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Staff member withdraws from consideration to be Lake Odessa manager



Lake Odessa Department of Public Works supervisor Jesse Trout informed village officials this week he is withdrawing his name from consideration for the village manager job. **File photo**

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

The Lake Odessa Village Council is back to square one – again – in its search for a new, permanent manager, with a third consecutive candidate withdrawing his name from consideration.

The latest candidate, Department of Public Works supervisor Jesse Trout, informed village officials that he was ending negotiations with interim Village Manager Gregg Guetschow and President Karen Banks to take on a dual role that included him serving as the village's top administrator, according to Guetschow.

"I'm disappointed," Guetschow said on Tuesday. "I thought it was a good opportunity for him and a good opportunity for the village.

"We're back to square one again," he added.

The announcement comes just a little more than two weeks after council members reached a consensus to consider Trout, who had not previously applied for the position or been interviewed by the full council, and enter contract negotiations to hire him as manager at its regular meeting Aug. 18. Guetschow said Trout cited personal reasons for not pursuing negotiations further.

"I'm disappointed, of course, as I was confident Jesse would have done very well in the dual role," Banks added. "But I understand his reasons for declining the position."

Trout, who will remain with the village in his current position, is the third person to receive an offer from the village to take on some type of an administrative role – and the third to later retire from consideration.

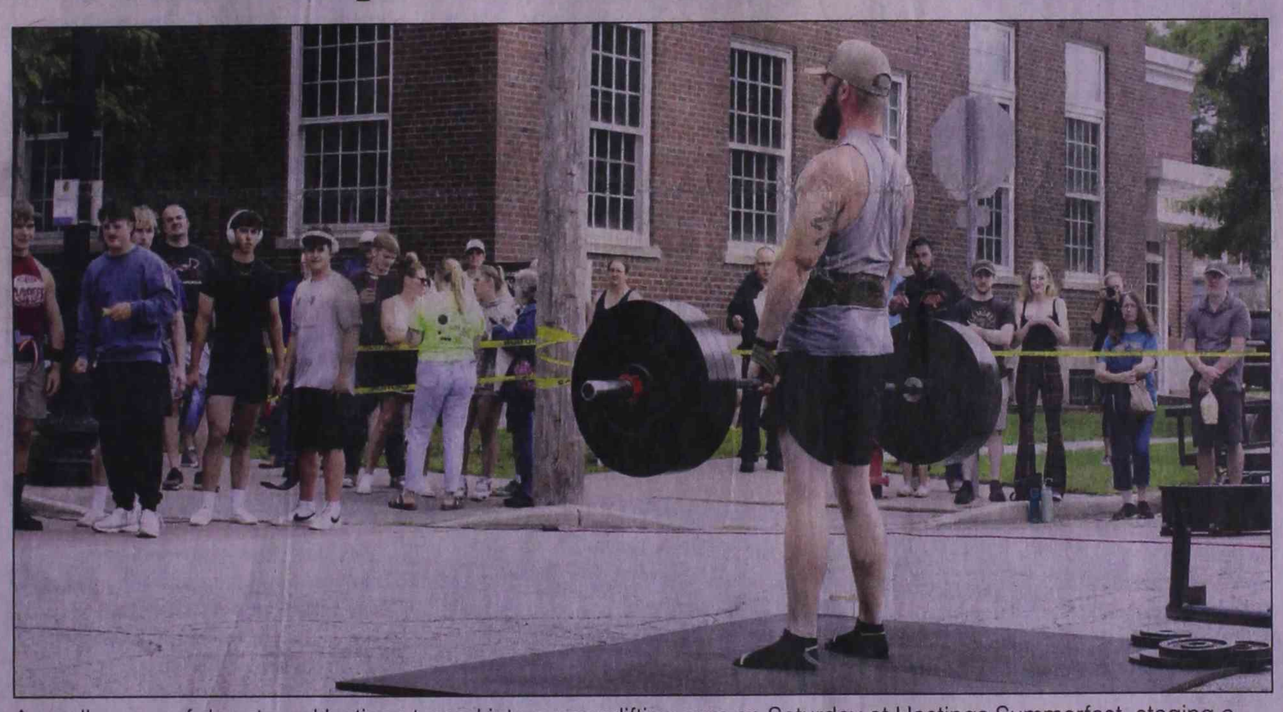
Lake Odessa has been without a full-time manager since December 2023 when council members agreed to a separation agreement with then Village Manager Ben Geiger. That was less than seven months after Geiger accepted the job in May of that year.

The council has conducted three hiring searches since then, without achieving a successful hire.

In their first try, council members nearly hired Geiger's successor by extending an offer to Jacob VanBoxel, who was at the time the director of planning and neighborhood services in Coldwater, in June 2024. The search

See **WITHDRAWS** on 3

Hastings Summerfest takes over city for action-packed weekend



A small corner of downtown Hastings turned into a powerlifting gym on Saturday at Hastings Summerfest, staging a weightlifting competition

Jayson Bussa
Contributing Writer

No matter what you're into, chances are you'll find something to enjoy at the annual Hastings Summerfest.

Feel like waking up early for a three-mile run? The Corewell Health Pennock Summerfest Run has you covered. Craving fried food? There's plenty. Parade? Live music? You bet.

Held Friday through Sunday, Summerfest 2025 brought its signature mix of fun, tradition and community spirit to downtown Hastings, offering the eclectic lineup locals and visitors alike have come to expect. It also serves as summer's last big hurrah before fall sets in.

Summerfest-goers were treated to plenty of sunshine

See **SUMMERFEST** on 4



Anna Rose (left) and Aiden Oliver (right) hang out of the windows of a Barry Intermediate School District bus that was decked out in beach décor during Saturday's Summerfest parade.

Officials voice concern over YouTuber's efforts to confront alleged pedophiles

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

The efforts of a Grand Rapids videographer to help catch alleged pedophiles have raised concerns for local law enforcement officials.

Kaizer "Kai" Kinsley, a 21-year-old resident of the Grand Rapids area, has made it his job to lure potential pedophiles to a location, where he then confronts them before calling 9-1-1 and hoping they are arrested for soliciting sexual acts from a minor.

Kinsley's efforts have reportedly resulted in numerous arrests in Barry County, with as many as a half dozen suspects facing felony charges, including accosting a minor for immoral purposes and using a computer to commit a crime. One defendant, a 36-year-old Hastings man, Robert Daniel Fisher, has entered a plea of guilty and is now awaiting an Oct. 1 sentencing hearing in Barry County District Court 56B.

Four other similar cases have probable cause hearings scheduled in September, with Judge Michael Schipper issuing a bench warrant from one other suspect who failed to appear for a hearing on Aug. 13. That after the individual allegedly left the area for Indiana.

Kinsley said he has conducted numerous "stings" around the country and in Canada, first creating false accounts in online chat rooms and posing as a minor. Once

See **CONCERNS** on 2

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STATE LAWMAKERS DETAIL ONGOING BUDGET BATTLE IN LANSING
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GRIDIRON FOOTBALL PREVIEW

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State lawmakers detail ongoing budget battle in Lansing

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

State lawmakers representing all or parts of Barry and Ionia counties recently voiced their frustration over budget negotiations in Lansing, with the deadline to get a new budget in place looming ahead.

Members of the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce got the chance to hear from the state lawmakers, as well as local leaders, during the chamber's "Breakfast Club – State of the State & Greater Lowell Area" event at the Lowell City Hall on Wednesday, Aug. 20.

The event included updates by Michigan legislators Sen. Thomas Albert, R-Lowell, and Rep. Gina Johnsen, R-Portland, as well as Lowell Area Schools Superintendent Nate Fowler and Lowell City Manager Michael Burns.

Albert said one of the more important topics on his agenda is bettering educational outcomes for Michigan students.

"Education is not going well in the state of Michigan," Albert said. "Even the governor (Gretchen Whitmer) agrees."

According to Albert, Michigan ranks in the bottom 10 in educational outcomes, despite top states in the Midwest in per pupil spending.

"We're trending in the wrong direction," the senator added.

Albert said he'd like to see officials focus on ways to increase overall attendance, while also cutting down on the number of non-teaching days per school year.

"We need to get back on track with that," he said.

Another focus for state lawmakers, according to Albert, should be the repeal of Public Act 235, which requires Michigan to be powered 100 percent by "clean energy" by 2040.

"First, it's expensive to do that," he said. "Second, it's not realistic.

See **BUDGET** on 3



Members of the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce listen to state Sen. Thomas Albert, R-Lowell, during the chamber's "Breakfast Club – State of the State & Greater Lowell Area" event at the Lowell City Hall on Wednesday morning, Aug. 20. **Photos by Dennis Mansfield**

Lakewood board to consider closing early childhood center

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

The Woodland school building, now the home of the Lakewood Early Childhood Center, has served local students for more than a century, but its days as an educational facility could be numbered.

Members of the Lakewood Public Schools Board of Education debated the possibility of closing the school, built in 1924, and "streamlining" the district from four to three school buildings during their regular meeting Monday, Aug. 25.

LPS Superintendent Jodi Duits helped lead the discussion, recommending district officials look to create a "central campus" around Lakewood Middle School and Lakewood High School, both of which are located adjacent to one another just east of Lake Odessa, and look to close the LECC.

According to Duits' recommendation, district administrators would "work this year and next" with staff on plans to close the 101-year-old school and shift of students and grade levels at LPS' three remaining school buildings. Duits said the effort would be part of an overall strategic plan for the school district for the next three to five years.

The concept of "streamling" and closing the LECC, which also houses the district's administrative offices, is not a new one. It was included as part of a $30.2 million bond proposal defeated by district voters in May. According to LPS officials, closing the former elementary school would save the school district $100,000 annually in maintenance costs.

Prior to the May special election, LPS officials also argued that closing the building would help address issues of declining enrollment and to better use space available at the other three schools.

"I don't disagree with anything you just said," said Trustee David Burd, in reference to Duits' opening statement on the concept. "It makes sense to close that school.

"It's a bold statement," he added. "At the end of the day, I fully think it's the right decision."

While two board members were absent from Monday's discussions, those present seemed to agree.

"On face value, it seems the right way to go," said Trustee Alisha DeWalt.

Trustee Adam McArthur said plans should also include an effort to reach out to township boards within the school district to get "buy-in" on the streamlining concept, as well as at least tacit approval from district residents, so as to not repeat "past mistakes."

"That has to be part of this," McArthur said. "We just have to do the homework.

"(Township boards) have far deeper roots than we can ever hope to have," he added. "If you can win over the township boards, it puts us ahead in winning over voters."

Jamie Brodbeck-Krenz, president of the LPS school board, defended previous efforts behind the streamlining concept.

"This isn't something we came up with in just five minutes," Brodbeck-Krenz said. "This is the culmination of four years of work by steering committees and the board. People already know that's what is coming, and I think it's the right thing to do," she added. "And, we should lead. We were elected to lead."

The board president also said LPS officials would most likely "spin our wheels" if they wait to have overwhelming public support and "make everybody happy" in closing the Woodland school.

