in *The Banner* during the month of June from 1960 through 1969, totaling 115. During that same period, 319 marriage licenses were issued in Barry County for the month of June. This suggests that approximately 36% of brides during that decade were featured in the newspaper, their photographs capturing not just personal joy but a community ritual. In more recent decades, those portraits have all but vanished.

One charming tradition of that era was the post-wedding motorcade. Immediately following the ceremony and reception, it was customary for the bridal party—and anyone who wished to join—to parade through town in a celebratory procession. The newlyweds led the way, their car adorned with streamers, handwritten signs and tin cans clattering behind. Until 1963, when the Soldiers and Sailors Monument was relocated to Tyden Park, the caravan would often circle the monument at the heart of town, horns blaring in joyful chorus. If it happened to be a June wedding, you might have caught a glimpse of the bride in a Cadillac convertible, her veil dancing in the summer breeze.

By the 1970s and into the 1980s, cultural values were shifting. The women's movement expanded access to higher education, and greater workforce participation led many women to delay marriage or view it as one of many possible life choices. As a result, the idea of marriage as a universal rite of passage began to wane. With that, the public ritual of announcing the bride in the local paper began to fade as well.

During the 1990s and 2000s, weddings became increasingly personalized and varied in form. Many couples chose outdoor settings, non-traditional venues or opted to elope. Some replaced the traditional wedding altogether with private civil ceremonies. This diversification, combined with the rise of digital photography and online media, began to displace the formal bridal portrait as a public announcement.

By the 2010s and into the 2020s, social media had largely supplanted local newspapers as the primary platform for sharing engagement news, wedding photos, and related milestones. Younger adults began postponing or opting out of marriage altogether, citing career priorities, financial pressures or shifting views on the institution itself. At the same time, the decline of traditional rites of passage—weddings, obituaries, burials—has affected how we document life events, posing a challenge to genealogists and cultural historians alike. The near-total transition to digital photography has further complicated matters, as many images are never printed or easily lost to time.

Despite these changes, the desire to celebrate love and union remains. In April 2006, Ever After Banquet Hall opened its doors at 1230 N. Michigan Avenue in Hastings to meet the evolving needs of modern couples. Founded by Kathy Carpenter and her daughter Nicole Linker, the venue offered an all-inclusive setting for weddings and community celebrations. In November 2023, the hall was reintroduced under new ownership as "Venue 1230." Under the leadership of Yon Bucher and his staff, the venue continues to thrive—hosting 43 weddings in 2024 alone. They have an outdoor ceremony garden, a bridal and groom suite with full catering menus and a commercial kitchen.

In tracing the quiet disappearance of brides from the pages of *The Hastings Banner*, we uncover more than a shift in publishing trends—we witness a transformation in how society marks and remembers life's most cherished milestones. What was once a shared celebration, captured in print and preserved for generations, has largely moved into fleeting digital spaces. While the traditions surrounding marriage have evolved to reflect new values and lifestyles, the absence of these public records leaves a noticeable void for those who value continuity, history and community memory. Fortunately, with archives like *The Banner*'s, we still have the means to honor the past and reflect on how customs—like wedding portraits—once helped define the rhythm and character of local life.

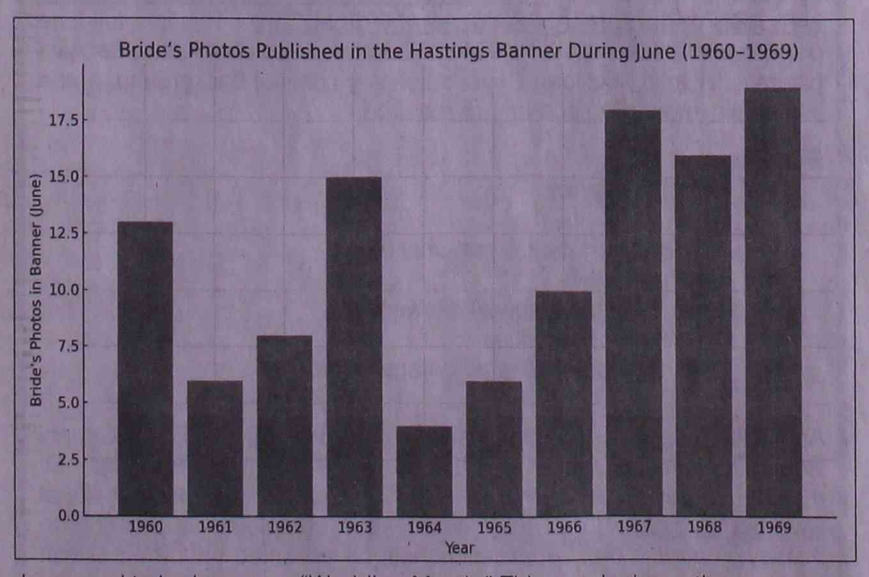
David Miller is a moderator for the "Hastings History" Facebook group.



