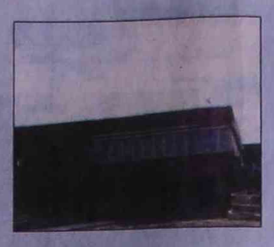


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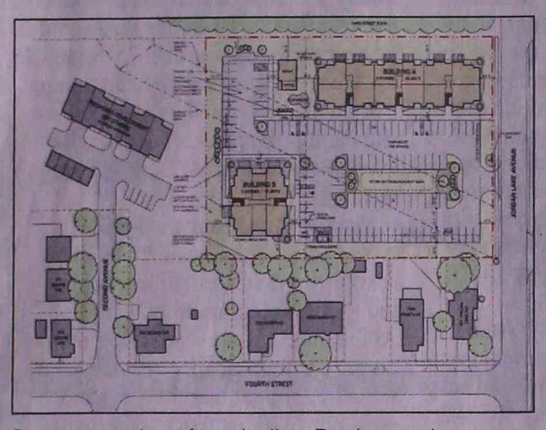
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Lake Odessa seeks to move forward with housing proposal



Representatives from Indigo Design and CopperRock Construction shared preliminary site plans for a proposed housing complex in Lake Odessa at Tuesday's Lake Odessa Planning Commission meeting. **Courtesy image**

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

A proposed housing development for the Village of Lake Odessa seemingly cleared a key hurdle Tuesday night.

Members of the Lake Odessa Planning Commission reached a consensus at a meeting Sept. 16 to consider changes to the village's zoning ordinance, possibly paving the way for construction of a 54-unit apartment complex on the site of a former football field located off Jordan Lake Avenue.

The Planning Commission held a public hearing at Tuesday's meeting regarding proposed zoning ordinance changes requested by the project's developers, Indigo Design and CopperRock Construction, both based out of Grand Rapids. The changes included allowing for a higher density per acre, variances to the number of proposed parking spaces within the development and permitting the construction of the three-story apartment buildings that would be taller than currently allowed.

Interim Village Manager Gregg Guetschow said the public hearing might have been somewhat premature, as village officials were not yet ready with any language to amend the zoning ordinance, as requested. He added, however, Tuesday's meeting provided the Planning Commission with an opportunity to hear from the public on the proposed development.

"That might lead to an ordinance amendment later on," Guetschow said. "(But) there is no amendment that will be considered tonight."

At least two local residents took the opportunity to address the Planning Commission, with Marsha Stadel stating the project raised a number of concerns, including its potential impact on area schools, fire services and parking, as well as vehicular and pedestrian traffic in the area.

See **PROPOSAL** on 3



The Thornapple Kellogg High School marching band performs during a kickoff event for the Barry County United Way's fundraising campaign and Day of Caring event. **Photos by Jayson Bussa**

United Way launches annual fundraising campaign; Volunteers swarm to local projects

Jayson Bussa
Contributing Writer

The Barry County United Way and Volunteer Center had plenty to celebrate during its annual campaign kickoff event last week.

Despite the heaviness that accompanies each passing Sept. 11, the United Way held the event at the Barry Expo Center. While taking time to honor the country and remember that fateful day in history, the nonprofit also celebrated the launch of both its annual fundraising campaign and its Day of Caring initiative.

Supporters packed the grandstands at the Barry County Fairgrounds that morning, with the Thornapple Kellogg High School marching band providing the soundtrack, as the community prepared for the tasks ahead.

The Barry County United Way and Volunteer Center holds its fundraising campaign each year, ending in spring, with 100% of the money collected going directly to services provided on its own behalf and its partner agencies. All funds go to work in Barry County.

Donations come from both individual donors and corporate sponsors. Each year, the United Way raises its

See **FUNDRAISING** on 4

Local superintendents travel to Lansing as state budget deadline looms

Molly Macleod
Editor

Area superintendents joined other district leaders from across the state last week, traveling to Lansing to urge lawmakers to pass a budget before the Sept. 30 deadline. Should the legislature fail to pass a budget by that deadline, the state would enter a partial government shutdown.

Hastings Area School System Superintendent Dr. Nick Damico, Delton Kellogg Schools Superintendent Dr. Jeremy Wright and Barry Intermediate School District Superintendent Rich Franklin joined other superintendents in Lansing last week. The lack of budget leaves districts in limbo, not knowing how much funding they will receive from the state.

"I had the opportunity this last week to go to Lansing with superintendents across the state of Michigan. We were there for one reason: to ask for the House and Senate to get together to pass a budget," said Damico at Monday, Sept. 15's HASS Board of Education meeting. "The House and Senate are very far apart on their proposals. Our hope is that they pass a budget."

According to state law, the legislature is required to approve a K-12 school funding budget by July 1 of each year. This allows school districts to plan for the year ahead with certainty.

In addition to traveling to Lansing last week, the three superinten-

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LIFE EMS TAKES OVER AMBULANCE SERVICE IN BARRY COUNTY
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Village OKs ad-hoc committee before restarting manager search

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

Before starting yet another hiring search for a full-time manager, members of the Lake Odessa Village Council at their regular meeting Monday, Sept. 15, approved the formation of an ad-hoc committee to create a new job posting.

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

The council has conducted three hiring searches since then, without achieving a successful hire. During the most recent search this summer, three different finalists – including two current village employees – withdrew their names from consideration after receiving job offers.

"What we need to do is put our heads together and come up with our next step," said Village President Karen Banks in opening discussions on the issue Monday night.

Interim Village Manager Gregg Guetschow added that he's received communications from at least two previous applicants expressing their continued interest in the vacancy.