"No matter what we do, there will be people who won't like it," she said.

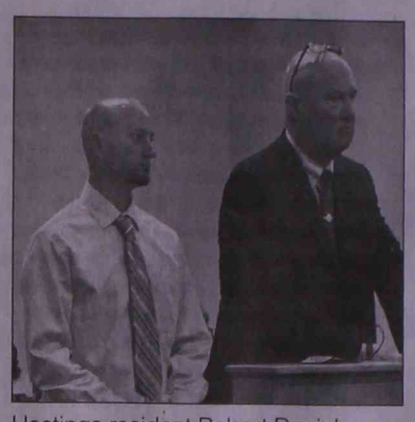
Brodbeck-Krenz added the loss at the polls in May shouldn't be the end of efforts to streamline LPS facilities, though she added the financial resources that would have been provided by the bond request would have made the effort easier.

"You have what you have to work with," she said. "It's not going to be ideal, compared to if you had money from a bond, but it will be fine."

Duits added that, unlike the most recent bond proposal which was "community driven" by a citizen committee, the new effort to streamline LPS facilities would be "staff driven."

"It doesn't really need a (districtwide) vote," she said.

According to Duits, the next steps in exploring the streamlining concept could be the formation of an ad-hoc committee or a board workshop, as well as "conceptual planning" by district administrators.



Hastings resident Robert Daniel Fisher (left), 36, appears before Judge Michael Schipper during a hearing in Barry County District Court 56B on Wednesday, Aug. 13. Fisher faces charges including accosting a minor for immoral purposes and using a computer to commit a crime, both felonies. **Photo by Dennis Mansfield**

CONCERNS

Continued from Page 1

contacted by a suspect, a meeting is set up at a location where Kinsley and his crew, including armed security personnel, confront the alleged perpetrator while calling for police.

"We just call 9-1-1," he said.

At the scene, Kinsley said he provides digital copies of the chat logs and posts video of the confrontation on YouTube.com on his "OMMA" channel, which has nearly 1.3 million followers. He added that he later emails the video to officials to assist in any prosecutions resulting from the stings.

"(Police) do leave with physical evidence, the chat logs, so they have probable cause," he said. "I do my best to be very diligent."

While also wanting to get potential pedophiles off the streets, Kinsley's efforts have raised some concerns by local officials.

"The Barry County Prosecutor's Office is deeply concerned about the safety and well-being of minor children in our community," said Prosecuting Attorney Julie Nakfoor Pratt. "However, we want to ensure that investigations into this conduct are done by police officers. Police officers are educated and trained in both law and procedure, and their focus is on the safety of our community.

"When citizens form a task force of their own, many are doing so for the right reasons but often overlook proper and legal procedure, which can negatively affect our cases," she added.

And, by posting video of the confrontations online prior to any legal proceedings, Pratt said "premature and often widespread public exposure" can prove harmful.

"When citizens want to assist police, they should call the police to let them know they are aware of a possible predator situation, give the police the information they have and let the police take over from there," Pratt said. "When the police are investigating a predator that is soliciting a minor, they take time to organize the apprehension and arrest of these individuals. They coordinate among themselves and with other departments to ensure the apprehension and arrest goes smoothly."

Barry County Undersheriff Kevin Erb added that, by waiting to call police until the last moment, there's also the issue of placing officers in unknown and unpredictable situations.

"That's where our concern is," Erb said.

Even with those concerns, Kinsley said he was attracted to conduct the recent sting operations in Barry County after hearing that local officials would pursue such cases.

"So I decided to pack up and go there to see what creepy guys were out there," he said.

And, he doesn't believe the stings create any legal issues for prosecutors or create any substantial risks for responding officers.

"I'm a citizen," Kinsley said. "Nothing I do can be considered entrapment.

"I make it clear I'm not an officer," he added. "I believe I'm doing everything they would. … If I should be doing something different, I'd be receptive to hearing about it"

According to Kinsley, he's had just one incident since beginning his efforts over three years ago, when confronting an alleged pedophile, and that did not result in any serious injuries.

"My security had some bite marks," Kinsley said. "It wasn't pretty.

"(But) that's why we have trained professionals there."

Kinsley understands that some might also be concerned about luring potential criminals to the area.

"Very fair statement," he said. "But here's what I say to that … When we set up those accounts, they don't know if I'm a 21-year-old man or a 14-year-old girl.

"But, they would travel to Barry County to commit a crime," he added. "They reach out with that intent."

Overall, when working in areas with what he considers like-minded prosecutors, Kinsley claims to have a 90-95% success rate. That's compared to a success rate of only about 40-50% when he first started.

Though, Kinsley said his early efforts were "heavily skewed" by prosecutors who didn't aggressively pursue the cases he provided.

"I do my best," he added. "I care about my work."

And, while he has yet to meet Pratt or other officials directly, Kinsley said he looks forward to possibly conducting future stings in Barry County.

"If (Pratt) continues to be receptive to trying cases, I love to," he said, adding he also understands if officials request he discontinue doing the stings locally.

"That happens sometimes," he said. "(But) there's hundreds of cities I can go to.

"I don't want to cause any problems."

Not that Kinsley hasn't had run-ins with law enforcement. According to news reports, Wyoming, Mich. police responded to the site of one of Kinsley's stings in June 2023 and, while not arresting the targeted individual, they allegedly confiscated his equipment, including a laptop, cameras and a microphone.

News reports state that Kinsley later filed a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan to reclaim the equipment.

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Cal teachers start school under previous contract; next bargaining session Sept. 4

Karen Turko-Ebright
Staff Writer

With almost one week of school behind them, teachers at Caledonia Community Schools are working without a new contract as negotiations continue between the CCS Board of Education representatives and the Caledonia Education Association.

"The Caledonia teachers are disheartened in our district's negotiation process and proposals," said CEA President Melissa VanGessel.

"We have been working under a contract that expired on July 31 and still have no tentative agreements."

Teachers will continue to work under their previous contract until an agreement is reached.

Community and CEA members filled the board room during Monday, Aug. 18's regular BOE meeting. Several community members addressed the board during public comment.

At the beginning of the meeting, the BOE put forward a pay schedule for teachers.

Board representatives say they offered the union a 4.5% increase to teachers' salaries and scheduled base salary increases, along with increases to starting base salaries for new teachers, at its most recent bargaining meeting.

After CCS Board President Tim Morris read the statement at the meeting, the floor opened for public comment. Several community members addressed the board, sharing a common thread: they were there to speak up for and support Caledonia teachers.

Susan Reoch is a 20-year resident of Caledonia and has five kids — three of whom are graduates from Caledonia High School. One is currently enrolled at Duncan Middle School and the other at Caledonia High School. Reoch is a CPA and used to be a public accountant and auditor. She told the board she would like them to please show the teachers and staff that they are valued.

"Our teachers have made an incredible impact on my kids and their friends and they deserve to be paid fairly and not to spend four months negotiating a teacher contract," Reoch told the board. "I've heard the argument that there is uncertainty in funding we will receive from the state budget. We don't know how many students we are going to have.

"Every business and every school has that same uncertainty when proposing a budget and negotiating salaries. Yet, other schools have agreed to 5% or more rate increases with the same certainty.

"You have offered a 4.5% rate increase and whatever you want to make the math look, I will tell you, when you were in the lower half the bottom 10 of the Kent County school districts, giving even a 4.5% raise doesn't make an acceptable wage.

"It's simple math. You can't get there. They need to be paid what they should have been paid already."

BOE representatives say the board is committed to reaching a mutually agreeable contract with the CEA.

"Despite not having a settled contract at this time, we fully believe that both parties will act in the best interest of students, and the classroom learning environment will not be negatively impacted," said BOE President Tim Morris.

James Ernest addressed the board during public comment. "We don't think that our teachers should have sub-standard pay. Pay that lags behind other districts in the area," Ernest explained. "I have had no inside information from the negotiations that have been ongoing, but I would say given the late date at which we stand now, this late date, and still no contract.

"I'm skeptical of any assertion that the administration has been negotiating in good faith and with generosity from the beginning. It wouldn't have taken this long.

"So, just a plea, please get it done. Please make sure that our teachers are well compensated and are not lagging behind others in the district. We value them very much. Thank you."

Several other community members who stepped up to the podium in support of teachers during public comment and addressed the board included Jen Hacht, Kim Gates, Kimberly Jackson, Josh Rose and Emily Murphy.

The district has not been able to publish a full 2025-26 calendar at this time. Under Michigan law, the calendar is a mandatory subject of bargaining, and, therefore, a full year's calendar will not be available until it is mutually agreed upon through negotiations. The district will continue to publish an updated partial calendar as it becomes available.

"We continue to stay focused on smaller class sizes that lead to better learning environments for our students," VanGessel said. "It is also imperative that our educators are given the time and resources they need to provide the best education for Caledonia students."

Caledonia BOE President Tim Morris thanked the community members for their comments.

BOE and CEA representatives will meet again for further negotiations on Thursday, Sept. 4.

A full recording of the Aug. 18 BOE meeting can be found at calschools.org/our-district/board-of-education/.

BUDGET

Continued from Page 2

"It's not realistic to do it in that time frame."

Both Albert and Johnsen offered their takes on current budget debates, with state officials working to adopt a new state budget by the end of September. The 2025-26 budget year is set to begin on Oct. 1.

Of all the state legislative issues, Albert said the budget is "what people care most about" but added that efforts to get a new budget passed have been "the slowest I've ever seen it."

The state senator added revenues are stable and officials are not expecting "a lot of cuts." Instead, the holdup over the budget reportedly is a possible road construction package.

"It's not going to come from new revenues," Albert said. "So, what are our priorities going to be?"

He added that another point of difference between lawmakers is funding of corporate subsidies through the Strategic Outreach and Attraction Reserve fund, created in 2021, used to attract businesses to Michigan. Albert reportedly has reintroduced legislation to eliminate the fund and dismantle the Michigan Economic Development Corp.

"We really tried to create a program that was accountable," Albert said last week. "(But) it's been an abysmal failure.

"We need to pursue policies that make us competitive," he added. "I think we just need to get back to basics."

At times, Johnsen seemed to echo Albert's frustration with the ongoing budget process.

"There's a lot of inefficiencies in our system of government," Johnsen said. "We need to secure the basics.

"You secure first things first, like you do in a home budget."

And, like Albert, Johnsen said local school districts and governmental units should be receiving "at least" similar state funding as they have in the past.



State Rep. Gina Johnsen, R-Portland, addresses a packed audience at Lowell City Hall on Wednesday, Aug. 20, at the "Breakfast Club – State of the State & Greater Lowell Area" event hosted by the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce.



State Sen. Thomas Albert, R-Lowell, answers questions at the "Breakfast Club – State of the State & Greater Lowell Area" hosted by the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday, Aug. 20.

"You don't have to worry about that," she said. "The fear mongering, you just have to shut that down."

Another issue for Johnsen is state mandates – that often come without any additional state funding – she believes could bankrupt small and rural fire departments.