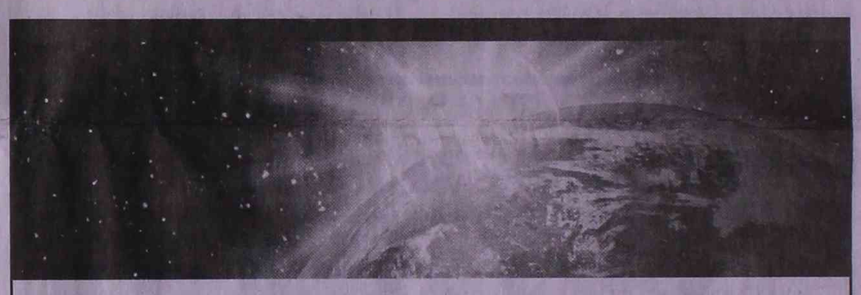
This photo of a bride and groom shows David and Gail Wachter Miller, married in 1970 at the First Presbyterian Church, then located on Broadway. **Courtesy photos**



The post-wedding motorcade is another nuptial tradition from days past. Before it was moved to Tyden Park in 1963, many Hastings couples circled the Soldiers and Sailors Monument at the corner of Broadway and State Street before continuing on their journey.



June used to be known as "Wedding Month." This graph shows the average number of June wedding announcements published in *The Banner* from 1960 to 1969. These days, many couples opt for cooler temperatures and a fall backdrop when scheduling their weddings.



ASK DR. UNIVERSE

Living a shell-tered life

Dear Malachi,

Sometimes animated turtles seem to live inside their shells like it's a tiny home. They may even hop out of the shell and run around.

That's funny in cartoons and games, but my friend Ryan Wagner told me it could never happen in real life. He's a wildlife biologist at Washington State University. He studies animals like turtles and frogs.

It turns out that a turtle's shell doesn't sit on top of its body. It's part of the turtle's body.

"Turtles are their shells," Wagner said. "The shell is made up of their bones. As the turtle grows, its shell grows along with it—just like our bones do."

Also like our bones, a turtle's shell forms when the turtle is an embryo. That's when it's still inside the egg. The shell starts out soft and hardens as the baby turtle grows.

The bones of a turtle's shell are similar to the ones we have. The shell is the turtle's backbone and rib cage with the collarbone, shoulder bones and pelvic bones tucked inside. A turtle's rib bones are wide and flat. They're fused together to form a solid shell.

The shell has two parts. The helmet-like dome that covers the back is the carapace. The bony plate that covers the belly is the plastron.

The carapace and plastron are connected along the turtle's sides. Its head and front legs stick out the front. Its tail and back legs stick out the rear. All the turtle's mushy organs are sandwiched between the carapace and plastron.

The bones of the shell have a protective covering. In many turtles, it's made of keratin plates called scutes. Keratin is the same protein that's in our hair and toenails. Some turtles have a leathery covering instead.

Some turtles can pull their head and legs into their shells. They have a hinged plastron that flexes up and down. They use their muscles to pull their whole body inside. Then they squeeze the carapace and plastron together to make a tight seal.

That's super handy for protecting turtles from predators. But it can be tough for scientists who study them.

"In college, I had a job clipping box turtles' toenails," Wagner said. "We used the toenail samples to determine how stressed the turtles were. But they would pull their legs and head inside and clamp up—and there's basically no grip that you can get with your hands to try to pull the shell open."

A turtle's shell is sensitive. It houses the spinal cord and lots of nerves. So, turtles can feel anything that touches their shell.

Wagner told me that turtles are quite vulnerable to shell injuries and other threats, like habitat loss or overharvesting.

"Turtles are in trouble," he said. "There are about 350 species of turtles, found on every continent except Antarctica. About half of them are at risk of extinction. Some consider them to be the most endangered group of vertebrates in the world. They need our help."

The best way to help is to admire wild turtles from a distance and protect their homes. And never release a pet turtle into the wild.

Together, we can protect these speshell animals.

— Dr. Universe

Do you have a question? Ask Dr. Universe.
Send an email to Washington State University's resident scientist and writer at Dr.Universe@wsu.edu or visit her website,askdruniverse.com.

Volleyball down south suits O'Gorman sisters



Maradith O'Gorman celebrates a point with her University of South Alabama Jaguars during the 2024 season in Mobile, Ala. **USA photo by BP Photography**



Aubrey O'Gorman and LSU teammate Camryn Chatellier talk things over between points during their Court 2 match against Cal Poly at the NC Beach Volleyball Championship in Gulf Shores, Ala., May 2. **LSU Pix photo by Stephen Bayog**

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The O'Gormans are a long way from East Lansing at this point, but they're still on the court. And they're excelling.

Lakewood High School alumni Aubrey O'Gorman (class of 2021) and Maradith O'Gorman (2022) have found their way south after starting their collegiate volleyball journey together at Michigan State University. Both girls have senior seasons ahead of them – Aubrey with the Louisiana State University (LSU) Women's Sand Volleyball team and Maradith with the University of South Alabama (USA) Women's Volleyball team.

Aubrey recently finished up a summer development internship in Nashville, Tenn., and is getting a bit of time in with her "little" sister in Mobile, Ala., before heading back to campus in Baton Rouge to finish up her MBA and eventually prep for the spring 2026 beach volleyball season. Maradith is in the midst of preparations for the 2025 indoor season with the USA Jaguars.

The pair helped lead the Lakewood varsity volleyball team to final four appearances every year from 2017 to 2021, including three state runner-up finishes during that stretch.