Trustee Ben DeJong said he wondered if the council should repost the manager's position or deputy manager's post, in which the individual would serve under Guetschow and receive additional training before being considered for promotion, or possibly both.

"It's a wider net," DeJong said, adding that the village might be excluding some potential applicants by posting just one of the positions.

But, Trustee Martha Yoder said that posting both might create a hiring search that would be "hard to manage."

Another challenge, according to Guetschow, is the same one that the council has faced since parting ways with Geiger.

"The pool of candidates out there has not gotten any better," he said. "We've had this issue since the first time you went through this.

"Part of what you've experienced is you're being very selective."

While the council has been "doing the right thing," Guetschow added Lake Odessa is posting its vacancy with a lower starting salary compared to other similar communities.

"That's something we should talk about," Banks said.

When asked whether he knew of any colleagues who'd be interested in coming to Lake Odessa, Guetschow said contacting other retired managers would probably prove to be fruitless.

"They've had enough. They don't want to do it anymore," he said. "I'd like to have better solutions for you, but I don't."

That led council members back to reposting the vacancy, with Trustee Roy Halfmann and Yoder suggesting re-establishing an ad-hoc committee to come up with a "dual approach" and possibly melding both previous job postings for manager and deputy manager into one.

"We'll aim to have something for our next meeting (Oct. 20)," Banks said.

But, before starting yet another search, village resident Terri Catt urged the council to save time by considering previous applicants. She also suggested the council not be so focused on whether a particular candidate fits in with current staff.

"Maybe we need somebody who doesn't fit," Catt said. "Maybe we need someone with new ideas."

DID YOU SEE?



ROAD RAGER

If you were stuck in traffic with this guy, you'd think twice before cutting him off. He doesn't look like he is having the best day. But this zombie-like driver wasn't terrorizing local roads. He was parked at the Alto Harvest Festival and Car Show over the weekend, grinning from behind the wheel of a 1966 Plymouth Fury owned by Carrie Moses of Freeport. The annual festival drew a solid crowd and a lineup of gleaming classic and vintage cars, each with its own personality, and in some cases, its own spooky co-pilot. **Photo by Jayson Bussa**



Life EMS is Barry County's new ambulance service provider, taking over for Mercy Ambulance. Life EMS crews celebrated the expansion into Barry County on Monday with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Hastings Life EMS station on Michigan Ave. in Hastings. **Courtesy photo**

Life EMS takes over ambulance service in Barry County

Life EMS Ambulance officially launched operations in Barry County Monday morning, Sept. 15, marking a milestone in the region's emergency response services. The transition from Mercy Ambulance is now complete, with Life EMS fully operational and serving residents throughout the area.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on Monday at the newly designated Life EMS station at 504 S. Michigan Avenue in Hastings.

As of Monday, two fully staffed and equipped paramedic ambulances are now stationed in Hastings and actively serving the community. At 7:45 a.m. on Monday, Life EMS responded to its first emergency service call in Barry County.

In mid-August, Life EMS began the orientation process of many of the former Mercy Ambulance staff. Mercy Ambulance is closing its operation in Barry County.

The company says it prioritized the hiring of local EMTs and paramedics to ensure continuity of care and preserve the trusted service the community has come to rely on.

Life EMS will provide emergency medical response to Hastings, Hastings Township, Carlton Township, Baltimore Township, and Hope Township, along with support to the local hospital and surrounding regions.

"We are honored to continue the legacy of Mercy Ambulance in this community," said Mark Meijer, president of Life EMS Ambulance. "We recognize the dedication and care that Mercy Ambulance staff has provided the community over the years and welcome them to the Life EMS family. We are committed to maintaining that standard of excellence while also expanding the resources and services available to the local Barry County area."

Mark Jordan, Hastings/BIRCH Fire Association Chief, said, "This partnership represents a significant opportunity for our community. Life EMS Ambulance has an established reputation for high-quality service, and we are confident that their expanded presence will enhance emergency medical care in Barry County. We look forward to a seamless transition and a partnership around a continued commitment to the health and safety of our residents."

Brad Carpenter, supervisor of Carlton Township and current chair of the Hastings/BIRCH Fire Association, said, "The expansion of Life EMS into Barry County is a tremendous asset to our township and surrounding areas. We value the dedication Life EMS has shown to maintaining local care while bringing in additional resources and staff. Their investment in our community ensures that we will continue to have access to the highest level of emergency medical services."

Life EMS operates across more than 5,200 square miles of West Michigan, including Kent, Kalamazoo, Ottawa, Ionia, Barry, Newaygo, Oceana, Lake, Mason, Allegan and Van Buren counties. — *MM*

Despite confusion, Johnstown board OKs second resolution for special assessment district

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

Despite some initial confusion and with deadlines looming, the Johnstown Township Board of Trustees unanimously voted, 5-0, to approve a second resolution regarding a six-year special assessment district to fund aquatic plant control treatments of Mill Lake at a special meeting Wednesday, Sept. 10.

The confusion stemmed from the public hearing portion of the meeting, during which a resident of the Mill Lake area asked about the status of his property, whether it should be listed as a full or half assessment.

Without an immediate answer, Township Treasurer Karmen Nickerson questioned whether the board could move forward and approve a resolution to "certify the roll" for the special assessment district. That's because, according to Nickerson and Clerk Sheri Babcock, the township would be unable to change the status of any assessments once the resolution was OK'd.

"Once it's set, it's set," Babcock said.

And, before certifying the roll, Nickerson said township officials want to be sure property owners within the district are being charged correctly.

"At this point, I don't know," Nickerson added. "I don't know where we can legally go.

"(But) we're on a limited timeline to do this," she said. "It has to be on the tax rolls by December. So, it has to be done by November."

