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VOL. 171, NO. 37

THE HASTINGS BANNER

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Initial plan for new LO fire station carries hefty price tag

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

The members of the Odessa Township Board of Trustees and local residents finally learned of the potential price tag for a new fire station, and for some, the news may have led to a case of sticker shock.

Representatives from Grand Rapids-based Williams Architects headlined a presentation at the Monday, Sept. 8, Odessa Township Board of Trustees meeting on a potential plan for a new 18,700-square-foot station house for the Lake Odessa Fire Department at an estimated cost of just less than $12 million, if it were built in 2027. The total would reportedly increase by 4 percent annually after that.

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

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

Kim Nigro, project manager with Williams Architects, said a new fire station is needed for several other reasons, as well, including:

- The township doesn't own the existing fire barn or have control over its future;
- The facility needs "major repairs," including $100,000 for a new roof;
- Safety and access issues related to the station house being located adjacent to railroad tracks; and
- Growing needs show a need for larger apparatus bays, as well as living and support spaces for staff.

"These are the kind of things that have driven the department to do this study," Nigro said.

Township officials believe they already have the site for a new fire station – a 10-acre parcel owned by the township located just east of the Odessa Township Hall on M-50, just west of the Village of Lake Odessa.

The lead planner for Williams, Mark Bushhouse, said the site allows for two points of access to M-50,

See **STATION** on 4



Kim Nigro and Mark Bushhouse of Grand Rapids-based Williams Architects help provide an overview of a study for a new fire station during a presentation at the Odessa Township Board of Trustees meeting Monday, Sept. 8. **Photo by Dennis Mansfield**

County official expresses concern over DDA plan

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

Not everyone is seemingly in favor with plans by the Village of Lake Odessa and its Downtown Development Authority board to expand its boundaries and eliminate a sunset date from a village ordinance that helped establish the DDA two decades ago.

Members of the Lake Odessa Village Council and DDA board hosted a joint informational meeting Thursday, Sept. 4, at the Page Memorial Building to discuss a proposal to expand the boundaries of the DDA's current tax increment financing, or TIF, plan and whether to eliminate the sunset date which calls for the DDA to be dissolved as of Dec. 31.

At a special meeting on Feb. 28, council members voted to extend the sunset date to Dec. 31 to give officials more time to draft a new development plan and long-term resolution to the DDA's future.

When it was created in 2005, interim Village Manager Gregg Guetschow said the DDA was set up as a 20-year plan to assist businesses within the village's downtown district.

"We're coming to the end of that," he said, adding that the list of accomplishments through the DDA "are significant" and "the list is long."

According to Guetschow, the list includes obtaining three grants to fund facade improvement projects.

"I think we are the only municipality that was awarded three grants through that program," he said. "That was significant at that time."

Guetschow said the DDA's goals for the future include creating unique spaces within the downtown area, helping build community pride and business development initiatives. While the expansion of the current district wouldn't create a financial windfall for the DDA, he added funds could be used to get grants that would then be used to pay for future projects.

"In doing that, in expanding that area, it would be in effect creating a second TIF," he said. "It's not like we're expecting to capture a lot of tax dollars.

"But, the main purpose is not to capture added tax dollars. More, it's to help plan for future development."

However, the idea of the DDA capturing more tax dollars wasn't supported by all of those attending the informational meeting.



Gregg Guetschow, interim manager for the Village of Lake Odessa, outlines a plan to expand DDA boundaries at a Sept. 4 informational meeting. **Photos by Dennis Mansfield**

Ionia County Treasurer Judith Clark said the loss of revenue to DDA districts has forced the county to seek approval for specialized millages, such as for senior and veteran services, as well as local road projects.

"These individual millages become more important, but (DDA captures) hurt that," Clark said. "I've got townships that can't even get a millage passed.

"We have to figure out what we can and cannot do at the county

See **CONCERN** on 3

Riverwalk Lofts developers purchase site in Middleville

Molly Macleod
Editor

Barry County could soon see another multi-unit housing development in the works along the banks of the Thornapple River after Hastings Riverwalk Lofts developers CopperRock Construction purchased 36 State Street in Middleville last month.

The 2.58-acre riverfront lot has sat vacant for years in downtown Middleville. Last year, Village of Middleville council members voted to rezone the property to "transitional industrial." The lot is also marked as a Redevelopment Ready site.

Grand Rapids-based CopperRock Construction's senior development specialist Greg Taylor explained the company hopes to construct multi-family attainable housing at the site in Middleville.

"I'm here relative to the 42-unit attainable multi-family project that we are proposing for the 36 State Street site," Taylor said at the Aug. 26 village council meeting.

Preliminary development would include two, three-story apartment buildings. In total, it would include around 42 units.

"Coincidentally, it's about a 42,000-square-foot development that our architects have indicated would be necessary for the scope of the project," Taylor said at the Tuesday, Aug. 12 village council meeting. "It would probably take about 15 months to fully develop

See **LOFTS** on 3

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BARRY COUNTY OUTDOOR YOUTH DAY IS THIS SATURDAY
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BEDHD welcomes new health officer


Rebekah Condon

There's a new face at the Barry-Eaton District Health Department.

BEDHD officials announced this week the appointment of Rebekah Condon as its new health officer effective Oct. 1.

Condon succeeds Colette Scrimger, who is retiring after 13 years as health officer and 27 years with BEDHD, and will lead the department's efforts to protect and improve the health of residents across Barry and Eaton counties.

According to the announcement, Condon brings more than four years of leadership experience at BEDHD, most recently serving as operations manager for two years. In that role, she oversaw budget planning, finance operations and daily department functions.

A Barry County resident, Condon lives in Middleville with her husband, Ryan, and their two daughters.

"The board agreed that Rebekah has the right knowledge, skills, abilities and leadership characteristics that will best guide BEDHD through these very changing times," said Catherine Getty, BEDHD board chairperson. "Her commitment to protecting and promoting public health in the district is strong and we believe she is ready to lead the department through what is sure to be a challenging few years."

Condon said she is honored to be stepping into her new role and build on the strong foundation already established at the BEDHD.

"Public health is fundamentally about serving our community," Condon said. "I look forward to listening, learning, and working alongside residents to address the health challenges we face together.

"While the work ahead won't always be easy, I believe in what we can accomplish together when we combine proven strategies with strong community partnerships," she added.

For more information on the BEDHD, persons may visit online at barryeatonhealth.org. — *DM*

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Your Community Connection


The YMCA of Barry County's new facility features state-of-the-art classrooms and other spaces to house programs for both preschoolers and school-age students.

YMCA to hold ribbon-cutting for new facility

Jayson Bussa
Contributing Writer

The YMCA of Barry County will hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony next week to mark the opening of its new facility.

The event is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 17, at 11 a.m. at 2350 Iroquois Trail, across from the organization's home base of Camp Algonquin. The new building effectively expanded the YMCA's campus in that corner of Hastings.

The facility opened last month and houses the YMCA's Y Time Programs. These include a preschool for children ages 2½ to 5, along with school-age programming for kindergarten through fifth grade. School-age services cover before- and after-school care, no-school-day programming during the academic year and summer.

The programs emphasize nature-based learning, making use of the site's outdoor areas and trails.

Enrollment currently includes 13 students in the preschool, with space for 11 more, and 28 students in the school-age program, which has capacity for 22 additional participants.


Young students of the YMCA of Barry County's Y-Time program walk down a trail located near its new facility at 2350 Iroquois Trail in Hastings. **Courtesy photos**

Grass-fed beef


A herd of white cattle grazes in a field off of Coats Grove Road in Hastings last week. The cattle enjoyed cool temperatures as they munched, with autumn looming around the corner. Calves intermingled with the rest of the herd, learning firsthand the taste of fresh, green grass. **Photo by Molly Macleod**

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Mailed periodicals postage paid at Hastings, MI 49058 and additional offices. Published Thursday.
Barry County ..... $78/yr. or $14/mo
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Township board to seek legal opinion on DDA, wind turbine ordinance

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

For the most part, members of the Odessa Township Board of Trustees didn't have a lot to say during a joint informational meeting with the Lake Odessa Village Council and its Downtown Development Authority board on Thursday, Sept. 4.

But, that's about to change.

Township Supervisor Gary Secor agreed with a recommendation by Township Treasurer Sharon Rohrbacher at the board's regular meeting Monday, Sept. 8, to consult with legal counsel and issue a letter to the village regarding the proposed expansion of the DDA's tax increment financing plan, or TIF, as well as the possible elimination of a sunset date from the original ordinance that established the DDA in 2005 (see related story on page 1).

Secor added that he had "some real concerns" about the potential loss of revenue to the DDA at a time when the township is discussing building a new fire station.

According to Secor, one option to explore would be whether the village and DDA would be open to share revenues from the original TIF district with the township, or whether the township will opt out of the new, expanded boundaries of the TIF district.

Rohrbacher said the township could also ask for village and DDA officials to honor the intent of the sunset date, which would effectively dissolve the DDA at the end of the year, with the village then re-establishing the DDA with a new ordinance. She said the "clean-slate approach" would allow the township to opt out of the DDA completely, avoiding any future losses in property tax revenue.

The letter from the township would be presented to the village prior to the Lake Odessa council's next meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 15. The council meeting is set to include a public hearing on the DDA. A second public hearing is tentatively set for Nov. 17.

"The intent is to stay in communication, to keep the lines of communication open between the village and the township," Rohrbacher said.

But, the DDA isn't the only subject township officials will be seeking to learn more about when consulting with legal counsel. They'll also be looking to explore any options the township might have in regards to its ordinance on permitting wind turbine projects.

"It's all going to end up with the state anyway," Rohrbacher said. "(But) there are some options. We don't have to sit back on our hands."

The township board has already scheduled a closed, executive session at its next regular meeting on Monday, Oct. 6, to discuss any legal advice on its options regarding the DDA and wind turbine permitting ordinance.

"There are some things that need to be looked at," Secor said.



Lake Odessa village and DDA officials discuss the benefits of plans to expand the DDA's tax incremental financing plan, or TIF, and the possible elimination of a sunset date at an informational meeting Sept. 4 at the Page Memorial Building. Two more public hearings are set for Sept. 15 and tentatively for Nov. 17.

CONCERN

Continued from Page 1

level," she added. "The DDA needs to consider that."

Odessa Township Treasurer Sharon Rohrbacher said the township is hurt by the loss of captured tax revenue, while already paying for fire, ambulance and election services that are also provided to the village.

"So, with all of that, we're also looking to build a fire station," she said.

Rohrbacher added, when having to go to voters for a bond or millage request, ballot language related to the DDA often confuses voters. She said it can also cause townships to seek higher levy rates to counter the loss of tax revenue to entities like the DDA or due to the effect of the state's Headlee Amendment, which effectively rolls back tax rates when property values rise faster than inflation.

"We're losing votes because of that capture by the DDA," Rohrbacher said. "I love a beautiful town, but we also need to be able to buy turnout gear (for firefighters)."

Guetschow said the township and other taxing units do have options, such as "opting out" of the new TIF district and negotiating to share revenue captured from the original TIF plan.

One other option, according to Guetschow, would be for officials to keep the sunset date in place, which would effectively dissolve the DDA at year's end. Then, village officials could recreate the DDA with the passage of a new ordinance. At that point, the township could opt out of the entire DDA plan.

"I can tell you I look at the dollars as well," Guetschow said. "We have to make the same analysis on our own."

Local officials and residents will have at least two more chances to express their opinions and concerns over the DDA plans. The village council will hold a public hearing at its regular meeting that starts at 7 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 15, with a second public hearing tentatively set for Nov. 17.

"I think we've had some good discussions," said Village President Karen Banks. "And, I think we have options for future discussions.

"Let's keep the lines of communication open."

To view documents on the proposed development plan and boundary adjustment, persons may visit the Village of Lake Odessa website at lakeodessa.org.

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PAST PRINTERS

Hastings Banner compositors pose for a photo in 1906. At that time, *The Banner* office was located at 152 W. State Street in Hastings. Before modern printing advancements, compositors assembled each letter of metal type used on every newspaper page, making a "form" used for mass printing. This photo is part of the David V. Tinder Collection of Michigan Photography at the University of Michigan. **Courtesy photo**

LOFTS

Continued from Page 1

from groundbreaking."

CopperRock recently broke ground on a 135-unit complex along the river in Hastings, as well. Taylor added that the development firm would use a similar model for the Middleville project, albeit, on a smaller scale.

"We're very open to exploring other ways to integrate this project with other village amenities, whether it be a walking path or anything else along the riverside to help attract people downtown," he said. "We're excited and ready to mobilize on that."

"We feel we've got a lot of positive momentum here in Barry County with the project that we now have active in downtown Hastings. We feel like we've just been through the first half of the season, and we hope to move forward here in your community on a similar project with a lot of the same characteristics," Taylor said.

Developers will present a preliminary site plan to the council in the coming weeks.

"We look forward to continuing to work closely with all of you and Middleville to create a successful and hopefully a project that will be a catalyst for other developments in the area," Taylor said.

— Contributing writer Jayson Bussa contributed to this story.



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Planning your business exit: Start with the end in mind

If you own a business, you've probably spent countless hours thinking about how to grow it, manage daily operations and serve your customers. But have you thought about how you'll eventually step away from it? While it might seem premature, planning your successful exit from your business is one of the smartest moves you can make as an owner.

The reality is that most business owners have 80% to 90% of their net worth tied up in their companies, according to the Exit Planning Institute. That's a significant investment that deserves careful planning to protect. Unfortunately, 70% to 80% of businesses put on the market don't sell, and about half of all business exits are involuntary due to unexpected circumstances like health issues, family emergencies management disputes or economic downturns.

Exit planning is more than preparing for retirement. It's taking control of your future and ensuring you can transition away from your business when and how you choose. You can start with the end in mind – a proactive approach that can inform your current business decisions and help increase your company's value and marketability.

Begin by articulating your personal goals for both the transaction and your life afterward. Maybe you want to sell only a portion of your business, stay on as a paid consultant or use the proceeds to start your next venture. Understanding your vision helps shape everything else.

You'll want to calculate how much money you'll need to fund your desired retirement lifestyle, accounting for expenses that may be currently covered by the business, like your cellphone, vehicles, travel and health care. Don't forget about your legacy goals too – what you want to leave for your family or charitable causes.

Getting started requires building a strong professional team. At the center should be a financial advisor who can help you through the planning, execution and post-sale phases. You'll likely also need a tax professional, legal advisor, commercial banker and business valuation expert. Depending on your exit strategy, you might later add specialists like business brokers, investment bankers or employee stock ownership plan advisors.