Aubrey is still playing for championships on a regular basis. The LSU Tigers have earned a spot in the National Collegiate Beach Volleyball Championships in each of the past two seasons. The Tigers won their way to the national semifinals at the 2024 tournament in Gulf Shores, Ala., with Aubrey playing Court 3 matches with partner Ella Larkin. The duo clenched the Tigers' opening round win over Texas Christian with a 20-22, 23-21, 15-12 victory.

Larkin and Aubrey also won a three-setter, 21-18, 16-21, 16-14 against Stanford as part of a 3-2 team win in the 2024 quarterfinals. The Tigers were eventually bounced from the tournament 3-1 by second-ranked UCLA in the semifinals.

Aubrey played with Camryn Chatellier on Court 2 in the Tigers' opening round match at the 2025 national championships back in Gulf Shores in May – but didn't get to complete their match as Cal Poly clinched a 3-1 team victory before the duo was through.

Aubrey and Maradith had one season together at Michigan State University, which went through a coaching staff change as they arrived in East Lansing. Aubrey didn't see court action her first year with the Spartans and then got into six matches as a sophomore in the fall of 2022.

"I made the decision to leave. It was obviously really sad leaving home. I took a big risk, and it ended up being beautiful," Aubrey said. "LSU ... with just beach in general, and my team, and coaches I have just found a ton of joy in the game again. It looks a lot different playing beach, but I couldn't have drawn it up any better myself. I am really grateful to be where I am right now and that hard decision, like a truly tough moment, led to something I think is so beautiful."

Aubrey entered the transfer portal at the end of the first semester, in the middle of the 2022/23 school year, and checked the box to participate in sand volleyball as well as indoor mostly on a whim. She was shocked when a stand-out beach program like LSU reached out.

"I had no business being on their radar, but they gave me a call and I just fell in love with their culture, the way that they

Continued on next page

CITY OF HASTINGS

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
FOR MICHIGAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)
FUNDING FOR EXTERIOR HOME IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The City of Hastings will conduct a public hearing on Monday August 25, 2025, at 7:00PM in Council Chambers at City Hall at 201 East State Street, Hastings, MI 49058, for the purpose of affording citizens an opportunity to examine and submit comments on the proposed application for a CDBG grant.

The City of Hastings proposes to use CDBG grant funds in the amount of $300,000.00 for exterior home improvement projects for owner-occupied single-family residences, along with other local and private activities and funding. All activities, upon completion, will benefit low-moderate income households. Zero persons will be displaced as a result of the proposed activities.

Further information, including a copy of the City of Hastings' Community Development Plan and CDBG application, are available for review. To inspect the documents, please contact Dan King, Community Development Director, at 269-945-2468, dking@hastingsmi.gov or review at City Hall, 201 E. State Street, Hastings, Michigan 49058. Comments may be submitted in writing by 4:00 PM on Monday August 25, 2025, or made in person at the public hearing.

The City of Hastings has participated in previous CDBG funding and information is available regarding the city's performance on the past activities.

The City will provide necessary aids and services to individuals with disabilities upon five days' notice to the Clerk of the City of Hastings. Individuals requiring these services should contact the Office of the City Clerk at 269-945-2468, or via email at mpeacock@hastingsmi.gov.

City of Hastings
Linda Perin
City Clerk

City of Hastings

PUBLIC NOTICE
Online Auction of Hastings Department of Public Service Items

The City of Hastings, with Biddergy, is opening bids for the sale of one pickup truck and three equipment items:

Lot # 310352 Truck: 2012 Red Dodge Ram 3500 ST Crew Cab 4x4/6.7L L6 Turbo Diesel/ 6-speed auto trans/ 38081.00 miles/ VIN # 3C63D3GL9CG310352/Municipal Title not Salvage Title/Minimum bid $1,000

Lot # HSTO62 and HST092: Henderson FSHx10x56xSS Live Bottom Salt Box with Spreader/Minimum bid $100 each

Lot # HST001: 1976 Saylor-Beall Air Compressor/Model 98651/Lesson 3 Phase-5hp Motor/WP:200 – Heads:140/Minimum bid $25

These items will be sold in "as-is" condition without any warranty. Arrangements to view this vehicle can be made by appointment by emailing: Drizor@biddergy.com.

Biddding will be open on the Biddergy website on **Tuesday, August 19, 2025, at 8:00 AM.** The link to view the auction items can be found at: Biddergy - Worldwide Online Auction and Liquidation Services.

Linda Perin
City Clerk/Treasurer

Public Notice
Sealed Bid Auction for Surplus Vehicles

Barry County is accepting sealed bids for the following:

1) 2014 Ford Escape #1FMCU0F75EUD07701, mileage 38,986
2) 2013 Ford Taurus #1FAHP2D85DG121538
3) 2014 Chevrolet Tahoe #1GNLC2E08ER179617, mileage 216,456
4) 2011 Chevrolet Tahoe #1GNLC2E06BR193401, mileage 147,000+
5) 2018 Chevrolet Tahoe #1GNLCDEC6JR308213, mileage 148,056
6) 2016 Chevrolet Impala #2G11X5SA1G9172291, mileage 116,388
7) 1989 HMMWV Utility Vehicle
8) 1990 Georgie Boy Impulse Motorhome #1GBKP37W2K3324024, mileage 29,451.50

All items sold AS-IS and available for visual inspection at the Barry County Sheriff's Department.

Barry County reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any irregularities in any bid, and to award the bid(s) in a manner that the County deems to be in its best interest, price and other factors considered.