Several residents also voiced concerns about the amount they'd be paying for the treatments, with a full assessment set at a little more than $785. But, Babcock said that is for the full six-year period, with property owners only having to pay about $131 annually on their winter tax bill.

Babcock's comment drew several utterances of "We're good" and "Phew" from those in the audience.

And, after effectively pausing the public hearing and making several phone calls Nickerson announced the issue had been resolved and the board could indeed move forward, setting up the board's unanimous vote during its regular meeting later that evening.

According to Babcock, the special assessment district includes 111 total parcels, though 25 of the parcels are either non-buildable or vacant and are exempt, with another nine considered "half assessments." The district would reportedly raise an estimated $64,000 to fund the ongoing treatments at the lake.

With the resolution now OK'd, assessments will be billed out to property owners in the Mill Lake district beginning with the December 2025 tax bills.

Wednesday's vote follows a previous unanimous, 5-0, vote by the township board to "set" the special assessment district at an Aug. 13 meeting.

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Hastings resident begins Peace Corps service

WASHINGTON — Gesena Mitchhart, a resident of Hastings, has been accepted into the Peace Corps. Mitchhart will depart for Senegal on Sept. 26 to begin training as a sustainable rural agriculture specialist.



Gesena Mitchhart

Mitchhart is a graduate of Western Colorado University with bachelor's degrees in environmental science and political science.

"During my time with the Peace Corps, I want to learn about the varying, commonly practiced farming techniques in a new, unfamiliar climate. I also hope to expand my knowledge on affordable, regenerative agricultural practices," said Mitchhart. "I love the environment and learning how inherently dependent we are on it. I hope to have my worldview flipped on its head!"

Sustainable rural agriculture specialists fill a niche in economically challenged and food insecure communities in Senegal. They spread farming methods to community growers who work on smallholder family farms. They also assist in adoption of improved crop cultivation technologies and practices, conservation agriculture, gardening, improved soil and water conservation, improved post-harvest management and farm management.

Mitchhart joins the 82 Michigan residents currently serving in the Peace Corps. More than 7,341 residents from this state have served in the Peace Corps since 1961.

Peace Corps volunteers serve in host communities for two years following three months of training and receive a living stipend, housing, extensive language and technical training and financial benefits that can include graduate school fellowships after service.

Interested individuals are encouraged to apply online or learn more at peacecorps.gov.

Hastings group announces 2025-26 book club schedule

The Hastings group, Roundtable Companions for Racial Equity, has begun a new year with its 2025-26 book club, including a variety of titles focused on understanding different cultures and viewpoints.

The group meets at 6:30 p.m. every second Tuesday of the month at the Hastings Public Library, with persons invited to join in the discussions.

The first book meeting was held Sept. 9 and included a discussion of the book, "The First Ladies" by Marie Benedict.

The novel by the New York Times bestselling author of "The Personal Librarian" covers "the extraordinary partnership between First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and civil rights activist Mary McLeod Bethune." It tells how Bethune, a daughter of formerly enslaved parents, becomes fast friends with Eleanor Roosevelt, and the two begin sharing their beliefs on women's rights, education, and supporting each other through good times and bad.

Upcoming titles include the Oct. 14 selection of "The Small and Mighty" by Sharon McMahon, followed by "Looking for Lost Bird" by Yvette Melanson on Nov. 11. The club will take a break for the holidays, returning on Jan. 13 with "The Bookwoman of Troublesome Creek" by Kim Michele Richardson. The piece of historical fiction follows a packhorse librarian as she struggles to bring books to an Appalachian community.

For Black History Month in February, the club is set to take on the non-fiction work, "So You Want to Talk About Race," by Ijeoma Oluo, looking for ways to talk about racial issues in an increasingly polarized society.

Topics vary in spring 2026 from music with "My Black Country: A Journey Through Country Music's Black Past, Present and Future" by Alice Randall in March, to war with "Code Talker: The First and Only Memoir by One of the Original Navajo Code Talkers of WWII" by Chester Nex in April. The group will round out the program in May with "The Cutting Season" by Attica Locke.

Members of the public are welcome to join in on any one or more of the book selections that appeal to them and participate in discussions with the goal of considering others' experiences and viewpoints. — *DM*

PROPOSAL

Continued from Page 1

"While I recognize the value of thoughtful residential growth, I urge the commission to delay any approvals or advancement of this project until critical concerns are addressed – especially regarding the funding structure, tenant screening policies and long-term community impact," Stadel stated.

But, Dr. Lee Stuart, who currently owns the property with his wife, Ruth Ann Stuart, said he supported the development after previously offering the village the 2.7-acre site for use as a park, as well as offering it to area youth football programs as a practice facility.

"They didn't want it," Dr. Stuart said. "As far as I can see, this is a perfect place for (the proposed development).

"It's more income for the village, for the schools."

According to Stuart, the apartment complex would generate upwards of $200,000 annually in property tax revenue, including up to $50,000 for the village.

"That's significant income for the village," he added.

But, before moving forward, Guetschow said village officials needed to address whether to allow the variances in unit density per acre, parking and to the height of the structures. Without the changes, he said, the proposed development might not be financially viable.

Ryan Schmidt, a partner with Indigo Design, said the former football field is "somewhat of a challenging property," with an easement for three utility lines running diagonally under the site. Schmidt added that limited how the development could be laid out.

According to initial site development plans presented Tuesday night, the project would include construction of one building with 18 units and a second, larger building with 36 units. The project would also include a smaller, third structure that would serve as office and maintenance space, along with 108 parking spaces.