Understanding your business's current value is crucial. It's a good idea to get a calculation of value at least three to five years before your planned exit. This isn't as formal or expensive as a qualified appraisal, but it gives you a realistic range of what your business might be worth.

This step may reveal a gap between what you need financially and what your business could sell for. If so, don't panic. You have several options: work longer, adjust your spending expectations, save more outside the business or focus on increasing your company's value. You can boost value by increasing profits through higher market share, new products, better pricing or reduced costs. You can also improve intangible assets like employee expertise, operational systems and customer relationships.

Finally, consider who your successor might be. Selling your interest to family members, business partners or employees often provide more control over timing and lower transaction costs, though they may result in lower sale prices. Selling the business to third parties typically bring higher proceeds but less control over the process.

The key message is simple: it's never too early to start planning your exit. Whether you're thinking about stepping away next year or in the next decade, taking proactive steps now puts you in control of your business's future and your own financial security.

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

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Household hazardous waste collection is Sept. 20

Residents can dispose of their household hazardous waste, electronics, leftover medications and tires at a collection next Saturday, Sept. 20. The collection will run from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Barry Expo Center, 1350 N. M-37 Highway.

New this year, residents utilizing the household hazardous waste collection event are required to pre-register for 30-minute time slots. Barry County Recycles staff say the registration will streamline the event, reducing wait times and minimizing traffic backups on M-37.

Residents can register for the waste collection at barrycounty.org/barrycountyrecycles/household_hazardous_waste.php.

Common hazardous materials that will be accepted include aqueous acids and bases; oil-based paints; reactive materials; solvents; aerosol cans; automotive liquids; pesticides (liquids and solids); light bulbs; automotive batteries; alkaline, lithium ion, nickel-cadmium and/or silver oxide batteries; liquid cleaners; heavy metal solutions; mercury-containing articles and motor oil (10-gallon limit).

Additionally, electronics including computers, cell phones, laptops, gaming systems, tablets and more will be collected for no charge. Those disposing of CRT and LCD TVs and monitors are asked to donate $10. Freon-containing devices will not be accepted.

Those with leftover medications can dispose of those, too. Medications need to be in their original containers with the name of the drug clearly labeled. Personal information should be crossed out.

Up to 10 household tires per car can be disposed of next weekend. No business tires will be accepted. Residents disposing of tires are asked to donate $2 per tire, via cash or check. Other donations will also be accepted.

Materials not accepted on Saturday include asbestos, latex paint, propane tanks, commercially generated waste, radioactive material, explosives, unknown wastes, freon containing devices and tires caked heavily with dirt.

This month's household hazardous waste collection is sponsored by the Barry County Materials Management Planning Committee with support from the Barry County Fair Board, Waste Management, Barry-Eaton District Health Department, Barry County Substance Abuse Task Force, the Barry County Sheriff's Department and local pharmacies.

More information on this weekend's hazardous waste collection can be found at barrycountyrecycles.org.— *MM*

STATION

Continued from Page 1

with another parking area in front of the station's offices coming off of the existing township hall parking lot. There would also be exterior spaces for training and even a potential playground area.

The new fire station would include room for administrative spaces, living quarters, common areas, and apparatus bays and support spaces.

"We worked (the plan) down to one that seems to check all the boxes the best," Bushhouse said.

While most of those in attendance seem to like the initial plans for a new fire station, the cost was a point of concern.

"Holy cow, I don't know how you're paying for that," said Lake Odessa resident Beth Barrone. "I had no clue it was going to cost so much.

"I just really love what you've done," she added. "I just don't think we can pay for it."

Barrone was also concerned that no representatives from the village were on hand for the presentation.

"The village is not here," she said. "Village residents will pay for at least half of this. You need buy-in (from the village) and I don't think you have it."

Township Supervisor Gary Secor said village officials and residents are always welcome to attend the board's meetings, which are typically held on the first Monday of each month at 7 p.m.

"We have an open meeting every month," Secor said. "That's why we have these meetings.

"(And) we'll be doing additional public outreach."

Another resident, Carrie Johnson, questioned why the fire station needed to be located outside the village, considering the importance of the village's tax base in paying for such a facility.

"It does seem like a big ask for a community this size," she added.

But Nigro said the plan as presented was a starting point in discussing what might be included in a new station house.

"We had a whole menu of options," Nigro said. "In the process, we did whittle down what would be best for this community.

"There is a lot more conversation to come," she added. "This is the first step."

LOFD Fire Chief Chad Perkins warned against downsizing the proposal too much purely over cost concerns.

"In five or 10 years, we'll outgrow that (less expensive) building," Perkins said. "Or, do we build a building that will last our community for 50 to 100 years?"

Rohrbacher later said that local residents shouldn't overreact to the price of a new fire station, as the presentation of Monday night was to give officials a starting point in formulating plans for the proposed facility.

"These are the pie-in-the-sky numbers," she said. "This is where we start."

According to Nigro, the next step would be for the township board to formally adopt the study outlined in Monday's presentation, allowing Williams to move forward with schematics for a new fire station.

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Sheriff's office warns of text scam

Molly Macleod
Editor

The Barry County Sheriff's Office is warning residents to be wary of fraudulent text messages claiming to be from the "Michigan Department of Vehicles."

The texts claim to come from the "State of Michigan Department of Vehicles," a nonexistent entity in Michigan, and say the text recipient has an outstanding traffic ticket. The scam texts threaten prosecution and suspension of the recipient's vehicle registration and driving privileges if recipients do not pay soon.

The scam texts will include a link for payment — sheriff officials urge text recipients not to click on the link. Scammers can steal personal and banking information through that fraudulent website.

Anyone who receives a scam text should delete the message and not click on any links. Those who may have fallen victim to the scam can contact the Barry County Sheriff's Office at 269-948-4801.

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Participants can look forward to a diverse range of activities at this year's Outdoor Youth Day.



Barry County youngsters can learn more ways how to appreciate the outdoors later this year at Outdoor Youth Day. The 2025 event is scheduled for this Saturday, Sept. 13.

Barry County Outdoor Youth Day is this Saturday

Barry Conservation District and its community partners have announced Outdoor Youth Day 2025 is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. this Saturday, Sept. 13, at Historic Charlton Park.

Getting kids outdoors is the simple yet powerful idea behind Outdoor Youth Day, initiated by local outdoorsman George Cullers. This free event provides hands-on outdoor experiences, fostering a lifelong passion for nature.

Participants can look forward to a diverse range of activities, such as biking, fishing, hiking, trapping, archery, bird watching, fly casting, rock climbing and more. Food trucks, guest speakers and workshops focused on nature and outdoor recreation will help fill out the event's packed schedule.

The annual event, established in 2014, is sponsored by numerous organizations including the National Deer Association, Historic Charlton Park, B. Healthy Barry County, George Cullers, American Legion Post 45, National Wild Turkey Federation, SW Michigan Search & Seek, Barry County Community Mental Health, Scouting America Troops 175 and 2375, Pierce Cedar Creek Institute, Gee Dees Bees, MDHHS Environmental Health Bureau, Kellogg Biological Station & Bird Sanctuary, Family Support Center of Barry County, Barry County Bird Club, The Ability Collective of Barry County, MDARD Forestry Assistance Program, Barry-Calhoun-Kalamazoo Invasive Species Management Area, Thornapple River Watershed Council, Cold Water River Watershed Council, MDNR Wildlife Division-Barry State Game Area, Chief Noonday Chapter - North Country Trail and many others.

Those interested in staying informed on the event and volunteer opportunities can sign up for email updates at barrycd.org/oyd. — *MM*



Getting kids outdoors is the simple yet powerful idea behind Outdoor Youth Day, initiated by local outdoorsman George Cullers. This year's free event is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 13 at Historic Charlton Park. **Courtesy photos**

PIERCE CEDAR CREEK INSTITUTE EVENTS

— SEPT. 11-18 —

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.

Saturday, Sept. 13 — Social hikes (ages 15+, under 18 with an adult), 10 a.m.-noon.

Saturday, Sept. 13 — Barry County Outdoor Youth Day, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Come see PCCI staff at Barry County's Historic Charlton Park for a day filled with free educational fun for the whole family.

Monday, Sept. 15 — PCCI Chess Club, 4-6 p.m. Test your skills or learn from local chess players. Whether you have played for years or have never played at all, players in middle school and older are welcome to play chess in the Play Space. This is a self-guided chess club. PCCI will have regular chess sets and the giant chess set available for players to use. This club is weather-dependent and will be canceled in the event of bad weather.

Monday, Sept. 15 — "Useful" vs. "Likely to Harm You" Mushrooms at Hastings Public Library (ages 12+), 6-7 p.m. Mushrooms are weird and wonderful things – some are delicious, some are deadly, some are technological marvels, and some are just mind-bending. Join PCCI staff in learning which mushrooms to forage, which ones to avoid and which ones are changing how we live and work. Attendees are asked to register for this free event through the Hastings Public Library.

Tuesday, Sept. 16 — Nature Book Club discusses "The New Wilderness" by Diane Cook (ages 15+, under 18 with an adult), 10 a.m.-noon.

Thursday, Sept. 18 — Social hikes (ages 15+, under 18 with an adult), 10 a.m.-noon.

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

Free health fair set for Sept. 21

Persons wanting to learn their "health age" are urged to attend a free health fair from 1 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 21, at the Hastings Adventist Elementary School in Hastings.

The health fair, sponsored by Seventh-day Adventist Health Ministry Team, will include educational stations on basic healthy lifestyle principles. The event will also include health screening, blood pressure and blood sugar testing, plant-based food demonstrations and samples, exercise testing, breath flow testing, massage and spiritual support.

For participating individuals, data from each station will be entered into a computer to calculate the person's health age. A nurse practitioner will be on hand to review the results and, as needed, offer recommendations to follow-up with a physician or practical ways an individual may improve their health.

Other health professionals including doctors, nurses, a dietician, a physical therapist, a massage therapist and more will be present, with many giving health presentations throughout the day. Dr. Michael Quion will be giving brief talks on diabetes.

The health fair will be held in the Community Hall at the school located at 888 Terry Lane, off Star School Road, in Hastings.

For more information, persons may contact Janice Cleary, health ministry leader, by calling 269-804-9959. — *DM*

BEDHD seeking input from parents and guardians

The Barry-Eaton District Health Department is inviting parents and guardians of children aged 0-18, as well as individuals who are pregnant or have been pregnant in the past five years, to take part in its Maternal Child Health Needs Assessment survey. The survey aims to better understand the challenges local families face.

BEDHD staff say community input will help improve local programs, services and policies that support the health and well-being of mothers, infants and children. The survey is confidential, quick to complete, and open to all residents.

Participants who complete the survey by Sept. 26 will be entered into a drawing for a $50 Meijer gift card or a $20 Goodrich Quality Theater gift card. To take the survey, visit barryeatonhealth.org. For more information, contact Amanda Rousseau at 517-541-2663. — *MM*

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GARAGE SALES

BIG GARAGE SALE at 3515 W M179 Hwy, Hastings. Saturday, September 13th, 10am-3pm. Horse tack, saddles, girths, bridles, etc. Books, small furniture, appliances, 9mm ammunition, and lots of misc.

GARAGE SALE Friday 9-12 10am-6pm; Saturday 9-13 9am-5pm; Sunday 9-14 noon-5pm. 3661 Divine Rd, Nashville.

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Jamie Drucille Lutz



Jamie Drucille Lutz, age 85, of Delton, MI, passed away on Thursday, Sept. 4, 2025 at Life Care Center of Plainwell. She was born on July 26, 1940, in Lubbock, TX, the daughter of James and Myrtle (Thompson) Moore.

Jamie was devoted to church through Agape Christian Fellowship and Victory Life Church. She also was well involved with Alternative of Kalamazoo, where she spent many hours and met several cherished people throughout her time there. She married the love of her life Pastor H. Michael Lutz on June 24, 1963 and the two accomplished goals and dreams that were well-known by many.

Jamie is survived by her children, Susonrae (Scott) Salters, Kristy (Tim) Dirks, Shawn (Terri) Lutz, Jeremiah (Holly) Lutz; grandchildren, Nicholas (McKayla), Courtenay (Jonathan), Hailey, Naomi, Natalie, Ellie, Kaitlyn, Garret; great grandchildren, Bentley, Ensley, Everley, Rowan; brothers, William (Jan) Moore, Dean (RuthAnn) Moore; sister, Pamela (James) Pentico; and nephew, Randy (Robin) Simmons.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, H. Michael Lutz; her sister-in-law, Elsie (Marvin) Simmons; her brother, William (Jan) Moore and her great granddaughter, Paisley.

Jamie loved baking for everyone, she made bread, cookies, brownies or anything anyone could ask for. She engulfed herself in teaching, the students she encountered through the years and with her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren that she could share her vault of knowledge. Jamie surrounded herself with her grandchildren, her love for them shone through with the smile on her face when they were around.

Mike and Jamie were the heart of the family and their love to serve Christ inspired everyone they encountered.

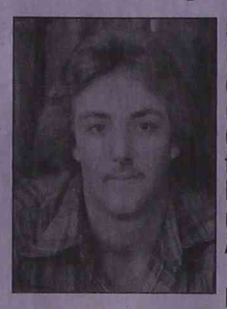
Visitation was held at the North Point Church, 571 North 10th Street, Plainwell, MI 49080, on Monday, Sept. 8, 2025. The celebration of life service followedm.

A private family interment will be held later.

Memorial contributions may be made to Alternatives Care Centers - Kalamazoo, 4200 West Michigan Avenue #100, Kalamazoo, MI 49006 in honor of Jamie.

Arrangements entrusted to the Baxter Funeral & Cremation Service. 269-788-9800. www.baxterfuneral.com.

John E. McEnaney Jr.



John E. McEnaney Jr., age 64, of Orlando, FL, passed away on Monday, Sept. 1, 2025.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Angela; his father, John Sr.; and his brother, Andrew.

He is survived by his sister, Courtney (Paul) Hamlin; brother, Sean; stepmother, Gayle; stepdaughter, Laurel Tallent; and stepson, Kegan McEnaney.

John graduated from Delton High School, served in the U.S. Air Force, and later earned a degree in aircraft maintenance from Lansing Community College. At the time of his passing, he was employed as a mechanic for Allegiant Airlines in Sanford, FL.

