

INSIDE
TODAY'S EDITION
LOCAL FRESHMEN HAVE THEIR FASTEST TIMES
PAGE 8



HARWOOD AND CUSHING TALLY HAT-TRICKS IN LION VICTORY
PAGE 7



TROJANS PLAYING BETTER THAN EARLY GOLD MARK MAY INDICATE
PAGE 9

Hastings Public Library
227 E State Street
Hastings MI 49058

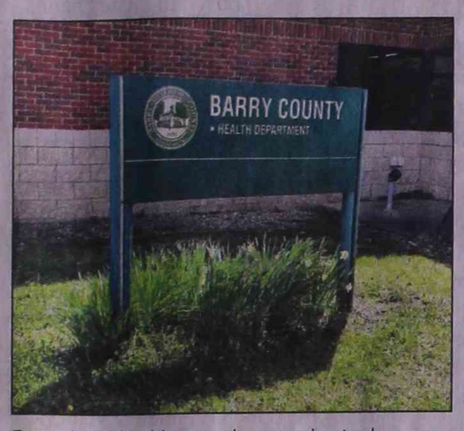
VOL. 170, NO. 71

THE HASTINGS BANNER

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF BARRY COUNTY SINCE 1856

www.HastingsBanner.com Thursday, September 4, 2025 $1.50

Health board selects new health officer; contract negotiations underway



Board of Health members selected Rebekah Condon as Barry-Eaton District Health Department's new health officer. Contract negotiations are underway now. **File photo**

Molly Macleod
Editor

A familiar face could soon be at the helm of the Barry-Eaton District Health Department after Board of Health members selected Rebekah Condon as BEDHD's new health officer last week.

Contract negotiations are underway now between Condon and the Board of Health. Should the two parties reach an agreement, Condon will take over as BEDHD's health officer from longtime health officer Colette Scrimger.

"We interviewed three candidates and made a selection of Rebekah Condon for the next health officer," said Board of Health member Catherine Getty during Tuesday's Barry County Board of Commissioners Committee of the Whole meeting. "We'll be negotiating that contract."

Condon, who holds a master's in public health, is no stranger to BEDHD. She is currently BEDHD's operations manager, working directly under Scrimger.

Getty said she and other health board members are looking forward to Condon's leadership.

"I am optimistic that she is going to be a young face, a young leader, that's going to do a good job during very difficult times," Getty said.

Condon will take the reins at BEDHD on the heels of massive, unexpected cuts to the department's budget. In April, BEDHD was hit with $850,000 in budget cuts from the federal level, forcing the department to eliminate nine positions. In June, Eaton County commissioners voted to reduce their contribution to BEDHD by 25% — or $225,000. Should Barry County commissioners vote to reduce the county's contributions to BEDHD later this year, BEDHD could see the purse strings tighten even further.

In efforts to immediately address current financial pressures, the health department has made a number of changes to its operations. One modification was the complete closure of the Connections Program in August which supported residents in navigating local health resources. Additionally, a number of leadership transitions are taking place.

One of those transitions includes Scrimger retiring a year earlier than

See **CONTRACT** on 4

Woodlanders pack downtown for annual 'Homecoming' celebration



Woodland Homecoming Grand Marshals Mary and Claude Smith were honored during and after last weekend's Woodland Homecoming Celebration Grand Parade. **Photos by Molly Macleod**



Doug Macleod, 5, competes during Saturday's pedal pull.

Molly Macleod
Editor

For a village of less than 400 residents, it seemed like all were accounted for — and then some — at last weekend's Woodland Homecoming Celebration.

Hundreds of Woodlanders of all ages descended upon the village's normally sleepy downtown on Labor Day weekend, Aug. 29-Sept. 1.

Activities reflected the community's farming values. From horseshoes to pedal pulls to a haybale toss, attendees were kept busy.

Saturday marked the festival's marquee event, the Grand Parade, led by 2025 Woodland Homecoming Grand Marshals Claude and Mary Smith. The two cruised down Main Street and Broadway in the back of a convertible PT Cruiser, en route to the Herald E. Classic Memorial Park for a post-parade reception.

Woodland royalty made an appearance on Saturday, as well. 2025 Miss Woodland Lillianna Brodbeck was honored on Saturday, along with Kiddie King Reid Potter and Kiddie Queen Charlotte Sheldon.

Other mainstays at the Woodland Homecoming Celebration returned in 2025, including the Kenny Makley Memorial Car Cruise-in Car Show; the Lakewood Lions chicken barbecue fundraiser; the Old-Fashioned Hymn Sing; the kids' foam party in the park, the euchre tournament; softball; dodgeball; kids' entertainment and much more.

Now, Woodland looks towards next year's celebration. As always, the celebration will take place over Labor Day weekend and will offer all the essentials: food, entertainment and community connection.

SATF reopening opioid settlement fund RFP window, simplifying applications

■ Deadline for applications is Oct. 31

Molly Macleod
Editor

A chunk of the county's opioid settlement funds is up for grabs again after the Barry County Substance Abuse Task Force reopened its request for proposals (RFP) window through Oct. 31.

SATF went back to the drawing board in June after only receiving one response to its original RFP that opened in the spring.

The sole application submitted to the RFP scoring workgroup earlier this year came from the Barry County Serenity Club, an organization that provides a safe place for addicts and alcoholics and supports them through the recovery process. SATF Coordinator Liz Lenz and opioid settlement funds RFP scoring committee chairman Bill Mattson recommended commissioners allocate $15,000 to the nonprofit. Those funds will help keep the organization running through the end of the year.

Lenz returned to the Barry County Board of Commissioners last week, updating commissioners on the reopened RFP period. This time around, SATF made changes to the application in hopes of receiving more interest.

"We have revised and simplified

See **OPIOID** on 2

04879 11018 7
CAR-RT LOT**C003
T1 P2 217 217
HASTINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY
227 E STATE ST
HASTINGS MI 49058-1954



ORGANIZERS GEAR UP FOR ANNUAL BARRY COUNTY RELAY FOR LIFE
PAGE 3

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

Hastings Public Library
227 E State Street
Hastings MI 49058

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

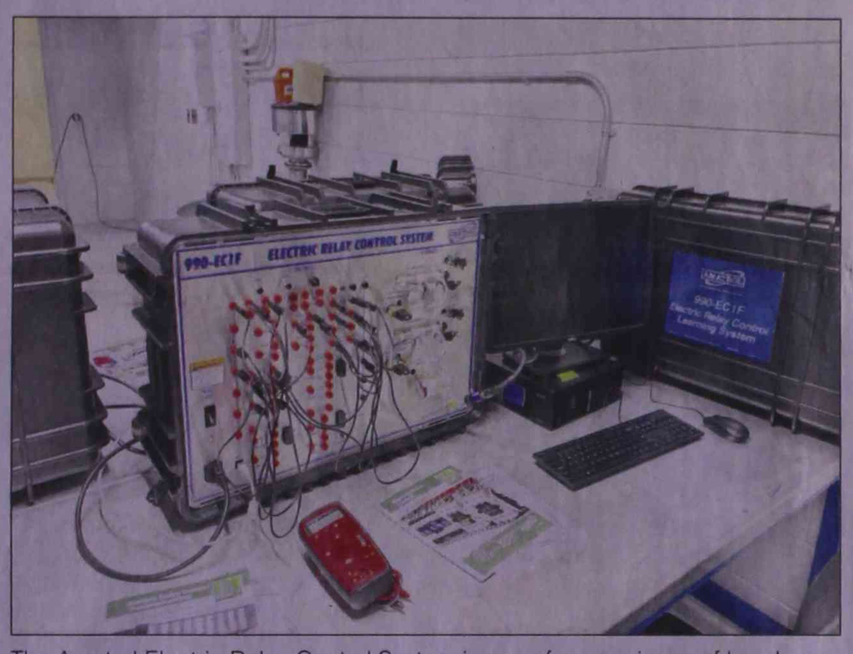




The doors of the Delton Kellogg High School IGNITE/Amatrol Lab piqued the interest of those who trained on the equipment in August and many who came out to the open house for a sneak peek. This fall, high school students will be introduced to their new revamped metal shop, the IGNITE Lab. **Photos courtesy of DK Schools**



Many came to an open house this summer to explore the new IGNITE/Amatrol Manufacturing Lab at Delton Kellogg High School.



The Amatrol Electric Relay Control System is one of many pieces of hands-on equipment Delton Kellogg students will learn to operate this fall in the new IGNITE/Amatrol Manufacturing program.

DK debuts new manufacturing technology program

Karen Turko-Ebright
Staff Writer

When Delton Kellogg High School students returned to school this week, they were introduced to a revamped metal shop. DKHS's new IGNITE/Amatrol Lab is now in full operation.

Amatrol specializes in providing career and technical education (CTE) training solutions across the country. Earlier this year, DKHS was selected as a recipient for funds that would help bring Amatrol's IGNITE: Mastering Manufacturing program to the school.

After the Amatrol equipment arrived at DKHS in May, shop teachers Brad and Tess Knobloch headed to the LIFT National Advanced Materials and Manufacturing Innovation Institute in Detroit for instructors' training in June.

Part of their IGNITE/Amatrol training included an online course in combination with learning how to operate the equipment. "It's the online learning part of what the students will be working on in the fall," Tess said.

In addition, the Knoblochs attended training from Aug. 19 to 22, offered at Delton Kellogg High School. Brad said that after all of the training, they are ready to start teaching this fall.

"We had training in the shop in the new IGNITE Lab that supplemented our earlier hands-on experience at LIFT in Detroit," Brad explained. "The additional training gave us valuable insight into engaging, real-world teaching methods that will keep students actively involved and help them connect classroom learning to modern manufacturing environments.

"Tess and I are both excited and fully prepared to teach the course this year.

"While in Detroit, we had the opportunity to take—and pass—the SACA (Smart Automation Certification Alliance) C101 Silver exam.

"This now qualifies us to administer the certification to our students, giving them a nationally recognized credential in smart manufacturing."

Innovators of the IGNITE curriculum developed the program to align specifically with the Certified Production Technician (CPT) certification from the Manufacturing Skills Standards Council and numerous SACA certifications. Brad said employers highly value those certificates.

"Students can look forward to working with a wide array of industry-grade equipment that covers a broad spectrum of advanced manufacturing concepts. These include pneumatics, hydraulics, electronics, motors, robotics, CNC machining, and PLCs (programmable logic controllers)," Brad explained. "They'll also explore smart sensors, conveyor systems, and even hydroponics—giving them a strong foundation in both traditional and emerging technologies.

"Beyond the technical skills, students will also be introduced to essential workplace practices such as 5S organization, Lean Manufacturing principles, and system integration—all designed to reflect the realities of today's high-tech, data-driven manufacturing environments."

Practicing the 5S organization method includes knowing the following words that start with S: sort, set in order, shine, standardize and sustain. Experts say students will benefit from learning the method because it teaches organization, efficiency, safety, work quality, boosts production and steps up morale in the workplace.

"The IGNITE program blends hands-on learning with problem-solving and project-based experiences to help students gain confidence and career-ready skills for the future," Brad said.

LIFT Executive Vice President Joe Steele, who also handles public affairs, explained in March that the equipment at DKHS is similar to what is at the LIFT Detroit Institute and is a key part of the IGNITE: Mastering Manufacturing Curriculum.

Superintendent Dr. Jeremy Wright said the Knoblochs are the only instructors teaching the IGNITE/Amatrol Manufacturing Program at the high school.

"Brad and Tess have worked so hard and diligently this summer to learn the material. They spent two full weeks of training and are also learning the material on their own, Wright explained. "They are truly an example of what's great about Delton Schools."

It was announced to school officials earlier this year that through the advocacy efforts of the Michigan Manufacturing Association (MMA), Delton Kellogg High School, Athens High School in Troy, and LIFT: The National Advanced Materials and Manufacturing Innovation Institute in Detroit were all recipients sharing a $1 million appropriation from the state legislature with the bulk of the allotment going to the schools. The funding paid for the new Amatrol equipment.

Wright said the students will learn real-world skills in a hands-on environment.

"These skills can transfer to new jobs in manufacturing from day one. This is the wave of the future," Wright said. "We are excited to be able to be one of the first schools in the state to offer this."

OPIOID

Continued from Page 1

the RFP for opioid settlement funds," Lenz said last week. "We've worked all summer long to simplify this, we've gotten input from people with lived experience, as well as Amy Dolinky — she's a technical advisor with the opioid settlement funds from the State of Michigan under the Michigan Association of Counties. We're really been quite pleased with the simplification process."

Individuals and organizations interested in the funds can apply online at barrycountysatf/opioid-settlement/ through Oct. 31, at 4 p.m. Paper applications can also be emailed to OSFRFP2025@bccmha.org or turned into the Barry County Administration Office, 220 W. State Street in Hastings.

After applications are received, applicants have the opportunity to explain to the selection committee what they will use the funds for at an in-person interview.

"The interviews are where the magic happens. We can find out what people are hoping to do with the opioid settlements and they can really tell their story and hopes and plans for their project," said Lenz.

Lenz said SATF's intent when simplifying the application was to make it more broadly available and accessible to those impacted by opioids in the community.

"We've been working all summer to talk to people and encourage them to apply, so we will definitely be reaching out to them to tell them the window is now open," Lenz said.

The State of Michigan received $800 million from opioid settlements. Of that $800 million, Barry County received $1.499 million — with the potential for more funds from ongoing litigations coming in the future.

More details about the funds can be found on the Barry County SATF website: barrycountysatf.com/opioid-settlement/. Funds are awarded based on guidance from Johns Hopkins University, the Michigan Association of Counties and local data. Funding will go toward projects that follow the key strategies listed in the opioid settlement court documents.



THE HASTINGS BANNER

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

New area nonprofit hosting listening sessions this month

Molly Macleod
Editor

A new nonprofit serving residents with disabilities is hosting listening sessions this month as it finds its footing in Barry County. The Ability Collective of Barry County, headed up by Maggie and Rob Bayerl, was formed in January of this year. The Ability Collective serves Barry County residents, championing inclusion and opportunities for individuals with disabilities, aiming to build an equitable community where everyone thrives.