A second drawing outlined a slightly scaled-down version, calling for 48 units and a reduction in parking spaces.

"Our preference is 54 (units)," Schmidt said. "But we're providing both, so you can compare the two.

"For what it's worth, I think this site is very well set up for what we're proposing," he added.

The development reportedly would include one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments, with a third of those having "zero-step entries" to allow for easier access.

Ben DeJong, a member of both the Planning Commission and Lake Odessa Village Council, said he appreciated the initial site plans presented at Tuesday's meeting, adding the drawings allowed him to visualize what the development might look like if constructed.

"It does fit," DeJong said. "This does make sense.

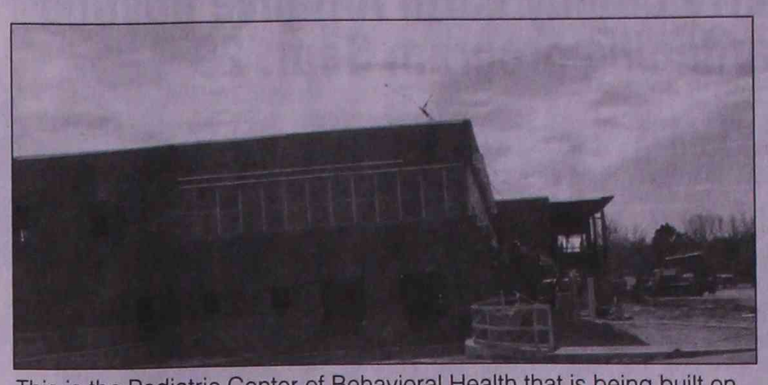
"It adds complexity," he added. "But it's a good problem to have."

Other Planning Commission members stated the project would help address the need for multi-family housing within the village.

"This is exactly what we've been talking about," said Meg Wheeler, Planning Commission chairperson.

"There's not a lot (of multi-family housing)," added Karen Banks, Lake Odessa village president. "The town is mostly built out. We have to build up and increase density."

Along with reaching a consensus on the proposal for a 54-unit development, Planning Commission members also agreed to schedule another public hearing on potential amendments to the village's zoning ordinance for 6 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 21, at the Page Memorial Building.



This is the Pediatric Center of Behavioral Health that is being built on the Pine Rest campus in Cutlerville. **Photo by James Gemmell**

Pine Rest to integrate BRAINS center as part of merger

James Gemmell
Contributing Writer

Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services in Gaines Charter Township has announced a pending merger with a multidisciplinary assessment and treatment center.

BRAINS, which stands for Behavioral Resources And Institute for Neuropsychological Services, will operate as "BRAINS, A Service of Pine Rest" once the merger takes effect October 27.

In a news release, Pine Rest said the merger will integrate BRAINS into Pine Rest's full continuum of care.

"At the heart of this merger is a shared commitment to children and families in our community," said Dr. Mark Eastburg, president and CEO of Pine Rest. "Families in West Michigan deserve timely, high-quality behavioral health care, and by joining with BRAINS, we can work together to reduce barriers, create efficiencies, and make it easier for families to get the services they need."

BRAINS said it provides comprehensive services such as neuropsychological and psychological assessments, counseling, occupational therapy, speech therapy and applied behavior analysis.

"Our team at BRAINS has always been dedicated to helping children and families thrive," said Dr. Michael Wolff, in the news release. He is a neuropsychologist and co-owner of BRAINS. "Joining Pine Rest allows us to continue that mission with the support of their world-class infrastructure and clinical expertise."

The BRAINS office at 3292 N. Evergreen Dr. NE in Grand Rapids will remain open. BRAINS says its staff will collaborate with Pine Rest's programs for children and teens. That includes the $98 million Pediatric Center of Behavioral Health that is scheduled to open on the Pine Rest campus in Cutlerville in spring 2026.

Pine Rest is one of the largest free-standing psychiatric and behavioral health hospitals in the country.

"Healthcare is increasingly complex, and partnerships like this are essential for sustaining and growing critical services," Eastburg said. "By bringing BRAINS into Pine Rest, we're ensuring that resources are better aligned, duplication is reduced, and families experience a more accessible path to the care they need."



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Look at your financial situation holistically

When you plan a trip, you consider not only the destination but also the climate, activities that interest you, transportation needs, anticipated costs, best time to go and coverage for your work, home or pets. It's a holistic approach — looking at your trip from a variety of angles.

It's wise to apply that same holistic thinking when you plan for your financial future — that is, bringing into the picture all elements of yourself.

Here are some things that may affect your financial strategy:

• ***Your views on helping your family*** – Your decisions about helping your family are clearly going to be a major part of your financial strategy, and this is true at virtually all stages of your life. When your children are young, you'll need to decide if you're going to save money for their college education, and if so, how much, and in what investments. When they're young adults, you may also need to decide how much financial support you're willing to provide for major expenses such as down payments on a new home or a new car. And when you're drawing up your estate plans, you'll need to consider how and when to distribute assets to your children, grandchildren or other family members.

• ***Your personal beliefs*** – As someone with civic, ethical and moral concerns, you may feel compelled to make charitable gifts throughout your life and then make philanthropy part of your legacy. To accomplish these objectives, you'll want to include gifting techniques in your financial strategy today and your estate plans for tomorrow. Of course, for the estate-planning component, you'll need to work with your tax and legal advisors.

• ***Your purpose in life when you retire*** – Having a purpose can bring fulfillment beyond financial security. Leading up to retirement, your purpose may involve providing for your immediate family, bringing value to your profession or contributing to your community. When you retire and step off your career path, you're entering a new world of possibilities. How will you define, and live out, your new sense of purpose at this stage of your life? Do you seek to broaden your horizons by traveling around the world? Or spend more time volunteering? Can you pursue hobbies that give you a chance for self-expression? Each of these choices will carry different financial implications for how much you'll need to accumulate for retirement and how much income you will need to take out each year from your retirement accounts, such as your IRA and 401(k).