Private services will be held at Orangeville Cemetery at a later date.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Beverly Ann Lambka



Beverly Ann Lambka, age 94, of Hastings, MI, passed away September 4, 2025. She was born July 14, 1931, in Hastings, the daughter of Orval and Inez (Coleman) Fountain.

A 1948 graduate of Hastings High School, Beverly married the love of her life, Jack Lambka, on March 4, 1950. They shared 69 wonderful years together until his passing in 2019.

Over the years, Beverly worked in many roles, including at Richard's Prosthetics, Tru-Value Hardware, and in the Hastings school lunchroom. She and Jack enjoyed attending car shows, and were proud members of the Corvette Club. In her youth, Beverly played softball, helping her team reach the State Finals. She loved swimming in her pool, playing bingo, and enjoying card games with family and friends.

A woman of strong faith, she was a longtime member of St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church.

Beverly was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Jack; siblings, Don Fountain and Shirley Tobias; and grandson, Barrett Sherwood.

She is survived by her daughters, Linda (Jim) Wright and Brenda (Brad) Sanders; grandchildren, Kristen Sherwood, David (Jen) Wright, DeeAnne Wright, Josh (Val) Sanders, and Katie (Adam) Johnson; ten great-grandchildren; many nieces and nephews; and the caring staff at Thornapple Manor.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Thornapple Manor Fund, Barry Community Foundation, 231 S. Broadway St., Hastings, MI 49058.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025, at 11 a.m. at Girrbach Funeral Home, 328 S. Broadway, Hastings, with visitation beginning at 10 a.m. Guests are invited to remain at the funeral home immediately following the service for a luncheon.

Online condolences may be left at www.girrbachfuneralhome.net.

Chadwick H. Neil



Chadwick "Chad" H. Neil passed away Friday, Aug. 29, 2025. He was born February 21, 1972 in Jackson, MI. He was raised in Hastings by his devoted parents, Ken and Sharon.

Chad graduated from Hastings High School in 1990. He attended Grand Rapids Community College, graduating with an Associate's in Arts.

A lover of the outdoors, he attended Tom Brown Jr's Tracker school, sharing this knowledge with youth as a senior counselor at YMCA Camp Algonquin. He worked for Waste Management (formerly Hastings Sanitary Service) and was very proud of playing a role in creating and maintaining a successful recycling and disposal service for his community.

He also spent many years working for Steelcase, taking advantage of their many employee certifications and continuing education. Later in life, he became a realtor serving the Hastings area. He was a long-term member of the Hastings Elks Lodge, taking on many roles, including Esteemed Lecturing Knight.

Chad enjoyed fishing, hunting, and playing with the many dogs and cats that found their way into his life.

Chad was blessed to have reconnected with his biological parents, Deborah and David, later in life, and greatly enjoyed spending time with them. He was immensely proud of his Greek heritage and was a member of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church.

Chad was preceded in death by his mother, Sharon Duits; brother, Joshua Duits; sister, Karrie Cross; maternal grandparents, Jerry Frost and Dorothy Frost, and paternal grandparents, H. Vern Neil and Lorraine Neil.

Chad is survived by his parents, Ken and Connie Neil; brother, Thomas "Clint" (Angela) Neil; sister, Alexandria (James) Neil-Sevier; biological parents, David and Deborah Turbish; stepfather, Rick Duits; nephews, Gage (Elizabeth) Pederson and Harlan Sevier; nieces, Chasity (Dave) Barnum and Journi (Brent) Farrugia; and many great nieces, nephews and close friends.

Visitation will be Wednesday, Sept. 10, 2025, 5 - 7 p.m., at Girrbach Funeral Home, 328 S. Broadway, Hastings, MI 49058. Funeral Service will be Thursday, Sept. 11, 2025 at 11 a.m. at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, 330 Lakeside Drive NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503, with a luncheon to follow. Interment at Striker Cemetery.

Memorial contributions in honor of Chad can be made to Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church.

Arrangements by Girrbach Funeral Home, to leave an online condolence visit www.girrbachfuneralhome.net.

Josefina M. Williamson



Josefina M. Williamson (Mercado) was born on February 19, 1941, to Eliseo and Maria Rizal in the City of Biñan, Laguna, Philippines. She was the second-born of ten siblings.

Josefina, affectionately known as Lola - the Tagalog word for "grandmother" - was a lifelong Catholic that enjoyed gardening, cheating at Scrabble, telling everyone how pretty she was, and making people laugh. She met her beloved husband, David, a Peace Corps volunteer, when they were both teaching at the same school in the Philippines. They married in 1969, and Josefina left the world she knew to emigrate to the US with her husband three years later. Married for 39 years, David preceded her in death, as did her parents and one sister.

Surviving are her children, Ayesha (Rich) Franklin of Hastings, MI; Aaron (Jill) Williamson of Noblesville, IN; and six grandchildren - Henry and Viktor Williamson, Zara, Zach, Katie, and John (Chloe) Franklin. Her grandchildren were her absolute love, caring for Viktor and Henry while she still lived in Indianapolis, and then being cared for by Zach and Zara when she moved to Michigan six years ago.

It was Josefina's wish that there would not be a memorial service. Per her request, her remains will be scattered in the Pacific Ocean to be reunited with her husband.

In lieu of flowers, we respectfully request that donations be made to the Corewell Health Hospice and Palliative Care Music Therapy Program, a program that brought her great joy in her last days. Donations can be made at https://give.corewellhealth.org/hospice-donation or mailed to 1239 East Beltline Avenue NE, Grand Rapids, MI, 49525.

And finally, we leave you with this parting advice for which Lola was famous: "If you are going to talk about someone, do it quietly." When we talk about Lola, it won't be quiet, and it will always be about how much she was loved.

Arrangements by Girrbach Funeral Home. To leave an online condolence visit www.girrbachfuneralhome.net.

Lorene Sue Blair



Lorene ("Lorrie") Sue Blair (87) passed away on September 8, 2025, at The Cottages at Thornapple Manor in Hastings, MI. Lorrie was born on July 16, 1938, in Fort Wayne, IN, to Herbert and Leonora Scherer.

Lorrie attended Elmhurst High School, where she met her future husband, Larry Blair. They graduated together from high school and then attended Indiana University, where Lorrie received a bachelor's degree in education. After graduating from IU, they moved to Indianapolis where Larry attended medical school and Lorrie taught elementary school. After Larry completed his medical residency at Blodgett Hospital in Grand Rapids, they moved to Hastings, which became their forever home. They enjoyed life in a small town on a 160-acre "hobby" farm with horses, cows, goats, chickens, rabbits, dogs, cats and peacocks – plenty to keep a young family busy.

Lorrie enjoyed always having a project underway and was rarely idle. She loved to work in her garden and canned the vegetables she grew. Over the years, her hobbies included sewing, quilting, painting, knitting, golf, and puzzles. She worked part-time in Medical Records at Pennock Hospital for several years until she and Larry retired. They then spent many winters in Florida, where Lorrie enjoyed playing golf with her friends.

Lorrie was kind, quiet, patient, and gentle. She never raised her voice in anger and always found the best in any situation. Larry and Lorrie were dedicated volunteers for Barry County United Way's Fresh Food Initiative and Thornapple Manor as a way to give back to the community they loved. Lorrie felt that helping the residents at Thornapple Manor was her "calling," and she volunteered there several days a week until she became a resident at Thornapple Manor's Harvest Pointe assisted living facility and faced the challenges of Alzheimer's Disease.

Lorrie is survived by her daughters, Michelle (Mike) Duits and Sheri (David) Colquitt; grandchildren, Ryan (Angela) Duits, Eric (Lisa Wiersma) Duits, and Austin (Camille) Colquitt; and great-grandchildren, Luciano, Gabriel, and Noah Macias, Jaxon Duits, and Isabella Duits.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 58 years; her parents; her brother, Paul Scherer, and an infant grandson (Duits).

The family would like to thank the wonderful staff at Thornapple Manor's Harvest Pointe Assisted Living and The Cottages Memory Care, as well as Gentiva Hospice, for their compassionate and considerate care.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Barry County United Way's Fresh Food Initiative or The Thornapple Manor Auxiliary, both of which were important to Lorrie during her life.

In accordance with Lorrie's wishes, the family will hold a private service to honor her memory.

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

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

Saxon cheerleaders

David W. Miller
Special to The Banner

As the world marched into the dark days of World War II, Hastings found itself in need of a little cheering up—quite literally. Between 1939 and 1945, many Hastings graduates traded caps and gowns for military uniforms, some enlisting even before walking across the stage. Yet amid the uncertainty, a new spirit took shape on the sidelines.

Across the country, the early 1920s marked the moment when women first began stepping into cheerleading roles, with the University of Minnesota opening the door in 1923. Many high schools gradually followed, but a careful review of Hastings High School yearbooks from the 1920s and 1930s reveals no evidence of an organized squad during that time. For Hastings, the breakthrough moment wouldn't come until the war years—when in 1943, a spirited group of students stepped forward to become the school's first official cheerleaders, forever changing the way Saxons rallied their teams and their community.

Looking at the 1943 "Doomsday" yearbook today, its pages feel both humble and historic. The dedication sets the tone: "To all former students of Hastings High School who in this time of crisis are giving their utmost to preserve our democracy, we, the graduating class of 1943, dedicate this annual. And to the end that this sacrifice may not be in vain, we dedicate ourselves to the task of freeing our nation from its bonds of poverty, ignorance, inefficiency, and greed; thereby making it a peaceful, prosperous, streamlined America."

Then, on page 42, a small group of students appear in simple sweaters and skirts, smiling with a mix of pride and uncertainty—unaware they were writing the first chapter in Hastings High School's cheerleading history. In the midst of wartime, their presence on the sidelines offered a spark of normalcy and hope, a reminder that even in the hardest seasons, school spirit could bring a community together.

The board of education at the time was a seasoned group guiding the district th.ough change. At the helm stood Dr. George Lockwood, president, with seven years of experience. Alongside him were Mr. Harold Foster, secretary, and Dr. DeForest Walton, treasurer, an 11-year board veteran. Trustees Hubert Cook and Charles Faul rounded out the leadership team. It was under their tenure that a new kind of school leadership emerged—not from the front office, but from the gymnasium floor. Before the watchful eyes of the student body and faculty, Maxine Cooper, Judith Mulder, George Walton, Milo Coldren, Elizabeth Pantazis, Dorothy Williams, and Virginia Meyers stepped forward to lead the first cheer in school history. One can almost hear the mix of surprise and excitement as those opening shouts of school spirit echoed through the halls—marking the birth of a tradition that would endure for generations.

By 1950, cheerleading was evolving beyond simple sideline chants into a disciplined and increasingly competitive activity, and the University of Michigan played a major role in shaping that transformation. That year, U of M hosted its third annual statewide cheerleading clinic, drawing nearly 2,500 junior and senior high school cheerleaders—including representatives from Hastings. Over the course of the day, students received instruction in the fundamentals and techniques of cheering and were reminded that their role extended beyond the routine—they were expected to model sportsmanship and school spirit at every event. As a special honor, the Hastings squad and their sponsor attended the Cornell–Michigan football game and joined a massive halftime performance alongside cheerleaders from across the state.

By this time, becoming a cheerleader involved formal tryouts, with the final squad selected by faculty and members of the outgoing team. A pivotal figure in this period was Miss Pat Murphy (1936–2016), who served as the girls' coach from 1958 to 1994. A 1954 graduate of Central Michigan University, Murphy was more than a coach—she was a builder of character. Over 36 years, she wore many hats at Hastings High School, teaching physical education and business classes, and coaching track, basketball, volleyball and cheerleading. Her influence shaped generations of Saxon athletes and spirit leaders, laying the foundation for the program's enduring success.

Throughout the 1960s, Hastings cheerleading grew into a full-fledged program, with varsity and junior varsity squads and the opportunity to earn the coveted athletic letter. Their routines reflected a new level of polish and athleticism, while their uniforms evolved to reflect the times—the skirts shorter and the sweaters proudly displaying Hastings' blue and gold. Regional clinics and the early stages of competitive cheer were beginning to shape programs across Michigan. Hastings cheerleaders embraced these innovations, incorporating synchronized movements, gymnastics and stunts that elevated the role from school spirit to student sport.

When I spoke with Kathy Burnworth Clifton about a 1967 cheer photo, she said, "I absolutely love this photo—it brings back a flood of memories. There I am, right in front, dropping into the splits like it was nothing! It's hard to imagine now, but back then we were bursting with energy. Miss Murphy was our coach and we girls were all the best of friends. I showed it to my grandkids and they were stunned—'Grandma, you could do that?' I had to laugh.

"I also spoke with Laurie Barden Schaeffer a few days ago, and we both marveled at how the years have flown. It doesn't feel like it's been 58 years! Those were spirited days—we trained hard, lifted each other up—literally—and somehow made it all look effortless."



Hastings High School's first recorded cheerleading squad in 1943. Courtesy photos



Pat Murphy was Hastings High School's cheer coach from 1958 to 1994. This photo is from the 1980 HHS yearbook.

In more recent decades, national and international organizations have helped shape cheerleading into the sport it is today. The National Cheerleaders Association (NCA), founded in 1948, offers clinics, camps and competitions nationwide. The U.S. All Star Federation (USASF) and USA Cheer have expanded opportunities for athletes and standardized safety protocols, while groups like the Universal Cheerleaders Association (UCA) and Pride Cheerleading Association (PCA) support school and competitive teams across the country. These institutions have helped elevate cheer from a sideline support role to a sport in its own right—defined by athleticism, precision and artistry.

We may not all have worn the uniform or led the chant, but by Turning Back the Pages of Hastings High School history—spanning an impressive 82 years—we gain a deeper appreciation for those spirited young women, and at times young men, who stepped forward with courage, energy, and infectious enthusiasm. Since that first appearance in the 1943 "Doomsday" yearbook, cheerleaders have done more than lead cheers; they have rallied classmates, energiz d crowds and helped shape the very spirit of Saxon pride. Their presence on the sidelines didn't just support the team—it united a community and created a legacy that continues to echo through the halls and fields of Hastings to this day.

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



The 1966 Hastings High School cheer team poses for a photo.



This photo, found in the 1967 Hastings High School yearbook, shows cheerleaders (from left) Laurie Barden, Kathy Burnworth, Jean Cary, Greta Guenther, Kathy Gerald, Patty Clarey and Deb Bloss.

SPORTS

Offense comes in spurts for Saxons against Hopkins girls

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

There was a stretch of the kind of offense the Saxons hope to play more of two thirds of the way through the second set against visiting Hopkins Tuesday night.