All sealed bids must be clearly marked on the outside of the sealed envelope as follows:

Barry County Administrator
c/o 2025 Surplus Auto Auction
220 W State St
Hastings, MI 49058

With your bid, please include your name and address, phone number, number and description of the item.

Bids will be accepted until 12:00pm on Thursday, August 28, 2025.

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.

Continued from previous page

run their program and felt like truly that God was calling me there and that was gonna be the best fit for me," Aubrey said.

She found the beach game to be pretty different from the indoor game she was used to, mentally, emotionally and physically. She certainly had to work on all around skills she hadn't utilized much as a middle blocker, and that might not have been the biggest difference.

"Atmosphere wise, it is relaxed in the sense that like the sun is out, music is playing all the time, people are bringing their dogs. There's people eating ice cream and tailgating like in between games. So that is different. When you're switching sides, you're high-fiving the other team saying good job. It's just things that I never experienced playing indoor."

She said her knees also enjoy the beach game much more than being on the hardwood.

Aubrey settled in with the Tigers during their spring 2023 season and was pretty happy just being a part of the program as the 2024 season rolled around. She saw the court once, playing with Larkin, during the first month of the season.

"I think LSU in general does a great job with role acceptance. That is a really tough thing as a college athlete. I truly think that is a huge difference in our team culture and why we succeed each year when a lot of the times we shouldn't," Aubrey said. "I was super happy being in that supportive role and just cheering for my teammates. I was decked out in Tiger hats and glasses and the whole bit running from court to court watching my teammates just kill it."

Then with the team going through a bit of a slump midway through the season, head coach Russell Brock and the LSU staff decided to shake things up on day two of its home Death Volley Invitational the final weekend of March 2024. Aubrey was paired with Larkin on Court 3 and the duo were a part of a 3-2 upset victory over perennial national championship contender USC. The pair stuck together for the rest of the season.

"[Larkin] is a beast and just someone who could play with anyone," Aubrey said of her former teammate. "They trusted her to play with me, and we ended up clenching the match. It was 2-2 and we were the last pair to finish … which was huge for our season and for the team, and media wise it really brought a lot of attention to the team."

Larkin, who Aubrey got to have one season with, and head coach Russell Brock have been a couple of the people really instrumental in the joy Aubrey has gotten from her move. She's looking forward to Larkin's upcoming wedding, which she said will be officiated by coach Brock.

"My head coach, Russell Brock, he is one of the most inspiring people in the way that he leads. I've also really come to appreciate his leadership over the summer working in a corporate job with different leadership," Aubrey said. "He's just like so kind, so easy going, gentle and wise. He is someone that has an open door policy and really means it, and is there to just support us in truly anything we do. He's been a huge role model for me and my faith as well."

It was just one year on the beach with Larkin for Aubrey, but it was a special one.

"I feel like she exemplifies everything that LSU Beach stands for. She's extremely hardworking and intelligent," Aubrey said. "She's kind, and just brought a lot of joy into my first year there. She just taught me that volleyball can be fun. You can be competitive and determined and hardworking, but also be silly and laugh a lot. I think that was another big reason for us success in my first year there was her leadership and just the environment that she helped create."

Bonding with opponents has been as meaningful for her throughout her time at LSU as bonding with her own teammates.

"What makes the difference for me is that my teammates and coaches and the support staff at LSU care about the people across the net and around us just as much as we care about ourselves. I think that's super unique and not something that I had ever really experienced before," Aubrey said.

"We host this gathering on Thursdays before our tournaments called 'Together Nights' and we invite all the other teams in the tournament. It's just like a time for us to come together and talk about Jesus and talk about life outside of sports, and just to communicate with like other teams and pry with them and spend time praying about the weekend ahead. That experience alone has just changed my perspective on what it means to be a college athlete and a follower of Jesus, and just like a friend and a good person that cares about the well-being of others. I just think that has really shifted my perspective and been a huge, huge piece of my time at LSU."

"Trust me. The moment Saturday rolls around we want to win and we're going all out. We're going for it. I just think it is a level of respect and camaraderie that we're able to come and hang out on those nights and come together as people and not as volleyball players or coaches."

Aubrey had time to talk from Mobile Tuesday while Maradith was getting in a practice with the South Alabama Jaguars. She appreciates how the spring sand volleyball season gives her the opportunity to spend less time focused on volleyball throughout the summer and gave her the opportunity to take part in the internship with a real estate developer to get some hands on experience.

Cathy George was the head coach of the Michigan State program from 2005-2021. Leah Johnson took over for the 2022 season and led the program through 2024.

Maradith was on the court throughout her freshman season at Michigan State in 2022 and closed the campaign with 260 kills in 106 sets while also adding 169 digs and 69 blocks. She was second on the team in kills, and top four in digs and blocks, while also tying for the team lead in aces with 27.

Her sophomore season in the fall of 2023, she saw the court in just 27 sets.

Current South Alabama head coach Jesse Ortiz spent three seasons as an assistant coach at Michigan State University and had stints at Miami University, Ferris State University and Sonoma State University before being an assistant at Clemson in the lead-up to getting the head coaching job in Mobile. He has strong ties with the FarOut Volleyball Club in Grand Rapids which the O'Gorman sisters competed with.