• ***Your health*** – Your physical and mental health can play big roles in your financial plans and outlook. On the most basic level, the healthier you are, and the better you take care of yourself, the lower your health care bills will likely be during retirement, which will affect the amount you need to put away for health care. And you also may need to prepare for the costs of long-term care, which can be enormous — in fact, a private room in a nursing home in can easily cost $100,000 per year, according to Genworth, an insurance company.

It can be challenging to weave all these elements into a single, unified vision, so you may want to get some help from a financial professional. But, in any case, be prepared to look at your situation holistically because, when putting together a lifetime's financial strategy, every part of your life matters.

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

Edward Jones, Member SIPC

Visit us online at www.HastingsBanner.com

Barry County Earth Alliance hosting gardening program Sept. 29


Virginia Bolshakova

For those with a green thumb, the Barry County Earth Alliance will be offering a program to learn more about regenerative agriculture and how biodiversity affects food, water and community health.

The BCEA will be hosting "Rooted in Renewal: Regenerative Agriculture, Healthy Communities and the Future of our Food" at the Hastings Public Library at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 29.

The upcoming program will feature Virginia Bolshakova, director at Pierce Cedar Creek Institute, who will share information gained from her experience of growing up on a regenerative farm, as well as earning her doctorate in agroecology.

Regenerative gardening is an approach that prioritizes soil health and ecosystem balance to create a sustainable and thriving garden.

The Hastings Public Library is located on East State Street in Hastings.

For more information on the upcoming program, persons may contact Marcia Szumowski of the BCEA via email at mszumo1@gmail.com. — *DM*

Household hazardous waste collection is this Saturday

Residents can dispose of their household hazardous waste, electronics, leftover medications and tires at a collection this 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*

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FUNDRAISING

Continued from Page 1

campaign goal and has consistently met it. This year, the organization is aiming to raise $850,000, a new high-water mark.

Lani Forbes, executive director of the Barry County United Way and Volunteer Center, said at the event that the campaign is already off to a strong start, with $213,797 pledged prior to kickoff.

She emphasized the importance of both the United Way and its partner agencies, noting that last year, their services were accessed more than 53,000 times by Barry County residents.

"Together, we're creating a future where everyone can reach their full potential," Forbes told the crowd.

The event also marked the beginning of the two-day Day of Caring, during which the United Way solicits proposals from organizations around the county in need of help with projects. The nonprofit then deploys hundreds of volunteers to tackle those projects over two days.

This year, more than 600 volunteers signed up, likely making it the largest Day of Caring event in Michigan in terms of boots on the ground.

Damon Cove, a teacher with Thornapple Kellogg Schools, and his wife, local financial advisor Maddie Cove, spoke at the event. The pair is serving as co-chairs of this year's campaign.

"It might be messy and it might push you out of your comfort zone, but that's the beauty of today," Damon Cove said, inspiring the crowd to tackle the many projects. "Every drop of sweat, every conversation, every small act is part of something bigger than each of us. We're not just completing service projects; we're sending a message to our neighbors that you matter, this community cares about you, and in Barry County, we don't sit back. We lean in."


The Barry County United Way and Volunteer Center utilizes hundreds of volunteers for its Day of Caring event. This year, they had over 600 volunteers. Pictured here is a large group of volunteers from Hastings High School.


Hastings Area School System Superintendent Dr. Nick Damico speaks at Monday, Sept. 15's board of education meeting. Damico traveled to Lansing with other area superintendents last week, urging lawmakers to pass a budget. **Photo by Molly Macleod**

DEADLINE

Continued from Page 1

dents penned a letter to the community explaining the impacts the lack of budget has on local schools.

The letter references a survey conducted by Michigan School Business Officials. That survey found that one in 10 Michigan districts have made personnel cuts ahead of the 2025-26 school year due to budget uncertainty. The survey also found that 11% of districts have had classroom personnel layoffs, 15% have had non-classroom personnel layoffs, 42% of districts have cut staff through attrition and 27% have made non-staff spending cuts. Michigan districts have also reported pushing back maintenance work, increasing staff workloads and increasing class sizes in response to the uncertainty, according to the survey.

Should a budget not be passed in the coming weeks, districts will not receive their scheduled state aid payments on Oct. 20. Those dollars are critical for compensating teachers and staff, maintaining class sizes and student support services, operating buses, supplying classrooms and funding academic programs, arts, athletics and activities.

"Our schools cannot operate indefinitely without these resources, or the confidence that they will be available," the superintendents wrote.

The superintendents urged community members to reach out to their legislators and share with them why a budget is important for school funding.

"Our students deserve a stable, fully funded school year," the superintendents wrote. "Together, we can ensure their learning continues without interruption."

LUNCHES IN LIMBO

As lawmakers work toward a budget in Lansing, school districts across the state are wondering how much the state will contribute toward student breakfast and lunches.

Matt Moore, HASS's director of food service, explained how cuts to the free school lunch program offered from the state in recent years could impact students at HASS at Monday's BOE meeting.

Currently, HASS is reimbursed at roughly 72% for school meals through federal programs. The rest is picked up by the Michigan School Meals program, which in recent years has fully reimbursed districts.

The impact, Moore said, was a reduction in stigma toward students utilizing the free and reduced lunch programs.