"We're a brand-new nonprofit here in Barry County," said Maggie Bayerl, who serves as the organization's acting director. "We're really focused on building community solutions to make Barry County more inclusive for those with disabilities."

To start, Bayerl said the organization plans to conduct a community needs assessment, partnering with community agencies to disseminate a survey and conduct listening sessions.

"We're moving into the second phase of our community solutions assessment and are getting ready to host a series of listening sessions in Barry County. These listening sessions are part of our ongoing effort to better understand the barriers faced by people with disabilities in Barry County," said Bayerl.



The Ability Collective of Barry County, a nonprofit that fosters inclusion and opportunities for individuals with disabilities in Barry County, is hosting listening sessions throughout the county this month. **Courtesy photo**

Listening sessions will be held throughout the county this month. Sessions will be held from 6 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 16, at Thornapple Kellogg Middle School; from 6 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 17, at the Hastings Public Library; and from 6 to 7 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 22, at the Delton District Library.

"We're gathering input directly from people with lived experience to help identify practical, community-driven solutions that can make our county more inclusive, accessible, and responsive to everyone's needs," Bayerl said.

Bayerl said the organization is specifically looking for input from parents and caregivers of people with disabilities; self-advocates with disabilities and siblings or close allies of individuals with disabilities.

Space is limited in the upcoming listening sessions. Organizers ask that those interested in participating reach out by emailing hello@theabilitycollective.org or calling 269-205-3276.

Medication disposal event set for Sept. 18 in Lansing

The Michigan Pharmacists Association will host its 14th "Medication Disposal Event" on the south lawn of the Michigan Capitol in Lansing on Thursday, Sept. 18.

During the event, the public is encouraged to drop off their unused, unwanted or expired medications from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the medication disposal tent. Curbside drop-off will also be available on South Capitol Avenue, between Michigan Avenue and Allegan Street.

Held in conjunction with MPA's biannual Pharmacy Day at the Capitol, the annual event allows participants to safely and responsibly dispose of medications, including controlled substances and narcotics. Those attending the event will have the opportunity to learn more about what the state and MPA are doing to curb the opioid epidemic, as well as witness the valuable role of pharmacy professionals in reducing its impact.

"Events like this are more important now than ever," said Eric Roath, MPA director of government affairs. "Drug takeback events help prevent misuse and abuse of medications, especially opioids and other controlled substances."

According to the MPA, more than 100,000 people die of opioid overdoses in the United States.

"Proper disposal of medications is also critical for the protection of the environment, particularly our water systems," he added. "We are hoping that this year's event can provide a safe and convenient way to properly dispose of expired, unused or unwanted prescription drugs."

For more information, persons may visit online at MichiganPharmacists.org. — *DM*

Organizers gear up for annual Barry County Relay for Life

Local organizers and supporters are gearing up to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Relay for Life, reportedly the largest fundraising event held in support of the American Cancer Society, with the Barry County event set for Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 13-14, at Tyden Park in Hastings.

According to Kim Domke, one of the organizers for the Barry County fundraiser, the local Relay for Life will kick off at noon on Sept. 13.

The event is free and open to members of the public who wish to support the American Cancer Society and its fight against cancer. Strollers, wagons, walkers and wheelchairs are all welcome on the walk.

"I have been walking in Relay For Life for over 25 years, and the luminary lap is my favorite," said Domke, herself a survivor of breast cancer. "Sadly, we have all been touched by cancer either ourselves or other loved ones.

"This silent time with all the lights glowing, is a great time of reflection," she added. "Cancer treatments have come a long way, but research is still needed along with better treatments."

The local relay is set to include music and entertainment, themed laps, craft tents, silent auction and games. There will also be popcorn, cotton candy and food vendors on site.

Persons may view additional details on the various theme laps, such as dance laps, bubbles, trick or treat, glow in the dark, sing-a-long and favorite holiday, on the event's Facebook page, "Barry County Relay for Life."

Two special laps are scheduled for 6 p.m. on Sept. 13, including the survivor/caregiver lap, a celebration and remembrance of those that have had cancer. The second special lap is at 9 p.m., with hundreds of white luminaries being lit around the track and a time of silence to honor and remember those not with us anymore or those continuing the battle.

Also, at 6:30 p.m., any survivor and their caretakers who have walked are welcome to attend a free survivors' BBQ dinner provided by teams and local merchants.

"All those other years I was walking to raise awareness and support for others," Domke said. "But last August, I was diagnosed with stage 1A invasive ductal carcinoma.



Chris Bush (left) and Kim Domke participate in the annual Barry County Relay for Life, a fundraising event in support of the American Cancer Society and the fight against cancer. This year's event is set to begin at noon on Saturday, Sept. 13, at Tyden Park in Hastings. **Courtesy photo**

"It was a really tough relay because I wasn't beginning treatment until four weeks after the event. But I sure had a lot of support from everyone there," she added. "This year, I can be the one to give a different kind of support – as a survivor."

While the Barry County Relay for Life is free to attend, persons will need to purchase a $5 bracelet to play games including duck pond, Plinko, pop can ring toss, Jenga, Bocce ball, corn hole, dunk tank, bingo and inflatable games. The games are set from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday.

Persons interested in participating may just come out for any part of the event or gather up a team and join the local Relay for Life. Since it is a 24-hour event, there will be camping allowed at the Tyden Park for registered teams, while public restrooms will be open for the entirety of the event.

For more information, individuals may contact organizers via email at barrycountyrelay@gmail.com or through Facebook.

Also, to learn more about the American Cancer Society, persons may call 800-227-2345 or live chat at cancer.org. — *DM*



Financial FOCUS®



Provided by the Barry County offices of Edward Jones

Andrew Cove, AAMS™ CFP ®
Financial Advisor
421 W. Woodlawn Ave.
Hastings, MI 49058
(269) 945-3553

Member SIPC

Jeff Domenico, AAMS™ CRPC®
Financial Advisor
450 Meadow Run Dr., Suite 100
Hastings, MI 49058
(269) 948-8265

Life insurance: Protecting what matters most

September is Life Insurance Awareness Month and the perfect time to consider whether you have adequate coverage to protect your loved ones. While no one likes to think about what would happen if they weren't around, doing so is an act of love.

Life insurance is fundamentally about protecting your loved ones should something happen to you. If you pass away, your family will not only face the challenges of grief and loss but they could also find themselves financially strapped. Life insurance can help provide them with financial security in the event you no longer can.

Who needs life insurance: You're a good candidate if you have a spouse or partner who depends on your income or if there are children or other loved ones whom you support. Insurance protection can also be a solution if you have outstanding debts like a mortgage, credit cards or a car loan, or if you simply don't want to burden your loved ones with your final expenses.

Insurance through work: While many people have life insurance through their employers, this coverage may not be enough for you, depending on your situation. Among employers who offer group life insurance, only 2% offer more than two times the employee's annual salary — essentially just two years of income — according to the Guardian's 2023 Workplace Benefits Study. And remember that it's only good as long as you're employed there. With all this in mind, many people purchase individual insurance as a supplement to their workplace coverage.

How much: You might hear that you need life insurance equal to about seven to 10 times your pretax annual salary. That's not a bad "ballpark" figure, but not everyone is playing in the same ballpark. To get a true sense of how much of a death benefit is right for you, use the "L-I-F-E" guide to calculate your needs:

- **Liabilities**: Will your family need to pay off a mortgage, credit cards, car loan or other debt?
- **Income:** Will your family need to replace your income for a period of years?
- **Final expenses:** Do you have the resources to cover funeral and burial expenses?
- **Education needs:** Do you need to put children through a private school or college?

Which type: You can choose between two basic types of life insurance: term and permanent. As its name suggests, term insurance is designed to provide coverage for a designated period, such as 10, 15 or 20 years. In general, term insurance is quite affordable for most people, especially when they buy policies as young adults. On the other hand, permanent insurance, such as whole life or universal life, is usually considerably more expensive because in addition to providing a death benefit, your premiums build cash value. In choosing between term and permanent insurance, you'll want to evaluate several issues, such as how long you think you'll need coverage and how much annual premium you can afford to pay.

Life insurance needs can change over time, so it's important to review your coverage every three to five years or after major life events like marriage or birth of a child. Consider working with a financial advisor who can look at your complete financial situation and help you choose a policy that truly fits your family's needs. Taking action sooner rather than later could be one of the most important gifts you give your loved ones.

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

Edward Jones is a licensed insurance producer in all states and Washington, D.C., through Edward D. Jones & Co., L.P. and in California, New Mexico and Massachusetts through Edward Jones Insurance Agency of California, L.L.C., Edward Jones Insurance Agency of New Mexico, L.L.C., and Edward Jones Insurance Agency of Massachusetts, L.L.C.

Serenity Village nearing completion; open house is next week

Molly Macleod
Editor

After a decade of persistence, fundraising and overcoming setbacks, Serenity Village, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Hastings, will soon open its doors for its Grand Opening Open House event on Wednesday, Sept. 10, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.

"We're a compassion home that serves families at the end of life. So we're looking at those last few days to a couple of weeks," explained Serenity Village executive director Tom DeVault.

The end-of-life care facility fills a need in the community not served by traditional hospice care or nursing home facilities, DeVault said.

"It's for a gap in the community that was noticed many years ago," DeVault said. "There are some folks that when they pass away, they are doing so at a long-term care facility or a nursing home or something like that. And then there's also a part of the population who have been getting hospice care at home — because hospice is a home-based organization. They've been receiving those services at home and everything's been going along OK, but it's getting toward the very end, and the caregiving becomes too difficult and/or dying at home isn't really going to be in the best interest of the people who are still living there."

DeVault said the goal of Serenity Village is to give folks a comfortable place to pass away that isn't at home or a hospital.

"Who wants to pass away in a hospital or in a sterile environment? That's where Serenity Village comes in," DeVault said.

Serenity Village is not a long-term care facility, assisted living, a nursing home, nor a hospice facility, DeVault said. "We're not really competing with any of the other organizations who do great

See **COMPLETION** on 4

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rowan Wade Watson, born at Corewell Health Pennock on July 25, 2025 to Delanie Watson and Ryan Watson of Dowling.

*****

Soren Lee-Austin Pederson, born at Corewell Health Pennock on July 29, 2025 to Katelyn Pederson and Draven Pederson of Battle Creek.

*****

Elsie Anne Gonyou, born at Corewell Health Pennock on July 29, 2025 to Callie Gonyou and Andrew Gonyou of Lake Odessa.

*****

Wyatt Nicholas Martin, born at Corewell Health Pennock on August 2, 2025 to Ceaira Martin and Nicholas Martin of Lake Odessa.

*****

Violet Susanna Vanderwall, born at Corewell Health Pennock on August 6, 2025 to Victoria Helina Vanderwall and Anthony James Scarsella of Dowling.

*****

Eadie Jean Marie, born at Corewell Health Pennock on August 6, 2025 to Danielle Nurenberg and Zackary Nurenberg of Hastings.

*****

Maeve Victoria Bleam, born at Corewell Health Pennock on August 12, 2025 to Josephine Bleam and Austin Bleam of Freeport.

*****

Josephine Patricia Shaw, born at Corewell Health Pennock on August 20, 2025 to Emma Shaw and Brandon Shaw of Hastings.

*****

Elijah Arthur-James Burghdoff, born at Corewell Health Pennock on August 20, 2025 to Danielle Ryan and Mason Burghdoff of Hastings.

*****

Bentlee Layne Sweet, born at Corewell Health Pennock on August 25, 2025 to Sarah Sweet and Richard Sweet of Hastings.

*****

Ophelia James Wilson-Haight, born at Corewell Health Pennock on August 23, 2025 to Damica Ann Wilson-Haight and Chancelor Christopher Wilson-Haight of Hastings.

*****

Ryliann Burger, born at Corewell Health Pennock on August 25, 2025 to Kayla Gorodenski and Dylan Burger of Charlotte.

*****

Boone Alan Coats, born at Corewell Health Pennock on August 26, 2025 to Amber Amelia Bishop and Ryan Douglas Coats of Hastings.

HASTINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY SCHEDULE

No library card is required for library programs and activities.

Wine pairing and basket auction tickets are available now.

Thursday, Sept. 4 – Movie Memories and Milestones watches a 1933 film starring Joan Blondell and James Cagney, 5 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 5 – Friday Storytime, 10:30 a.m.

Monday, Sept. 8 – Crafting Passions, 10 a.m.; Library Board meeting, 4:30 p.m.; Chicken Keeping 101 with An Earful of Agriculture, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 9 – Baby Cafe, 10 a.m.; Lift Every Voice Book Club discusses "The First Ladies" by Marie Benedict, 1 p.m.; mahjong, 5 p.m.; chess, 5 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 10 – Itsy Bitsy Book Club, 10:30 a.m.; Open Art Studio, 11:30 a.m.; digital literacy workshop, 2 p.m.; Friends of the Hastings Public Library meeting, 6 p.m.

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

Herb workshop is Sunday

Area residents can learn everything one needs to know about herbs at a free workshop this weekend.

Herbalist, Michigan State University Pollinator Champion and Master Gardener Robbin Glass will lead the workshop on Sunday, Sept. 7, from 3 to 5 p.m.

Attendees of the class will learn how to grow, harvest, buy, store and use herbs. Glass will teach attendees how to use herbs in several different forms.

Glass will cover how to make tinctures, tablets, capsules, salves, lotions and more from herbs.