Marlayna Young hit a kill from the right side. Bella Friddle slammed the biggest swing of the night for the Hastings varsity volleyball team through the Hopkins blockers. Isabelle Perez drilled a kill from the left end of the net.

Getting the ball to the floor continues to be the biggest challenge for the somewhat height challenged Saxons this fall.

"We really struggle on offense. We're working on it," said first-year Hastings varsity head coach Alexis Mast. "We are having a growing year I'd say. We don't have a lot of height. That is an issue, but we have strong freshman [Perez]. I think she brings some of the momentum that we need. It's like a breath of fresh air. I think the girls feed off that energy."

An impressive attack from Hopkins libero Kavy Martinez in the back row for the Vikings kind of stymied the Saxon run there a bit. The Hopkins girls went on to a three-set win over their hosts by the scores of 25-10, 25-16, 25-21.

Hopkins certainly had a height advantage at the net. That is just something the Saxons are learning to deal with.

"There is a big focus on looking through the net and finding the holes," Mast said. "Everybody wants to jump and hit the ball as hard as they can. That is what everybody wants to do. When you do have that height disadvantage, or you don't have that aggressive offense that most varsity teams do have because of their height or the talent they have on the offense in the hitters, it is very crucial to look through the net and actually find the holes versus I am going to jump and hit the ball as hard as I can."

Hastings is also working to focus getting its offense through hot hitters with the help of setters Hannah Sorenson and Gabby Juskewicz. Friddle is that hot hitter right now.

The Saxons nearly extended the evening. They pulled to a 20-17 lead in set number three, but the Vikings made sure to get a few swings for outside hitter Kelsey Burgess on the left side and closed things out with a strong service run from senior setter Kylee Sykes.

The Saxons weren't at the top of their game passing the ball in the back row on Tuesday, but Mast said she has been pretty pleased with the defensive work back there as a whole this fall.

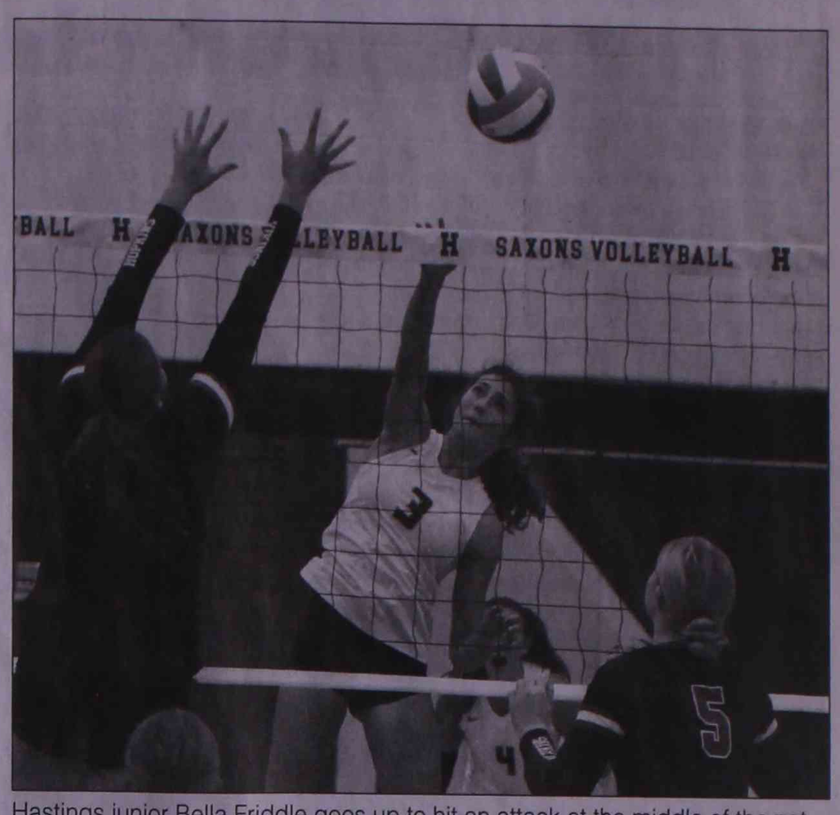
"Generally, that's not the problem. We have a very strong back row. My libero, Josalyn [Russell], number one she moves her feet. She is getting balls up. Are they always perfect passes? No, but it's the setter's job to run the offense and that is what we're working to do. There is a big focus on offense right now and working around the ball, and adjusting to the set, adjusting to that out of system pass from the libero to the outside."

Being mentally tough is something the Saxons are really going to start hammering here. Coach Mast doesn't want to see one error lead to more errors – saying that a mistake that leads to a point for the other team in a volleyball match isn't like a mistake on a soccer field that leads to a goal.

"I think there is as ton of potential on this team. We're not mediocre, so we just have to pick it up," Mast said.

Coach Mast said the program is looking outside of its ranks to work on its mental game. There are plans in the coming weeks for the girls to work with the Surge program through BSN Sports – a program put together by a group of coaches focused on keeping female athletes engaged and setting them up for future success.

Hastings goes on the road to West Michigan Aviation Academy this afternoon, Sept. 11, and then will head to the Perry Invitational Saturday. Harper Creek comes to Hastings to start the Interstate-8 Athletic Conference season Sept. 17.



Hastings junior Bella Friddle goes up to hit an attack at the middle of the net during her team's non-conference dual with Hastings High School Tuesday.
Photo by Brett Bremer

Edger wins first jamboree, team wins home tourney

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Hastings varsity girls' golf team opened Interstate-8 Athletic Conference play in impressive fashion Tuesday, Aug. 26, placing third at the Coldwater jamboree at Coldwater Golf Club.

Harper Creek captured the win at 196. Coldwater placed second at 208. The Saxons beat out Marshall by a stroke for third place 216 to 218. Jackson Northwest was fifth with 228 strokes ahead of Parma Western 235 and Pennfield 269.

Saxon sophomore Lilli Edger was the day's individual medalist with a nine-hole score of 44.

Saxon head coach Ross Schueller said Edger stayed composed from start to finish and set the tone for the Saxons with her steady play. She was even on her final three holes with a birdie on the par-5 number 18 to close out her round.

Behind her, Hastings showed balanced scoring. Senior Ellie Cousins posted a 56, demonstrating poise and consistency as she continues to sharpen her game according to her coach. Sophomore Ryann-Lynn Cole and senior Sophia Greenfield each carded 58s.

Schueller said that Cole fought through a few challenges to keep her round on track, and Greenfield showed encouraging signs of regaining her natural rhythm.

Junior newcomer Rylee Burnham wasn't far behind contributing a 59.

Edger wasn't too far in front of the pack of top golfers in the conference. It was a very young pack with the top six scorers all either sophomores or freshmen.

Harper Creek freshman Ella Bushman shot a 45. Coldwater sophomore Harper Anglin shot a 46, Marshall sophomore Anna Thompson 48 and Harper Creek freshman Adeline Higgs 49 to round out the top five. The Beaver team also had sophomore Haley Willi sixth with a 50.

Edger was fourth and the Saxon girls' team placed fifth as the conference got together again at Hankerd Hills Golf Course Monday, Sept. 8, for the second conference jamboree.

Coldwater won the meet with a score of 189 strokes ahead of Harper Creek 189, Jackson Northwest 205, Parma Western 207, Marshall 211, Hastings 222 and Pennfield 244.

Edger shot a 44 at Hankerd Hills. Cole scored a 57 for the Saxon team, Burnham 60 and junior Maddie Stora shot a 61.

Willi was the day's medalist with a 41 and her teammate Bushman and Coldwater's Alivia Arnold both shot 43.

In between the two conference matches, the Saxons held their Saxon Dozen, 12-hole tournament, at The Legacy at Hastings Friday and took the championship. The Saxon team beat Grand Rapids Christian on a sixth-score tiebreaker for the title.

"These were tough scoring conditions, and that makes our win even more meaningful," coach Schueller said. "When you can come out on top against strong programs like Gull Lake and Grand Rapids Christian, that's a real accomplishment. And the way we did it, with all six players contributing, says a lot about the depth of this team."

Edger led the Saxon team with a 61 and tied for medalist honors. Cole shot a 62 and Cousins a 68 with both of them placing in the top 12. Burnham shot a 72 to round out the Saxons' top four. Sophia Greenfield scored a 73 to match the number five scorer from Grand Rapids Christian and Stora secured the victory with her 75.

City of Hastings

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT MODIFICATION AND FINAL SITE PLAN APPROVAL

The City Council for the City of Hastings will hold a Public Hearing for the purpose of hearing written and/or oral comments from the public concerning 420 E Mill Planned Unit Development modification and final site plan approval for certain properties located at 328 East Mill Street parcel #08-55-001-001-02 and 420 East Mill Street parcel # 08-55-001-001-04. City Council will review and consider 420 E Mill Planned Unit Development modification and final site plan approval for reorientation of multi-family residential buildings, reorientation and increase in size of mixed-use building, and addition of a childcare center in the mixed-use building as a permitted use. The public hearing will be held at **7:00 PM on Monday September 29, 2025, at a special meeting of the City Council** in the City Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall, 201 East State Street, Hastings, Michigan 49058.



A copy of the proposed site plan and map are available for public inspection from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM Monday through Friday at the Office of the Community Development Director, 201 East State Street, Hastings, Michigan 49058. Questions or comments can be directed to Dan King, Community Development Director, at 269.945.2468 or dking@hastingsmi.gov.

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

Linda Perin
City Clerk

NOTICE

SPIRITUAL CARE CONSULTANTS
Of West Michigan

ANNUAL MEETING/BOARD MEETING

September 16, 2025
5:45 PM

Spiritual Care Consultants Healing Center

Public Welcome

RSVP for instructions on how to join the meeting.
269-929-2901



Hastings sophomore Cooper Hokanson is bumped off the ball by Lakewood's Charlie Dykhouse during the second half of their non-conference match in a rain storm at Lakewood High School Wednesday, Sept. 3. **Photos by Brett Bremer**



Saxon exchange student Hugo (7) is in the middle of the box to poke the ball into the net for his team's lone goal at Lakewood High School Wednesday, Sept. 3. His goal pulled his team to within 2-1 in the first half, and that is how things ended on the scoreboard.

Vikings down the Saxons by one in a deluge

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

It started to be a running joke with the Lakewood Vikings, and it came up again.

The plan was to push the ball to the baseline in the corners, look to get it in the middle and then try and get shots off against the Saxons Wednesday in a non-conference match at Lakewood High School.

The Lakewood varsity boys' soccer team did it often early before the downpour really got heavy and everything was completely soaked. Lakewood turned its early strategy into two goals and then held on for a 2-1 win over Hastings.

Brody Hoppes, who had a number of opportunities to put the ball in the net the past few weeks, scored the opening goal for the Vikings.

"We had it in the corner, the ball was sent across. A Hastings guy tried to clear it. Hoppes was at the top corner of the 18, took a step and put a shot off the far pole and into the goal," Lakewood head coach James LeVeque said. "That was the fifth time in the last three games that he has rang the far pole. The first four went back out onto the field. He finally rang the post and it went it. He had it coming."

Connor Merritt attacked the baseline in the corner to spark the Vikings' second goal. He fired a pass across the Saxon six and eventually teammate Kaden Rohrbacher one-touched it into the net.

LeVeque said he has some guys with some skill and speed up top, but the level of ball-handling on the attack this season is better suited for beating opponents one-on-one on the outside than trying to dribble through a really crowded box.

The Vikings started the match in a 4-4-2 formation, with two forwards up top. The team has found some success attacking that way, but LeVeque said his squad doesn't quite have the depth in the midfield to keep that up at the moment. For the most par, the Vikings have gone with a 4-5-1 formation with one attacker and five midfields to better control that middle part of the field and try and relieve some of the pressure on a young defense.

Hastings picked up its intensity as the first half wore on too, which has been something of a theme for his team lately Saxon head coach Matt Hokanson said later. His guys got their first win of the season over Otsego by a 2-1 score Monday and then finished in a 2-2 draw with Ottawa Hills Tuesday this week.

"We came out. We were ready. We were hungry," LeVeque said Wednesday. "Both teams looked ready coming off the bench taking the field. But we took the fight to them. The first ten minutes we absolutely dominated them. It looked like we might mercy them. It was just dominating fashion. They finally got their feet under them a little bit and started generating a little bit of an attack. That's when we went to a 4-5-1. The hope was to make sure they didn't gather any momentum going into half. Unfortunately, I think we should not have stayed in it as long as we did."

Hastings scored with just over 16 minutes to play in the first half as the Vikings couldn't get a Saxon corner kick cleared away. Hugo pressured the Viking back line after Viking keeper Levi Frizzell was unable to reach the corner to punch it away, and Hugo knocked into the net.

The Saxons created a bunch more chances on corner kicks in the contest, especially in the closing minutes on the rain-drenched field.

Hastings moved its goalkeeper, Daniel Jensen, up in the field in the second half to better pressure the Vikings – a mostly successful move. Cooper Hokanson kept firing dangerous corners into the box, including a couple that Frizzell just managed to deflect away from his net. But Hastings could never get another one through.

Jensen has been in the field since then, with sophomore Grady Courtright taking over in goal.

Jensen scored for the Saxons midway through the second half against Ottawa Hills on Pierce Field Tuesday, after the Saxons fell down 2-0 against the Bengals. Cooper Hokanson converted a penalty kick a few minutes later to tie things up.

"That seems to be our M.O. this year. We seem to come out a little too amped, and guys are stepping up a little to hard and they're getting by us and we're giving up two quick goals." coach Hokanson said of giving up the early leads. "Once we settle down, then our defense is holding up really well. So, if we can just figure out how to start the game out how we finish it, we'll be all set."

In the win over Otsego Monday, the Saxons struck first. Cooper Hokanson fired a cross towards the Bulldog goal and Luuk Hoffman put it in the net. Otsego tied the game at 1-1, and then the Saxons took the lead back. This time Cooper fired a corner kick that Pau Crespo finished off for a goal.

The Saxon team is now 1-8-2 overall this season. The Saxons get Interstate-8 Athletic Conference play started this evening, Sept. 11, against Harper Creek in Hastings. The Saxons then go to Jackson Northwest in the league Tuesday.

Lakewood is currently 4-3 on the season after falling to perennial Capital Area Activities Conference White Division powerhouse Eaton Rapids. The Greyhounds took a 6-0 win over the visiting Vikings Tuesday evening. Lakewood is back in action at home taking on Lansing Waverly this evening and then will go on the road to face Belding Saturday morning.