"I feel like the stigma when I first started here was, 'Free and reduced kids are the only ones that get breakfast and lunch.' … We're serving almost 1,000 breakfasts a day right now, which, before, we were only serving about 350 breakfasts… We served almost 1,700 lunches today," Moore said.

"We're serving a lot of meals. And the stigma is gone. It's just coming in, grabbing food, sitting down, going and hanging with friends until lunch is over," Moore said. "… It's taken away food insecurities, the food shaming that has gone on over the years, it's taken away any debt from the National School Lunch Program."

Should the state eliminate the free school meals program, free and reduced lunch students will still eat at a free or reduced rate. Students with reduced lunch costs will pay 30 cents for breakfast and 40 cents for lunch. Free lunch students will eat at no cost. Students not enrolled in the free and reduced lunch program will pay full price for meals, should the state not appropriate funds to free school meals for all.

NEWSPAPER ADVERTISING DEADLINES

AD-VISOR & CHRONICLE
Monday at 4 p.m.

BATTLE CREEK
SHOPPER NEWS
Monday at 5 p.m.

THE HASTINGS
BANNER
Tuesday at Noon

THE
REMINDER
Wednesday at Noon

THE **SUN** AND **NEWS**
Wednesday at Noon

VIEW Newspaper Group
mihomepaper.com

BUILDING BRANDS

Who reads newspapers? Everybody!



EMILY CASWELL
ecaswell@mihomepaper.com

Like most great ideas, the idea for the View Newspaper Group's latest marketing campaign came to me while I was enjoying a cold beverage. I was at a craft beer festival sampling a Mexican lager with View Newspaper Group Publisher Wes Smith, when we struck up a conversation with the brewer and learned his brewery was located in Battle Creek.

One of the things I love about working for a growing, locally, owned community newspaper group is that often when I meet a new person they live in or near a community served by one of our newspapers. As is the mission of View Newspaper Group, that fact gives two otherwise strangers an instant connection. The Battle Creek Shopper News joined our group just over a year ago, and while we typically make it a point to know the breweries located in the communities we serve, we hadn't visited this location yet. We told the brewer about our new connection to Battle Creek, and along with inviting us for an in-person visit, he said "Oh yeah, everybody reads the Shopper News."

This brewer didn't just serve a refreshing beer, he served a refreshing response. Sometimes when we share what we do for a living we'll hear a dreaded response along the lines of "Oh, newspapers are still a thing?" or even worse "Who reads the newspaper?" These responses make my skin crawl. Newspapers are very much a thing, and if you're not reading at least one newspaper, you're uninformed.

Newspapers are so much of a thing that last year we added seven new titles (including the Battle Creek Shopper News) to our group through an acquisition, and just this spring we launched a new newspaper — the St. Clair Area View. Today, View Newspaper Group is home to 22 newspapers with more than 352,000 copies in print each week.

Newspapers are so much of a thing that just a few weeks ago the New York Times announced a revenue jump of 9.7% from subscriptions and ads. Currently 11.88 million people subscribe to the New York Times, including myself and my best friend's 16-year-old daughter.

A Gallup Poll found that 74% of all Americans believe that having a newspaper in their community is important for providing them with much needed local news and information.

During a time when disinformation is everywhere, newspapers — national, local, online or in print — remain a trusted source of information. They serve as a record-keeper, a source of entertainment, a marketing tool and best of all, offer connection. Research continues to prove that communities with local newspapers are safer, healthier and more engaged in civic activities.

The American Journalism Project found that local news aides in a healthy democracy; it helps communities understand what's at stake in local elections, equips them to get involved in the political process by voting, contacting officials and running for office, reduces political polarization, and holds public officials accountable.

Even better, local newspapers can equal lower taxes. Researchers from the University of Notre Dame and the University of Illinois found that communities that had lost their community newspapers for more than three years, saw taxes increase $340 per year for a household of four people.

Given this information it's clear that everybody should read the newspaper. And while we complain about the few uniformed people who ask if newspapers are still a thing, we know that the majority of community members we serve know we're a thing, and they read our newspapers. We are thankful to our readers and our advertising partners who make what we do possible.

Back to that beer festival and that refreshing response. The brewer's comment launched the idea for our newest marketing campaign that will help us promote on our locally-owned, locally-connected community newspapers, and more importantly our loyal readers. The campaign has launched in Lapeer County in *The County Press*. Titled "Everybody Reads *The County Press*," the print advertisements feature a rotating line up of well-known faces in the community sharing why they read the newspaper and why you should too.

You can be a part of your local campaign by doing a few things. First, continue to read newspapers, including the local newspaper in your hand. Second, share this column with someone who may not be a newspaper reader. Third, if you own or manage a business, use our newspapers to market your products and services. Fourth, help us flip the script when it comes to newspaper readership. "Who reads the newspaper? Everybody!" And finally, if you'd like to be featured in our Everybody Reads campaign please contact me at *ecaswell@mihomepaper.com.* Along with your 15 minutes of fame, you'll brand yourself as an informed newspaper reader and community member, and help us continue to grow and strengthen our brand as Your Community Connection.

Emily Caswell is the Brand Manager for VIEW Group, the branding division of View Newspaper Group.



ASK DR. UNIVERSE

Generous germs

Why do we have germs on our hands?

Prince, 12, Ga.

Dear Prince,

Germs are tiny organisms—also called microbes. They're so small you have to zoom in with a microscope to see them. They can be bacteria, viruses, fungi or other teeny things. Some microbes make us sick. Some don't bother us at all. Some help us out.

I talked about all that with my friend Eric Lofgren. He studies infectious disease at Washington State University.

He said there are two main reasons we have germs on our skin. We pick up some microbes from the environment. Some live on our skin all the time.