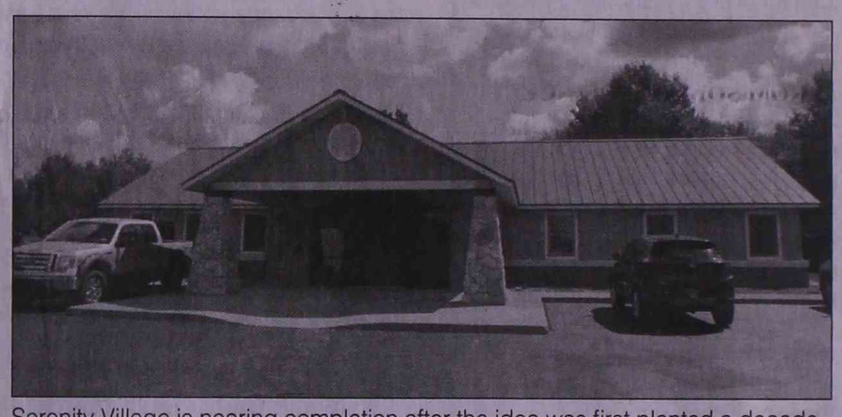
Attendees have the chance to win prizes from a free drawing. They can also try herbal tea blends and samples.

The workshop will be held at the Hastings SDA Church at 888 Terry Lane in Hastings.

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



Serenity Village, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Hastings, will soon open its doors for its Grand Opening Open House event on Wednesday, Sept. 10, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. **Photos by Molly Macleod**



Serenity Village is nearing completion after the idea was first planted a decade ago. Construction crews are finishing up remodeling the building at 3700 N. M-43 Hwy in Hastings.

COMPLETION

Continued from Page 3

work in the community. We're really kind of our own niche."

DeVault explained that any family can use Serenity Village's services. He said most patients will be required to be under the care of a hospice provider. Residents will receive a bill for daily use, but DeVault said the nonprofit relies heavily upon memorial gifts and bequests.

"We're trying to keep it simple. Ultimately, what we want is a nice, safe, caring place where people can pass away with some dignity in a caring surrounding with family and friends — a place where you can bring your loved one in and we'll help you. We'll help you in those last, hardest days, with all the caregiving responsibilities so you and your family can spend that time loving each other, spending those last hours and days together. And we'll take on a lot of that caregiving burden for you," DeVault said.

Serenity Village organizers have long probed the concept of constructing and operating a facility that would serve as an alternative to end-of-life care for patients who can no longer be cared for in their homes.

"We started with a great idea back in 2015, and then we needed to put some form or some substance to that great idea, and that took some time," DeVault said.

Organizers quickly began collecting donations, but that effort slowed down during the COVID-19 pandemic. After receiving a land donation in 2019, Serenity Village's capital campaign raised over $2 million in 2021. It looked like construction on the donated property might begin soon, until construction bids came in $1.5 million over budget. DeVault said he looked to federal grants to fill that funding gap, which didn't pan out. Then came a golden opportunity.

"And then this opportunity for the building that we're in now became available about a year and a half ago. And it just so happened that it was almost the identical amount of square feet, almost the perfect amount of acreage as it was, it was out of town, it had space," DeVault said.

Serenity Village purchased the building on M-43 last summer and quickly started plans to remodel it to its needs.

"Remodeling began in the beginning of this winter and now we're getting to the point of being ready to open," DeVault said.

Though the finish line is in sight for Serenity Village, the nonprofit is still $500,000 from its goal. Local lender Union Bank stepped up and provided gap funding to help Serenity Village open its doors.

"So it's those loans, that mortgage, essentially, that we still need to pay off," DeVault said.

All are invited to tour the Serenity Village facilities next month. DeVault said construction should be wrapping up by then, and attendees of the open house will see the rooms nearly finished.

"When the open house hits, folks should be able to see where their donations over the years have materialized," DeVault said. "We'll have a building that's nearly finished, so that so you'll be able to see all the caregiving rooms, all the offices, how everything is structured. And our board members will be there to give tours, answer questions and really you'll be able to see exactly what we're going to look like when we open in about a month."

Those interested in donating to Serenity Village can do so on its website, serenitybc.org, or by mailing donations to PO Box 414 in Hastings.

Serenity Village is located at 3700 N. M-43 Hwy in Hastings. More information on the facility can be found at its website, serenitybc.org.

CONTRACT

Continued from Page 1

planned — effective at the end of this month. Should contract negotiations go well, Condon will take over from Scrimger at that time.

Additionally, Environmental Health Director Jay VanStee retired in July.

"These transitions will open up opportunities to restructure leadership roles and reduce administrative costs," Getty said in July.

BEDHD will be making additional cuts to discretionary spending in areas such as training, travel, materials, supplies and more.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

PETS

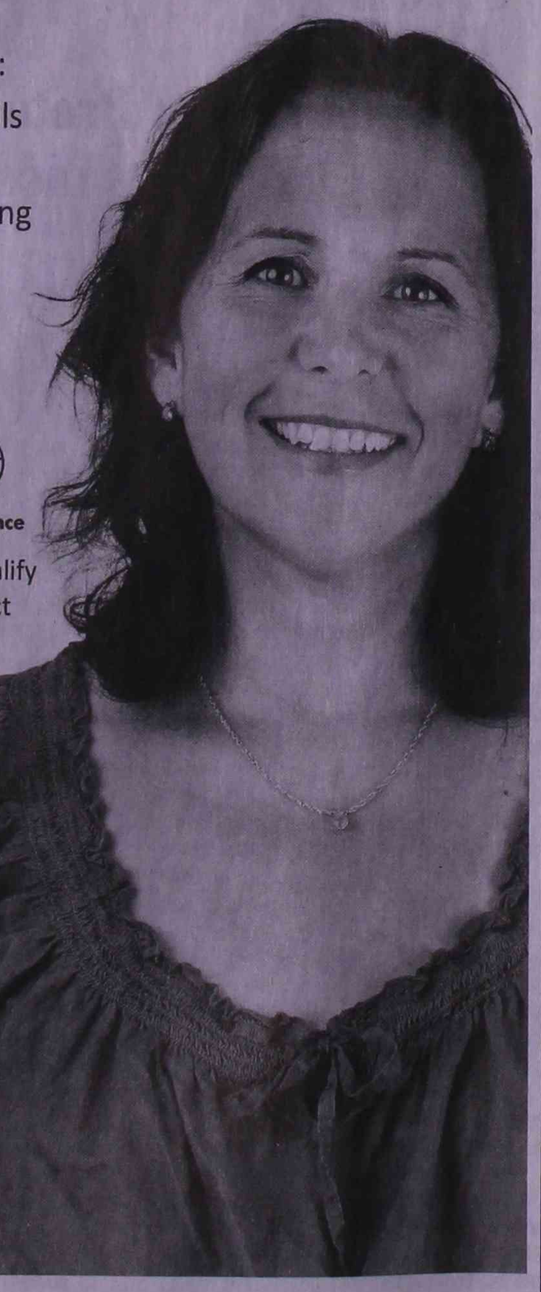
BLUE HEELER PUPPIES First Vaccinations given. Parents on site. Located in Hastings. Call or Text 616-329-4987.

West MICHIGAN WORKS!®

Take the next step to a better paying job!

Learn about free:

- Computer skills training
- Career coaching
- Job search services



TAA Trade Adjustment Assistance

PLUS: Ask us if you qualify for Trade Assistance Act benefits!

Call **1-800-285-WORK (9675)** or visit westmiworks.org/job-seekers/

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

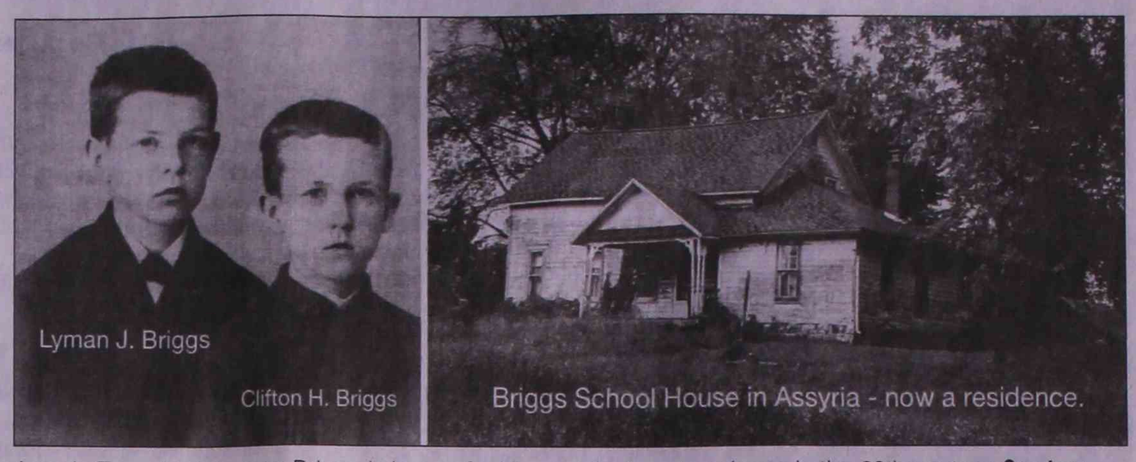
ASSYRIA'S GIFT TO SCIENCE: Remembering Lyman James Briggs

DAVID W. MILLER
Special to The Banner

The story of Lyman James Briggs (1874–1963), drawn in part from the "Barry County Book 1985," is one of humble beginnings and extraordinary achievement. His journey from a rural schoolhouse in Barry County to national scientific prominence raises a timeless question: In an age of abundant resources, advanced technology and highly trained educators, how often does such greatness emerge?

Briggs's story offers a humbling reminder. Raised in Assyria Township, about 18 miles southeast of Hastings, the young Briggs stepped out of a one-room schoolhouse at the age of 15 and entered what was then Michigan Agricultural College (now Michigan State University). One can only imagine his teacher— perhaps a man in his 20s, earning about $35 a month, instructing as many as eight grades in a single room. All we know of his teacher is that he has been referred to as "Mr. Tompkins."

The Briggs School itself would have had no electricity, no indoor plumbing, and only a sparse selection of books. In such surroundings, a student's success depended less on resources and more on an inner drive to learn. My takeaway from Briggs's early life is that greatness sometimes begins not in gilded classrooms, but in humble settings where a young scholar learns to listen to the quiet voice within and make the very best of meager circumstances.



Assyria Township's Lyman Briggs is known for his contributions to science in the 20th century. **Courtesy photos**

EARLY YEARS IN BARRY COUNTY

Briggs was born on May 7, 1874, in Assyria Township, Barry County. The eldest of two sons in a farming family descended from early Plymouth settler Clement Briggs, he attended the small Briggs School built by his grandfather in 1858. For a brief time, Briggs even taught in the same one-room schoolhouse before entering college. At just 15 years old, he passed the entrance examination to Michigan Agricultural College, earning his bachelor of science in agriculture in 1893. In 1896, he married Katharine Cook, whom he met as an undergraduate at Michigan Agricultural College.



Lyman Briggs was born on May 7, 1874, in Assyria Township.



In 1939, President Franklin D. Roosevelt tapped Lyman Briggs to chair the top-secret Uranium Committee, which initiated United States research into atomic energy on the eve of World War II.

FROM SOIL TO SCIENCE

After graduate work at the University of Michigan (M.S. 1895) and Johns Hopkins University (Ph.D. 1901), Briggs began his federal career with the United States Department of Agriculture. His pioneering studies on soil moisture, surface tension and water retention formed the foundation of soil physics, influencing agriculture across the Great Plains and arid regions of the West.

INNOVATOR AT THE BUREAU OF STANDARDS

In 1917, Briggs joined the National Bureau of Standards (NBS), where he and John Hayford developed a gyroscopic horizon instrument for naval gunnery during World War I. His later work in aerodynamics, advanced airfoil and propeller research proved critical to aviation in the interwar years.

With colleague Paul R. Heyl, Briggs co-invented the Earth inductor compass, a precise electromagnetic navigation device. Their design won the Magellan Medal in 1922 and was famously used by Charles Lindbergh on his 1927 solo transatlantic flight. This type of compass was also used by Admiral Richard E. Byrd in his flight to the North Pole.

DIRECTOR AND ATOMIC PIONEER

Then-President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed Briggs director of NBS in 1933 during the Great Depression. He successfully cut operating costs nearly in half without eliminating essential scientific programs.

Briggs served as chairman of the National Geographic Society's research committee in 1934. He was appointed to this position during his tenure as director of NBS. His work with the committee included oversight of scientific expeditions and research grants. While he was a member of National Geographic's advisory structure, the U.S. Army Air Corps and National Geographic sponsored the Explorer high-altitude balloon project. In July 1934, the balloon ascended to over 60,600 feet before a structural rupture ended the mission. The event triggered a review by NBS to analyze causes of failure. The balloon crash was widely reported as a valuable but costly scientific lesson in high-altitude exploration.

In 1939, FDR tapped Briggs (age 65) to chair the top-secret Uranium Committee, which initiated U.S. research into atomic energy on the eve of World War II. He was closely associated with the early research that led to the production of the atomic bomb and was awarded the Medal of Merit by President Harry S. Truman for his World War II efforts.

LEGACY AT MICHIGAN STATE

Dr. Briggs retired in 1945, continuing as NBS director emeritus. In 1967, MSU honored its distinguished alumnus by establishing the Lyman Briggs College (LBC), a residential science program located in Holmes Hall. The college focuses on integrating physics, biology and chemistry with the humanities—a reflection of Briggs's belief in connecting science with society. The Lyman Briggs College is a limited enrollment residential college that welcomes about 650 incoming first-year students each fall. Students are first accepted into MSU, then have the ability to select to study within Lyman Briggs College. Students enrolled at LBC are affectionately referred to as "Briggsies."