Visit us online at mihomepaper.com

STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF BARRY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Trust

In the matter of: THE JANET L. WILSON LIVING TRUST, DATED MAY 17, 2022
TO ALL CREDITORS: *
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Janet L. Wilson, who lived at 8022 West Irving Road, Middleville, Michigan 49333, died on August 1, 2025, leaving a certain trust under the name of Janet L. Wilson Living Trust, dated May 17, 2022, wherein the decedent was the Settlor and Dennis Wilson, Jr. was named as Successor Trustee serving at the time of or as a result of the decedent's 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 Dennis Wilson, Jr., the named Successor Trustee, at Tripp, Tagg & Storrs, Attorneys at Law, 202 South Broadway, Hastings, Michigan 49058 within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
Date: September 4, 2025
Nathan E. Tagg (P68994)
202 South Broadway
Hastings, MI 49058
(269) 948-2900
Dennis Wilson Jr.
8022 West Irving Road
Middleville, MI 49333
(269) 804-8947

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
BARRY COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. and JUDGE 2025-30194-DE
Hon. William M. Doherty

Court address: 206 West Court Street, Ste. 302, Hastings, MI 49058
Court telephone no.: 269-945-1390
Estate of Mark J. Converse. Date of birth: April 11, 1962.
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Mark J. Converse, died July 20, 2025
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Christine F. Converse, 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: 9/3/25
Brett A. Grossman P63069
610 N. Spruce Street
Vicksburg, MI 49097
269-649-3000
Christine F. Converse
7258 S. Crooked Lake Drive
Delton, MI 49046
269-366-0272

City Of Hastings
COUNTY OF BARRY, STATE OF MICHIGAN
RESOLUTION 2025-24
AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION FOR THE APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF HASTINGS FOR A HOMEOWNER REHABILITATION PROGRAM THROUGH THE MICHIGAN STATE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, CDBG HOUSING IMPROVING LOCAL LIVABILITY (CHILL) GRANT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, The City of Hastings is seeking grant funding for a Homeowner Rehabilitation Program through the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA), Neighborhood Housing Initiatives Division, CDBG Housing Improving Local Livability (CHILL) program; and

WHEREAS, the City of Hastings proposes to use $354,000 in CDBG funds to provide income-eligible homeowners with funds to make necessary repairs to their home to rehabilitate interior and exterior for code-related requirements, permanently affixed energy-related repairs, and improvements necessary for persons with accessibility needs, and remediation of lead-based paint hazards or asbestos abatement, and to provide required administration of the grant program. Not less than $300,000 will be used to benefit persons within the City of Hastings, pursuant to MSHDA CHILL guidelines. 100% of the residential structures will be occupied by low- or moderate-income households. No persons will be displaced as a result of the proposed activities; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project is consistent with the City of Hastings Master Plan and the proposed initiatives in bringing properties into compliance with building and property maintenance codes; and

WHEREAS, no project costs (CDBG and non-CDBG) will be incurred prior to formal grant award, completion of the environmental review procedures, and formal written authorization to incur costs has been provided by the CDBG/MSHDA Project Manager;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Hastings City Council hereby authorizes the City Manager to submit the MSHDA CDBG CHILL application and to sign the application, grant agreement, and all necessary supporting attachments. The City Manager is designated as the Certifying Officer for the NEPA Environmental Review and is authorized to execute Payment Requests.

A motion to adopt the foregoing resolution being offered by Stenzelbarton, with support by Brehm:
YEAS: Barlow, Bergeron, Brehm, Devroy, Resseguie, Stenzelbarton and Tossava
NAYS: None
ABSENT: McLean and Rocha

MOTION DECLARED ADOPTED.
I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted at a duly held and attended regular meeting the 8th day of September 2025, by the City Council of the City of Hastings, by a vote of seven (7) members voting in favor, zero (0) members voting against and two (2) members absent.

Linda Perin, City Clerk

NOTICE: SEEKING APPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Barry County Board of Commissioners is seeking applications from volunteers to serve on the following Boards:

Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council – 1 position
Barry County Conservation Easement Board – 1 agricultural interest; 1 township designee
Central Dispatch – 1 general public
Commission on Aging Board – 4 positions
Department of Health and Human Services – 1 position
Parks & Recreation – 3 positions
Veterans Affairs – 1 positions – must have active duty service during time of conflict

Applications may be obtained at the County Administration Office, 3rd floor of the Courthouse, 220 W. State St., Hastings; or www.barrycounty.org under the tab: How do I apply for: An Advisory Board or Commission and click to display the application. Applications must be returned no later than 5:00 p.m. on **Monday, September 29, 2025.** Contact 269-945-1284 for more information.

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

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First time with five scorers, DK girls win title at TK invite

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Delton Kellogg varsity girls' cross country team put five finishes together for the first time this season to earn a team score, and the Panthers promptly go handed some hardware.

The Panthers took the championship in the Kellogg Division race at the annual Coach B Invitational hosted by Thornapple Kellogg near Murphy's Point at Gun Lake Monday.

There were six teams competing in the Kellogg Division girls' race and three had enough finishers to earn a team score. The DK girls closed the race with 31 points to beat out Grand River Prep with 42 points and Wyoming Lee with 50 points.

Delton Kellogg senior Elli Timmerman was the individual champion with a time of 23 minutes 56.41 seconds. Timmerman and the DK boys' leader, junior Landon Madden, were both more than a minute faster than they'd ever been on the course there in the Yankee Springs Recreation Area before. Madden was third in the Kellogg Division boys' race with a time of 18:38.72.

"It's a good course, yeah, it's flat, it's nice and flat, which is good," Timmerman said. "It always makes for a good race."

Although she isn't a big fan of the sandy spots on the course along parts of the first and last miles of the race.

"It's like I can't get a grip on the ground when I'm in sand, you know. I'm like running in place, kicking sand up," Timmerman said.

At least she wasn't doing those alone in maroon and white Monday. The race was the first where the DK girls' team had five varsity finishers which is the minimum required at most meets to earn a team score. Timmerman was the only finisher for the Panthers at the Aug. 27 Southwest Michigan Rustbuster and DK had four finishers at its home invitational at Gilmore Car Museum last week.

Timmerman has been doing what she can to try and recruit some new teammates, trying to lure them in with the fun of being on a team and the delicious pasta parties.

"It's fun to win," she added Monday.

Timmerman had a good lead on her closest competitor in the Kellogg competition. Grand River Prep was second in 24:42.38. With fewer teams than usual, the Thornapple Division race for larger schools ran at the same time as the Kellogg Division teams.

The top 25 in each division earned medals. Maple Valley didn't have enough competitors to earn either a boys' or girls' team score. The Lion girls' team did have two finish int eh top five in the girls' division race. Senior Izabelle Soper was fourth with a time of 25:35.75, a new PR for her, and freshman Melanie Jones was fifth in 25:41.37.

Delton Kellogg junior Riley Perley ran her fastest time yet to place sixth in 26:17.43. The DK team also had Olivia Vincent ninth in 27:35.55, junior Evelynn Courneya 11th in 27:47.06 and junior Makayla Lutz 16th in 29:41.45.

Maple Valley sophomore Lydia Emerick was int eh middle of that pack with an eighth-place time of 27:00.41 and Lion senior Ada Marie Blakely was 22nd in 34:23.15.

The DK boys' team had eight guys among the top 25 finishers, but the Panthers couldn't quite beat out Grand River Prep in the team standings. The Titans closed the day with 29 points ahead of Delton Kellogg 34 and Wyoming 57.

Grand River Prep senior Elijah Lipscomb was the Kellogg Division boys' champ with a time of 17:40.72. Libertas Christian senior Liam Kamp was second in 18:32.65 and then Madden third.

Madden qualified for the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 3 Cross Country Finals as a sophomore last fall, ran more middle distances races throughout the high school track and field season last spring, and is working his stamina back up to the 5K cross country distance now.

He said he has a hill behind his house that he did some work on throughout the offseason, and that he spent a lot of time doing laps on the track in Delton - a few miles at a time.

"I want to get right where I want to be again, just like last year, just building that endurance up and that mentality up, too," Madden said. "That's what I want to do. Coming into every race, I want to get a medal, and I wanna at least PR or SR for every single one."

Senior Nick Muday was the DK team's number two Monday with a time of 19:29.11. Sophomore Jace Hilton was also in before the clock ticked to 20 minutes. He placed ninth in 19:51.08. Freshman Malachi Allersma was tenth overall for the Panthers in 20:01.91.

Rounding out the top seven for the DKL team were sophomore Joseph McCoy 12th in 20:18.43, junior Jack Favreau 22nd in 21:48.32 and freshman Lucas Doubledee 24th in 22:44.05. Senior Deegan Castaneda had a 25th-place finish.



The Delton Kellogg varsity girls' cross country team celebrates its championship in the Kellogg Division at Thornapple Kellogg's Coach B Invite at Gun Lake Monday. Team members are (from left) Makayla Lutz, Riley Perley, Elli Timmerman, Olivia Vincent and Evelynn Courneya. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

Maple Valley junior Cameron Murray led his team in 21:57.82, which put him 23rd overall. Lion sophomore Grady Wilkes was 34th in 25:56.98.

Thornapple Division

The Thornapple Kellogg girls were third and the boys fourth in the Thornapple Division races Monday.

The Trojans were competing in a meet with Caledonia for the third time in four competitions so far this fall. The Caledonia boys took the team championship with 30 points ahead of the Grand Rapids Track Club 43, West Michigan Aviation Academy 76, Thornapple Kellogg 122 and Wayland 122.

Caledonia had the two fastest runners and three of the five guys who finished the race in less than 17 minutes. Caledonia senior Noah Johnston won the race in 16:21.07 and sophomore Bennett Snapper was second in 16:32.88. West Michigan Aviation senior Asher Jager was third in 16:39.72.

The Thornapple Kellogg boys were led by freshman Owen Bremer who was 31st overall. He had a time of 18:39.26 which put him about half a second behind Madden in the full field of runners across both divisions. Junior teammate Grady Galaviz was about two seconds behind Bremer with a 32nd-place time of 18:41.35. He beat his previous course record by more than half a minute and was more than a minute faster that he was at the Coach B Invite as a sophomore last fall.

TK also had freshman Parker Robinett 48th in 20:17.51, freshman Jerin Donker 49th in 20:28.59 and senior Alexander Frizzell 52nd in 21:01.22.

The TK girls' team had four runners earn medals for finishing in the top 25 and all seven scorers had times that would have been tops among the Kellogg Division runners.

Junior Peyton Hardy paced the TK pack as she has throughout the fall. She was tenth in 21:21.77, her fastest time of the season and a new course record for her too.

Grand Rapids Track Club junior Gianna Chaignot won the Thornapple Division girls' race in 19:05.20. West Michigan Aviation junior Ahna Woltjer was second in 19:58.78. Caledonia junior Akaela Daman continued working towards that 20-minute mark placing third with a personal record time of 20:01.84.

The other TK medalists included junior Alaina McCrumb 18th in 22:21.73, sophomore Amya Gater 19th in 22:30.28 and junior Carmen Reynolds 22nd in 22:39.92.

Senior Madison Kietzman was TK's number five in 22:47.31.

Trojans tally some early PR's at first conference jamboree

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

It was an early speed test for the Trojans Thursday at Riverside Park in Grand Rapids.

The OK Gold Conference opened its 2025 varsity cross country season with a race on what is regularly one of the Grand Rapids area's fastest paths.

A group of six Thornapple Kellogg guys and four girls set personal records on the course along the Grand River on the north side of downtown Grand Rapids. The South Christian girls and boys took victories at the first conference jamboree of the season. The TK girls were second to the Sailors and the TK boys were fourth in the day's team standings.

The South Christian girls were dominant with senior Chloe Rinzema leading the way in 20 minutes 30.22 seconds, freshman Lily VanEyk second in 20:31.25 and sophomore Tiffany DeMaagd third in 20:32.10.

South Christian had the first four girls' across the finish line and the team's top seven all placed among the top ten. Wayland sophomore Abree VanDenBrink and freshman Madison Bumhoffer were the only girls inside the top eight not on the South Christian team. They were fifth and sixth respectively.

Junior Peyton Hardy led the TK girls with a time of 21:29.13 that had her in 12th overall. Senior Madison Kietzman had her fastest race of the fall so far to place 13th in 21:44.14. Sophomore Amya Gater was one of those Trojans setting a PR Thursday. She placed 14th in 21:52.01.

TK junior Alaina McCrumb was 16th overall in 21:54.04 and junior Carmen Reynolds placed 22nd in 22:11.43. Both girls had their best time of the season.

South Christian won the girls' meet with just 17 points. TK was second with 66 points ahead of Wayland 82, West Catholic 103, Northview 110 and Grand Rapids Union 179.

TK freshman Owen Bremer dropped his PR for the third time in three races to start his varsity running career. He placed 13th overall in 18:23.06.

Trojan junior Grady Galaviz improved his PR to 18:38.10 to place 17th.

The Trojan team also got a PR from freshman Parker Robinett who was 215th in 19:38.76 and sophomore Wyatt Richardson who was 26th in 19:39.29. Rounding out the top five for TK was sophomore Garrett Holzhausen 29th in 19:47.11.

There was a bit more diversity in teams among the top runners in the boys' race. South Christian junior ben Verlin led his team to the win with a winning time of 16:41.21. Northview senior Rhys Holmes dropped his PR to 16:44.23 to place second. South Christian senior Thad VanderLaan was third in 16:53.46. They were the only three guys to hit the finish line in less than 17 minutes.

The Sailors won with 34 points ahead of Northview 37, Union 93, Thornapple Kellogg 109, Wayland 136, Wyoming 156 and West Catholic 171.

The Trojan teams run at the Sparta Invitational Saturday, Sept. 13. The OK Gold Conference gets together again Sept. 24 at Wayland.

City of Hastings

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT MODIFICATION AND FINAL SITE PLAN APPROVAL

The Planning Commission for the City of Hastings will hold a Public Hearing for the purpose of hearing written and/or oral comments from the public concerning 420 E Mill Planned Unit Development modification and final site plan approval for certain properties located at 328 East Mill Street parcel #08-55-001-001-02 and 420 East Mill Street parcel # 08-55-001-001-04. The Planning Commission will review and consider 420 E Mill Planned Unit Development modification and final site plan approval for reorientation of multi-family residential buildings, reorientation and increase in size of mixed-use building, and addition of a childcare center in the mixed-use building as a permitted use. The public hearing will be held at **3:00 PM on Friday September 26, 2025, at a special meeting of the Planning Commission** in the City Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall, 201 East State Street, Hastings, Michigan 49058.