"The world is full of microbes," Lofgren said. "They're very successful organisms, so they're everywhere."

The germs we pick up come from nature or other people. We use our hands a lot, so that's the most likely place for those microbes to encounter our skin.

We run into microbes when we dig in a garden, pick up rocks or splash in a river. There are even microbes floating around in the air. Some of them stick to our skin when we bump into them.

Sometimes we pick up germs from a sick person. Maybe they sneeze or cough. Microbes fly out with their snot or spit. They land on stuff or an unlucky person in the splash zone. Germs can also come off when the sick person touches something like a door knob. The next person that touches it might pick up those microbes.

We also encounter germs that normally live inside us, like in our guts. Those microbes help us digest food and stay healthy. Since they're in our guts, they come out with poop. They can make us sick if they move to a new place—like our mouths or eyeballs.

Luckily, soap and the motion of scrubbing our hands sends most of those microbes down the drain.

But some microbes live on our skin full time, including our hands. Those microbes need the same things we do: space, shelter, water and food.

"If you were living on a giant, where would you want to live?" asked Lofgren. "Their forearms or their belly button? The belly button is a nice, sheltered cave with nutrients and moisture."

The microbes that normally live on our skin tuck themselves into creases and crevices, like the gaps between our skin cells. They chow down on tasty stuff on our skin like oils and sugars.

By taking up space and using resources, these microbes don't leave as much room for germs we pick up that don't belong on our skin. That helps us out.

But living on our skin isn't all throw pillows and comfy couches. Lofgren told me it's a harsh environment for our microbes. They get jostled off and flushed down the sink. Our hands constantly encounter germs that compete with them.

So, some microbes form a sticky, slimy community called a biofilm. It's a gluey matrix they ooze out to keep the group stuck together. That makes it harder to wash away those microbes.

I guess some germs are single (celled) and ready to mingle.

— Dr. Universe

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

Registration open for free Diabetes PATH series

Individuals with Type 2 diabetes or prediabetes, or caretakers of persons diabetes and invited to attend a free informational program to learn more about diabetes and how to be a better self-manager.

Diabetes PATH, a Self-Management Resource Center Program, is a six-week self-management workshop where individuals can learn tools to manage diabetes. Over the course of six weeks, participants will learn strategies, including:

Deal with difficult emotions;

Developing a healthy eating and exercise plan;

Setting goals;

Problem-solving; and

Learning about a variety of other tools to manage diabetes.

Michigan adults of all ages interested in diabetes may attend, including adults with prediabetes, Type 2 diabetes, family members and caregivers.

The program is being offered in-person through a partnership with MSU Extension and Corewell Health Pennock. Space is limited and registration is required.

The workshop series is scheduled for 1-3:30 p.m. on Thursdays from Sept. 18 through Oct. 30 and will be held at Corewell Health Pennock Hospital, at the Care Center B entrance 3, in Hastings.

For more information or to register, persons should contact Laura Anderson via email at ander359@msu.edu or call the MSU Extension office at 269-945-1388, extension 1024. — *DM*

CLASSIFIEDS

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

EMPLOYMENT

SEASONAL HARVEST POSITIONS – $17/hr. We are hiring 30–40 reliable team members for harvest season. Work beginning September 15 through December 31. Must be 21 or older to apply. Positions are part-time with flexible scheduling—ideal for anyone seeking extra income alongside a full-time job. No prior experience required; training provided. Work involves hands-on harvest and post-harvest processing in a fast-paced but supportive team environment. Contact us at: wholesale@greencoventures.net or 269-758-3078.

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ESTATE SALE

LARGE ESTATE SALE With Antiques and More! Come shop our HUGE multi-home estate sale. Items to offer include; Mail Pouch tobacco thermometer, porcelain no smoking sign, Cast iron hitching post horse heads, 1943 Michigan car tabs, 10, 8, and 6 Gallon Western Stoneware Crocks, Red Wing Crock, historical dresser with mirror from the Post Tavern, Antique fireman's helmet, Pennsylvania Dutch Cabinet, bakers cabinet, Victorian marble top sideboard, vintage Torpedo snowshoes, Vintage RC Plane, Antique Ice Chest, Wallace Nutting antique chairs, Antique brass fireplace fender, art deco cast iron floor lamp, Hudson River Valley caned chairs, and so much more! Also to offer a large vintage dairy bottle collection including bottles from; Kalamazoo, Marshall, Hastings, Battle Creek and other various towns in Michigan; as well as a Lockshore galvanized crate, Borden Dairy box, several wire bottle carriers, and a wooden/metal dairy crate. A gallery of photos can be viewed at Estatesales.net or on Facebook at Red Barn Estate Sales. Located at 8411 N. 32nd St Richland, MI 49083 September 26th, 27th, 28th 10AM – 5PM. We hope to see you there!

Visit us online at mihomepaper.com

SAXON SPIRIT BUS
Thank You
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THANK YOU DOWNTOWN BUSINESS TEAM FOR SPONSORING THE HASTINGS ATHLETIC BOOSTERS SAXON SPIRIT BUS FOR THE 9/5/25 VARSITY FOOTBALL GAME
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OBITUARIES

VIEW OBITUARIES ONLINE. HASTINGSBANNER.COM

Daniel David Dykstra



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Dave Dykstra on September 12, 2025 at the age of 85 as a result of an automobile accident. He passed away peacefully surrounded by his family.

Dave had a strong faith, love for his family and passion for the community he was a part of. He lived in the Middleville area most of his life with his loving wife Barb of 67 years. They raised four children together. Dave began dairy farming in 1970. He then started Dan Valley Excavating in 1985. Dave also served on the Barry County Road Commission for 24 years. He was also voted as a Home Town Hero. The entire community benefited from his generosity by the desire to help those around him. The examples of love, kindness and generosity are too many to mention.