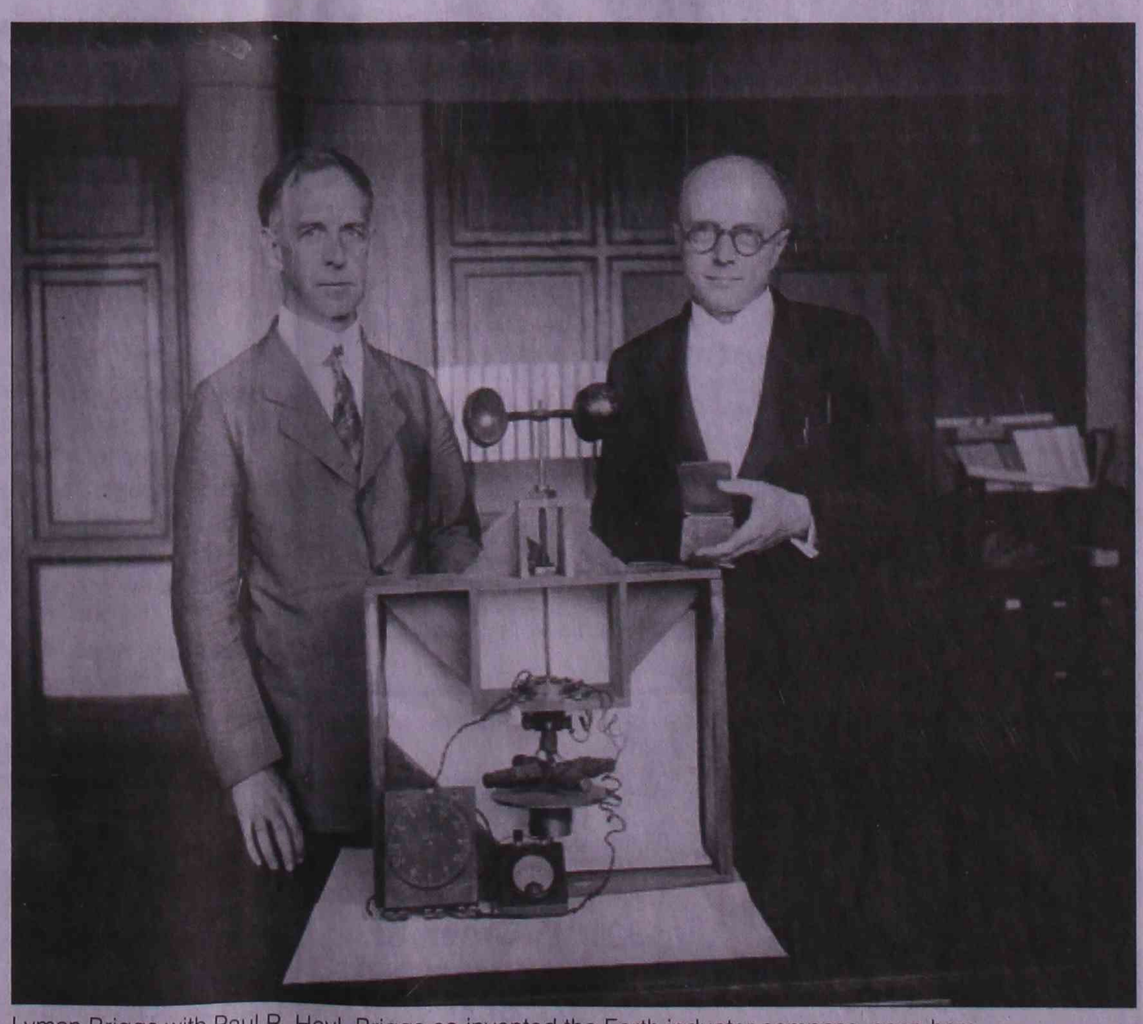
BARRY COUNTY'S NATIVE SON

From a one-room schoolhouse in Assyria Township to the highest levels of American science, Lyman James Briggs showed that remarkable achievement can grow from the humblest of beginnings. His contributions—from advancing soil physics to leading early atomic research and strengthening national defense—were driven by a lifelong commitment to service and discovery. For the area, his story is a lasting reminder that perseverance and curiosity can carry a farm boy from rural Barry County to shape the course of history. Briggs passed away at the age of 88 in Washington, D.C., and rests in his family plot at Ellis Cemetery in Assyria Township, returning home to the soil that first nurtured his dreams.

Sources: Michigan State University Archives and Historical Records; U.S. Department of Agriculture; National Institute of Standards and Technology; American Philosophical Society, Hewlett, R. G. & Anderson, O. E.; Michigan State University.

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

In 1967, Michigan State University honored its distinguished alumnus by establishing Lyman Briggs College, a residential science program located in Holmes Hall.



Lyman Briggs with Paul R. Heyl. Briggs co-invented the Earth inductor compass, seen here.

OBITUARIES

VIEW OBITUARIES ONLINE. HASTINGSBANNER.COM

Spencer Thomas Krul



It is with an unbearable heaviness of heart that we must say goodbye to a special soul taken far too soon.

Spencer Thomas Krul passed away on Saturday, Aug. 30, 2025, after a lengthy health battle. Throughout his entire ordeal, he faced his challenges with courage and strength, right up until the morning he slipped away while resting peacefully with his mother at his side.

Born in Jackson, MI on July 4th, 1970, Spencer spent most of his childhood and early adult years in Hastings, MI, playing little league baseball, attending Hastings High School (Class of '88), and fostering a vibrant community of friends. He ventured out into new and exciting territory, residing in Florida, California, and Oregon, before eventually returning to the home he knew best in Hastings.

A natural charmer, Spencer always managed to light up a room whenever he entered it with his bright smile and infectious laugh. He marched to his own drum and met the world on his terms. Professionally, he was well known for his dedicated years working for CCRG (Commonwealth Cultural Resources Group) as a GIS Field Technician doing archaeological surveys. He also spent several years merging his work and leisure in the world of golf.

Spencer was preceded in death by his father, Thomas, and survived by a loving and caring family, starting with his dedicated mother, Linda Weir, and step-father, Donald, as well as his siblings, Jeffrey (Sandi), Melissa (Kris), Justin (Melissa), Karessa (Brian), Andy (Alicia), his long-time partner, Michelle, beloved nieces and nephews, and loving aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Honoring his wishes, there will be no formal service at this time, but a celebration of his memory will be announced in the near future.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the Barry County Animal Shelter, as Spencer was a tremendous lover of dogs including his dogs Ziggy and Hazel.

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

Reverend Doctor Michael Anton



Long-time resident of the Hastings, MI community, Reverend Doctor Michael Anton, died on Friday, Aug. 22, 2025 at Thornapple Manor, after a two-year battle with brain cancer.

Michael was born on December 6, 1940, in Memphis, TN, to Dorothy (Eken) and William Anton. Following elementary and secondary education in Memphis schools and eight years of college and seminary in Missouri and Indiana, he was ordained as a Lutheran pastor. After three years as a mission developer, community college faculty member, and basketball coach at Niagara College in southern Ontario, Canada, Michael accepted the call as pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in Hastings in 1969. After 39 years as pastor of Grace, he retired in 2008, having earned a Doctor of Ministry degree from Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago, IL, during that time.

Michael and his wife, Charlotte, met in junior college and their 61-year marriage began on June 7, 1964. They were blessed with three sons: Mark, Philip, and Matthew, all of whom lived their K-12 lives in Hastings schools. They were further gifted with two daughters by marriage, Julie Partridge (Phil), Melina Williams (Matt), granddaughter, Linnea (Melina and Matt), and many grand-kitties and grand-beagles.

Michael was preceded in death by both of his parents, both of Charlotte's parents, and three other close family members: Julie Honerkamp, Jon Kircher, and Richard Honerkamp. Gratefully, he is survived by Charlotte and their family.

One of his early stories originated when the Anton threesome (Mark was 1 ½) arrived in Hastings. Since both of them had lived and attended school almost entirely in bigger cities, Michael and Charlotte sized up a small community and a small congregation residing in a small building and shared their mutual assessment: they would be in Hastings for 3 to 5 years max. Obviously, no one ever wanted to ask them to predict the future!

Michael's journey with Grace Lutheran included helping start the ecumenical Lent'n Lunch program…initiating the annual community Cross Walk on Good Friday…overseeing the sale of the Grace building at the corner of Jefferson and Walnut…helping manage the construction of a new edifice on North St., followed later by a second building program to renovate the old wing and add a new wing…sponsoring the community pasty sales…helping initiate new worship liturgies, different music and musical instruments, bell choir, visual art, drama, puppets, liturgical dance…creating the character of the "Christmas Clown"… being a "mission partner" supporting several congregations in the synod… expanding youth ministry at multiple age levels…increasing worship server roles and providing more opportunities for congregation members to utilize their talents…and helping provide worship at the county jail.

In the community, Michael discovered numerous opportunities to serve, which included assisting with the creation of Barry Community Hospice…helping create a drop-in center for youth and senior adults…serving as a: Child Abuse Prevention Council (now Family Support Center) board member…Hastings Area School Board trustee for eight years (president for two years)…Pennock Hospital Board trustee for 14 years (chairperson for eight years)…Pennock Patient & Family Advisory Council member.

Michael enjoyed a number of leisure-time activities, including spending time with his family, teaching, reading, golfing, church league softball, following various sports teams, meeting folks for coffee and conversation, and traveling. Traveling was a particular passion for Michael and Charlotte. Fortunately, they were able to fulfill their dreams with family trips as their sons were growing up and in retirement days. They organized three tour groups to Israel and parts of Europe and they enjoyed European riverboat cruises to celebrate milestone anniversaries.

In retirement Michael continued pastoral life as a "supply pastor" for worship services in congregations without pastors or with pastors ill or on vacation. His interest in education was piqued by an invitation to teach in the Kellogg Community College-sponsored Institute for Learning in Retirement (now Lifelong Learning Institute) at the Fehsenfeld campus in 2002. For many years he led classes in the program on spiritual and social-cultural topics. He also served on the Board of Friends of Hastings Performing Arts Center (HPAC) and helped with the initial phases of Serenity Village.

A visitation will be held on Friday, Sept. 19, 2025, at Grace Lutheran Church from 5-8 p.m. (239 E. North St., Hastings, MI 49058). Additional visitation time will occur from 10-11 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 20, 2025, at the Hastings Performing Arts Center (HPAC) at Hastings High School (520 W. South St., Hastings, MI 49058). A celebration of life service will begin at 11 a.m. on September 20, 2025, at the HPAC. Fellowship and light refreshments will follow the service at the Walldorff Brewpub at 1:30 PM (105 E. State St, Hastings, MI 49058).

In lieu of flowers, please direct memorial gifts to: Grace Lutheran Church (239 E. North St. Hastings, MI 49058) and/or Hastings Education Enrichment Foundation (232 W. Grand St. Hastings, MI 49058).

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

VIEW OBITUARIES ONLINE. HASTINGSBANNER.COM

Worship Together



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PIERCE CEDAR CREEK INSTITUTE EVENTS

— SEPT. 4-11 —

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

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.

Monday, Sept. 8 — Bird Brains with the Barry County Bird Club (ages 15+, under 18 with an adult), 8:30 a.m. Join Pierce Cedar Creek Institute and the Barry County Bird Club for a free social birding morning. Enjoy a beverage and chat with new and experienced birders. Then, hit the trails to look for some of Barry County's very best birds! Please be prepared to hike up to one mile on uneven trails. The Institute will have a limited number of binoculars to borrow. This program will occur rain or shine. In the event of inclement weather, the Institute will offer a short informational session on birding topics. Participants are asked to register online ahead of the event.

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

Harwood and Cushing tally hat-tricks in Lion victory

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Not bad for playing with just 11 guys, and then ten, and then nine for a bit, and then ten again.

The Maple Valley varsity boys' soccer team opened Big 8 Conference play with a 7-1 win over visiting Stockbridge Tuesday evening.

Senior midfielder Bradley Cushing and junior forward Michael Harwood had three goals apiece. Cushing fired off 12 shots throughout the contest including nine in the second half as the Lions controlled the game from start to finish.

The both had a goal before the game was 70 seconds old, and eventually the Lions led 4-0 at the half.

The Lions entered the contest with 11 players, and were down to ten on the field after junior defender Presley Hricovsky injured an ankle midway through the first half. A second injury early in the second half had the Lions down to nine players on the pitch for a bit.

But all the while the goals kept coming. Senior midfielder Ayden Betancourt scored once for the Lions too in the contest – one of a few goals on solid shots that ricocheted off a Panther defender and by the Stockbridge goalkeeper.

Harwood, Cushing and Betancourt all had one assist each in the game too.

"We played short quite a bit the second half," Lion head coach Mike Webb said. We moved the ball fairly well, but I think the boys got a little tired. We only got three in the second half. We lost a little effort there."



Maple Valley junior Michael Harwood fires a shot t the Stockbridge net during the first half of the Lions' 7-1 win over the visiting Panthers in Big 8 Conference action Tuesday at Maple Valley High School. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

The Lions did shuffle their line-up around throughout the second half to give some guys different looks. One of the moves was strategic in facing the Panthers, getting Harwood to match-up defensively against the Panthers' top player Koen Griffith and take away the speed advantage he had over almost everyone else on the field.

Griffith scored the lone goal for the Panthers in the second half.

"We got a lot of shots. It'd be nice to get them in the back of the net a little more consistently. There was good effort. Nic Hansen played really hard tonight. Tyler Curtis played a very good game. Ayden Betancourt, Michael Harwood and Bradley Cushing all played well," Webb said.

Lion goalkeeper Carter Donselar wasn't tested much, but did have a couple nice saves one leaping up on his line and another sliding out to deflect a shot away from a Panther attacker.

It was the third consecutive win for the Maple Valley boys who improved their overall record to 3-2.

The Lions are scheduled to host Pennfield this afternoon, Sept. 4, and then go to Jackson Lumen Christi for a noon start Saturday.

Schipper shot secures Vikes' comeback win over Ionia

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

There was a feeling that this year Lansing Catholic and Ionia would be a couple of teams pushing for spots at the top of the Capital Area Activities Conference White Division boys' soccer standings this fall.

The Bulldogs beat the Cougars 2-1 in their early season meeting.

The Lakewood Vikings made everyone aware that when they're at their best they could be pushing to be in that mix for a conference championship chase with a 2-1 win of their own over the visiting Ionia boys Wednesday, Aug. 27, at Lakewood High School.