A copy of the proposed site plan and map are available for public inspection from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM Monday through Friday at the Office of the Community Development Director, 201 East State Street, Hastings, Michigan 49058. Questions or comments can be directed to Dan King, Community Development Director, at 269.945.2468 or dking@hastingsmi.gov.

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

Linda Perin
City Clerk

RUTLAND CHARTER TOWNSHIP
BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN

NOTICE OF PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING ON SPECIAL LAND USE PERMIT APPLICATION AT OCTOBER 1, 2025 MEETING

TO: THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF RUTLAND, BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN, AND ALL OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE the Rutland Charter Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing at its regular meeting on October 1, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at the Rutland Charter Township Hall located at 2461 Heath Road, within the Charter Township of Rutland, Barry County, Michigan. The items to be considered at this public hearing include the following:

1. The application of Madeline and Jason Jonker for special land use permit approval for a group day care home on the premises commonly known as 5148 Gun Lake Road (parcel no. 08-13-020-008-40) zoned CR Country Residential District. The Planning Commission will consider this application pursuant to §220-5-3.G of the Rutland Charter Township Code, and the special land use approval standards specified in §220-20-3.A. and §220-20-7 Item 6 of the Rutland Charter Township Code, and any other applicable provisions of the Zoning Ordinance.
2. Such other matters as may properly come before the Planning Commission at this meeting; including a site plan for the development specified in the preceding paragraph submitted for review and potential Planning Commission approval at this meeting pursuant to the standards specified in §220-21-5. of the Code.

Written comments concerning the above matters may be mailed to the Rutland Charter Township Clerk at the Rutland Charter Township Hall at any time prior to this public hearing/meeting, and may further be submitted to the Planning Commission at the public hearing/meeting.

The Rutland Charter Township Code, Zoning Map, Master Plan, and the above-referenced special land use application may be examined by contacting the Rutland Charter Township Clerk at the Township Hall during regular business hours on regular business days maintained by the Township offices from and after the publication of this Notice and until and including the day of the hearing/meeting, and further may be examined at the hearing/meeting.

Rutland Charter Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services at the meeting/hearing to individuals with disabilities, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed materials being considered, upon reasonable notice to the Township. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Township Clerk as designated below.

Robin Hawthorne, Clerk
Rutland Charter Township
2461 Heath Road-
Hastings, Michigan 49058
(269) 948-2194



Hastings offensive coordinator Pat Coltson gives a play call to quarterback Mason Tossava during the second half of their home opener against Wiliamston inside Baum Stadium at Johnson Field Friday.



Lakewood junior Brayden Federau (55) comes over to celebrate a tackle with sophomore Logan Batchelder during the first quarter of their non-conference win over visiting Benton Harbor at Unity Field Friday. **Photo by Brett Bremer**



Saxon back Jonah Hamp finds room to run through the middle with Jamison Nickolopoulos trying to bring him down from behind Friday. **Photos by Perry Hardin**

Saxons start 2025 I-8 challenge with visit from Northwest

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Hastings and Thornapple Kellogg have now had heartbreak and heroics in the final seconds. Lakewood got its first victory in a lopsided affair. Delton Kellogg and Maple Valley chase win number one this week.

The Hastings varsity football team won on a last second field goal in Middleville, spoiling the Trojans' home opener. It was the Williamston Hornets' turn to play spoiler last Friday as the Hornets got a touchdown pass in the closing seconds to wipe out a one-point Saxon lead.

Having gone through the ups and downs, the Saxons now turn their attention to the Interstate-8 Athletic Conference season. The Saxons will face a 1-1 Jackson Northwest team on a night that Hastings will honor veterans and first responders – a football tradition athletic director Mike Mohn is implementing from his Delton Kellogg days.

The Saxons are a perfect 9-0 against the Mounties since joining the Interstate-8 Athletic Conference in 2016.

Thornapple Kellogg stymied a Hamilton two-point try in the closing seconds to win by one on the road last Friday and now its off to Wayland Friday for a date with the rival Wildcats. The last three games between the Trojans and Wildcats have been decided by seven points or less.

The Wildcats are no strangers to close contests having lost to Sparta by one last week to even their record at 1-1.

Lakewood opens play in the Capital Area Activities Conference White Division at home against Charlotte Friday. Both teams got their first victory of the season last Friday. The Orioles opened conference play last week with a 48-14 win over Eaton Rapids. Charlotte has dominated its series with the Vikings since Lakewood returned to the CAAC two seasons ago with a couple of lopsided wins.

Delton Kellogg will be chasing win number one as it plays host to Watervliet Friday. The Panthers had a two-score lead get away in the second half at Allegan last week, but showed some improvements in coach Brooks Smith's evolving offensive system. The Panthers will be looking to extend a winning streak against the Watervliet program to four with a win.

The Maple Valley varsity had to face the defending Big 8 Conference champs from Union City in their conference opener last week. Now it is on to a home date with Reading Friday. Both the Lions and Rangers are playing for their first W of the season.

Here is a roundup of last week's local gridiron action ...

Williamston 36, Hastings 29

It was as thrilling as the opener, but it didn't go the Saxons' way this time.

Williamston built a 14-0 lead and then rallied in the closing seconds for a touchdown after the Saxons battled back to take a one-point lead in the second half. Williamston's Kaelb Nielson tossed a 25-yard touchdown pass to Thomas Pratt with seven seconds to go. A two-point run by Eston Thorburn capped off a 36-29 victory for the Hornet varsity football team inside Baum Stadium at Johnson Field in Hastings Friday.

A Saxon fumble and a blocked punt gave the Hornets the early advantage.

"Being down 14-0 in the first quarter, we dug ourselves a hole to get out of. Williamston moved the ball well with some short passes and kept moving the chains," Hastings head coach Jamie Murphy said.

"In the second half, we came out and got a stop and scored. We really had the momentum in the third and fourth quarters. We just left eight seconds too much on the clock when we went up by one point. Williamston moved the ball down the field while taking a few big shots at the end zone. We defended them all well, but their receiver made a great catch with :07 left on the clock."

Williamston led 20-8 at the half.

Jonah Hamp and Tyler Frazer both rushed for two touchdowns for the Saxons. Hamp scored in the second quarter, and tallied his second score of the night in the third quarter as Hastings pulled within 20-16. Frazer scored on a one-yard run early in the fourth quarter as Hastings pulled in front 22-20.

Things were back and forth from there over the final 11 and a half minutes. Williamston went back in front 28-22 with a one-yard TD run by Nielson.

The Saxons answered with a five-yard Frazer TD with a little over a minute and a half to go. Cooper Hokanson booted the extra-point kick following Frazer's TD to move the Saxons into the lead ta 29-28.

Hastings had 319 yards rushing on the night as a team and 20 yards passing. Williamston was a bit more balanced, and mostly as effective. The Hornets had 113 yards on the ground and 184 passing.

Trevin Russell led the Saxon attack with 19 rushes for 160 yards. Hamp, Frazer and Cardale Winebrenner all rushed for at least 50 yards. Saxon quarterback Mason Tossava was 1-for-4 passing for 20 yards and one interception.

Nielson closed his evening 9-of-19 passing for 148 yards and three touchdowns. Joseph Smith was the Hornets' top ground gainer with 12 carries for 42 yards. Pratt had two catches for 88 yards and two TDs in the game. Miles Keener and Hunter VanSickler caught touchdown passes for the Hornets in the first half.

Spencer Wilkins and Grady Reed had five tackles each for the Saxons. Tyce Richardson and Trapper Reigler had four apiece.

Allegan 27, Delton Kellogg 22

Delton Kellogg led for most of the first 43 and a half minutes Friday night at Allegan High School, but there were just enough little miscues throughout the night that it left room for the Tigers to rally from a two-score deficit in the final five minutes.

Allegan quarterback Landen Geddes connected with Bradyn Kosiorowski on a 72-yard touchdown pass deep down the left sideline, on the home side of the field, to get the Tigers within 22-20. The Allegan defense got a stop to get the ball back for the offense on the Delton side of the 50-yard-line. The Tigers got the go-ahead score in the closing seconds on a two-yard touchdown run by Zak Smith. Myles Jackson followed the final three Allegan touchdowns of the evening with extra-point kicks.

"Guys played with great effort, but execution was lacking at times. Offensively, we need to do a better job of understanding where we are supposed to be going (blocking) and why and how we do it," DK head coach Brooks Smith said. "Ultimately, I need to communicate that better to our kids. We had some self inflicted wounds on offense that hurt us in both halves, and some penalties that we should have avoided that hurt us in each phase of the game.

"Defensively we played pretty well all night, but had a couple breakdowns here and there. All of those things lead to the outcome we got. Two score lead with 4:30 to play is a rough loss to take, but we will move on and try to get better outcomes."

The Panthers hit the first big pass of the night and took a 6-0 lead in the first quarter. Quarterback Tucker Tack found Elijah Offringa wide open behind the defense deep down the left side of the field for a 66-yard touchdown pass. Offringa waited for the pass to fall out of the sky and then turned and sprinted the final 40 yards to the end zone.

The Delton Kellogg lead eventually got to 15-0, with the offense, special teams and the defense all making big plays. Mitchell Swift and Mason Ferris busted through the line to block a Tiger punt on the final play of the first quarter, the Allegan defense held, but the Tiger offense was backed up when the Panthers turned the ball back over to the home team.

A holding penalty pushed the Tigers back further, and on a third down snap inside the Tiger 5-yard-line the Delton Kellogg defense sent the house. A seven man rush allowed Griffyn Harmon to burst through the line virtually untouched to record a tackle for a safety that extended the DK lead to 8-0.

Delton Kellogg bumped its lead to 15-0 on the first drive of the second half. Offringa took a pitch around the right side six yards for a touchdown and Gabe Smoczynski tacked on the extra-point for a 15-0 DK lead.

Jackson scored on a six-yard run to get the Tigers within 15-6 there in the third quarter, and then a botched snap on a punt attempt by DK allowed the Tigers to start again in DK territory. This time the Tigers ended a drive with a one-yard TD dive. A successful extra-point had Allegan within 15-13.

The Panthers answered with a 52-yard td run by Tack. Easton Reynolds and Offringa sealed the edge on the run around the left side from near midfield and Menden Phillips had a solid block down field. The Smoczyski extra-point bumped DK's lead back to 22-13.

It was a short-lived advantage as Allegan got within 22-20 with the long TD pass from Geddes on the first play of its next drive.

"We took some big steps on offense, we ran things better," coach Smith said. "Tucker our QB is getting better and better at running an option based offense, but still has lots of room to continue to improve. He had a really good night. Our slots played well. We blocked ok, need to take steps up front to improve.

"We tackled much better on defense, but have more growing we need to continue to do as far as communications and responsibility to their job."

Tack was 7-of-13 passing for the night for 158 yards. Harmon had 38 yards rushing and Ferris 34 in the ballgame for the

See **CHALLENGE** on 14

PRAIRIEVILLE TOWNSHIP ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

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

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing will be held on October 1, 2025 commencing at 7:00 p.m. at the Prairieville Township Hall, 10115 S. Norris Rd., Delton MI, 49046 within the Township, as required under the provisions of the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act and the Zoning Ordinance for the Township.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that, in addition to participation during the public hearing, members of the public may also provide comments for the Zoning Board of Appeal's consideration by emailing or mailing those comments to the Zoning Board of Appeal's for receipt prior to the meeting, in care of the Township Zoning Administrator, Mark Thompson (mthompson@pcimi.com) or by leaving a phone message prior to the meeting with the Township Zoning Administrator, Mark Thompson at 269-948-4088.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the item(s) to be considered at said public hearing includes, in brief, the following:

1. An appeal filed by David and Carol Mitchell,13500 Burchette Rd. Plainwell MI 49080, challenging the Zoning Administrator's administrative decision to approve a land division on property opposite theirs, based on interpretation of the definition of 'road frontage' as applied to the proposed lot configuration. The subject property is located near 13525 Burchette Rd. PPN# 08-12-020-017-00 and is zoned A – Agricultural. This appeal is being reviewed pursuant to Article VI, 'Zoning Board of Appeals' of the Prairieville Township Zoning Ordinance.
2. Such other business as may properly come before the Zoning Board of Appeals.

All interested persons are invited to be present at the aforesaid time and place, or, if an electronic meeting is held, to participate via the electronic meeting.

Prairieville Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services to individuals with disabilities at the hearing upon four (4) days' prior notice to the Township Clerk. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Township Clerk at the address or telephone number listed below.