"I was just looking for a change. I saw Aubrey do it and enjoy it so much," Maradith said. "What really made me choose South was the coaching staff. I knew Jesse. He was a previous coach at Michigan State. The way that he uses data volleyball-wise and his whole perspective on the game is insane. Just seeing that when we were in the recruiting process the second time it was just like, yeah that's what I want."

Maradith started in all 27 matches on the right side as a junior at South Alabama where she recorded 233 kills in 101 sets while hitting .224. She had 75 blocks, 87 digs and 17 aces throughout the season too. The Jaguars put together a 15-12 overall record and were 11-5 in the Sun Belt Conference.

She is looking forward to playing all the way around this fall and is looking forward to starting the season with a year of experience in coach Ortiz's system which she says is very different from anything she has played before.

"The girls – amazing. Amazing. Amazing. I love them. I am meeting some of my best friends down there for sure. Ironically, there are a lot of people from up north because he has been up there and he coached a lot of people. Kind of a small world. He knows a lot of people I know," Maradith said.

The USA girls lost out in a tough battle with Arkansas State during the regular season and then got upset by Georgia Southern in the second round of the conference tournament.

"Overall, I mean, I feel like it was a good season," Maradith said. "Definitely, a lot of information was taken in and I feel like I've definitely built myself as a player mentally … I think mentally I grew as a person extremely.

"Obviously the Big Ten is hard. Michigan State at the time wasn't the greatest, but the biggest thing for me, it is hard to say, has been gaining my confidence back in myself. I did have that waver a little bit, and lose it. It's about having people behind you rather than against you. I felt like at Michigan State I wasn't really myself fully 24/7."

She said she has had an easier time building personal connections at South Alabama, and appreciates the focus Ortiz puts on excelling beyond the volleyball court too.

Maradith is working on a degree in early childhood studies, with the idea of working some day as a child life specialist in hospitals helping them recover during long stays.

"Also I have volunteered a lot with church and kids, just growing God in their life at a young age because that is very important to me, and volunteering with special needs kids," Maradith said.

She enjoys the reward of seeing youngsters of any skill level enjoy sports.

The Jaguars have their Red vs. Blue Match Friday, Aug. 15, and the season kicks off with a trip to face Florida State Aug. 23. The USA girls follow that up with a trip to Baton Rouge to face Baylor and the indoor LSU women the weekend of Aug. 29-30, then it will be a little closer to home for Maradith as the Jaguars travel to Milwaukee to take on Central Michigan, Iowa State and Milwaukee the first weekend of September.

The sisters have enjoyed still not being too far apart. Aubrey said the three-hour drive from Baton Rouge to Mobile "feels like nothing. You just hop on the interstate and go right over."

Aubrey's Tigers start their 2026 sand season in February.



Then senior Aubrey O'Gorman jumps into the arms of her junior sister Maradith O'Gorman during their team's state semifinal win at Kellogg Arena in January of 2021 - their final victory together as Lakewood Viking varsity volleyball players. The two would have one season together again at Michigan State University in the fall of 2022 before seeking out other collegiate volleyball opportunities. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

MHSAA has a few changes in the works for fall season

The addition of girls field hockey as a sponsored postseason championship sport and a revised schedule for Lower Peninsula Boys Tennis Finals are the most significant changes to fall sports as practices get underway this week for an anticipated 100,000 high school athletes at Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) member schools.

The fall season includes the most played sports for both boys and girls; 36,210 football players and 19,679 girls volleyball players competed during the Fall 2024 season. Teams in those sports will be joined by competitors in girls and boys cross country, girls field hockey, Lower Peninsula girls golf, boys soccer, Lower Peninsula girls swimming & diving, Upper Peninsula girls tennis and Lower Peninsula boys tennis in beginning practice next week. Competition begins Aug. 15 for cross country, field hockey, golf, soccer and tennis, Aug. 20 for swimming & diving and volleyball, and Aug. 28 for varsity football.

Girls field hockey is one of two sports set to make its debut with MHSAA

See **MHSAA** on 11

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF TRUST

Mary S. Lannon Trust Agreement dated June 3, 2020 Date of Birth: December 11, 1960.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Mary S. Lannon, who resided at 3490 Wood School Road, Irving Township, Michigan 49058, died on July 8, 2025. There is no probate estate. The decedent was the Grantor and Trustee of the Mary S. Lannon Trust Agreement dated June 3, 2020 (the "Trust"). The current successor Trustee under the Trust is Kevin B. Lannon, whose address is 5321 Gainsborough Drive, Fairfax, Virginia 22032.

Creditors of the decedent or of the Trust are notified that all claims against the Trust will be forever barred unless presented to the current Trustee or the attorney for the current Trustee within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: August 8, 2025
Carrie E. Trimpe (P82988)
Attorney for the Trustee
Bodman PLC
99 Monroe Avenue NW, Suite 300
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
(616) 205-4330
Kevin B. Lannon, Trustee
5321 Gainsborough Drive
Fairfax, Virginia 22032
(703) 915-8778

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)

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, of 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)

HHS swimming and cross country start season at midnight



This group of six Hastings High School cross country athletes participated in the Midnight Madness 5K at 12:01 a.m. on Monday. They wore items that glowed as they ran through the neighborhood around their school.



Members of the Hastings/Delton Kellogg girls swimming and diving team take a brief break during their season-opening workout, held at 12:01 a.m. on Monday. **Photos by Jayson Bussa**

Jayson Bussa
Contributing Writer

Caroline Randall usually sticks to an early bedtime.