"These things don't make sense," she added. "We're trying to push back on that, too."

Commissioners to eliminate COW meetings in fourth quarter on trial basis

Molly Macleod
Editor

The Barry County Board of Commissioners will be meeting less frequently, but perhaps for longer to round out the rest of the year.

Commissioners voted at the Tuesday, Aug. 26, regular meeting to eliminate Committee of the Whole meetings in the fourth quarter of 2026. Commissioners' business will now be relegated to two meetings a month, instead of two COW meetings and two Board of Commissioners meetings.

"We have had discussions probably almost as long as I've been a commissioner about why we do the things that we do with a COW meeting to debate things in a little more detail and then refer them to ourselves for the BOC the following week — and those BOC meetings are fairly quick, usually," said Board Chair Dave Jackson last week.

Jackson said last week that fellow commissioner Marsha Bassett questioned the practice shortly after joining the board this winter. "When she sat through a couple months of meetings, she asked, 'So why do you do this this way?' And we've been asked that by constituents — 'Hey, you guys are kind of wasting your time to do two meetings to do two more meetings,' Jackson said.

"It can be viewed as a bit of a burden on the administration. It certainly would be a savings on mileage for commissioners coming from all corners of the county."

The board will only have two BOC meetings, and no COW meetings, on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month on a trial basis throughout the next quarter. At the end of the 90-day trial period, in January, commissioners will reflect and decide whether to reinstate the COWs or continue with the BOC-only meeting structure.

The board unanimously voted this week to adopt the 90-day trial. Some citizens expressed concerns during public comment that eliminating COW meetings could reduce opportunities for constituents to meet with their representatives and have their voices heard.

Jackson said commissioners should be aware that there will likely be special meetings called, when needed, on days that would usually be reserved for COW meetings.

WITHDRAWS

Continued from Page 1

ended a month later, however, when the council failed to approve a negotiated contract with VanBoxel in a 3-2 vote against, with two members absent.

A second search ended in December 2024 with council members deciding against offering the post to either of two finalists and, instead, to restart the hiring search once more.

During its most recent hiring search, the village council interviewed four finalists, including DPW staffer Jacob Hanson, for the position of deputy manager at a special meeting May 31. Less than three weeks later, they voted to hire former Mt. Pleasant mayor and Paw Paw village manager William Joseph.

Guetschow later confirmed the village had made an "official" offer to Joseph, who would have served as deputy manager under Guetschow for up to a year before the council would decide whether to promote him to manager. But, Joseph notified Guetschow on June 26 that he was withdrawing his name from consideration.

Discussions then turned to Hanson, with the council approving a recommendation by Guetschow at the July 10 special meeting to create a temporary position to help Hanson learn the duties and responsibilities involved in serving as manager. Hanson, a village employee since 2014, was to have worked in an administrative capacity two days a week for up to three months, while continuing his duties with the DPW the other three days.

If the training program proved successful, Hanson would have been promoted to deputy manager and continued to be mentored by Guetschow, and then potentially promoted to manager. But, just a couple weeks into the apprenticeship, he notified Guetschow of his wish to end the training and return to his DPW duties.

And, after striking out with Trout, council members could be tasked with conducting yet another hiring search.

"I expect the village council will discuss the next step at our regular meeting on Sept. 15," Banks said.



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Let a financial advisor help plan for life's curveballs

No matter what stage of your life you're in — caring for children, working toward retirement or planning your legacy — unforeseen events like a job loss, a major illness or even a stock market drop could derail what you're working so hard to achieve financially.

With your future at stake, you may want to get guidance from a financial professional who can develop a personalized financial strategy to help you navigate life's curveballs.

Here are specific ways a financial advisor can help.

• ***Create a customized long-term strategy.*** This is the first step to weather unforeseen events. You may have several long-term investing goals — your retirement, your child's education or perhaps a dream vacation. A financial advisor can help you build a strategy specific to your goals and risk tolerance. This will include prioritizing those goals, building a path toward each and pivoting your strategy as markets shift and needs change.

• ***Set realistic expectations***. Successful investing requires discipline and patience — most individual investors make their money over time, not overnight. Start by setting realistic timelines to reach each of your goals. And don't be surprised if you need to make trade-offs, like working an extra year to help fund your retirement dream home. It's realistic to expect you'll hit some bumps in the road. Perhaps the markets will drop and the value of your portfolio may follow. (It's also realistic to expect they will rebound, as they have historically. Of course, past performance of the markets is no guarantee of what will happen in the future.) A financial advisor can help you keep your emotions in check no matter what comes your way and stay focused on the long term, knowing you have a customized strategy in place.

• ***Diversify your investments.*** The foundation for your portfolio is your asset allocation, or how you divide your assets among stocks, bonds, cash and other investments. Different investments behave differently in various market conditions, so maintaining a good mix can help better weather market fluctuations than putting "all your eggs in one basket." Finding the right diversification mix, and keeping it balanced despite what the market does, can get complicated, but it's almost second nature for a good financial advisor. All investments do carry risk, and asset allocation doesn't ensure a profit or protect against loss in a declining market.

• ***Keep a long-term outlook.*** It's easy to become distracted by the latest headline, expert prediction or market swing. However, if these events don't change your long-term outlook, there probably isn't a reason to make changes to your strategy. In fact, these declines often present good opportunities if you're a long-term investor, so use them to your advantage — your financial advisor can show you how.

• ***Keep your emergency savings well-funded.*** This is your "rainy day" fund, and an unexpected event may constitute a rainy day. For most people, maintaining three to six months of total expenses in emergency savings is appropriate. The specific amount depends on factors like your risk of unexpected expenses or temporary loss of income, and how much you value being confident that you can weather financial emergencies. A financial advisor can help you determine what your emergency savings should look like.

Unexpected events are part of life. You can't predict them, but you can prepare for them. No matter what is going on around you, having a professional by your side can help set you up to navigate them confidently.

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

Hastings alumni gather for 138th annual banquet

Molly Macleod
Editor

Over 100 Hastings High School alumni traveled to the Hastings First Presbyterian Church on Saturday, Aug. 23, for the 138th annual Hastings High School Alumni Banquet, organized by the HHS Alumni Association.

Alumnus of the Year Tammy Pennington (Class of 1972) was this year's honored guest. After being introduced by her daughter to the audience, the former Barry County Commission on Aging director was presented with a glass teardrop engraved with her name, date of graduation and recognition of her Alumnus of the Year status. Pennington's name has also been added to the plaque displaying all HHS Alumni of the Year inside the HHS showcase.

Past Alumnus of the Year honorees were present at Saturday's reunion. These past honorees included Dave Furrow, Frank Campbell, Bill Bivens and Carla Neil.

Another special guest at Saturday's event was Ruthann Kauffman, celebrating 75 years since her graduation from HHS in 1950.

Though alumni from all years are invited to the annual banquet, each year's event highlights certain classes. This year, the honored classes included 1960, 1965, 1970 and 1975. Representatives from those classes at Saturday's banquet included Linda McGuire (1960), Barry Wood (1965), Nancy Kauffman (1970), and Carrie Duits (1975). Alumni Association representatives say these class representatives were instrumental in this year's planning.

Organizers thanked Bryce Pennington for catering the event and the American Legion Post 45 for posting the colors and leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

Plans for next year's 139th annual banquet are already in the works.



JoDee Gaskill, Class of 2025 representative, speaks at Saturday's Hastings High School Alumni Banquet.



Tammy Pennington, former Barry County Commission on Aging director, was honored on Saturday, Aug. 23, as the 2025 Hastings High School Alumnus of the Year. **Courtesy photos**

Organizers are looking for representatives from next year's honored classes to join in the planning process.



Grand Marshal Fred Jacobs, long-time business owner in Hastings, leads off the Summerfest Parade on Saturday. Here, he waves at parade-goers along with his wife, Patti. **Photos by Jayson Bussa**



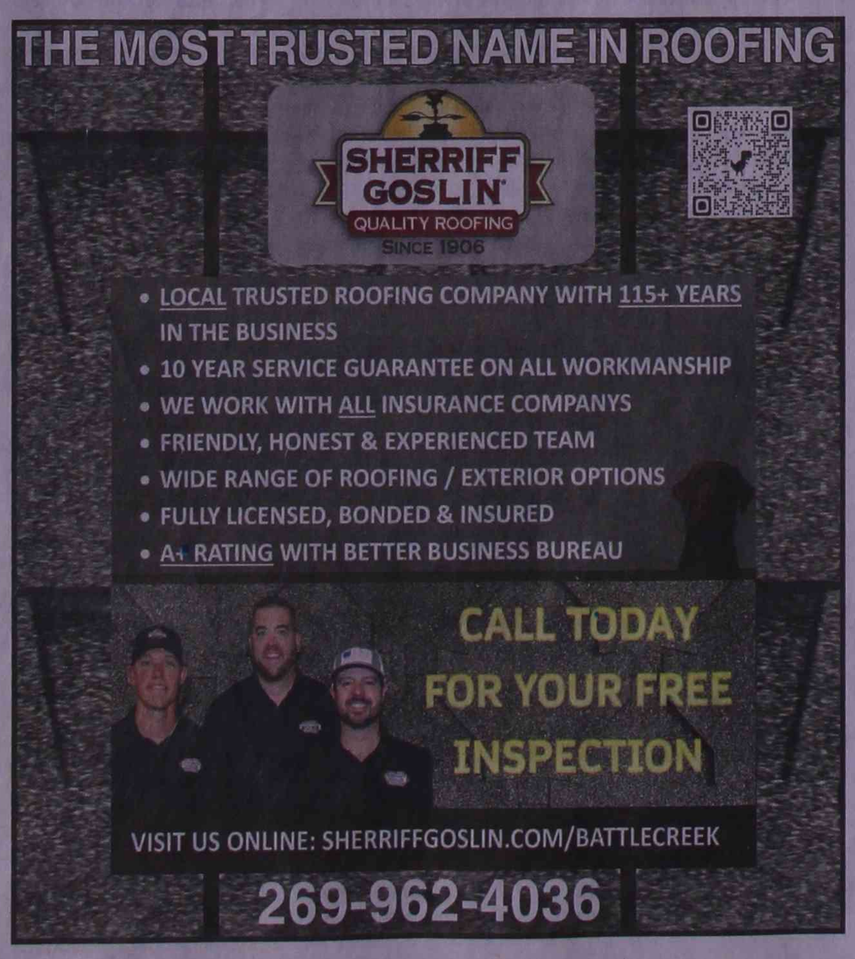
Circle Dirks get the hardware for the 18-and-up championship at the 2025 Jim Jensen Memorial 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament at Tyden Park Saturday during the annual Hastings Summerfest. Team members include (from left) Jordan Bumford, Matthew Leffew, Rubin McSpadden and Nicholas Kane. **Photo by Brett Bremer**



Summerfest parade-goers rush to grab candy that was tossed to them during the parade.