PRAIRIEVILLE TOWNSHIP ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
By: Dale Grimes, Chairperson
Prairieville Township Hall
10115 S. Norris Rd.
Delton, Michigan 49046
(269) 623-2064

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HOPE TOWNSHIP
BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN

NOTICE OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENT PUBLIC HEARING
CLOVERDALE, WILKINSON AND JONES (MUD) LAKES AQUATIC PLANT CONTROL SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT 2025-2

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

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Township Board of Hope Township, as authorized by PA 188 of 1954, as amended, proposes to undertake an aquatic plant control project (with associated activities) on Cloverdale, Wilkinson and Jones (Mud) Lakes in Hope Township as more particularly described below and to re-establish and continue a special assessment district for the recovery of the costs thereof by special assessment against the properties benefited. The proposed special assessment district will replace the existing special assessment district which district expired in 2024.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the special assessment district within which the foregoing improvements are proposed to be made and within which the costs thereof are to be specially assessed includes parcels with frontage on Cloverdale, Wilkinson and/or Jones (Mud) Lakes and/or back lots with access to Cloverdale, Wilkinson and/or Jones (Mud) Lakes and including the following tax parcels:

CLOVERDALE, WILKINSON AND JONES (MUD) LAKES AQUATIC PLANT CONTROL SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DIST. 2025-2:
The properties indicated by parcel numbers:

07-019-412-10	07-030-011-00	07-150-015-00	07-260-004-10	07-300-023-00	07-310-016-00	07-310-141-00
07-020-002-00	07-030-012-00	07-150-017-00	07-260-005-00	07-300-023-42	07-310-018-00	07-310-144-00
07-020-017-00	07-030-013-00	07-150-017-10	07-260-006-00	07-300-024-00	07-310-019-00	07-310-145-00
07-020-018-00	07-030-014-00	07-150-018-00	07-260-007-00	07-300-025-00	07-310-020-00	07-310-147-00
07-020-040-00	07-030-016-00	07-230-001-00	07-260-008-00	07-300-026-00	07-310-021-00	07-310-149-00
07-020-044-00	07-030-402-06	07-230-002-00	07-260-009-00	07-300-030-00	07-310-022-00	07-310-150-00
07-020-045-00	07-030-448-21	07-230-003-00	07-260-010-00	07-300-033-00	07-310-074-00	07-310-411-54
07-020-046-10	07-031-008-00	07-230-004-00	07-260-011-00	07-300-045-00	07-310-076-00	07-310-450-50
07-020-046-20	07-031-011-11	07-230-006-00	07-260-012-00	07-300-049-00	07-310-079-00	07-315-004-00
07-020-046-30	07-031-011-12	07-230-007-00	07-260-013-00	07-300-051-00	07-310-082-00	07-315-005-00
07-020-046-50	07-031-011-20	07-230-008-00	07-260-014-00	07-300-053-00	07-310-083-00	07-315-007-00
07-020-047-00	07-031-011-30	07-230-009-00	07-300-001-01	07-300-058-00	07-310-087-00	07-315-151-00
07-031-011-50	07-230-010-00	07-300-004-00	07-300-062-00	07-310-088-00	07-315-152-00	
07-029-017-10	07-031-014-00	07-230-011-00	07-300-005-00	07-300-065-00	07-310-089-00	07-315-153-00
07-029-021-00	07-031-020-00	07-230-012-00	07-300-006-00	07-300-066-00	07-310-091-00	07-315-156-00
07-029-023-00	07-140-007-00	07-230-013-00	07-300-007-00	07-300-080-00	07-310-093-00	07-315-158-00
07-029-027-00	07-140-008-00	07-230-014-00	07-300-008-00	07-300-160-00	07-310-109-00	07-315-160-00
07-029-226-00	07-140-010-00	07-230-016-00	07-300-008-10	07-300-402-00	07-310-110-00	07-315-161-00
07-030-001-40	07-150-001-00	07-230-017-00	07-300-008-20	07-310-003-00	07-310-111-50	07-315-162-00
07-030-001-50	07-150-002-00	07-230-018-00	07-300-009-00	07-310-003-10	07-310-111-56	07-315-164-50
07-030-002-09	07-150-003-00	07-230-019-00	07-300-010-00	07-310-004-00	07-310-123-00	07-315-166-00
07-030-002-50	07-150-004-00	07-230-020-00	07-300-011-00	07-310-005-00	07-310-125-00	07-315-167-00
07-030-002-81	07-150-005-00	07-230-021-00	07-300-012-00	07-310-007-00	07-310-127-00	07-315-168-00
07-030-003-00	07-150-006-00	07-230-022-00	07-300-013-00	07-310-008-00	07-310-128-00	07-315-169-00
07-030-004-00	07-150-007-00	07-230-023-00	07-300-014-00	07-310-009-00	07-310-130-00	07-315-171-00
07-030-005-00	07-150-008-00	07-230-024-00	07-300-015-00	07-310-011-00	07-310-132-00	07-315-172-10
07-030-005-05	07-150-009-00	07-230-025-00	07-300-018-00	07-310-011-10	07-310-133-00	07-315-175-00
07-030-007-00	07-150-010-00	07-230-027-00	07-300-019-00	07-310-012-00	07-310-134-00	07-315-176-00
07-030-008-00	07-150-011-00	07-230-028-00	07-300-020-00	07-310-013-00	07-310-136-00	07-315-178-00
07-030-009-00	07-150-013-00	07-230-032-05	07-300-020-25	07-310-014-00	07-310-138-00	07-315-180-00
07-030-010-00	07-150-014-00	07-260-001-00	07-300-022-00	07-310-015-00	07-310-140-00	07-315-180-20
07-315-181-00	07-315-182-00	07-315-184-00	07-315-185-00	07-315-186-00		

See also the accompanying map identifying the proposed special assessment district.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township Board has received plans showing the proposed aquatic plant control project, associated activities, any proposed improvements and locations thereof, together with an estimate of the cost of the project in the amount of $334,000. The cost of the project proposed to be raised by special assessment is the total project cost. The Hope Township Board has passed a resolution tentatively declaring its intention to undertake such project and to create the afore-described special assessment district.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township Board has placed the project plans and costs estimates on file with the Township Clerk and said plans, cost estimates and special assessment districts may be examined at the Clerk's office from the date of this Notice to the date of the public hearing and may further be examined at such public hearing.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that a public hearing on the plans, district, cost estimates and the carryover of surplus funds from the expiring special assessment district will be held on September 23, 2025 beginning at 6:30 p.m at Hope Township hall; 5463 S M-43 Hwy Hastings MI 49058. Interested parties may also send comments to the Township Clerk up to 12 noon on the day of the public hearing at clerk@hopetwp.com.

At the public hearing, the Board will consider any written objections and comments to any of the foregoing matters that are filed with the clerk at or before the hearing (by 12 noon on the day of the hearing) and any objections or comments raised at the hearing; following the hearing (or any adjournment of the hearing which may be made without further notice), the Township Board may revise, correct, amend or change the plans, cost estimates or special assessment district.



PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that if written objections to the project are filed with the Township Board at or before the hearing, signed by the record owners of land constituting more than 20% of the area within the proposed special assessment district, then the Township Board may not proceed unless petitions in support of the project, signed by record owners of more than 50% of the area to be made into a special assessment district, are filed with the township board. Written comments or objections may be filed with the Township clerk at the address set out below.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that appearance and protest at the public hearing is required in order to appeal the amount of the special assessment to the State Tax Tribunal within 30 days after the special assessment roll is confirmed. An owner or party in interest, or his/her agent, may appear via Zoom platform at the hearing to protest the special assessment, or shall be permitted to file at or before the hearing (by 12 noon on the day of the hearing) his/her appearance or protest by letter and his/her personal appearance shall not be required. All interested persons or representatives are invited to attend via Zoom platform and to submit comments concerning the reestablishment of the special assessment district, the plans, cost estimates or the carryover of surplus funds.

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

Hope Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services at the hearing, to individuals with disabilities at the hearing upon seven (7) days' notice to the Township Clerk at the address below.

Deborah Jackson
Hope Township Clerk
5463 S. M-43 Highway
Hastings, MI 49058
(269) 948-2464
clerk@hopetwp.com

HOPE TOWNSHIP
BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN

NOTICE OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENT PUBLIC HEARING
WALL LAKE AQUATIC PLANT CONTROL SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT 2025-1

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

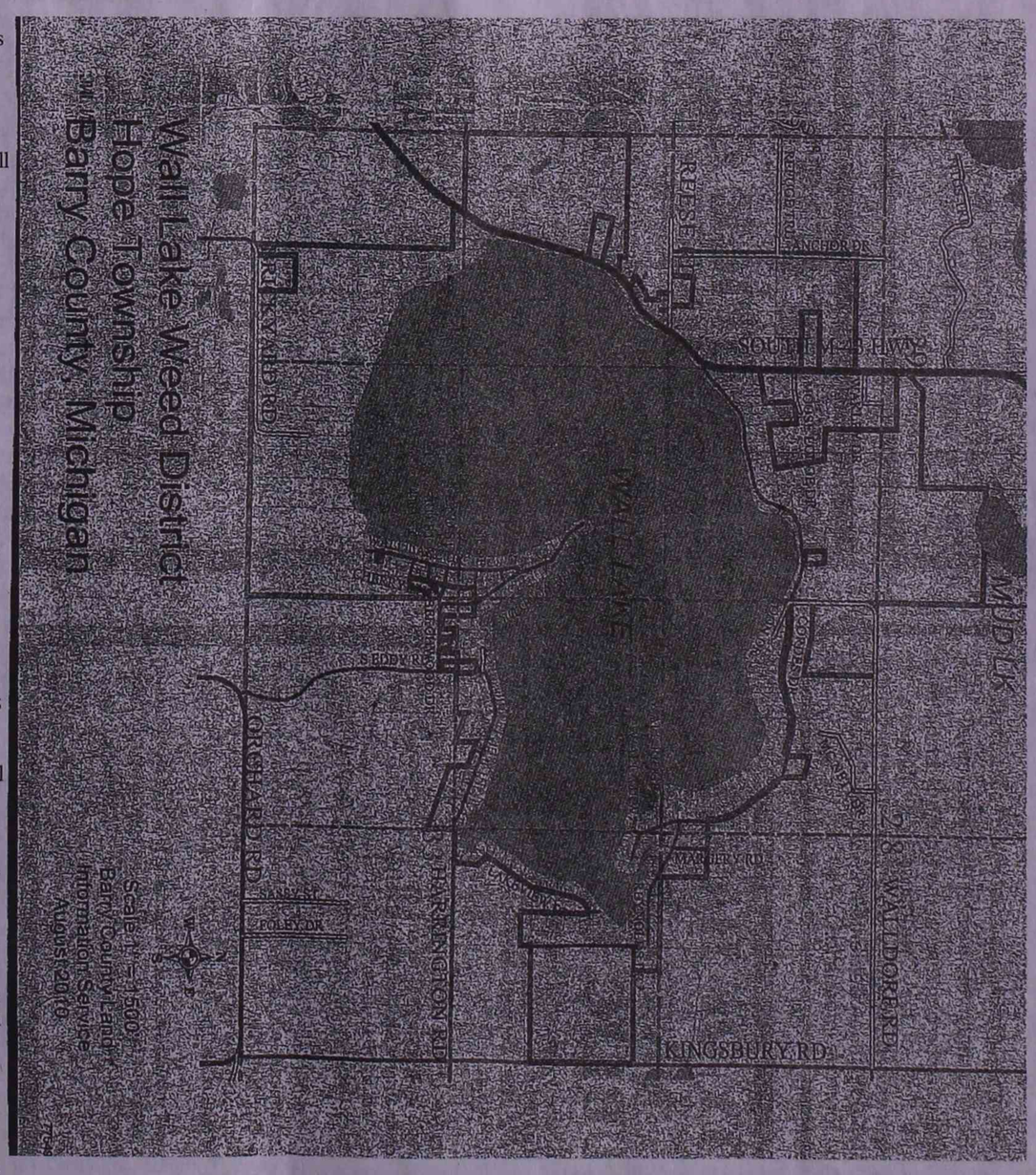
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Township Board of Hope Township, as authorized by PA 188 of 1954, as amended, proposes to undertake an aquatic plant control project (with associated activities) on Wall Lake in Hope Township as more particularly described below and to re-establish and continue a special assessment district for the recovery of the costs thereof by special assessment against the properties benefited. The proposed special assessment district will replace the existing special assessment district which district expired in 2024.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the special assessment district within which the foregoing improvements are proposed to be made and within which the costs thereof are to be specially assessed includes parcels with frontage on Wall Lake and/or back lots with access to Wall Lake and including the following tax parcels:

WALL LAKE AQUATIC PLANT CONTROL SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT 2025-1: The properties indicated by parcel numbers:
07:

028-011-00	029-001-00	029-003-00	029-005-00	029-005-50	029-006-00	029-008-00
029-009-00	029-010-00	029-011-00	029-011-10	029-012-00	029-014-00	029-014-50
029-014-60	029-014-70	029-015-50	029-016-00	029-016-10	029-022-15	029-022-25
029-022-30	029-022-35	029-022-55	029-022-60	029-022-70	029-022-75	029-022-80
029-322-56	029-322-57	029-407-00	032-001-00	032-001-10	032-005-00	032-005-20
032-006-00	032-007-00	032-009-00	032-010-00	032-011-00	032-012-00	032-016-00
032-017-00	032-019-00	032-021-00	032-023-00	032-025-00	032-026-00	032-027-00
032-028-00						
032-030-00	032-030-50	032-031-00	032-213-00	032-214-00	032-224-00	033-001-00
033-001-50	033-002-00	033-018-00	033-020-00	033-022-00	033-022-10	060-001-00
060-002-00	060-003-00	060-005-00	060-006-00	060-007-00	060-008-00	060-009-00
060-010-00	060-011-00	060-012-00	060-013-00	060-014-00	060-015-00	060-016-00
060-017-00	060-018-00	060-019-00	060-020-00	060-021-00	060-022-00	060-023-00
060-024-00	060-025-00	060-026-00	060-027-00	110-001-00	110-002-00	110-003-00
110-004-00	110-005-00	110-007-00	110-008-00	110-009-00	110-009-50	110-010-00
110-011-00	110-012-00	110-013-00	110-014-00	110-015-00	110-015-50	110-016-00
110-018-00	110-019-00	110-020-00	110-021-00	110-021-50	110-022-00	110-023-00
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110-030-00	110-031-00	120-001-00	120-002-00	120-003-00	120-004-00	120-004-50
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250-013-00	250-014-00	250-015-00	250-016-00	250-017-00	250-018-00	250-019-00
250-020-00	250-022-00	250-024-00	250-025-00	250-026-00	250-027-00	250-028-00
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360-033-00	360-039-00	360-041-00	360-042-00	360-043-00	360-044-00	360-045-00
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360-067-00	360-068-00	360-069-00	360-070-00	360-071-00	360-072-00	360-336-00
360-338-00						

See also the accompanying map identifying the proposed special assessment district.



PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township Board has received plans showing the proposed aquatic plant control project, associated activities, any proposed improvements and locations thereof, together with an estimate of the cost of the project in the amount of $155,500. The cost of the project proposed to be raised by special assessment is the total project cost, less any costs that will be off-set by carryover of surplus funds from the expiring special assessment district. The Hope Township Board has passed a resolution tentatively declaring its intention to undertake such project and to create the afore-described special assessment district.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township Board has placed the project plans and costs estimates on file with the Township Clerk and said plans, cost estimates and special assessment districts may be examined at the Clerk's office from the date of this Notice to the date of the public hearing and may further be examined at such public hearing.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that a public hearing on the plans, district, cost estimates and the carryover of surplus funds from the expiring special assessment district will be held on September 23, 2025 beginning at 6:30 p.m at Hope Township Hall; 5463 S M-43 Hwy Hastings MI 49058.