But on Sunday night heading into Monday morning, she made an exception.

"It definitely is easier with the cooler temperatures. It can be a little challenging, though, because I like to go to bed kind of early and it throws off the routine a little bit," said Randall, moments after finishing a three-mile tempo run through the dark.

The Hastings High School cross country and girls swimming/diving teams wasted no time launching their fall seasons. Both squads gathered at exactly 12:01 a.m. Monday to officially begin practices, a fun and memorable tradition.

For the cross country team, that came in the form of Midnight Madness 5K, a tradition started in 2010 by Coach Steve Collins when he took over the program. While the course has evolved over the years, the event still begins behind the high school and winds through nearby neighborhoods. Runners wear headlamps and glow-in-the-dark gear, adding a festive feel to the late-night workout.

This year's turnout was small and spirited, with just six runners participating.

"This is the first year I didn't have an alumni come back," Collins said. "Last year, I had a few of them run and it's kind of fun to see them coming back and catching up with each other.

Randall, now a junior, crossed the finish line first with a time of 18:55. A two-time all-state runner and current school record holder, she treated the race as a training opportunity.

"I was hoping to run a 19:30 or below," Randall said. "I treated it as a tempo run; I didn't full-on race it but tries to treat it as a workout. I was pretty happy with it. It was one of my faster tempo runs."

While Monday's run was more about tradition than competition, Randall has big goals for the season ahead. She's aiming to break into the 17-minute range and earn a top-10 finish at the state meet.

The cross country team will head to Van Buren State Park this weekend for camp.

Meanwhile, inside the CERC, the Hastings/Delton Kellogg swimming and diving team was just as energized. With sleeping bags waiting in another room, the athletes hit the pool and diving boards for their own version of a midnight kickoff.

Summerfest sporting events just a week away

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The 2025 Hastings Summerfest will be here the weekend of Aug. 22-24.

The Jim Jensen Memorial 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament, the Corwell Health Pennock Summerfest 5K Run/Walk, the Backwoods Triathlon, weightlifting and softball competitions will once again be held across Hastings. Sign-up is going on now for most of those annual sporting opportunities.

There will also be a youth kickball tournament this year at Bob King Park Saturday, Aug. 23, at 1 p.m.

The Backwoods Triathlon includes golfing, cornhole and bowling events for teams of two with proceeds going to Happiness for Veterans of Barry County. The event opens with a 9 a.m. shotguns tart at Gun Ridge Golf Course. The cornhole tournament will also run at Gun Ridge, followed by the Scotch doubles bowling competition at Hastings Bowl.

The cost to participate in the triathlon is $100 per team for those that preregister by Aug. 16, and $125 for late registration should it be available. There is a 54-team limit. Register with Michelle Gdula at Mgdula310@yahoo.com or by calling 269-223-4292.

The annual Corwell Health Pennock Summerfest 5K Run/Walk and Kids Fun Run will take off from the Thornapple Plaza at 8 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 23.

The cost to participate in the 5K Run/Walk is $40 for those over 18 and $25 for those 18 years old or younger. Registration can be done online at the Hastings Summerfest page of runsignup.com.

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

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

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

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

The 2025 Jim Jensen Memorial 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament will be held Aug. 23 at Tyden Park. Registration is going on now through Aug. 18. Links to online registration can be found on the sports page at hastingssummerfest.com or on the events calendar at mibarry.com.

The cost to participate is $25 for teams of three or four players. The plans is for contests in 12-14, 15-17, 18-25 and 25-and-up divisions, although often times the two older groups are joined to an 18-and-up bracket based on participation.

The first 100 players to check in the day of the tournament receive a T-shirt. Registered teams may begin checking in at 8:30 and games will start no later than 9:30 a.m.

Players may sign up as an individual and be placed on a team at the event, or sign up as a team. Teams must include at least eight players and have a maximum of two adults on the field at all times. Adults are not necessary for a team to participate. Contact youth.greenstreetumc@gmail.com for more details.

Weightlifting will be held Saturday, Aug. 23, beginning at 9 p.m. The competition will run until about noon. Registration is $10 and can be done at the event.

Contact Aaron Snider to sign-up for the softball tournament at 517-927-9912. The cost to participate is $175 per team and is open to the first 12 men's teams to sign up.

City Of Hastings

COUNTY OF BARRY, STATE OF MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION 2025-22

TO STAY THE NECESSARY ORDINANCES TO HOLD SUMMERFEST FESTIVAL ACTIVITIES AT FISH HATCHERY PARK, TYDEN PARK, PARKING LOTS # 4 and #5, VARIOUS STREETS, AND ENTERTAINMENT VENUES ON AUGUST 22, 23, AND 24, 2025

WHEREAS, the Barry County Chamber of Commerce Summerfest Committee, by way of correspondence, has requested the use of Fish Hatchery Park, Parking Lots #4 and #5, various streets, and entertainment venues for the purpose of holding a festival which promotes and celebrates the City of Hastings on August 22, 23, and 24, 2025, the use of Tyden Park on August 23, 2025, for a basketball tournament and the use of Bob King Park on August 23, 2025, for a youth kickball tournament; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Hastings at its regular meeting on August 11, 2025, approved the location of Fish Hatchery Park and Parking Lots #4 and #5, various streets, and entertainment venues on August 22, 23, and 24, Tyden Park on August 23, 2025, and Bob King Park on August 23, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Summerfest Committee desires to ensure the Summerfest Festival is conducted in good taste and in accordance with all laws and regulations, now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Hastings hereby stays for August 22, 23, and 24, 2025, under Section 2-34 of the Hastings City Code, the following Ordinances:

Section 6-1; Sections 22-1 and 22-2;

Sections 58-34, 58-35 (3) and (4), 37 (2) and (4), and

Section 58-38 (a), (g), (h), and (i).