Ethan's Mom celebrates winning the 12-14 division of the 2025 Jim Jensen Memorial 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament at Tyden Park Saturday during the annual Hastings Summerfest. Team members include (front) Ethan Haninga, (back from left) Jax Oppewal, Owen Bremer and Jadin Gaye. **Photo by Brett Bremer**



SUMMERFEST

Continued from Page 1

and comfortable temperatures to set the perfect backdrop for the festival's wide array of events.

One of Summerfest's defining features is its variety of athletic competitions. From the Jim Jensen Memorial 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament at Tyden Park and a city-wide softball tournament, to the 5K run and a weightlifting contest held downtown, there was no shortage of action.

A familiar name claimed victory in the Corewell Health Pennock Summerfest Run, which kicked off early Saturday morning. Hastings High School graduate, and now Kellogg Community College Bruin, Alex Steward dominated the field, finishing the course in just 17:50.

New to the lineup this year was a youth kickball tournament, held at Bob King Park, adding more family-friendly fun to the schedule.

For those more interested in relaxing and enjoying the seasonable weather, dozens of vendors filled the Barry County Courthouse lawn, offering food, crafts, and local goods. Free trolley rides, a classic car show hosted by the Misfits Car Club on Sunday, and the always-popular Summerfest Parade made for a busy three days.

The sun broke through a streak of clouds just in time for Saturday's beach-themed parade. This year's grand marshal was longtime Hastings businessman Fred Jacobs, owner and CEO of J-Ad Graphics. Beyond his business, Jacobs has been active for decades with other community organizations, including the Barry Community Foundation.

Live music filled the air all weekend, with performances at both Spray Plaza and Thornapple Plaza. Friday night's headliner was "Get Wild: Celebrating the Music of Prince," while Saturday brought island vibes with a Jimmy Buffett tribute band.

DID YOU SEE?



NEW AIRPORT TERMINAL COMPLETE

Construction is complete on the Hastings City/Barry County Airport's new terminal. The new terminal quickly took shape, with crews breaking ground on the project in December 2024. Airport Manager Gino Lucci said no local tax dollars were used for the project. $1.2 million in federal funds, plus $300,000 from the airport's own funds, were used to construct the new terminal. **Photo by Molly Macleod**

SEN. ALBERT: Michigan Youth Challenge Academy measures up

Senator Thomas Albert

I recently visited the Michigan Youth Challenge Academy in Battle Creek — a quasi-military school helping teens seeking a positive change in their lives. During the tour, I noticed a box of rulers placed front and center in the living quarters, so everyone could find and use them easily. I knew right away I had stumbled upon something unique — a government-run program that over-delivers for Michigan residents.



State Senator Thomas Albert

The National Guard program, established in Michigan in 1999, holds students to a military standard of dress, speech and behavior. The roughly six-month residential program is structured around education, physical exercise and community service. No student is required to attend, and students are free to leave at any time. The program graduates more than 200 cadets every year.

The educational goal is for students to either catch up on missing credits or to complete their high school diploma requirements. The emotional goal is much deeper — and that is why the box of rulers is significant.

Many of these young students, generally speaking, are struggling with life for some reason or another. Many have found themselves facing some combination of troubled circumstances at home or at school, surrounded by a social circle with negative influences, or in a cycle of poor decision-making.

It takes a great deal of courage for these troubled youth to seek transformation. Structure is a big part of it — and seeing the rulers so prominently displayed reminded me of my own experience while in Officer Candidates School for the U.S. Marine Corps. Like all candidates, I was required to measure daily the proper distance of sheets, blankets and pillows on my rack — and deviations were not tolerated. This created an expectation that we would be precise and responsible.

This shared expectation also creates a deep sense of community where one feels connected to something larger than oneself. For many of these young kids, the Youth Challenge Academy may be the first time they feel plugged into something positive. This new structure helps provide a positive order in which to guide their decision-making going forward.

It would have been easy for a government program like the Youth Challenge Academy to grow complacent over its 26 years of operation. The rulers could have been abandoned as other pressing matters demanded attention. It was refreshing to see this initiative to help troubled youth hold firm to foundational principles that will help kids build confidence and structure.

I applaud the Youth Challenge Academy staff for their dedication to this path. I also applaud the students who not only had the courage to seek a better path forward, but also the fortitude to stay the course.

All too often in Lansing, it is the government-run programs that are falling short in one way or another that get all the attention. It is worth pausing every once in a while to reflect on programs that are exceeding our expectations. The Michigan Youth Challenge Academy is not for everyone, but it is invaluable for the select youth where it is a fit.

State Sen. Thomas Albert represents the 18th District, which includes Barry County and portions of Allegan, Calhoun, Kalamazoo, Kent and Ionia counties.

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THE HASTINGS BANNER
VIEW Newspaper Group

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

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

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

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

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FROM THE SUPE'S DESK: The state of school budgets



Rich Franklin

Rich Franklin
Barry ISD
Superintendent

Remember how much you loved story problems in math? (That's what we called them back in my day). Well, I have a story problem for our readers today.

A superintendent is required to develop a responsible budget for a school system and present it to a school board for the next school year. The school board must—by law—pass a budget prior to June 30 for the next school year. The state legislature, which has controlled nearly all school operating funds since the passage of Proposal A in 1995, is also required—by law—to pass a school budget for the coming school year prior to June 30.

The superintendent and business office do their job, the school board does its job, and the legislature does not. It is now almost Labor Day. School has started in most local districts. The state House and Senate are still miles apart on what a state school budget even looks like, let alone how much is in it.

Question: How does a school district implement its budget and run its programs when it has no idea what funding it will be receiving from the state or when it will even know, let alone when it will receive that funding?

I don't pose this story problem to cast blame or to lobby for funding for any particular programs or amounts. I pose it simply to ask for help: Please give us a fair and responsible school budget soon so that schools can continue to provide the educational programs and services that kids need and parents expect, and that taxpayers are already paying for.

I ask both houses of our legislature to work together on the shape and form of the school aid budget, as well as on the amounts. I also know that the governor's office has a big role to play in these negotiations and in final approval. Until everyone in Lansing gets serious about working together on this story problem, nothing will get done. As soon as they do, then politics becomes once again the art of the possible.

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First Presbyterian Church's pipe organ will be on display next month after its two-year overhaul. Pictured here with the organ are (front row, from left) Debbie Harrison, Bob Oster, Zach Franklin, (back row) Ethan Holmes and Connor Lindsey. **Courtesy photo**

Pipe organ 'informance'

The First Presbyterian Church in Hastings will host a pipe organ "informance" at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 7. The event, part information and part performance, was organized by FPC organist Robert C. Oster as a 'thank you' to the congregation for its financial support, encouragement and patience during the two-year rebuild and renovation of the church's pipe organ. The "informance" will feature the organ as both a solo and accompanying instrument, as well as several presentations on the internal workings of the instrument and the rebuilding work which began in 2022 and was completed in 2024.

The afternoon will also feature special area guest performers, including organists Zach Franklin, Hastings; Debbie Harrison, Woodland; pianist Ethan Holmes of Hastings and tenor Connor Lindsey, also of Hastings.

Performance highlights include two congregational hymns, accompanied by Oster and Harrison, and Max Reger's "Toccata in D minor," played by Franklin. Ethan Holmes will join Oster for a piano and organ duet, and the tenor solo, "I Hear You Calling Me" will be sung by Lindsey. Oster and Harrison will also perform solo works, including "Introduction and Chorale on St. Margaret," arranged by Alice Jordan, "Elegy" and "Intermezzo" by Flor Peeters, "Voluntary" by John Stanley, "Andante" by Karl Zöllner and Mendelssohn's "Recessional March" from "Athalia." A special performance of P.D.Q Bach's "Toot Suite for Calliope or Organ, Four Hands," will feature Oster and Franklin teaming up for this one-of-a-kind composition.

The "information" aspect will include three presentations on the pipe organ. The first will feature the pipe chambers and the console. The second will highlight the work done by the Scott Smith Pipe Organ Co. of Lansing. The third presentation will be an up-close and personal interaction with the pipework.

Doors will open at 2:30 p.m. on Sept. 7. There is no cost to attend the "informance;" a freewill offering will be taken, the proceeds of which will go to the organ maintenance fund.

First Presbyterian Church is located at 405 M-37 Hwy in Hastings. — *MM*

PIERCE CEDAR CREEK INSTITUTE EVENTS

— AUG. 28-SEPT. 4 —

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

Sept. 1-31 — Sept. Storybook Walk: "The Glorious Forest that Fire Built" by Ginny Neil. What happens to the forest after a fire? Go on a journey through the lifecycle of a forest, including prescribed fire. The Storybook Walk is free and self-guided on the purple and green trails.

Thursday, Sept. 4 — Playdates in the Play Space (ages 6 and under with an adult), 10 a.m. Every season is outdoor season! Bring your little ones to explore nature through free play, activities, books, and more. This free program is designed for children and their accompanying caregivers. Please plan to attend and engage with your child in this program. Participants are asked to register online ahead of time.

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

HASTINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY SCHEDULE

Adventure awaits at the Hastings Public Library. Pick up your Summer Reading prizes.

No library card is required for library programs and activities.

Thursday, Aug. 28 – Movie Memories and Milestones watches a 1962 film starring Olivia de Havilland and George Hamilton, 5 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 29 – Friday Storytime, 10:30 a.m.

Monday, Sept. 1 – Labor Day – library closed.

Tuesday, Sept. 2 – Baby Cafe, 10 a.m.; mahjong, 5 p.m.; chess, 5 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 3 – 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Shark bait

What happens if you if you get eaten by a shark?
— Prince, Ga.

Dear Prince,

When I was a kitten, I saw a movie about shark attacks. It made me nervous to go into the water.

I talked about that with my friend Nora Hickey. She's a fish veterinarian at Washington State University.

She told me that sharks don't eat people.

Many sharks can't even bite. They have mouths adapted to sift sand or slurp up plankton.

Sharks that can bite don't hunt humans. They eat prey with a thick fat layer like seals and sea lions. Muscly animals like birds, cats and people seem to taste bad to sharks.

"Even if they bit you, they probably wouldn't like it," Hickey said. "They'd probably be like, 'Uh, no thank you.'"

Shark attacks are usually a mistake—or a shark trying to defend itself.

Sharks have powerful senses. They can detect tiny smells from about a quarter mile away. And they can hear for miles. Like other fish, they have sensitive cells all along their bodies. They also have tiny pores on their snouts that pick up electrical signals in the water.

So, a shark might sense something splashing in the water and come check it out. It might think the splasher is prey and take a nibble.

Then, a few things happen.

Some sharks roll back their eyes when they bite. Sometimes a protective membrane slides over the eyeball. That keeps their eyes safe if the prey fight backs.

Sharks can't chew up and down like we do. So, it might shake its head back and forth to tear off a bite.

Some of the shark's teeth may pop out. They have rows and rows of teeth. When a tooth falls out, a new one moves up to take its place. Hickey told me that happens so often that the ocean floor is littered with shark teeth.