At the public hearing, the Board will consider any written objections and comments to any of the foregoing matters that are filed with the clerk at or before the hearing (by 12 noon on the day of the hearing) and any objections or comments raised at the hearing; following the hearing (or any adjournment of the hearing which may be made without further notice), the Township Board may revise, correct, amend or change the plans, cost estimates or special assessment district.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that if written objections to the project are filed with the Township Board at or before the hearing, signed by the record owners of land constituting more than 20% of the area within the proposed special assessment district, then the Township Board may not proceed unless petitions in support of the project, signed by record owners of more than 50% of the area to be made into a special assessment district, are filed with the township board. Written comments or objections may be filed with the Township clerk at the address set out below.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that appearance and protest at the public hearing is required in order to appeal the amount of the special assessment to the State Tax Tribunal within 30 days after the special assessment roll is confirmed. An owner or party in interest, or his/her agent, may appear at the hearing to protest the special assessment, or shall be permitted to file at or before the hearing (by 12 noon on the day of the hearing) his/her appearance or protest by letter and his/her personal appearance shall not be required. All interested persons or representatives are invited to attend and to submit comments concerning the re-establishment of the special assessment district, the plans, cost estimates or the carryover of surplus funds.

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

Hope Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services at the hearing, to individuals with disabilities at the hearing upon seven (7) days notice to the Township Clerk at the address below.

Deborah Jackson
Hope Township Clerk
5463 S. M-43 Highway
Hastings, MI 49058
(269) 948-2464
hopetwpcl@mei.net

Panthers put down SAC foe Watervliet in three sets

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Delton Kellogg varsity volleyball team took a 3-0 win in a Southwestern Athletic Conference crossover with visiting Watervliet Tuesday.

The Panthers won by the scores of 25-15, 25-18, 25-14.

DK head coach Erin Thornton said Claire Barker's attacks stole the show Tuesday.

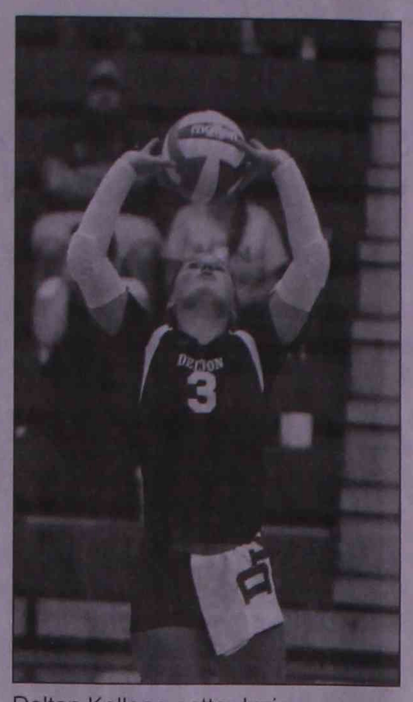
"She's done a lot of work to get herself as a top hitter, and it really showed tonight," Thornton said.

The DK coach said that Jalin Lyons' had a good came at the libero position and strong serves from Sophie Ferris helped put her team on top a few times.

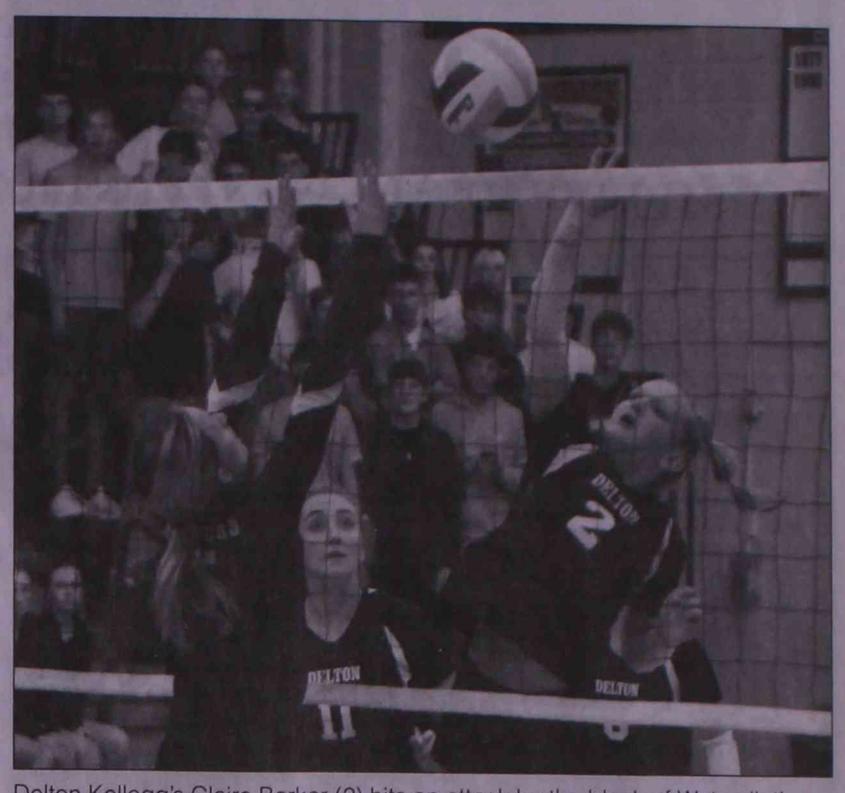
"[Lyons] really didn't let much drop, and it was nice to see her in her element," Thornton said.

The Panthers open SAC Central play Tuesday at home against Martin and then will be home for another tough SAC crossover with Schoolcraft Sept. 18.

"We still have work to do on getting our blocks set, and the deep balls are always iffy, but we've come a long way already since day one this year," Thornton said. "The girls are really enjoying themselves out there and working together. It just feels good so far, hoping to get a trend going in the SAC."



Delton Kellogg setter Izzie Wendland puts a pass up during her team's win over visiting Watervliet in a SAC crossover Tuesday at Delton Kellogg High School. **Photos by Perry Hardin**



Delton Kellogg's Claire Barker (2) hits an attack by the block of Watervliet's Kelsie Gaston (5) as her Panther teammate Sophia Ferris (11) prepares for a ball coming back her way Tuesday.

DK/HHS girls beat Fremont, swim well at Otsego too

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Delton Kellogg/Hastings girls kept improving personal records Tuesday as they took on Otsego on the road.

The Bulldogs scored a 105-74 victory on the evening.

The DK/Hastings team opened the competition with the team of Lilly Randall, Kassidy Peake, Annabelle Kuck and Aubrey Yarger winning the 200-yard medley relay in a time of 2 minutes 20.03 seconds.

Yarger, the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 3 state champion diver, won the diving competition with an overall score of 217.45 points, getting some good competition from Otsego senior Millie Shattuck who turned in a score of 194.50.

Randall won the 100-yard freestyle in 1:03.28 and the 100-yard backstroke in 1:13.33.

Kuck added a winning time of 1:11.39 for her team in the 100-yard butterfly.

Peake was the runner-up in the 100-yard breaststroke, Petra Foster was second in the 500-yard freestyle and Kuck had a runner-up time in the 200-yard individual medley.

It was a strong performance on the heels of a win as the DK/Hastings girls took a 92-80 victory over visiting Fremont Sept. 4.

Randall and Foster had two individual wins each in that one. Randall won the 100 backstroke in 1:12.73 and the 100 freestyle in 1:02.96. Foster was the 500 freestyle champ in 6:46.71 and she won the 200-yard freestyle in 2:26.86.

The DK/Hastings girls won each of the first two relays on the night. Randall, Peake, Kuck and Yarger won the 200-yard medley relay in 2:17.88 and the team of Yarger, Randall, Peake and Foster won the 200-yard freestyle relay in 2:03.93.

Kuck took a victory in the 200-yard individual medley too in 2:57.33.

Yarger was the diving champ with a score of 254.80 and teammates Jillian Brandli and Kuck placed second and third in the event. Shiloh Crandall added a winning time of 1:59.50 in the 100-yard butterfly for DK/Hastings.

The DK/Hastings girls are on the road tonight, Sept. 11, to take on Ionia.

FOOTBALL

LOCAL STANDINGS	W	L	PLAYOFF POINTS
Hastings	1	1	30
Thornapple Kellogg	1	1	22.5
Lakewood	1	1	20
Delton Kellogg	0	2	1.5
Maple Valley	0	2	1.5

INTERSTATE-8 ATHLETIC CONFERENCE	W	L	CONFERENCE WINS	CONFERENCE LOSSES
Coldwater	2	0	0	0
Harper Creek	1	1	0	0
Hastings	1	1	0	0
Jackson Northwest	1	1	0	0
Marshall	1	1	0	0
Parma Western	1	1	0	0
Pennfield	1	1	0	0

OK Black	W	L	CONFERENCE Wins	CONFERENCE Losses
Grand Rapids Catholic Central	2	0	0	0
Holland Christian	2	0	0	0
Northview	2	0	0	0
East Grand Rapids	1	1	0	0
Thornapple Kellogg	1	1	0	0
Ottawa Hills	0	2	0	0

BIG 8 CONFERENCE	W	L	CONFERENCE WINS	CONFERENCE LOSSES
Quincy	2	0	1	0
Springport	2	0	1	0
Union City	2	0	1	0
Stockbridge	0	2	0	0
Maple Valley	0	2	0	1
Reading	0	2	0	1
Sand Creek	0	2	0	1

CAPITAL AREA ACTIVITIES CONFERENCE WHITE	W	L	CONFERENCE WINS	CONFERENCE LOSSES
Olivet	2	0	1	0
Portland	2	0	1	0
Charlotte	1	1	1	0
Lakewood	1	1	0	0
Ionia	0	2	0	0
Lansing Catholic	0	2	0	1
Lansing Sexton	0	2	0	1
Eaton Rapids	0	2	0	1

SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE VALLEY	W	L	CONFERENCE WINS	CONFERENCE LOSSES
Coloma	1	1	0	0
Galesburg-Augusta	1	1	0	0
Lawton	1	1	0	0
Saugatuck	1	1	0	0
Schoolcraft	1	1	0	0
Delton Kellogg	0	2	0	0

CHALLENGE

Continued from Page 11

Panthers. Offringa closed the night with four receptions for 87 yards. Keegan Hill chipped in two catches for 40 yards and Phillips had a 31-yard reception.

Thornapple Kellogg 28, Hamilton 27

The Trojans didn't have to suffer heartbreak two weeks in a row.

Hamilton scored a touchdown to pull within one point of the visiting Thornapple Kellogg varsity football team Friday. The Trojans lost by one on a field goal as time expired in the season opener against Hastings in week one, and the Hawkeyes lined-up for a two-point conversion trying to put TK down by one at the end of week two. The TK defense held, and the Trojans came away with a 28-27 victory.

A couple of turnovers early in the second half helped Hamilton wipe out what had been at 14-7 TK lead. The Trojans trailed 21-14 before their defense really started to lock down on the Hawkeyes in the second half. TK took a 22-21 lead late in the third quarter.

With about two minutes to go in the game, TK quarterback Micah Dock found space around the left side for a nine-yard touchdown run that extended a TK lead from one to seven. Zach Edlridge, Debo Robinson and Lucas Ploeg cleared out most of the right side of the Hamilton defense, and Dock dodged a tackle at the six and headed into the end zone.

Lakewood 56, Benton Harbor 6

For the second week in a row the Vikings scored the first touchdown.

This time, they just kept scoring them.

The Lakewood varsity football team earned its first victory of the 2025 season outscoring Benton Harbor 56-6 at Unity Field Friday.

Carter Stewart scored that first touchdown of the night for the Vikings, on an 11-yard run three and a half minutes into the ballgame.

Quarterback Max Thrun rushed for a 20-yard score and threw touchdown passes to Bryer Poll and Brady Makley. Michael Goodemoot scored on a five-yard run and returned the second half kick-off 65 yards for a touchdown. The Vikings also got a one-yard TD run from Mason Livermore.

Stewart added a second TD run, from five yards out, late in the first half.

Senior kicker Lucas Steward was a perfect 8-for-8 on extra point kicks.

All that scoring started with an improved performance by the Viking offensive line.

"Finishing off drives, putting points on the board, block correctly. We corrected a number of mistakes and ran hard. As a team, they struggled. They have some individual kids that made us work, and we need that. And we needed a win," Lakewood head coach Tim Swore said.

"As we build this program, one of the things we have to work hard at is overcoming adversity. We just have not been very good at that. That is one of the biggest things that makes a difference in high school football."

Sophomore tackle Conner Lehman stepped into the role of center during Friday's contest with junior teammate Clayton Goethals dealing with a big of an injury. The Vikings rotated through a number of linemen on the night to get reps. Swore was pretty pleased with everyone's improvements up front.

"Part of it is getting your head up field. Getting a proper angle and getting your head up field if you're trap blocking," Swore said. "Stepping with the correct foot and getting your head and shoulder in the right spot when you're running straight ahead. And our pass blocking was much better this week."

The Lakewood defense was stellar too. The visiting Tigers didn't score until Lakewood reserves filled the field in the closing minutes

"Everybody got in the game, so when they come to practice they know there is a payoff to that hard work. We got a win. We just have to refocus and get ready for league play against Charlotte.

Benton Harbor got its only points on a late TD run by quarterback Damonee McBride.

The Tigers really had trouble bringing down Stewart throughout the ballgame. Benton Harbor's defense also struggled to avoid jumping offside at Thrun's hard count throughout the evening.

Union City 36, Maple Valley 7

The Maple Valley varsity football team fell 36-7 to the defensing Big 8 Conference champions from Unity City at Maple Valley High School Friday.

The Chargers jumped out to a 16-0 lead int eh first quarter with a six-yard touchdown run by Trey McDonald and a 40-yard interception return for a score by Braxton Miller.

It was a big night for Miller. He was a part of four touchdowns in the ballgame. He scored on two short touchdown runs and then tossed a 13-yard TD pass to teammate Kenny Case. Miller was 3-of-4 passing on the night for 45 yards.

Case powered the Chargers' attack with 15 rushes for 94 yards. Trey MacDonald added 15 carries for 52 yards and Dalton Hawk had ten rushes for 46 yards.

The interception return for a TD was on one of three Lion turnovers. Liam Payne also intercepted a pass and recovered a fumble for Union City.

"The miscues early played a factor," Maple Valley head coach Mitchell McClintock said. "I was happy how our guys responded at half time and we achieved our second half goal of blocking and tackling, along with staying clean after the whistle."

The Lions got their points on a 33-yard touchdown pass from Eli Wright to Teegen McDonald and an extra-point kick from Kelvin Davis.

The Maple Valley offense had just 83 yards on the night, to 243 for the Chargers.

Wright was 2-of-4 passing for 31 yards. Darren Carpenter was 2-of-9 passing for seven yards and he was intercepted twice.

On the ground, Dayton Hillard had a team-high nine rushes for 29 yards for Maple Valley.

Kaiden Meyers led the Lion defense with 11 tackles. Noah Lucas had six tackles and Hillard and Tyrese Robinson had five tackles each.

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