A motion to adopt the foregoing resolution being offered by Member Mclean, with support by Member Devroy:

YEAS: Barlow, Bergeron, Brehm, Devroy, Mclean, Resseguie, Rocha, Stenzelbarton and Tossava

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION DECLARED ADOPTED

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted at a duly held and attended regular meeting the 11th day of August 2025, by the City Council of the City of Hastings, by a vote of nine (9) members voting in favor thereof, zero (0) members voting against, and zero (0) member(s) absent.

Linda Perin
City Clerk

City of Hastings

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON A SPECIAL USE PERMIT FOR 1504 SOUTH HANOVER

The Planning Commission for the City of Hastings will hold a Public Hearing for the purpose of hearing written and/or oral comments from the public regarding the request for a Special Use Permit and Site Plan Review from Matt Koning of Broadmoor Motor Group for construction of a vehicle repair shop located at 1504 South Hanover Street, Hastings, Michigan 49058. The public hearing will be held at **7:00 PM on Tuesday September 2, 2025,** in the Council Chambers, second floor of City Hall, 201 East State Street, Hastings, MI 49058. Please check the City of Hastings website at www.hastingsmi.gov or contact City Hall at 269-945-2468 for details.

All interested citizens are encouraged to attend and to submit comments.

A copy of the plans and additional background materials are available for public inspection from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM Monday through Friday at the Office of the Community Development Director, 201 E. State Street, Hastings, MI 49058. Questions or comments can be directed to Dan King, Community Development Director at 269-945-2468 or dking@hastingsmi.gov.

The City will provide necessary reasonable aids and services upon five days' notice to the City Clerk at 269.945.2468 or TDD call relay services 800.649.3777.

Linda Perin
City Clerk

Nguyen defends title as Delton SoCo champion

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

They were out and back fast in the early morning dew at the annual Delton Founders Festival SoCo 5K race Saturday.

Hiro Nguyen made it back to back victories on the out and back course that started near the old Delton Kellogg soccer field, wrapped around the Founders Festival grounds at William Smith Memorial Park and then headed east of town. He finished in about 18 minutes and 43 seconds.

Arabelle Allersma, fresh of her medal-winning performances in the 11-and-under distance races at the AAU Junior Olympics in Houston, Texas, was the first female finisher in Delton Saturday finishing about a minute behind Nguyen as the second overall finisher.

The race is an annual fundraiser for the Delton Kellogg High School student council.

Allersma will be a sixth grader at Delton Kellogg this fall. Nguyen is set to begin his senior year at Plainwell High School.

"It was a little slow," Nguyen said of his time. "For where I am at right now, it is pretty good. I think last year it was like 17:40 or something. My PR is like 16:30. It is just summer training right now. It is definitely a little warmer than I thought it would be."

He said he liked the course being pretty flat and easy on the legs, although some tight turns can prove challenging.

"It's always a pretty fun race," Nguyen said.

Allersma was well ahead of most of the rest of the pack, even if she wasn't in tip-top running shape. Popcorn and slushies were still in her belly (at least for half the race) after going to see the movie "The Bad Guys 2" with friends Friday.



The runners take off down the trail at the start of the Delton Founders Festival SoCo 5K. Close to 30 people took part in the early morning race across town and back Saturday. **Photos by Brett Bremer**



Hiro Nguyen has enough energy as he rounds the final turn to give a thumbs up to the camera before winning the annual Delton Founders Festival SoCo 5K Saturday in Delton.

MHSAA

Continued from Page 9

sponsorship during the 2025-26 school year; although not in Barry County any time soon. Boys volleyball will play its first season with MHSAA sponsorship in the spring.

There are 37 varsity teams expected to play during the inaugural field hockey season. There will be one playoff division, with the first MHSAA Regionals in this sport beginning Oct. 8 and the first championship awarded Oct. 25.

To conclude their season, Lower Peninsula boys tennis teams will begin a pilot program showcasing Finals for all four divisions at the same location – Midland Tennis Center – over a two-week period. Division 4 will begin play with its two-day event Oct. 15-16, followed by Division 1 on Oct. 17-18, Division 2 on Oct. 22-23 and Division 3 played Oct. 24-25.

Also in Lower Peninsula boys tennis, and girls in the spring, a Finals qualification change will allow for teams that finish third at their Regionals to advance to the season-ending tournament as well, but only in postseason divisions where there are six Regionals – which will be all four boys divisions this fall.

The 11-Player Football Finals at Ford Field will be played this fall over a three-day period, with Division 8, 4, 6 and 2 games on Friday, Nov. 28, and Division 7, 3, 5 and 1 games played Sunday, Nov. 30, to accommodate Michigan State's game against Maryland on Nov. 29 at Ford Field.