At this point, the shark will probably realize you're a gross human. They'll likely swim away.

But if you magically got fully swallowed, or if some piece of you did, you'd be in for a weird journey through the shark's guts.

"Sharks and sturgeons have a spiral valve intestine," Hickey said. "It's a way to increase the digestive surface area of the intestine without increasing the length of the intestine. Basically, you'd be going through a spiral like a water slide."

A shark might also attack if humans provoke it or threaten its home.

Humans are way more dangerous to sharks than sharks are to humans. People hunt sharks—or accidentally catch them in nets. That's really bad for sharks that are ram ventilators. They can't push water over their gills on their own. If they can't swim, they can't breathe.

People drive loud boats or subs into a shark's territory. Swimmers and divers may flail around in ways that seem threatening. Sometimes people try to interact with wild sharks, especially species we know to be gentle.

It turns out humans can be pretty scary. And those jaw-some, toothy fish are a bit misunderstood.

— 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.

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

Mariam Sorby: Hastings' first school nurse, lifelong advocate for community health

David W. Miller
Special to The Banner

When Mariam I. Sorby, RN, joined Hastings Area Schools in 1966 as the district's first school nurse, she brought with her more than medical expertise. She carried a vision: to blend professional healthcare with personal guidance for every student who walked into her office. Over the next 18 years, she shaped not only the health of Hastings' children but also the future of school health education throughout Michigan.

Mariam Melchiori was born on May 1, 1934, in Stambaugh, Mich., to an Italian-American family whose roots in the Upper Peninsula were tied to the mining industry. Her father worked in the local mines and later served as Stambaugh's Iron Mine Inspector from 1944 to 1958. A diligent student, Mariam graduated from Stambaugh High School in 1952, where she was a member of the National Honor Society. That fall, she enrolled in the University of Michigan School of Nursing. While at U of M, she was active in the Gamma Delta sorority and participated in the university's fencing club. In 1956, Mariam earned her bachelor of science in nursing and was honored to be one of only six nursing students selected to escort Dr. Jonas Salk, the renowned inventor of the polio vaccine, during his historic visit to the university—a fitting introduction to a career devoted to public health.

After marrying her childhood friend Donal "Jack" Sorby in 1956, Mariam balanced family life with a growing nursing career. The Sorbys arrived in Hastings in the early 1960s when Jack accepted a teaching position at Hastings High School. Mariam quickly became a fixture in Barry County healthcare, first serving as the in-service coordinator of the Barry County Medical Care Facility and later working for the county health department.

When Mariam was appointed in 1966 as the district's first full-time school nurse, it marked a pivotal moment for local education and public health. She served not only Hastings High School but all three elementary schools, ensuring consistent care across the district. True to her commitment, Mariam also made it a point to visit many of Barry County's 186 rural schools whenever her expertise was needed. Beyond providing medical care, she became a trusted source of personal and career guidance for thousands of students. Her influence reached far beyond Hastings in 1972 when she designed a comprehensive health education curriculum—including sex and drug education—that was adopted by the school board and later used as a model throughout Michigan. In addition, she created the vocational nurse aide training program for both high school and adult learners, preparing over 500 aides, many of whom went on to become registered and licensed practical nurses.

Jodi Varney, a 1986 graduate, shared this tribute to Mrs. Sorby on the Hastings History Facebook page: "She was an AMAZING woman! She is the only reason I graduated. She believed in me when I didn't believe in myself. She is my hero, and I loved her dearly!"

Cindy Wilcox, also a HHS graduate (1967), fondly recalls: "Mariam—'Mum'—was such a wonderful addition to our school and community! From the U.P. to Barry County, Mariam and Jack truly made our world a better place!"

Mariam's influence reached well beyond the classroom. She served as president of the Michigan Association of School Nurses in 1976 and edited their statewide newsletter for seven years. She also held leadership roles in the Michigan School Health Association and served on advisory committees for both the Michigan Department of Education and the Department of Public Health, helping to craft the state's first sex education guidelines. A sought-after speaker, she traveled extensively across Michigan to share the success of the Hastings health program.



Mariam Sorby, RN, was Hastings Area School System's first school nurse. She was hired by the district in 1966. **Courtesy photos**

Mariam loved to travel and learn about new cultures and customs. In August 2023, she fulfilled her longtime dream of visiting all six continents (except Antarctica) with a trip to Colombia in South America. She often joked that growing up in the U.P. served as visiting Antarctica. She had many adventures on her travels, including riding a camel in Egypt, an elephant in India, a train across the entire continent of Australia, a ship in the Norwegian fjords, an airboat in the Everglades and a helicopter in Hawaii.

Her commitment to community service was equally deep. Mariam spent 18 years working with the Barry County Cancer Society, including two as president, and served on the boards of the Easter Seal Society and the Salvation Army. She was a driving force behind the first Candy Striper program at Pennock Hospital (now Corewell Health Pennock Hospital) and worked for 14 years on the Barry County Fluoride Committee to promote dental health.

One of Mariam's cherished culinary gifts was preserving her family's tradition of baking pasties, a beloved dish rooted in Michigan's Upper Peninsula heritage. The recipe, passed down from her mother and grandmother, became one of her signature offerings. At Grace Lutheran Church, Mariam introduced pasty sales as a fundraising effort, a tradition that quickly grew into a major support for the congregation. Alongside this contribution, she served in numerous leadership roles within the church, blending service, heritage, and community in a way that reflected her generous spirit.

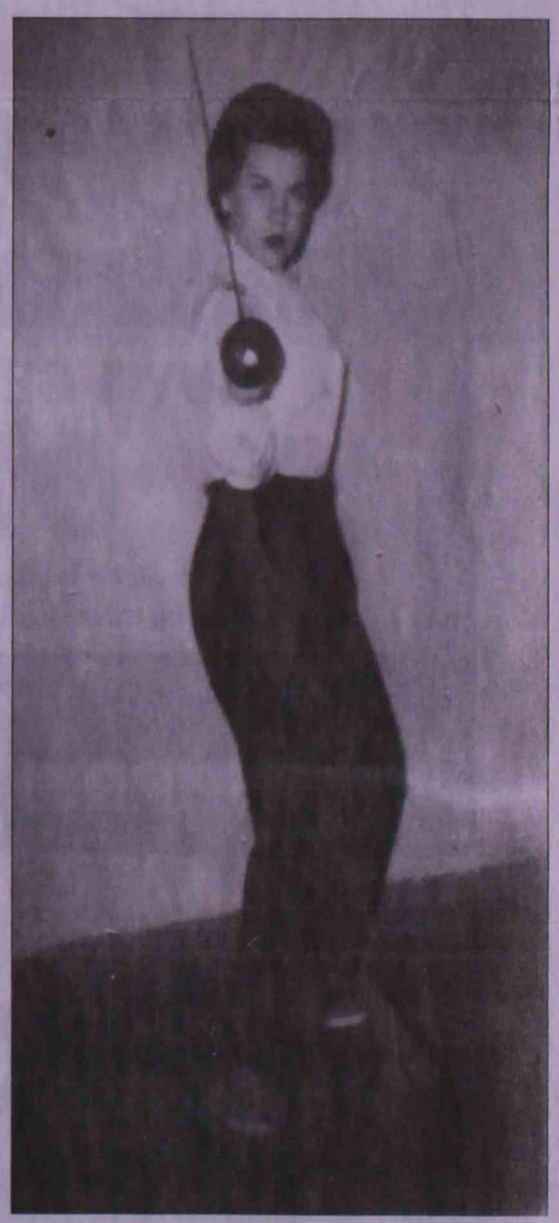
Mariam and Jack were blessed with three daughters, each of whom remained deeply devoted to their mother. Carrie followed in Mariam's footsteps, dedicating her career to education and eventually serving as superintendent of Hastings Area Schools. Sheryl, a professor and researcher of engineering, was one of Mariam's Candy Striper students at HHS. Sheryl was her constant traveling companion, exploring the continents by her side. Claire pursued a career with the Michigan State Police and later relocated to Florida to be near her mother during her final years, lovingly serving as her primary caregiver.

Mariam Sorby passed away on Feb. 4, 2024, at the age of 89. Her legacy lives on in the thousands of students she cared for, the nurses she trained, and the health programs she helped create. Hastings remembers her not only as a pioneer in school nursing but also as a neighbor whose compassion reached far beyond the walls of the clinic. In every sense, she was the heart of school health in Barry County.

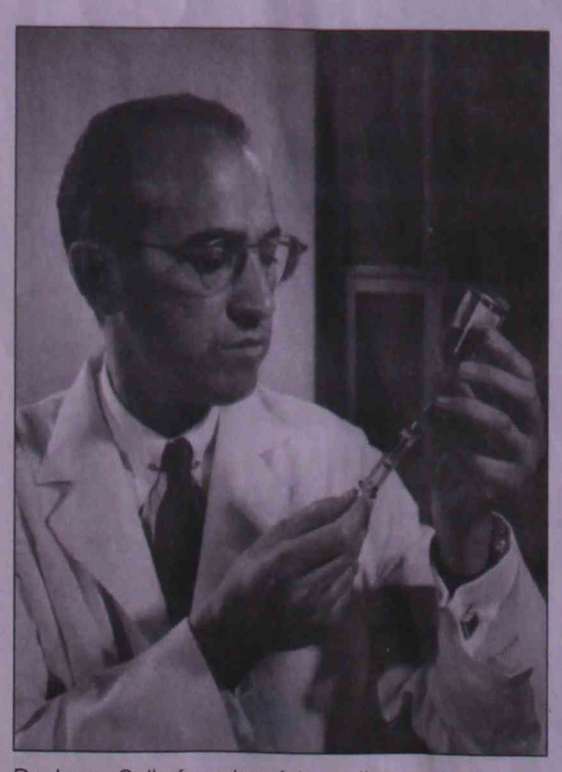
David Miller is a moderator for the "Hastings History" Facebook group.



One of Mariam Sorby's cherished culinary gifts was preserving her family's tradition of baking pasties, a dish with roots in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.



While at the University of Michigan, Mariam Sorby was active in the Gamma Delta sorority and participated in the university's fencing club.