But with a young team there are certainly some ups and downs. Charlotte snapped a three-match Viking win streak with an 8-0 win over the Vikings at Lakewood High School Tuesday. The Lakewood team currently sits at 2-1 in conference play so far.

In the win over Ionia, Lakewood rallied from a 1-0 hole in the second half.

The game winner came with a little over five minutes to play. Sophomore Peyton Schipper took care of things himself with a perfect shot through the Bulldog box.

"He took a good dribble right around a defender from about 20 yards out, maybe a little bit more," Lakewood head coach James LeVeque said. "He hit an absolute bullet far corner, upper 90. It was like a Lukas [Losonsky] goal from last year. Just a spectacular shot. The goalie had no prayer. The goalie with an all-out dive and he was nowhere close to the ball."

It was a shot that Schipper had been hoping to get off for months.

"Peyton had been working, getting one-on-one training … all spring. They did a lot of training just on his shooting and first touch stuff, but a lot of shooting type drills. He had been working on that shot a ton," LeVeque said. "He would come into the weight room every morning and show me videos of his shots the day before. He had been practicing that exact shot. He finally got a good shooting lane, and he was able to stay balanced and composed and he just hit a banger."

A formation change helped spark the Lakewood offense in the second half.

The Vikings pushed the attack forward, moving from a 4-5-1 formation to a 4-4-2, adding a second forward. Sophomore Landon LaFavor stepped up and ended up with a ball in the box, "made a little nifty move around a defender, shot it with his outside foot. The goalie made a diving save, gave up a rebound pushed it aside near the fire post,and Connor Merrit was there to clean it up and tie the game easily," LeVeque said.

The game was tied 1-1 with about 11 minutes to play.

The Bulldogs took their initial lead midway through the first half.

"The first 20 minutes of the game we did a really good job of controlling the pace, controlling the play and controlling the ball," LeVeque said. "We had more energy. We defended well. They probably had more quality attacks in that first 20 minutes, and in the game in terms of overall quality, but in terms of overall possession we controlled probably 75 percent of that game. Guys were patient with the ball. They defended well."

But for one hiccup "the whole back line played really, really well. We did a good job of not allowing them to get squared up and face us we were getting to their backs really quickly."

The Vikings were working the ball out of their end. After going out and up, the ball found its way back to the middle and stalled there. Charging Ionia attackers deflected a slow clearance attempt back towards the Viking net. Lakewood goalkeeper Levi Frizzell came charging out of his box after the ball, but the Bulldogs beat him to it and put the ball into the open net.

LeVeque said that goal and some tiring legs on his side gave the Bulldogs some momentum as the first half wound down, but the Vikings were able to keep it to a one-goal deficit.

The Viking had coach was pleased to see his defense able to push forward and win balls and really work to keep the ball pinned in the offensive end throughout the first half, all without allowing the Bulldogs too many transition opportunities the other direction.

"They fought. We kept the same back line that we've had all year. Ionia had ten starters back from last year. They did have a guy out, but our guys for playing against ten seniors yesterday our young guys stepped up and they played hard., They played solid," LeVeque said.

The Vikings were set to get a non-conference visit from Hastings Wednesday, Sept. 3. CAAC White play resumes for the Vikings Sept. 9 at Eaton Rapids.

TK tests out new setters during first contests of 2025

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Trojans pulled out a pair of two-point sets to beat Hopkins and close out its first day of competition of the 2025 fall season.

The Thornapple Kellogg varsity volleyball team was 1-2 at its home quad Wednesday, falling to Ionia and Vicksburg before taking a 26-24, 26-24 win over the Hopkins girls.

New Thornapple Kellogg varsity volleyball coach Haley Grams said ending the evening with a win was great.

"It was our first time playing together this season as our first tournament got cancelled," Grams said. "We were all ready to hit the court after a week and a half of practices."

Ionia took a 25-9, 25-19 win over the TK girls to open the day. Vicksburg bested the TK ladies by the scores of 25-16, 26-22.

"I learned a lot about the girls and think that they learned a lot about playing with each other as well as my coaching style during games," Grams said.

"The two games that we lost were tough, but there were moments where we were down by a big spread and after getting the ball back were able to rally and close the gap either partly or all the way. This was a success in my book as we have always struggled to rally and close a gap once the gap became four-plus points."

Grams said the big goals for this season include creating a positive culture around the game and on and off the court, and to help the girls gain more volleyball knowledge and in turn create better court awareness and knowledge.

That court awareness includes communicating on the court to avoid dropped balls and collisions on the court. It's one of the things the Trojans are focused on improving this fall.

The lynchpin of the offense this fall is all new. Sophomore Abby Hoebeke, in her second season on the varsity, is taking over the setting position for the first time.

"Our setter didn't return this season, but Abby was very eager to try it out and has been doing very well," Grams said in the preseason. "She is a quick learner and we are lucky to have her."

The TK coach said she has already seen a lot of good strides in the connection between Hoebeke and her hitters. And the TK team does have a few experienced varsity hitters back including junior Reece Ritsema in her third varsity season.

"She is continuing to dominate in the middle, is a strong leader, and always a positive voice on the court," Grams said of Ritsema.

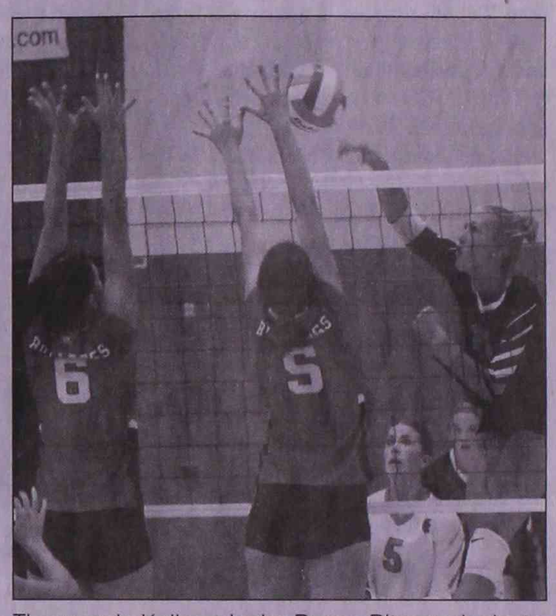
Also back are seniors Ava Zellmer on the right side, senior Maria Piccione on the right side and senior McKenna Hoebeke on the outside.

The defense is led by seniors Alexa Eden and Paige Abshagen. Eden is in her third varsity season and opening the year at libero. Abshagen is working her way back from injury and supporting her teammates until she can get back on the court as a DS.

"[Eden] is eating up the court and doing what she can to hold each of her teammates accountable at practices," Grams said. "She always goes hard and is encouraging, especially with our younger players."

That group of younger players looking to contribute this fall for TK include sophomore setter/outside hitter Olivia Fischer.

"Liv has been a great addition thus far as far as positivity goes. She is eager to learn more about



Thornapple Kellogg junior Reece Ritsema looks to get an attack by the block of Vicksburg's Harper Roy (6) and Lyla Veldt (5) during their match at the TK Quad in Middleville Tuesday, Aug. 26. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

the setting role as she is a younger player, but always wants to improve and do well."

Sophomore Elizabeth sell is another versatile player. She has been willing to give setting a go too, and could really play anywhere on the court for TK.

Junior Maddy Eitel and sophomore Anna Romph provide some size at the net along with sophomore Nadia Piccione.

Getting some height from the youngsters is important as the TK team isn't especially tall overall. As far as athleticism, Grams likes her team's speed across the court. And so far, Grams has been encouraged by her girls' ability to reset and refocus during drills.

The Thornapple Kellogg girls are set to open the OK Gold Conference season tonight, Sept. 4, at South Christian and will head to the Cereal City Invitational at Battle Creek Lakeview Saturday, Sept. 6. The TK team is home again in the OK Gold Tuesday, Sept. 9, taking on Grand Rapids Union.

South Christian and West Catholic should be especially strong in the OK Gold Conference again. The Sailors come into the season ranked seventh in the state in Division 2.

YOU'RE NOT JUST OUR READERS.
You're our friends, our family, our neighbors... and our future.
VIEW Newspaper Group

• Closed-Cell Foam Insulation
• Blown-In Attic Insulation
Nelson's SPRAY FOAM, LLC
Nelson Schmucker
1700 N. Ainger Rd. • Charlotte, MI 48813
517-983-0954
Start Saving Today ~ Use Spray Foam

NOTHIN' BUT A GOOD TIME
BILL ENGVALL
HERE'S YOUR SIGN: IT WASN'T MY TIME
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6
LITTLE BIG TOWN
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4
Tickets available now at the FireKeepers Box Office or FireKeepersCasino.com.
FIREKEEPERS CASINO • HOTEL BATTLE CREEK GET YOUR VEGAS ON™
I-94 to Exit 104 | 11177 Michigan Avenue | Battle Creek, MI 49014
Must be 21 or older. Tickets based on availability. Schedule subject to change.

Local freshmen have their fastest times at Turkeyville

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Youngsters ran well for the Hastings and Maple Valley varsity girls' cross country teams Tuesday, Aug. 26, at Marshall's annual Barney Roy Invitational at Cornwell's Turkeyville.

Freshman Melanie Jones had the top finish for the Maple Valley girls placing 22nd in the girls' race with a time of 23 minutes 55.7 seconds. Freshman Emerson Leary hurried to a PR of 24:42.6 to place 38th overall and finish as the number two for the Saxon girls' team.

Olivet took the girls' victory at Turkeyville with 33 points. Parma Western was second with 63 points followed by Marshall 75, Hastings 117, Pennfield 120, Stockbridge 131 and Comstock 211.

Hastings junior Caroline Randall, a two-time MHSAA Division 2 state medalist, won the girls' race in 18:43.7. It was her second victory in three races so far this season.

A couple of Olivet youngsters set their PRs chasing her. Eagle sophomore Tiya Feldpausch was second in 19:15.1 and Eagle freshman Lily Britton third in 19:46.2. Olivet had seven girls finish among the top 20 medalists.

Saxon junior Chloe Pirtle ran her fastest race of the season to place 33rd. She turned in a time of 25:24.6. Freshmen rounded out the top five for Hastings with Sage DeCamp 44th in 27:00.7 and Brynn Vander Male 48th in 27:10.6.

Of the three Maple Valley runners in the girls' race, Jones was one of two running her first cross country race ever. Senior Izabelle Soper was the other, and she placed 51st in 27:27.0. Their teammate, senior Ada Marie Blakely, ran as a freshman but has missed two years recovering from knee surgery. Ada Marie Blakely had a new personal record time of 33:27.9 to place 85th.

"I'm really happy with how the girls ran their race," Maple Valley coach Tiffany Blakely said. "The goal was to just run the race since it's our first of the season. Get that first one under our feet and then we can build on each race after."

Jones just missed a medal, which went to the top 20.

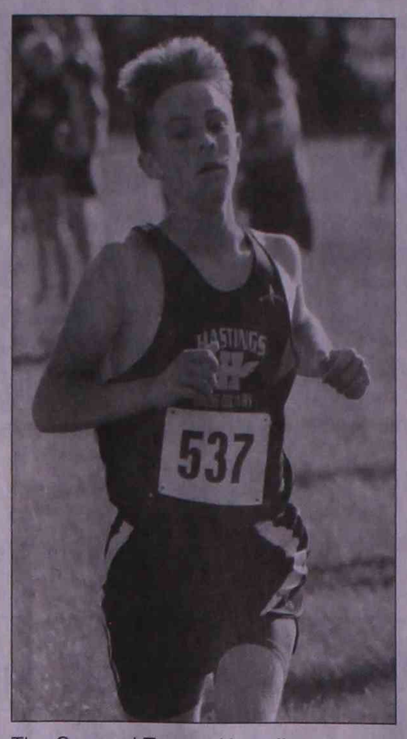
"She's starting out very strong and it will be fun to watch her grow through the season as she gains confidence," coach Blakely said.

Neither the Maple boys' or girls' team earned a team score. Teams typically need at least five finishers to earn a team score. The Lion teams had three girls and two boys competing.

Parma Western was dominant on the boys' side finishing with just 23 points. Marshall was second with 63 ahead of Olivet 74, Hastings 137, Springport 140, Stockbridge 155 and Pennfield 165.

Marshall junior Abraham McHugh won the race in 15:57.8, then eight of the next guys across the finish line were from the Parma Western team. Panther senior Edison Lopeman was the runner-up in 16:00.1 and junior teammate Ryan Good was third overall in 16:26.1.

Hastings had a couple of sophomores just outside the medals on the boys' side. Sophomore Tannery Krzysik led the way for the Saxons with a 26th-place time of 20:34.6. Sophomores Eli Li and Alex Timmers improved their personal records to finish second and third on the Saxon team. Li placed 27th in 20:39.5 and Timmers 38th in 21:20.3.



The Saxons' Tanner Krzysik runs to a 26th-place finish at Marshall's Barney Roy Invitational at Cornwell's Turkeyville Aug. 26.



Saxon freshman Emerson Leary hits the finish line 28th at the end of the girls' race Aug. 26 at Marshall's annual Barney Roy Invitational at Turkeyville. **Photos by John Hendler**

The top five for the Saxon boys also included senior Parker Erb placing 46th in 21:47.6 and senior Carter Krzysik 51st in 22:38.8.

The Lion team had junior Cameron Murray place 47th with a time of 21:54.0 and sophomore Grady Wilkes was 68th in 24:31.2.

The Lions and Saxons race again this afternoon, Sept. 4, at the Delton Kellogg Invitational at Gilmore Car Museum.

Scots take off on TK over final mile of Friday morning dual

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

A holiday weekend was dawning.

The first OK Green Conference jamboree of the season is on the horizon for the Fighting Scots – Thursday.

Caledonia head coach Ben Thompson wanted to not wear his guys out, but also to see if he could get the gravity from his fastest runners to reel in the rest of the pack a little.

The Fighting Scots still put up a perfect score in their annual Friday morning before Labor Day dual with the Thornapple Kellogg boys. The Scots took a 15-40 win over the Trojans, and had the 12 fastest runners overall in the race.