Two more changes affecting football playoffs will be noticeable this fall. For the first time, 8-Player Semifinals will be played at neutral sites; previously the team with the highest playoff-point average continued to host during that round. Also, teams that forfeit games will no longer receive playoff-point average strength-of-schedule bonus points from those opponents to which they forfeited.

A pair of changes in boys soccer this fall will address sportsmanship. The first allows game officials to take action against a team's head coach in addition to any cautions or ejections issues to players and personnel in that team's bench area – making the head coach more accountable for behavior on the sideline. The second change allows for only the team captain to speak with an official during the breaks between periods (halftime and during overtime), unless another coach, player, etc., is summoned by the official – with the penalty a yellow card to the offending individual.

A few more game-action rules changes will be quickly noticeable to participants and spectators

In volleyball, multiple contacts by one player attempting to play the ball will now be allowed on second contact if the next contact is by a teammate on the same side of the net.

In swimming & diving, backstroke ledges will be permitted in pools that maintain a 6-foot water depth. If used in competition, identical ledges must be provided by the host team for all lanes, although individual swimmers are not required to use them.

Also in swimming & diving – during relay exchanges – second, third and fourth swimmers must have one foot stationary at the front edge of the deck. The remainder of their bodies may be in motion prior to the finish of the incoming swimmer.

In football, when a forward fumble goes out of bounds, the ball will now be spotted where the fumble occurred instead of where the ball crossed the sideline.

The 2025 Fall campaign culminates with postseason tournaments beginning with the Upper Peninsula Girls Tennis Finals during the week of Sept. 29 and wrapping up with the 11-Player Football Finals on Nov. 28 and 30.

— BB

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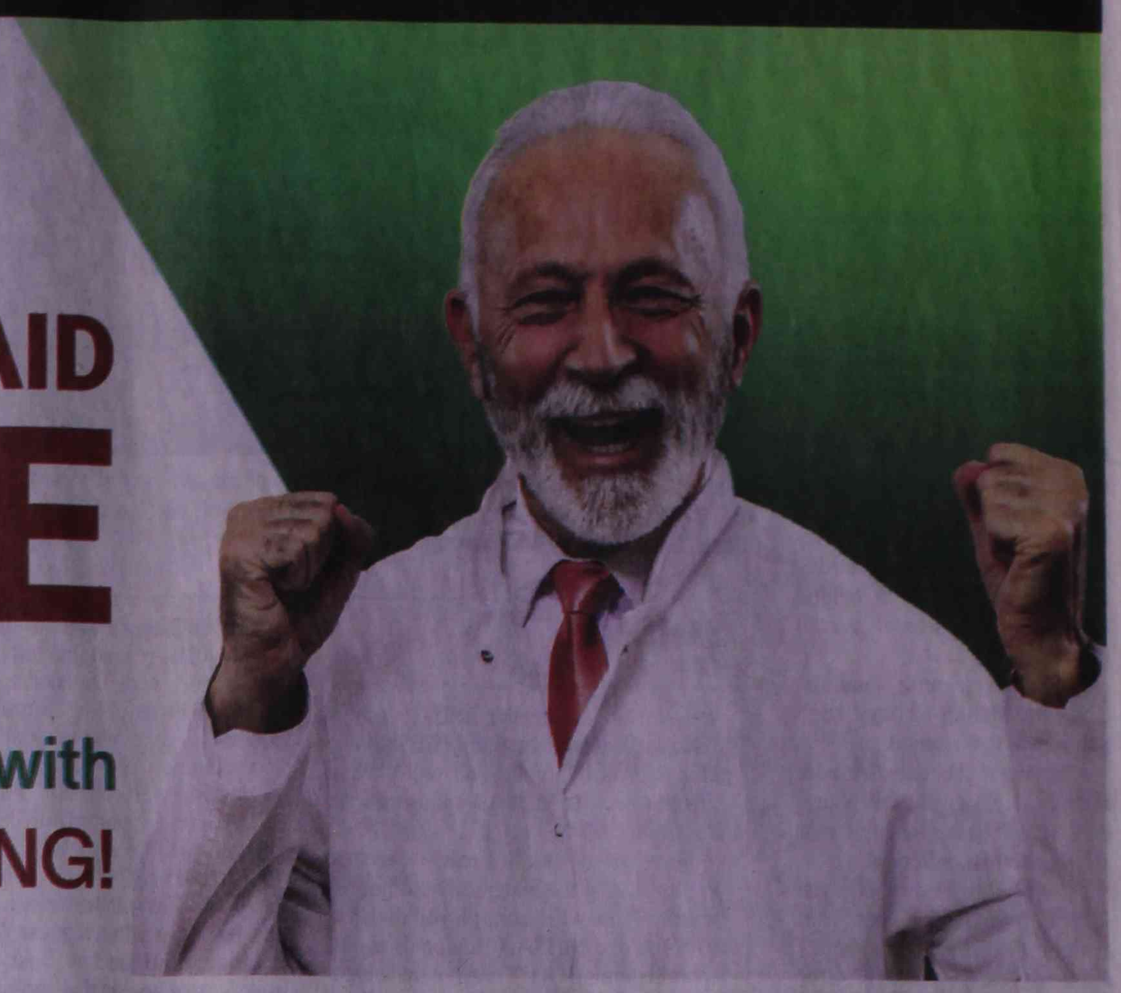
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