Dr. Jonas Salk, founder of the polio vaccine

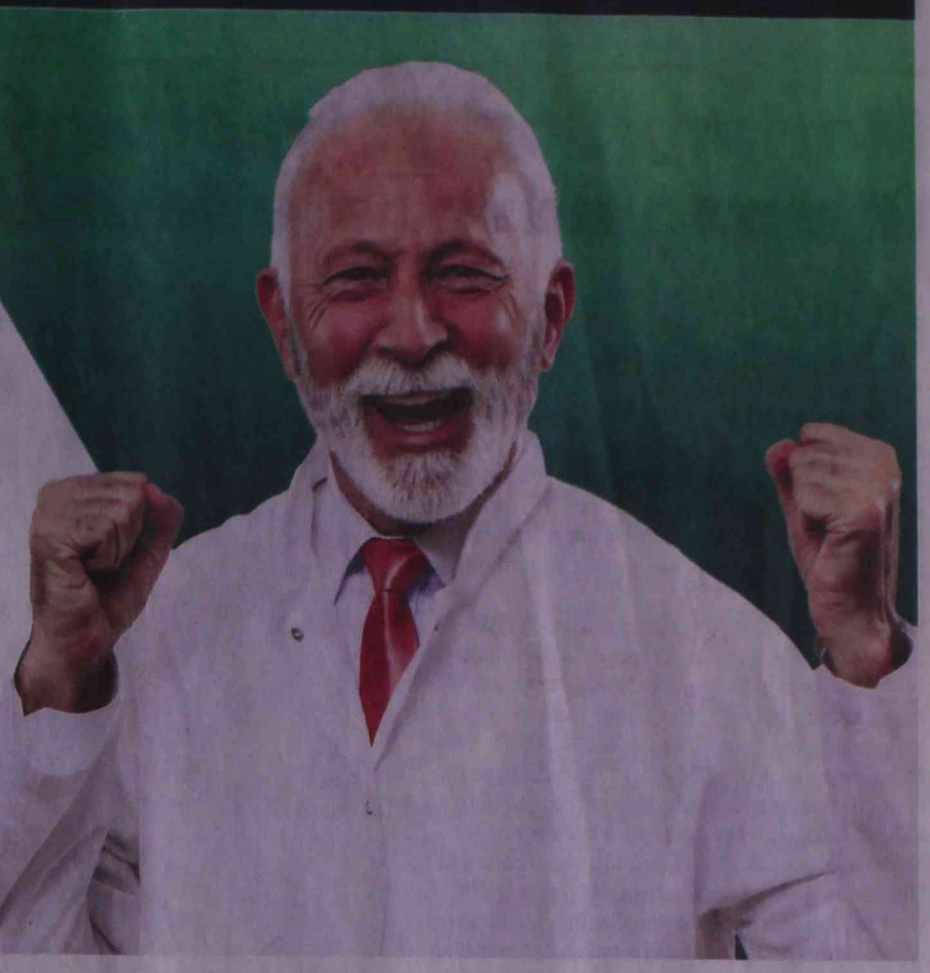
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Saxons see early season strides made at TK Invite

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Hastings got a solid top score of 91 from sophomore Lilli Edger and showed signs of building some depth in the varsity line-up as the Saxon varsity girls' golf team placed 11th at the annual early season Thornapple Kellogg Invitational Friday.

Edger placed 20th in a larger, talented field of golfers. Lowell won the day's team title with a score of 332 strokes overall. Byron Center was second with a score of 336 ahead of Caledonia 348, Grand Rapids Christian 352 and West Catholic 366 in the top five.

Thornapple Kellogg was right behind the Saxons in 12th-place with a score of 419 and Lakewood placed 17th with a mark of 463. In all, 20 teams competed in the 18-hole tournament played on the Gold and White nines at Yankee Springs Golf Course.

Edger never let anything get out of control. She was never more than two-over on any hole. Hastings head coach Ross Schueller said that any miscues were more the product of early season timing rather than any kind of mental lapses.

She double-bogied two of her first three holes, and then rallied a bit to score par on three of the next five. She closed the front nine with back-to-back pars on eight and nine on the White nine.



Thornapple Kellogg's Vivian Hansson watches her tee shot fly on White number three during the Trojans' own TK Invite at Yankee Springs Golf Course Friday afternoon.

The top four on the day for the Saxon team also included a 106 from sophomore Ryann-Lynn Cole, a 109 from senior Ellie Cousins and a 110 from junior Rylee Burnham.

Schueller said Cousins' score reflected steady play throughout the day, and that it was encouraging progress. He said she looked more in rhythm than at the Saxons' previous outing, at Bedford Valley earlier in the week, and that she "looked more in rhythm on Friday, producing stretches of confident golf."

The Saxon coach added that Cole managed her round well and that the program is happy to add Burnham, a transfer into the district from Florida who has shown a confident swing and reliable short game so far.

For the Saxon coach overall, the takeaway was progress in depth with three players bunched closely in the low 100s behind Edger's anchor round. The Saxons tightened their scoring spread and showed signs of building toward more consistent team performances as the season unfolds according to Schueller.

The Thornapple Kellogg girls were paced by a 99 from junior Vivian Hansson. Junior Jordan Price shot a 104, junior Sydney Martin a 106 and freshman Emily Coe scored a 110. TK also had a 'B' team place 19th with a 112 from sophomore Morela Gielincki and a 114 from junior Molly Middleton.

"We had a lot of girls that this was their first 18-hole tournament. We had a lot of girls that moved up from JV to varsity today and a lot of them hadn't played 18-hole tournaments. It is a different experience than playing nine holes," TK head coach Bob Kaminski said. "So that was good to give them that experience. I actually had a couple girls who this is their first year playing golf on the team, and they had never played 18 holes. They played 18 holes today. It is a good experience."

He said he saw pretty solid improvement from his team's outing at the Kent County Classic earlier in the week.

Lakewood senior Grace Archbold tied Edger for 20th place with a 91 of her own. The Lakewood team also got a 117 from junior Avery Farrell, a 124 from junior Grace Grosshans and a 131 from senior Liz Markwart.



Hastings sophomore Lillian Edger hits her tee shot on White number nine during the Thornapple Kellogg Invitational at Yankee Springs Golf Course Friday. Edger finished in a tie for 20th individually at the 18-hole event. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

Archbold was three-over on each of her first two holes, but then really settled into her round and had five pars and nine bogies the rest of the way.

Grand Rapids Christian senior Lillian O'Grady was the day's individual champion with a score of 75. Lowell senior Elyse Veldman was the runner-up with a 77 and Caledonia senior Codie O'Krangley and Byron Center senior Holly Lawrence both tied for third with 80s.

The championship team from Lowell also used 82s from junior Kaila Richards and senior Andrea Plantz and a 91 from senior Ava McCormick to earn the trophy.



The Saxons' Ryann-Lynn Cole sets up a putt on White number three during the Thornapple Kellogg Invitational Friday at Yankee Springs Golf Course.

Vikes set benchmarks at Under the Lights Invite

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Lakewood varsity boys' and girls' cross country teams helped close out the 2025 Under the Lights Invite at South Christian High School Friday running in the late-night Starlight Division races at the end of the four-division, 87-school invitational that was contested over the span of about three and a half hours.

The Lakewood boys placed 18th as a team led by junior Bryce Goodemoot who clocked in with a time of 19 minutes 14.4 seconds to finish 73rd in the Starlight boys' race. All seven Lakewood guys finished with their best time of the season so far.

The four Lakewood ladies who raced in the Starlight girls' division also all had their top time of the season to date. Sophomore Heidi Carter led the Lakewood ladies with a time of 25:37.4 that put her in 137th place.

The Lakewood girls were in the final race of eight varsity contests at the meet – with the last of the finishers in the race coming under the finish line banner after midnight.

The Lakewood boys were done a bit sooner. Ethan Langmaack was the Vikings' number two Friday with a time of 20:25.5 that put him 112th. He led a trio of sophomores across the line for the Vikings. Gibson Yeiter was 142nd in 21:11.1 and Dakota Harmer 151st in 21:32.6.

Rounding out the top five for the Lakewood boys was senior Benjamin Possehn who clocked in 166th in 21:53.6.

Saugatuck won the Starlight boys' race with 75 points ahead of Wyoming Potter's House 112, South Christian 130, Holland Black River 146 and Sparta 195 in the top five of 23 scoring teams. Lakewood was 18th with 515 points.

Three Oaks River Valley senior Landon Rogers was the individual champ with a time of 16:08.7. He was one of 13 guys to best the 17-minute barrier in the race. Hopkins senior Jack Estelle was the runner-up in 16:17.9.

Coopersville sophomore Oakley Osterhart set her PR at 18:44.0 to win the Starlight girls' race individual title. Sparta junior Mia May was second in 19:08.5.

The host South Christian Sailors won the girls' Starlight race team championship with 52 points ahead of Coopersville 77, Saugatuck 79, Covenant Christian 127 and Unity Christian 149 in the top five.

Junior Laurelye Carter was the number two for the Lakewood ladies with a 242nd-place time of 32:16.3. Senior Marci Nurenberg placed 247th in 33:21.1 and junior Jayda Miller was 250th in 33:57.0.

The Vikings run again Thursday, Sept. 4, at the Delton Kellogg Invitational at Gilmore Car Museum.

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)

SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - BARRY COUNTY

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Barry County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on September 25, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Dakota Chilton, unmarried man, as sole owner Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender`s successors and assigns Date of mortgage: June 28, 2024 Recorded on July 2, 2024, in Document No. 2024-004845, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR RCF 2 ACQUISITION TRUST Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Seventy-Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty-Six and 72/100 Dollars ($179,756.72) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Barry County, and described as: The West 124 feet of the North 343 feet of the Northeast 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 25, Town 1 North, Range 8 West Commonly known as 4250 Mud Lake Rd, Bellevue, MI 49021 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee for RCF 2 Acquisition Trust Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400

1570655
(08-28)(09-18)

City Of Hastings
COUNTY OF BARRY, STATE OF MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION 2025-23
RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE AND SALE AGREEMENT WITH AIO OPERATING FOR AN EASEMENT AT THE NORTH WATER TOWER, 107-A WEST BLAIR

WHEREAS, the City of Hastings executed a letter of interest to allow the buyer to acquire a 50-year easement in exchange for $625,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the City Manager and City Attorney have negotiated and thoroughly reviewed the terms of the purchase and sale agreement and corresponding easement,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council authorizes and directs the City Clerk and the Mayor to execute and effect the agreement as presented as an appendix to this Resolution 2025-23.

A motion to adopt the foregoing resolution being offered by Member McLean, second by Member Rocha:

YEAS: Bergeron, Brehm, Devroy, McLean, Resseguie, Rocha, Stenzelbarton and Tossava

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Barlow

MOTION DECLARED ADOPTED

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted at a duly held and attended regular meeting the 25th day of August 2025, by the City Council of the City of Hastings, by a vote of eight (8) members voting in favor thereof, one (1) member being absent, and zero (0) members voting against.

Linda Perin
City Clerk

Randall improves her school record Under the Lights

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Caroline Randall has set her personal record every time she has competed in the Under the Lights Invite.

She set an early PR at the event with a time of 19 minutes 26.5 seconds in the second race of her freshman season in 2023 at South Christian High School. Now a two-time all-state runner for the Hastings varsity girls' cross country team, the junior Randall was more than a minute faster Friday night. She won the Sunset Division race at the 2025 Under the Lights Invite with a time of 18:25.9 that not only improves her own personal record but her own school record as well.

Randall was about nine seconds faster than the PR she set at the end of her sophomore season at the MITCA Meet of Champions (18:34.7). A summer of strength training to go along with her usual bounty of miles and the motivation to outrace Gobles junior Libby Smith who bested Randall at the opening meet of the season, all added up to the impressive performance Friday evening.