The CHS pack had instructions to shoot for a six-minute pace the first mile, a 5:50 pace the second mile, and then to get to racing.

A wave of purple followed Thornapple Kellogg freshman Owen Bremer around the course for the majority of those first two miles and then started to overtake him.

Bremer kept up his pace, leading the TK team with an improved PR of 18 minutes 40.3 seconds. TK's number two was junior Grady Galaviz, who was much improved from the Trojans' first race of the season to finish right behind Bremer in 18:42.3. Those two were eighth and ninth in the team scoring and 13th and 14th among the overall group of runners.

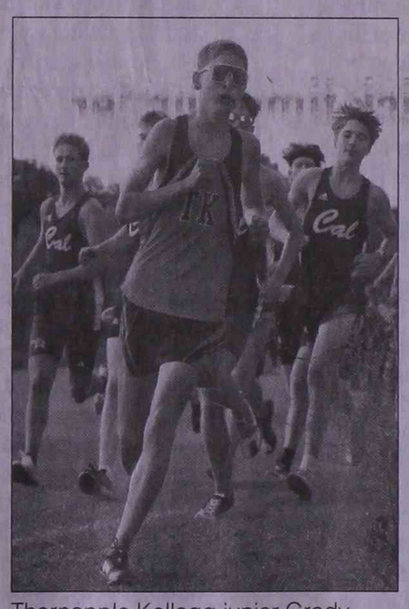
The Thornapple Kellogg teams get conference action underway in the OK Gold Conference today, Sept. 4, too. They'll head to Riverside Park in Grand Rapids.

The TK team also had Garrett Holzhausen 22nd in 19:23.9 Friday, sophomore Wyatt Richardson 34th in 19:56.0 and freshman Parker Robinett 27th in 20:00.2.

Caledonia senior Noah Johnston won the race in 17:38.5. For reference, Johnston broke the 16-minute mark for the first time the previous Friday at the South Christian Under the Lights Invitational.

CHS had three guys finish in less than 18 minutes Friday. Sophomore Bennett Snapper was second in 17:48.8 and sophomore Bentley Nichols third in 17:59.7.

The top five for the Caledonia boys in the dual also included senior Luke Smith (18:03.9) and sophomore Jake Potgeter (18:06.4).



Thornapple Kellogg junior Grady Galaviz rounds a turn with a pack of guys in purple behind him during the Trojans annual Friday morning dual Labor Day weekend at Caledonia High School. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

The Caledonia girls took a 17-41 win over their TK counterparts.

Junior Akaela Daman wasn't holding back. She improved her time from the opening meet of the season by almost 15 seconds and was just over a second off the PR she set as a freshman. She hit the finish line in 20:23.4.

Caledonia had five of the first six finishers. Senior Hannah Bennett was second in 21:37.2 and sophomore Charlie Bont third in 21:58.1.



Thornapple Kellogg sophomore Amya Gater covers the final mile of the course around Caledonia High School during the Trojans' Friday morning dual with the Fighting Scots.

Thornapple Kellogg's leader, Peyton Hardy, placed fourth overall in 21:58.8.

Junior Alaina McCrumb was TK's number two placing seventh in 22:18.4. Amya Gater had a big jump of over 50 seconds from meet one to meet two and was eighth overall in 22:35.0. Trojan freshman Brielle Miller had a similar improvement and was tenth overall in 22:44.8. Trojan senior Madison Kietzman hit the finish line 12th with a time of 22:50.8 to close out TK's top five

The Scots' top five also included a time of 22:05.4 from junior Anna VanderWal and a 22:06.2 from sophomore Tiona Sakala who raced stride for stride together for the second meet in a row.

Notice to Creditors

Estate of Gregory S. Wagner. Date of Birth: August 7, 1953

To All Creditors:

Notice to Creditors: The decedent, Gregory S. Wagner, of 2501 Chippewa Trail, Hastings, MI 49058, Barry County, Michigan died July 25, 2025.

Creditors of Gregory S. Wagner are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to: Eileen M. Wagner, Trustee of the Wagner Protection Trust, u/a/d April 30, 2025, care of Carrier Law, P.C., 4965 East Beltline Avenue NE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49525 within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: September 2, 2025

David L. Carrier P41531
4965 East Beltline Avenue NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49525
(616) 361-8400
Eileen M. Wagner
2501 Chippewa Trail
Hastings, MI 49058

SYNOPSIS
RUTLAND CHARTER TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
August 13, 2025 – 7:00 p.m.

Regular meeting called to order and Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Hawthorne, Greenfield, Watson, Mayack, Hall, James

Absent: None

Approved the Agenda as amended

Approved the Consent Agenda

Monthly Treasurer's Report

Monthly Clerk's Voucher/Payroll Report

Motion to approve and adopt Ordinance #2025-197 Construction Code. Roll Call Vote – All Ayes, motion passes

Motion to approve two budget amendments-road and library. Roll Call Vote – All Ayes, motion passes.

Motion to approve rental agreement. Roll Call Vote – 6-1, motion passes.

Motion to approve replace ADA ramp at township hall. Roll Call Vote – All Ayes, motion passes.

Motion to approve parking lot repairs at township hall. Roll Call Vote – All Ayes, motion passes.

Motion to approve first reading of Ordinance #2025-198 chickens in CR. 6-1, motion passes.

Adjournment 8:20 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Hawthorne, Clerk
Attested to by,
Marti Mayack, Supervisor

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF BARRY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
File No. 25-30193-DE

Estate of Gary D. Ely, a/k/a Gary Duane Ely, Deceased. Date of Birth: 06/09/1954.

NOTICE TO ALL CREDITORS: The decedent, Gary Duane Ely, died on July 3, 2025.

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

Date: August 26, 2025

David F. Kiel (P43048)
Orton, Tooman, Hale, McKown & Kiel, P.C.
314 Trowbridge Street, P.O. Box 239
Allegan, MI 49010-0239
(269) 673-2136

Lydia Krotz, Personal Representative
2125 124th Avenue
Hopkins, MI 49328

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
TRUST

In the matter of the Eugene Raymond and Donna Lee Beyer Trust dated October 27, 2021.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Donna Lee Beyer, born February 20, 1936, who lived at 1821 North Street, Hastings, Michigan died July 21, 2025 leaving a certain trust under the name of the Eugene Raymond and Donna Lee Beyer Trust, and dated October 27, 2021, wherein the decedent was the Settlor and Sheryl Welsh was named as the trustee serving at the time of or as a result of the decedents death.

Creditors of the decedent and of the trust are notified that all claims against the decedent or against the trust will be forever barred unless presented to Sheryl Welsh the named trustee at 6887 Benzel Court, Hastings, Michigan within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: August 26, 2025
Robert L. Byington P-27621
222 West Apple Street, P.O. Box 248
Hastings, MI 49058
269-945-9557
Sheryl Welsh
6887 Benzel Court
Hastings, Michigan 49058

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
BARRY COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. and JUDGE 24-30130-DE

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

Estate of Lewis Harold Christ, decedent. Date of birth: March 6, 1935.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Lewis Harold Christ, died March 23, 2025.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Jeffrey J. Wengle, 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: September 2, 2025
Kenneth U. Lucas P-33741
200 Woodland Pass, PO Box 1296
East Lansing, Michigan 48826-1296
517-351-3550
Jeffrey J. Wengle
7489 Lehring Road
Bancroft, Michigan 48414
(517) 351-3550

Trojans playing better than early Gold mark may indicate

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Trojans are off the schneid.

The Thornapple Kellogg varsity boys' soccer team got its first victory of the OK Gold Conference season Tuesday, outscoring Northview 2-1 at the home of the Wildcats in Grand Rapids.

The Trojans started off the season with a 4-0 record outside of the OK Gold Conference and were without a win in their first three tries against conference foes.

The Thornapple Kellogg varsity boys' soccer team is now 1-2-1 in OK Gold play with Tuesday's win and a 2-0 loss to visiting West Catholic inside Bob White Stadium in Middleville Wednesday.

From box to box, the Trojans were mostly stellar showing off touch throughout the levels both with the dribble and with pass to both stationary and moving targets in the loss to the Falcons last week.

The issues Wednesday came back inside their own box for the Trojans. The Falcons showed a talent for deep throw-ins early on and eventually capitalized on a couple as TK struggled to clear the ball from its box.

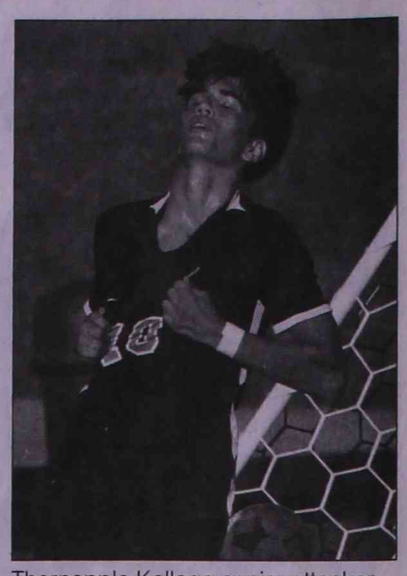
"We play significantly different than we we did last year," Thornapple Kellogg head coach Andrew Kiel said. "We have much more, I'd say, ability to move up the stages on the pitch. You know, we've been working really hard on that this year and just making sure we have our shape and being able to move the ball in the appropriate spaces in the correct way. And so, the first half we did a really great job of that."

"We we did some poor defending and it allowed them to score and sit back and that makes it a challenge to go, and that's how the game went."

A year ago the Trojans mostly relied on set pieces and long throw-ins to create scoring chances, and that was the way the Falcons made things happen Wednesday.

It was a long throw into the TK box with around 18 minutes to play in the first half that led to the first Falcon goal. The ball bounced around a bit in front of the TK net and had Trojan keeper Jeremiah Cramer skittering this way and that to try and catch up to it. Falcon freshman midfielder Nick Marcotte tried to direct the ball on goal once and eventually it found the foot of senior midfielder Griffin Vyn who touched it into the net.

About 15 minutes into the second half, the Falcons put together a trio of corner kicks, and had a couple opportunities for long throw-ins from each side of the field. The ball mostly bounded through the box on the throw-ins safely, but it was always a Falcon on the other side collecting the ball. Eventually, the ball got outside to Falcon junior defender Leo Hayes who chipped a ball from the left side across the TK box. This time senior forward Landon Smith got a head on it to direct it back into the left side of the net for a 2-0 advantage.



Thornapple Kellogg senior attacker Diego Rodas reacts to a shot going harmlessly into the side of the West Catholic net during the first half of the visiting Falcons' 2-0 win in Middleville Wednesday. **Photos by Brett Bremer**



Thornapple Kellogg senior Gabe Gosselin (6) and West Catholic junior Constantin Zowodyny go up for a header in the midfield during the Falcons' OK Gold Conference win over the Trojans Wednesday in Middleville.

Even with a one goal lead, the Falcons started attempting to play some disciplined defense holding back in their end and forcing TK to try and play a few more long balls rather than the short quick touches they'd been playing when the field was a bit more spread out.

"They just need to win those 50/50 balls," Kiel said, "but part of the problem too is we're coming out and we're just playing the ball up. We got away from finding the feet and moving it. And and as soon as you play it up and just start cleaning it out, it's a recipe for the ball to come back in.

"We we lost focus and concentration in a 15 minute spell in the second half that led to set piece after set piece after set piece, where either we gave up a corner or a foul because we were just trying to boot it up. When we work the ball and are able to move it the way we do, side to side, side to side and then pick the the pace back up, that's when we find success. That was the lapse."

TK hasn't scored yet in conference play. The team played to a 0-0 draw at Wyoming to open the conference season Aug. 20, fell 1-0 to visiting Wayland Monday with the Wildcats' getting the game's only goal on a penalty kick, and then came the shut out against the Falcons Wednesday.

Outside of conference play, Kiel said he has liked the way his team has shared the scoring load so far this season.

It wasn't for a lack of chances Wednesday. The build-up, especially in the first half, did lead to some good charges on the Falcon goal.

A charge forward by senior defender Nathan Shoemaker, with some back and forth up the side from senior Oliver Lietz, eventually led to a shot by sophomore Carter Bowman. Later a long cross in from the right by Shoemaker cleared junior Milo McCormick crashing towards the net, but found senior Diego Rodas running in behind him. Rodas' touch flicked a shot just wide of the left post.

West Catholic's keeper, senior Elliott Plum, was solid in net earning the shut out. He pulled a bounding ball away from the head of Bowman early in the second half, and he snagged a few other balls out of the air. Smith was back on the line to head away another chance by Bowman later in the second half. And a corner from senior Bowen Dykstra found Bowman's head once late in the ballgame, but Plum was in position to make the save.

Having things not go right in front of the net on the defensive end is a bit of a surprise with some good experience on the back line. Shoemaker has been a stand-out for the TK varsity defense for three seasons. Junior Brandon Velting joined the varsity for districts last season and has filled out the center back duo nicely with Shoemaker so far.

Rodas, Dykstra, senior Peyton Foreman and junior Milo McCormick are some of the other key returnees for the TK team this fall, along with senior Gabe Gosselin who is back in the program after a year away.

"They're a good core foundation that allows us to have a good spine," Kiel said.

The Trojans will get a second shot at everyone in the conference this season. Grand Rapids Union is off to a 3-0 start in the league so far. South Christian is 2-0 in conference play. They are the only two conference teams without a loss in the OK Gold left this fall.

"I'm excited to get to play them all again. You know, that was part of the conversation we were just having over after the game," Kiel said Wednesday. There's a lot we can do to still turn this around and have a great season. And this is probably one of the most complete teams I've coached … we would like to have one or two of those conference games, but now it's the time to look at the challenges ahead and decide what are we gonna do as a team to set ourselves up for a success?"

The TK boys head to South Christian in conference play this evening, Sept. 4, and will be on the road at Grand Rapids Union Sept. 8.