"That's what I was going for," Randall said of the victory. "I had seen some of these girls at our last race and I was hoping to take first and see if I could beat them. I took fourth at the last race and I think we only saw one girl here, but I kind of had my eyes on the competition."

"I think I was a little timid just because it was the first race," Randall added, "and I then I was like, 'oh, I could have gone a little harder.' So that was kind of a little motivation for this one."

Taking things she found on Instagram and advice from her father, Randall came up with some tweaks to her summer workout program in the lead-up to this junior season.

"I've been in the weight room a little bit more, so adding the strength training," Randall said. "It just helps so much, and doing the workouts, and being a little more intentional with my pacing and stuff.

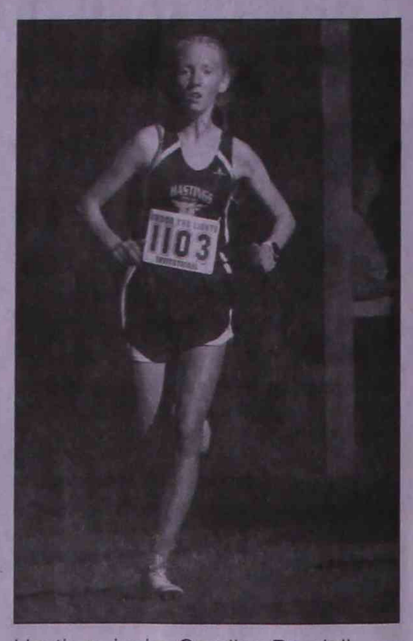
"I do a lot of core and lower body work, high reps and low weight. Just a lot of core."

The Hastings girls were 18th overall in a field of 28 teams in the Sunset Division. In all, the Under the Lights Invite this season hosted 87 schools in four different divisions. A total of eight races, and one early evening fun run, were held with the first varsity wave rushing out of the gates with fireworks behind going off about 8:30 p.m. and the last getting their start at 11:35 p.m.

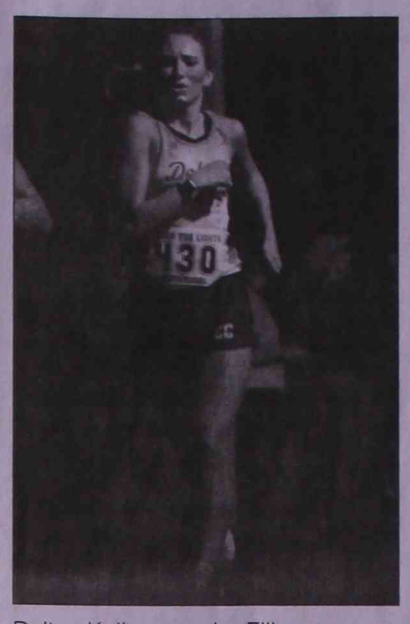
Senior Elli Timmerman set the pace for the Delton Kellogg girls in the Sunset race with a time of 23:29.1, a new PR for her too.

The Hastings and Delton Kellogg boys were in that first race of the night with the Panthers finishing 15th and the Saxons 23rd. The DK girls' team didn't have enough finishers to earn a team score.

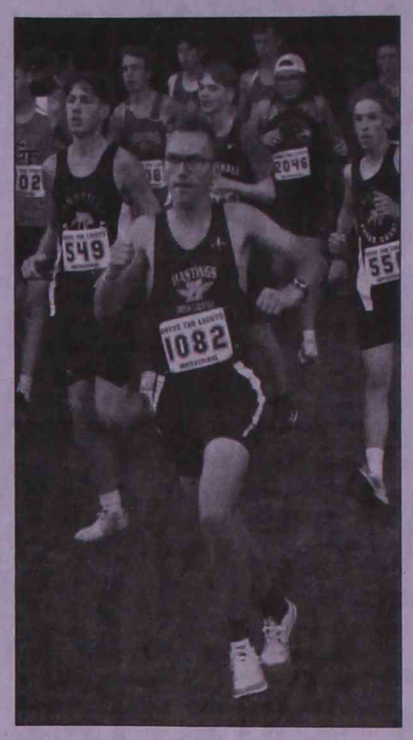
The DK boys' team had four guys finish in less than 20 minutes led by last year's state qualifier Landon Madden. Madden, a junior, placed 88th Friday in 19:14.1. Nick Muday, Jace Hilton and Malachi Allersma were the other three Panthers to finish in less than 20 minutes.



Hastings junior Caroline Randall runs to a new school record time and a first place finish Friday in the Sunset Division girls' race at the South Christian Under the Lights Invite. **Photos by Brett Bremer**



Delton Kellogg senior Elli Timmerman runs to a new personal record time while leading her team in the Sunset Division girls' race at the Under the Lights Invite hosted by South Christian High School.



Saxon sophomore Parker Erb gets moving with the crowd during the first mile of the Sunset Division boys' race, the first varsity race of the annual South Christian Under the Lights Invite Friday.



Delton Kellogg freshman Malachi Allersma rounds a turn with about a mile to go in the Sunset Division boys' race Friday at South Christian High School's annual Under the Lights Invite.

Stevensville Lakeshore was the top team in the Sunset girls' race with a final score of 114 points. Kalamazoo Homeschool Sports was second with 122 points ahead of Kent City 135, Edwardsburg 158 and Harper Creek 170 in the top five.

Smith, the junior from Gobles, was the runner-up to Randall in 18:40.8. Lakeshore's leader was freshman Lydia Dwyer who clocked in fourth at 1939.0.

The Saxons' number two was as freshman, Emerson Leary, who placed 117th in 26:02.5. Hastings junior Chloe Pirtle was 124th in 26:25.9. A couple of other Saxon freshmen had their best times yet to round out the top scoring five for their team. Sage DeCamp was 135th in 26:38.4 and Brynn VanderMale 140th in 26:53.6.

The Delton Kellogg team had a pair of juniors not too far behind that Saxon pack. Evelynn Courneya improved her PR to 28:02.2 while placing 163rd and Makayla Lutz was 169th in 28:27.3.

The trio of DK guys behind Madden at the top of their team standings all ran their best time of the season so far. Muday was 94th in 19:23.3, Hilton 99th in 19:29.4 and Allersma 111th in 19:52.0.

Sophomore Eli Li was the Saxon boys' number two with a 160th-place time of 21:21.5. The Hastings squad also had senior Carter Krzysik 163rd in 21:24.7, sophomore Alex Timmers 179th in 21:49.5 and sophomore Parker Erb 199th in 22:19.7.

The Kalamazoo Homeschool Sports team finished well ahead of the pack in the boys' team standings in the Sunset Division, winning with 61 points. Three Rivers was second with 117 points ahead of Charlevoix 117, Holland Calvary Christian 144 and Edwardsburg 155.

Whitehall junior Robert Jazwinski III was the boys' individual champion with a time of 15:15.1 – setting a new meet record. He was one of three guys in the Sunset race to finish in less than 16 minutes. Charlevoix junior Hunter Eaton came in at 15:40.2 and Central Montcalm senior Gage Hoffman at 15:52.9.

There were three guys over the course of the evening who bettered the old meet record of 15:19.50 set by Forest Hills Eastern's Henry Dixon in 2024. East Grand Rapids senior Jonah Workman won the Starlight race in 15:16.0 and Grandville junior Caden Livermore won the Midnight Division race in 15:19.4 Friday.

Vikings see improvement on day two of CAAC White season

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Vikings jumped from fifth to third in their second shot at the Capital Area Activities Conference White Division this season.

The Lakewood varsity girls' golf team put up a score of 229 to place third at the first conference jamboree of the season Tuesday at Bonnie View Golf Course in Eaton Rapids. The Lakewood ladies placed fifth the previous week at the CAAC White's preseason meet-up.

Charlotte took the victory on the day Tuesday with a team score of 191. Lansing Catholic was second at 195. Behind the Lakewood girls, Portland shot a 230, Ionia 245, Olivet 258 and Eaton Rapids 303.

Viking senior Galatea Archbold continued her hot start to the season by scoring a 46 which had her in third-place individually for the day. The Viking team got a 58 from sophomore Kaitlin Barker, a 59 from senior Liz Markwart and a 66 from junior Grace Grosshans.

Ionia junior Lila Redder was the day's individual champ with a score of 43. Charlotte was paced by senior Addison Antcliff's 45 and Lansing Catholic freshman Eryn O'Connell led her team with a 47. Charlotte had four girls shoot a score less than 50 strokes and Lansing Catholic had three girls under that mark.

At that preseason jamboree last Thursday at Willow Wood Country Club, Lansing Catholic won with a score of 183 ahead of Charlotte 190, Portland 209, Ionia 231, Lakewood 234, Olivet 253 and Eaton Rapids 293.

Archbold led the Vikings that day with a 51 that put her 12th individually. Junior Avery Farrell was 15th overall and second for the Viking team with a 55. Barker shot a 63 and Grosshans a 65 to round out the team's top four.

SYNOPSIS
PRAIRIEVILLE TOWNSHIP
Regular Meeting
August 20, 2025

Called to order at 6:36 p.m.
Present: Stoneburner, DeVries, Doster, Goebel, Pence
Agenda and Minutes approved
Commissioner's Report
Public comments were received.
Department Reports were received.
Approved: Payment of bills
2025 Tax Rate Request
Public and Board comments were received.
Meeting adjourned. 9:015 p.m.

Submitted by:
Rod Goebel, Clerk

Attested to: Jim Stoneburner, Supervisor

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
BARRY COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. and JUDGE 2025-30173-DE
William M. Doherty

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

Estate of Jeffrey Allen Chappell. Date of birth: 08/14/1956.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Jeffrey Allen Chappell, died 05/04/2025.

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

Date: 08/21/2025
Nathan E. Tagg P68994
202 South Broadway
Hastings, MI 49058
269-948-2900
Deanna Duprie
660 112th Avenue
Martin, MI 49070
269-317-8051

BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN
NOTICE OF ZONING ORDINANCE ADOPTION

BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN HEREBY ORDAINS:

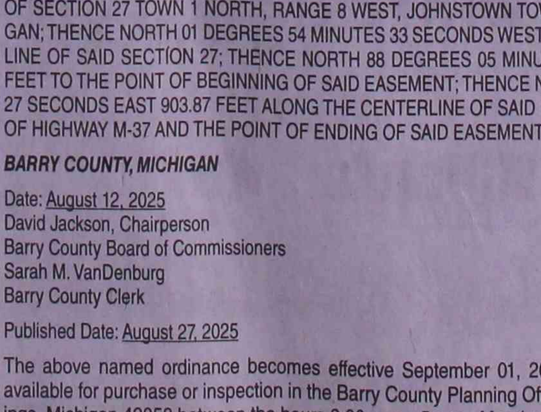
Pursuant to the provisions of Public Act 110 of 2006, as amended, notice is hereby given that the Barry County Board of Commissioners has adopted the following Ordinance which amends the Barry County Zoning Ordinance of 2008, as amended, in the following manner:

ORDINANCE NO.: A-1-2025

Rezone property at 14510 South M-37 Highway, Battle Creek, in Section 27 of Johnstown Township. (See attached map.)

FROM A (Agriculture) TO RR (Rural Residential)

Rezone property at 14510 South M-37 Highway, Battle Creek, in Section 27 of Johnstown Township. (See attached map.)



This map is a portion of the Official Zoning Map of Barry Township in Barry County, Michigan.

All of the above mentioned property is located in Barry County, Michigan.

Legal Description:

BEGINNING AT THE WEST 1/4 POST OF SECTION 27, TOWN 1 NORTH, RANGE 8 WEST, JOHNSTOWN TOWNSHIP, BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN; THENCE SOUTH 85 DEGREES 01 MINUTES 08 SECONDS WEST 495.00 FEET ALONG THE EAST - WEST 1/4 LINE OF SECTION 28, TOWN 1 NORTH, RANGE 8 WEST; THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 47 MINUTES 48 SECONDS WEST 445.28 FEET PARALLEL WITH THE WEST LINE OF SECTION27; THENCE NORTH 87 DEGREES 34 MINUTES 30 SECONDS EAST 493.26 FEET TO THE WEST LINE OF SAID SECTION 27; THENCE NORTH 86 DEGREES 42 MINUTES 20 SECONDS EAST 2111.91 FEET TO THE CENTERLINE OF HIGHWAY M-37; THENCE SOUTH 12 DEGREES 27 MINUTES 42 SECONDS EAST ALONG SAID CENTERLINE 75.39 FEET; THENCE 894.17 FEET ALONG SAID CENTERLINE AND THE ARC OF A CURVE TO THE RIGHT WHOSE RADIUS IS 2864.80 FEET, AND WHOSE CORD BEARS SOUTH 03 DEGREES 31 MINUTES 12 SECONDS EAST 890.54 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 05 DEGREES 25 MINUTES 18 SECONDS WEST ALONG SAID CENTERLINE 59.04 FEET; THENCE 794.55 FEET ALONG SAID CENTERLINE AND THE ARC OF A CURVE TO THE LEFT WHOSE RADIUS IS 5729.70 FEET, AND WHOSE CORD BEARS SOUTH 01 DEGREES 40 MINUTES 27 SECONDS WEST 749.01 FEET TO THE NORTH LINE OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4 OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF SAID SECTION 27; THENCE SOUTH 87 DEGREES 23 MINUTES 31 SECONDS WEST ALONG SAID NORTH LINE 744.49 FEET TO THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/40F SAID SECTION 27; THENCE NORTH 01 DEGREES 52 MINUTES 02 SECONDS WEST 359.08 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 88 DEGREES 05 MINUTES 27 SECONDS WEST 1359.89 FEET TO THE WEST LINE OF SAID SECTION 27; THENCE NORTH 01 DEGREES 54 MINUTES 33 SECONDS WEST 948.66 FEET ALONG THE SAID WEST LINE TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. SUBJECT TO EXISTING HIGHWAY EASEMENT OVER THE EASTERLY 50 FEET FOR HIGHWAY M-37. ALSO TOGETHER WITH AND SUBJECT TO A 66 FOOT WIDE EASEMENT DESCRIBED SEPERATELY. DESCRIPTION OF EASEMENT: A PRIVATE EASEMENT FOR INGRESS, EGRESS AND PUBLIC UTILITIES PURPOSES OVER A STRIP OF LAND 66 FEET WIDE, 33 FEET EACH SIDE OF THE CENTERLINE DESCRIPED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCING AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SECTION 27 TOWN 1 NORTH, RANGE 8 WEST, JOHNSTOWN TOWNSHIP, BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN; THENCE NORTH 01 DEGREES 54 MINUTES 33 SECONDS WEST 1700.00 FEET ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID SECTION 27; THENCE NORTH 88 DEGREES 05 MINUTES 27 SECONDS EAST 1209.89 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF SAID EASEMENT; THENCE NORTH 88 DEGREES 05 MINUTES 27 SECONDS EAST 903.87 FEET ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF SAID EASEMENT TO THE CENTERLINE OF HIGHWAY M-37 AND THE POINT OF ENDING OF SAID EASEMENT.

BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Date: August 12, 2025
David Jackson, Chairperson
Barry County Board of Commissioners
Sarah M. VanDenburg
Barry County Clerk

Published Date: August 27, 2025

The above named ordinance becomes effective September 01, 2025. A copy of this ordinance is available for purchase or inspection in the Barry County Planning Office, 220 West State Street, Hastings, Michigan 49058 between the hours 8:00 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Please call (269) 945-1290 for further information.

Hardy and Bremer out front for TK teams on first night

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Thornapple Kellogg varsity girls' and boys' cross country teams had new leaders at the 2025 South Christian Under the Lights Invite Friday night.

Junior Peyton Hardy was one of five TK ladies to earn medals for placing in the top 50. She led the Trojans with a time of 21 minutes 31.2 seconds which put her in 31st overall in the 16-team Midnight Division girls' race made up of the largest schools at the meet. The invitational this year included 87 different schools with teams running in four different divisions.

The TK ladies took off out of the gate with fireworks blasting behind them at 10:35 p.m. The TK boys got out of the gate in the same fashion at 11:30 p.m. and in the end there were 323 finishers who wound their way across the semi-lit course around the South Christian High School Sports Park in that race.

Freshman Owen Bremer was at the front of the pack for the Thornapple Kellogg boys with an 88th-place time of 18:46.6 in his first high school race.

Both Trojan teams had their OK Gold Conference champion, state qualifying front runner graduate and head off for a collegiate running career since last season with Ava Crews joining the Grand Valley State university women and Jacob Draaisma off to run with the Chicago State University men.

The Thornapple Kellogg girls were tenth and the boys were 15th in the final Midnight Division team standings Friday.

Hardy was about half a minute faster at the race than she was at the start of the 2024 season.

Madison Kietzman, Alaina McCrumb, Carmen Reynolds and Breanna Schut, who set as new PR, joined Hardy in the top 50 for the TK ladies. Kietzman placed 43rd overall in 21:57.2. McCrumb was 46th in 22:09.9, Reynolds 47th in 22:13.6 and Schut 50th in 22:15.9.

"As always with this unique race the charge was simple: Have fun, challenge yourself, and see what you can do," TK girls' coach Sam Wilkinson said. "They did just that and I am really proud of their efforts."

Hudsonville junior Cassie Karasinski set her personal record at 18:18.4 to win the Midnight Division girls' race. Portage Northern sophomore Ainsley Kelm was right behind with a PR of her own of 18:19.5. The top four girls all hit the finish line in less than 19 minutes.



Thornapple Kellogg junior Peyton Hardy works through the crowd during the first half mile of the Midnight Division race Friday at the annual Under the Lights Invite hosted by South Christian High School. She was one of five medalists for the TK girls' team.
Photos by Brett Bremer

Karasinski's Eagles won the team title with 62 points ahead of Rockford 77, Forest Hills Northern 94, Byron Center 170, Grandville 183, Caledonia 198, Forest Hills Central 198, Ottawa Hills 206, Portage Northern 216 and Thornapple Kellogg 217 in the top ten.

Bremer was one of two freshman in the top five for the Thornapple Kellogg boys. Parker Robinett placed 162nd in 20:19.9. He was right on the heels of senior teammate Benjamin Postma who was 160th in 20:19.2.

Trojan junior Grady Galaviz was his team's number two. He placed 129th in 19:50.8. TK sophomore Garrett Holzhausen was 150th overall in 20:11.4.

Hudsonville's Caden Livermore was one of three guys to beat the previous meet record on the night as he won the Midnight boys' race in 15:19.4 – the third fastest boys' time across the four divisions Friday. Lowell had the second and third finishers with junior Marshall Huhn clocking in at 15:27.6 and senior Cooper Byrne at 15:49.8. All three of those top finishers set a new personal record.

With four of the first 11 finishers the Lowell boys handily won the championship with just 51 points. Holland West Ottawa was second with 102 points ahead of Caledonia 110, Rockford 126, Allendale 149, Hudsonville 164, Forest Hills Northern 194, Grandville 206, Ottawa Hills 242 and Forest Hills Central 251 in the top ten.

Gators dive into 2025 season with an invite and a dual

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Gators are back in the water.

The Thornapple Kellogg, Hopkins, West Catholic, West Michigan Aviation Academy girls' swimming and diving co-op got its season started competing in the Williamston Invitational Saturday and then taking on Unity Christian in a dual in Hudsonville Monday evening.

The TK-led team, known as the Grand Rapids Gators, fell in that first dual with the Crusaders 108-55.

The Gators got a win from junior diver Lydia Slagel who put up a score of 245.15 points. She was more than 70 points better than her nearest competitor from Unity Christian as the diving crew once again headed by HCDC coach Todd Bates should be a strength again for the Gators this fall.

The 100-yard breaststroke proved to be one of the top events for the Gators Monday as freshman Mara Raak set her personal record in the race at 1 minute 23.98 seconds to place second and sophomore Mckenna Hawks also improved her PR to 1:25.07 in a third-place finish.

Unity Christian had the top three finishers in most of the swimming events. The Gators took the first place points in the 400-yard freestyle relay with the team of Eloise Nichols, Raak, Jenna Robinett and Hawks finishing that race in 5:07.08.

Freshman Adelaide Nydam got the first-place points in the 100-yard freestyle for the Gators with a time of 1:29.49.

Gators' head coach Jeff Saltzgaber, in his second season leading the co-op, is hoping this is another fall of building "strong team culture, work ethic, and positive energy."

He is expecting some youngsters to really contribute to the sprints and relays this fall for the team, and he really likes the leadership from seniors like Robinett and the newly added Devon Barnhill.

Once again, a boost to the TK student-athletes comes from the chance to get to practice in the refurbished pool in Middleville which opened just in time for them to practice at home last fall. Saltzgaber said his team isn't quite ready to compete with some of the bigger schools it will face, and the Caledonia/Lowell/South Christian and Byron Center squads should be especially tough in the OK Conference, but he likes the growth he sees with the help of the expanded swim lessons at the pool in Middleville and the talent coming to the program from the Hammerheads Swim Club based in Hastings.

The Gators were fourth Saturday at the Williamston Invitational. Owosso took the meet championship with 452.5 points ahead of Williamston 415.7, Ionia 309 and the Gators 256.

Slagel won the diving competition with a score of 253.20 points, beating her nearest competitor by 80 points. She qualified for the MISCA Meet in the first competition of the season with that performance. Slagel was a state medalist as a sophomore last fall.

In the 50-yard butterfly, Hawks scored a third-place time of 33.41 and Nichols was seventh with a time of 39.62. In the 100-yard breaststroke, Raak placed third in 1:24.03 and Hawks fourth in 1:25.17.

Robinett was eighth in the 100-yard backstroke for the Gators. Sophomore Scarlett Hilzey was eighth in the 50-yard freestyle and the 50-yard backstroke. Raak added an eighth-place time in the 100-yard individual medley.

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