Fastest Panthers tick times under 19 minutes at Rustbuster

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The leaders for the Delton Kellogg varsity boys cross country team ticked their season-best times under 19 minutes at the Southwest Michigan Rustbuster at Warner Camp last Wednesday, Aug. 27.

Delton Kellogg junior Landon Madden placed 31st in 18 minutes 48.0 seconds and senior Nick Muday reached the finish line in 18:53.2 to place 33rd.

The Delton Kellogg boys were eighth in a field of 15 teams.

Mattawan took the boys' victory with 40 points ahead of Vicksburg 61, Plainwell 91, Schoolcraft 152, Centreville 155, Berrien Springs 193, Allegan 215, Delton Kellogg 222, Gobles 224, Fennville 250, Constantine 251, Martin 269 and South Haven 280.

Delton Kellogg also had sophomore Jace Hilton 49th in 19:33.6, freshman Malachi Allersma 60th in 20:10.0 and sophomore Joseph McCoy 62nd in 20:16.6. McCoy has shaved about three minutes from his first few varsity times of the season.

Vicksburg junior Caiden Caswell set a new PR with a time of 15:37.7 to win the race. Mattawan senior Marcel Storck was second in 15:53.2 and his senior teammate Owen Fisher was third in 16:00.2. There were six other guys who finished in less than 17 minutes.

Gobles junior Libby Smith ran her fastest race yet to win the girls' meet. She hit the finish line in 18:24.8. Fennville junior Isabelle Sliter was a distant second with a runner-up time of 19:12.8.

Delton Kellogg senior Elli Timmerman was the only varsity competitor for her team Wednesday. She ran to a 34th-place time of 23:55.0.

Smith and the Gobles girls took the team victory with 74 points. Plainwell was second with 79 points ahead of Vicksburg 98, Martin 99, Mattawan 123, South Haven 154, Constantine 180, Fennville 189, Schoolcraft 200, Berrien Springs 221, Centreville 245, Allegan 268 and Coloma 281.

Delton Kellogg is hosting its annual DK Invitational at Gilmore Car Museum this afternoon, Sept. 4.

As the season really kicks into high gear, DK head coach Dale Grimes has some good news and bad news. The boys' team has grown since last season in both depth and talent. He likes the competitive environment that is creating. The bad news is that the girls' team is small. The DK ladies have yet to have enough finishers to earn a team score in a race this fall.

Timmerman is in her third season running varsity cross country and is the team captain for the DK ladies. The team is looking forward to seeing junior Makayla Lutz improve in her second season after a great summer of conditioning practice.

The DK girls' team also has a couple juniors new to the team in Evelynn Courneya and Riley Perley. Grimes said Courneya is a hard worker and Perley shows no fear in practice or competitions. The Panthers are also pleased to be adding freshman Olivia Vincent to the roster this fall who is bringing her wrestling mentality to practice and the starting line according to her coach.

"This is a small team, but the girls have really bonded and supported each other tremendously so far this early season and I can see that they will be working to improve together for the remainder of the season," Grimes said.

On the boys' side, Muday is a four-year varsity runner and a team captain. He has been an All-Barry County Second Team award winner in each of the past two seasons.

Junior Landon Madden was first team all-county a year ago, with those honors coming on the heels of him qualifying for the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 3 Cross Country Finals at the end of his first high school cross country season. His state finals time of 16:41 puts him seventh on the list of all-time fastest Panthers. He was also an all-conference award winner in the Southwestern Athletic Conference.

The DK team also returns senior Deegan Castaneda and the sophomore Hilton this fall.

"Jace has put in a ton of work during the summer and competed in several 5K's as well," Grimes said of another one of his second team all-county runners.

McCoy, Allersma, freshman Lucas Doubledee and Favreau are all guys looking to help the Panther team's scoring throughout this season.

The boys have big goals. Coach Grimes said the team is looking forward to finishing better at all of its championship meets, the SAC Championships, the Barry County Meet and regionals, and push for a spot in the state finals as a team.

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
BARRY COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. and JUDGE 2025-30198-DE
William M. Doherty

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

Estate of Suzann Elaine Miller. Date of birth: 04/08/1942.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Suzann Elaine Miller, died 05/19/2025.

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

Date: 08/27/2025
Nathan E. Tagg P68994
202 South Broadway
Hastings, MI 49058
269-948-2900
Elizabeth Miller
10419 South M-66 Highway
Nashville, MI 49073
269-758-3334

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the Matter of
The Lois Marie Bates Living Trust
U/D/A February 19, 2001, as Amended

TO ALL CREDITORS:

The Grantor, Lois Marie Bates (date of birth: August 11, 1936), who entered into a Trust Agreement whose principal place of administration is within Barry County, Michigan, died on December 17, 2024. At this time, there is no Personal Representative of the Grantor's Estate to whom Letters of Authority have been issued.

Creditors of the Decedent are notified that all claims against The Lois Marie Bates Living Trust, dated February 19, 2001, as Amended, will be forever barred unless presented to Willo C. McGee, Trustee, within four months after the date of this publication notice.

Notice is further given that the Trust will thereafter be assigned and distributed to the persons entitled to it.

Dated: September 4, 2025
The Lois Marie Bates Living Trust
Dated February 19, 2001, as Amended
Willo C. McGee, Trustee
11507 Lakeshore Drive
Plainwell, MI 49080
William K. Kriekard (P39475), Attorney
8051 Moorsbridge Road
Portage, MI 49024
(269) 323-3400

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)

Saxons get county's lone win in week one, at TK

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

There were heroics and heartbreak in the final second in Middleville Thursday as Hastings sophomore kicker Cooper Hokanson booted a 33-yard field goal as time ran out to give the Saxons a 31-29 win over the Thornapple Kellogg Trojans.

The heartbreak came a little earlier around the rest of the county as Lakewood, Delton Kellogg and Maple Valley all suffered lopsided losses in their 2025 varsity football season openers.

It's back to the drawing board this week for the local teams as many of them look to regroup.

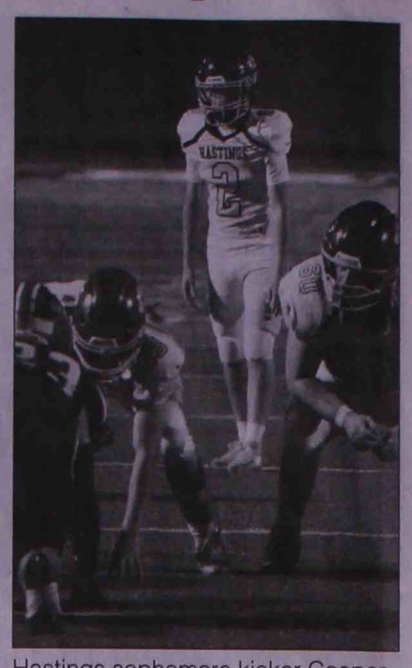
The Trojans' last win over the Saxons came in 2019. The ballgame Thursday was the closest one during that stretch. TK will look to bounce back against an 0-1 Hamilton Hawkeye team that fell to St. Johns in its season opener. That ballgame will kick off Friday at 7 p.m. in Hamilton.

Hastings will play its home opener Friday against non-conference foe Williamston in the final tune-up for the Saxons before the start of the Interstate-8 Athletic Conference season. Williamston took a close victory over the Saxons in Williamston a year ago and trounced Lansing Catholic in its opener last week 46-14.

Lakewood and Benton Harbor will both be playing for their first victory of the season Friday as the Vikings play host to the Tigers at Unity Field. The Tigers are chasing their first points after being shut out by Battle Creek Central in week one. Lakewood scored once in its season opener against Godwin Heights, but eventually the Wolverines kept scoring and Lakewood never found the end zone again.

It is a similar situation in Allegan Friday as Delton Kellogg hits the road to face another set of Tigers. Perennial Southwestern Athletic Conference power Constantine topped the Delton Kellogg Panthers in a SAC crossover last week, and now the Panthers will look to bounce back against an Allegan team that fell 21-7 to Plainwell in week one.

Maple Valley fell in its first ballgame under new head coach Mitchell McClintock in week one and now faces the tall task of hosting the defending Big 8 Conference champions from Union City Friday. The Chargers took down Parchment in week one.



Hastings sophomore kicker Cooper Hokanson lines up for the game-winning field goal with one second left on the clock in Middleville Thursday, Aug. 28. Hokanson hit a 33-yard field goal as time expired to give the Saxons a 31-29 win over Thornapple Kellogg.



The Saxons' Trevin Russel maneuvers through the line with the football as lineman Trapper Reigler helps lead the way and Thornapple Kellogg's Camden Peter makes a diving attempt at bringing him to the turf Thursday.
Photos by Brett Bremer

Here is a round-up of last week's local varsity football action:

Hastings 31, Thornapple Kellogg 29

The "white out" turned into an avalanche coming down the hill on the eastern side of Bob White Stadium Thursday night.

The Saxon student section, clad all in white, hurried its way to the track and sang the fight song with the Hastings varsity football team near the corner of the end zone at Thornapple Kellogg High School in Middleville. Sophomore kicker Cooper Hokanson booted a 33-yard field goal as time expired to give Hastings a 31-29 victory over Thornapple Kellogg in week one of the 2025 football season.

Each team had just one defensive stop all evening long. The Trojans' came when the Saxons decided to punt the ball away and run off the final seconds of the half. The Saxons' was as little more significant.

With the Trojans driving in for what they hoped to be a game-sealing score in the closing minutes, the Saxons' Connor Cosme made a step at TK quarterback Micah Dock who was running an option to the left. Cosme darted back outside as Dock let his pitch fly, and swatted it up in the air. The ball bounced on the turf, and Cosme pounced on it with 2:34 to go in the game at the Saxon 12-yard-line.

"As soon as that happened, I went back and I said to [Cooper] I hate to do this to you," Hastings head coach Jamie Murphy said. "You need to warm up your leg. We might have to kick it.

"So, yeah, that turnover was a young man [Cosme] that we are very fond of him. He is a first year player for us. He's a tough kid. He is just figuring things out and learning the position and he played well tonight. He stepped at the quarterback, made him pitch it, and then stepped back and tipped it. And then it was bouncing around and it kind of came up forward to him and he jumped on it. It was a heck of a play. We do practice the cat and the mouse on the option, and he played it really well."

The Saxons had 88 yards to go to the end zone, trailing 29-28 at the time. With Hokanson, a two-year varsity soccer player and new football player kicking for the first time this fall, moving the ball 72 yard towards the end zone enough.

"My dad first brought up the idea, and I was hesitant as a freshman," Hokanson said of trying out to be the football kicker. "My cousin Mickey Jiles decided he wanted to come out and kick, so I let him have it. When he graduated I decided to fill those big shoes. I went in there and just kicked it away.

"I showed up to all the summer practices, all the two-a-days, as much as I can. I play soccer so it is a little hard, but I stay after practice and I kick some up there."

He said there is a little bit of a difference on the swing between a soccer kick and a football field goal kick, but that he hasn't found football kicking too difficult yet.

Thornapple Kellogg took a 15-8 lead in the ballgame on a nine-yard touchdown run by senior Zach Eldridge with just over seven minutes to play in the first half and held a lead from then on until Hokanson's kick sailed through the middle of the uprights in the dark sky.

Eldridge scored two touchdowns on the night, also diving across the goal-line from six yards out a minute into the fourth quarter. The TK two-point run by junior Jack Smith following that touchdown had the Trojans in front by two scores, 29-20.

Hastings answered with a seven-play, 72-yard drive that ended in a three-yard touchdown run by Trevin Russell, and a two-point conversion run, with 7:25 to play in the game. Hastings was within 29-28 after those eight points were added to the board. The big play on that drive was a fourth-down pass from quarterback Mason Tossava to a diving Spencer Wilkinson that moved the ball from the TK 24-yard-line to the three, keeping the drive alive. Wilkinson had the wind knocked out of him crashing to the turf to make the catch on a ball that at first glance looked like it was too off target for Wilkinson to ever catch up to, as Tossava had to fire it rolling to his right.

"Every play in the second half we were grinding. Grinding, grinding, grinding every play," Tossava said. "It was a good job by everybody. I am so proud of these guys."

TK opened the scoring with a 19-yard touchdown run by junior Debo Robinson and a Mason Chivis extra-point kick. Hastings moved in front on its one first quarter drive that culminated in a one-yard TD run by Russell. A Cardale Winebrenner two-point run put the Saxons ahead 8-7 for a bit.

TK answered that with Eldridge's first touchdown run early in the second quarter. Dock ran in the two-point try for a 15-8 TK lead.

Hastings answered with a four-yard touchdown run by Winebrenner, but TK came right back with a 90-yard kick-off return for a touchdown by Maddox VanEngen. The two teams went into the half with TK in front 21-14.

Hastings got within 21-20 on a four-yard TD run by Russell, which was the only score of the third quarter.

See **SAXONS** on 11

FOOTBALL

LOCAL STANDINGS	W	L	PLAYOFF POINTS
Hastings	1	0	50
Delton Kellogg	0	1	0
Lakewood	0	1	0
Maple Valley	0	1	0
Thornapple Kellogg	0	1	0

INTERSTATE-8 ATHLETIC CONFERENCE	W	L	CONFERENCE WINS	CONFERENCE LOSSES
Coldwater	1	0	0	0
Harper Creek	1	0	0	0
Hastings	1	0	0	0
Jackson Northwest	1	0	0	0
Marshall	1	0	0	0
Parma Western	1	0	0	0
Pennfield	0	1	0	0

OK Black	W	L	CONFERENCE Wins	CONFERENCE Losses
Grand Rapids Catholic Central	1	0	0	0
Holland Christian	1	0	0	0
Northview	1	0	0	0
East Grand Rapids	0	1	0	0
Ottawa Hills	0	1	0	0
Thornapple Kellogg	0	1	0	0

BIG 8 CONFERENCE	W	L	CONFERENCE WINS	CONFERENCE LOSSES
Quincy	1	0	0	0
Springport	1	0	0	0
Union City	1	0	0	0
Bronson	0	1	0	0
Maple Valley	0	1	0	0
Reading	0	1	0	0
Sand Creek	0	1	0	0
Stockbridge	0	1	0	0

CAPITAL AREA ACTIVITIES CONFERENCE WHITE	W	L	CONFERENCE WINS	CONFERENCE LOSSES
Olivet	1	0	0	0
Portland	1	0	0	0
Ionia	0	1	0	0
Lakewood	0	1	0	0
Lansing Catholic	0	1	0	0
Charlotte	0	1	0	0
Lansing Sexton	0	1	0	0
Eaton Rapids	0	1	0	0

SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE VALLEY	W	L	CONFERENCE WINS	CONFERENCE LOSSES
Coloma	1	0	0	0
Galesburg-Augusta	1	0	0	0
Lawton	1	0	0	0
Schoolcraft	1	0	0	0
Delton Kellogg	0	1	0	0
Saugatuck	0	1	0	0

JOHNSTOWN TOWNSHIP
BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR MILL LAKE
AQUATIC PLANT CONTROL SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT NO. 1

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

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Township Supervisor and Assessor have prepared and filed in the office of the Township Clerk for public examination a special assessment roll including all properties located within the Mill Lake Aquatic Plant Control Special Assessment District No. 1 that are benefited by the proposed aquatic plant control project. The roll has been prepared for the purpose of assessing the costs of the project within the aforesaid special assessment district, which district is more particularly shown on the plans on file with the Township Clerk. The costs of the project are as shown on the estimate of costs on file with the Township Clerk. The total project cost is $64,000 (including administrative costs, which is the amount of the assessment roll. The amounts assessed against each property will be $785.28 for parcels subject to a full assessment & $392.64 for parcels subject to a half assessment. The term of the special assessment will be six years (2026 through 2031 inclusive).

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Supervisor and Assessor have further reported to the Township Board that the assessment against each parcel of land within the district is such relative portion of the whole sum levied against all parcels of land in each district as the benefit to such parcels bear to the total benefit to all parcels of land in each special assessment district.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Johnstown Township Board will meet at the Johnstown Township Hall, 13641 S. M-37 Hwy, Battle Creek, Michigan on Wednesday, September 10, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. for the purpose of reviewing the special assessment roll, hearing any objections to the roll and confirming the roll as submitted, revised or amended. The assessment roll may be examined at the office of the Township Clerk during regular business hours of regular business days until the time of the hearing and may further be examined at the hearing.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that an owner or party in interest, or his/ her agent, may appear in person at the hearing to protest the special assessment or may file his/her appearance and protest by letter before the hearing, and in that event, personal appearance shall not be required. Any person objecting to the assessment roll shall file his/her objection in writing with the Johnstown Township Clerk before the close of the hearing on the assessment roll. The owners or any person having an interest in real property who protests in writing at or before the hearing may file a written appeal of the special assessment with the Michigan Tax Tribunal within 30 days after confirmation of the special assessment roll, as provided by law.

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

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

SAXONS

Continued from Page 10

Russell closed the night with 17 rushes for 88 yards and had one 54-yard reception. Tyler Frazer had 12 rushes for 71 yards and had two big catches too for 35 yards. Wilkins had two receptions for 56 yards. Winebrenner closed his night with ten carries for 39 yards.

Tossava was 5-of-7 passing the ball for 134 yards.

"They were changing things up," Murphy said of the TK offense. "They're big and physical and moved us, and they changed things up enough that we were having a hard time figuring out their rhythm. It didn't put us on our heels, but it made us guess. We were wondering where the ball was going to go. They did a really nice job of mixing things up."

Malachi VanEngen had three rushes for 72 yards, and Robinson closed his night with seven carries for 58 yards to lead the TK attack. Smith rushed five times for 41 yards and Eldridge had five carries for 21 yards. The Saxons never let Dock break free. He had ten carries for six total yards on the night, and was 2-of-3 passing for 19 yards. Eliot Neff was on the receiving end of both those Dock completions.

Constantine 40, Delton Kellogg 6

The highlight came early on Thursday night for the Delton Kellogg varsity football team.

Trailing Constantine 8-0 on the opening quarter, and with the Falcons holding possession near midfield to star their second drive, DK managed a defensive touchdown for its only points of the night in a 40-6 loss to the visiting Falcons.

Sophomore defensive end Mason Ferris jarred the ball loose from a Falcon ball-carrier, and the first one to really notice it bounding around in the Constantine backfield was the Panthers' Tucker Tack from back in his safety position. Tack came flying up from the defensive backfield to the offensive backfield to scoop it up and went 36 yard for a touchdown.

The Falcons answered with a quick two-play drive for a touchdowns, recovered an onside kick and then scored again on a punt return. The Falcons eventually lead 24-6 at the half and then adding two more third-quarter touchdowns.

Brody Godfrey rushed nine times for 180 yards for the Falcons and caught two passes for 73 yards and another touchdown. Cooper McGee had eight rushes for 29 yards and a touchdown. Falcon quarterback Braden Bienz was 4-for-4 passing for 88 yards and two touchdowns.

The Falcons had 366 yards of offense with 276 on the ground and 90 passing.

The Delton Kellogg offense struggled to get much going. The Panthers had 78 yards of total offense, gaining 79 yards rushing and losing one in the passing game.

Godwin Heights 38, Lakewood 8

The Vikings moved the football, just not all the way into the end zone often enough Thursday as the Lakewood varsity football team fell 38-8 to visiting Godwin Heights in week one of the football season.

It was an 8-8 ballgame at the half, and the Vikings felt like they should have been in much better shape on the scoreboard at that point.

The first Lakewood drive lasted 17 plays over nearly nine minutes, but the Vikings came away with no points. The Wolverine defense held at the four-yard-line.

A ten-play drive resulted in the lone Lakewood touchdown of the night, and then the Vikings missed a field goal before the half.

The Wolverines went on a 30-0 run in the second halt to take the win.

"We got first downs on every drive, but got worn out," Lakewood head coach Tim Swore said. "We have to be better emotionally in tough situations. We are building things the right way and not compromising. We started three seniors and need to keep building depth at all the positions, so we can be better later in games.

"We did a lot of good things on film, but simply have to be tougher mentally and emotionally."

Saranac 34, Maple Valley 6

Maple Valley was within 14-6 at the half, but couldn't move the football well enough to keep pace with Saranac in the second half of the season opener Thursday in Saranac.

The host Saranac squad scored a 35-6 win over the visiting Lions in the first ballgame for new Maple Valley varsity head coach Mitchell McClintock.

The Lions got their only points on a 29-yard touchdown pass from Darren Carpenter to Teegen McDonald with a little over a minute to go in the first half.

The Lions managed just 77 yards of offense on the night though. Carpenter closed the ballgame 9-of-26 passing for 71 yards. The Lions were held to six total rushing yards.

"They had a lot of size up front that made it a tough first matchup for our underclassmen lineman," McClintock said. :"We had two scores get called back and they scored a garbage time TD late, so I do not think the score was necessarily reflective of the game. We forced a lot of turnovers, but failed to capitalize or get the offense going."

"We need to work on our run game; both game-planning and fundamentally."

Defensively, (free safety) Nolan Hoefler filled the stat sheet with 14 tackles and forced a fumble in his first full high school game as a sophomore, in a new but important position. He was injured as a freshman.

Alex Shepard also had 14 tackles for the Lions. Dayton Hillard and Kaiden Myers also recovered fumbles and Jackson Burpee and Dalton Emery had interceptions for the Lion team.

McDonald closed his night with three receptions for 47 yards.

Saranac meanwhile did all right moving the ball on the ground, rushing for 276 yards. Gabe Webb led the way with 19 carries for 122 yards. He had two touchdown runs., one in each half.

Silas Mulnix got the scoring started with a one-yard TD pass to Kyle Jackson a minute into the second quarter for Saranac. The lead went to 14-0 on an eight-yard TD run by Webb with 3:36 to go in the first half. In the second half Saranac got a ten-yard TD run from Brayden Alderink, Webb's second TD run, and a late 36-yard touchdown pass from Urijah Perow to Landin Barker.



Thornapple Kellogg senior Zach Eldridge dives for the end zone as he is hit by Hastings' Jack Webb (left) and Spencer Wilkins (right) early in the fourth quarter Thursday in Middleville. Eldridge's six-yard touchdown run pushed TK in front 29-20 at the time. Hastings rallied for a 31-29 victory over the final 11 minutes.

SAVE THE DATE

Daily News - View Newspaper Group is hosting

CRAFT BEER AND WINE FEST

Saturday, October 11, 2025

2-7 PM, TIVOLI SQUARE, DOWNTOWN GREENVILLE

The event benefits Rotary Club of Greenville

FREE FOOD • LIVE MUSIC • CRAFT BEER AND WINE SAMPLES



BOTTLES, BREWS & NEWS

VIEW NEWSPAPER GROUP'S CRAFT BEER AND WINE FEST

Oktoberfest -2025-

ADVANCE TICKETS:

VIP ADMISSION $50

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

GENERAL ADMISSION $30

Includes souvenir glass, five drink sample tickets and food

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

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

SPONSORED BY:

ISABELLA BANK Local. Growing. Staying. · WINTER INSURANCE AGENCY · SIMPLI.FI · Bonita Steele Enrolled Agent · COMMERCIAL BANK · Millard's FURNITURE AND APPLIANCE · A&E Agency · BLAKE HOLLENBECK AUTO SALES

EVENT HOSTED BY: DAILY NEWS VIEW Newspaper Group

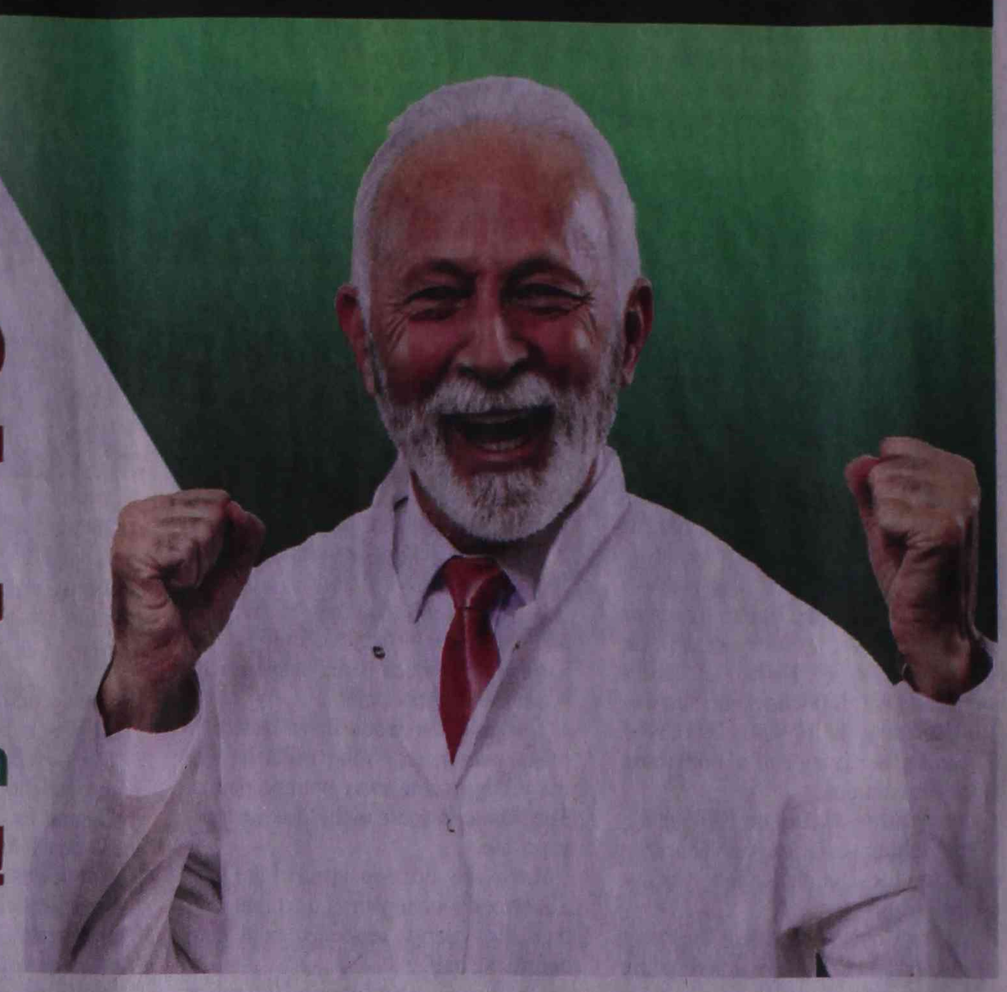
EVENT BENEFITS: Rotary Club of Greenville, MI

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

HURRY! LIMITED-TIME ONLY!

AudioNova

HEARING AID SALE



Stay connected with BETTER HEARING!

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

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

EXCLUSIVE OFFERS

BOGO OFFER

BUY 1 GET 1 50%OFF



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

FINANCE OFFER

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

HURRY! OFFERS EXPIRE 09/08/25!

AudioNova
Your Hearing Experts

CALL US NOW **231-252-1446**

Formerly Hear Michigan

HASTINGS
618 W. State Street

*Certain types of hearing loss may require a hearing instrument model that is not appropriate for the trial. Hearing evaluation required. See clinic for details. Only available for selected hearing instruments. [1]Buy one Phonak Audéo Sphere™ Infinio 70 or 90 level hearing aid at our retail price and get another of the same make & model 50% off. Discount is based on binaural purchase. This limited-time offer may not be used in conjunction with any other offer or promotion. New orders only. Private pay only (not combinable with insurance or network). Not available on all levels of technology. [2] With $89 payment to start, a total of $2,901 will be financed at 19.90% APR on approved credit for 48-months. Additional upgrades and other financing options are available. Terms are subject to change without notice and other restrictions may apply. Please see office for details. Offers expire 09/08/25.