Dave's love and faithfulness to his Lord and Savior was the most important thing in his life, followed by the love for his family and friends. His employees became family to him. A stranger on the street was a friend to Dave. He impacted countless lives through his unwavering commitment of showing love and kindness to whomever he encountered. His family is at peace knowing that he is in the arms of his Savior and reunited with his loved ones who passed before him.

Dave is survived by his wife, Barb Dykstra; son, Robert (Susan) Dykstra of Middleville; daughters, JoAnne Wright and Cheryl (Greg) Lydy, both of Middleville; 11 grandchildren; 26 great grandchildren; brother, Russell (Donna) Dykstra of Middleville; sisters, Laura Adams of California and Carolyn (Jim) Buer of Caledonia; sisters- in-law, Linda Dykstra of Middleville and Sheila Dykstra of Freeport, and several nieces and nephews.

Dave was preceded in death by his parents; son, Daniel D. Dykstra Jr.; brothers, Henry Dykstra and Paul Dykstra; son-in-law, Jay Wright.

Dave's family received friends on Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2025, at the Beeler-Gores Funeral Home where his funeral service will be conducted on Thursday, Sept. 18, 2025 at 11 a.m. Pastor Dan Beyer of Gun Lake Community Church will officiate. Burial will take place at Mt. Hope Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the "Dan Dykstra Jr. Memorial Scholarship". Please visit www.beelergoresfuneral.com to share a memory or to leave a condolence message for Dave's family.

David Fredrick Oom



David Fredrick Oom, age 53, of Caledonia, MI, passed away on September 9, 2025, after a brief but severe illness.

Born and raised in Hastings, MI, Dave excelled in many sports, especially tennis. After attending Ferris State University, he built a career as a professional tennis instructor, teaching at exclusive clubs including the Congressional Country Club in Washington, D.C., as well as in North Carolina, Florida, and Michigan.

In 1998, Dave married the love of his life, Sarah, and together they raised their children, Andrew and Elle. Later, he became a realtor with Greenridge Realty, earning the prestigious President's Award and other professional recognitions.

Above all, Dave was devoted to his family. He was endlessly proud of Andrew and Elle, and could always be found supporting them, and his nieces and nephews, at school and sporting events. Dave also adored his dogs, North and Dune.

Dave loved competition and continued to play golf, pickleball, and fantasy football with lifelong friends. A fan of the Tigers, Lions, and University of Michigan teams, his passion for sports was matched only by his warmth and humor. He lit up every room, had a gift for making others feel valued, and was regarded by many as one of their very best friends.

Dave is lovingly remembered by his wife, Sarah; his children, Andrew and Elle (fiancé Abel Boetsma); his parents, Bernie and Sue; his in-laws, Jim (Peg) Beall and Bev Plagenhoef; his sister, Laura (Tom) Middaugh; his brother, Wayne (Kate) Oom; his brother-in-law, Bill (Lisa) Beall; his nieces and nephews, Nick Beall, Alex (Sam) Shick, Josh and Rachel Oom, Lydia (Daniel) Tsuber, Leah, Elisabeth, and Jonathan Middaugh; grandnephew, Simon Shick. He will also be deeply missed by his uncles, aunts, cousins, and countless friends whose lives he touched.

To know Dave was to love him, and his memory will live on in the countless lives he touched.

Memorial services to celebrate Dave's life will be held 11 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 18, 2025 at Ada Bible Church Kentwood Campus, 2045 68th St SE, Caledonia, with Pastor Ben Vaught officiating. Relatives and friends may meet the family Thursday from 10-11 a.m. prior to the service at the church.

In lieu of flowers, those who wish may make memorial contributions to Buddy Up for Life. Condolences may be sent online at www.mkdfuneralhome.com.

Howard John Yost



Howard John Yost, age 94, of Lake Ann and formerly of Hastings, passed away peacefully on September 12, 2025 at the Orchard House Assisted Living.

Howard was born on November 5, 1930 in Adrian to the late William George and Florence (Guinen) Yost. On June 20, 1959 he married Janice Ferry and together they have celebrated 66 years of marriage.

Howard served our country honorably as a member of the United States Navy.

Howard earned his under graduate degree from Adrian College, and received a masters degree from Michigan State University and went on to serve as principal for nearly 20 years in the Maple Valley School District in Nashville, MI.

Howard and Janice were members of the First United Methodist Church in Lake Ann. He loved to travel and some of his favorite trips included adventures to Hawaii, a cross-country train trip to the Grand Canyon, and then on to Disneyland. He also enjoyed golfing, going on walks and hikes, reading, wood carving and painting. He enjoyed all sports, but was especially a big fan of the University of Michigan.

Howard was preceded in death by his parents and siblings, William Yost and Mary Lou Edwards.

Howard is survived by his wife, Jan; their children, Michael Yost, Sarah (Mike) Fought; grandchildren, Erin and Olivia and great grandchildren.

The family will celebrate Howard's life privately at a later date.

Memorial contributions in his honor may be directed to Adrian College.

Mary Lynn (Haywood) Javor



Mary Lynn (Haywood) Javor, age 75, of Hastings, MI, passed away peacefully on September 8, 2025, at home, embraced by the love of her family. Born on March 12, 1950, in Hastings, MI, Mary graduated from Hastings High School in 1968 and went on to live a life defined by love, hospitality, and an unwavering devotion to family, farm life, and friends.

Mary was a devoted wife and mother, helping to nurture the Holstein herd and maintain the daily rhythm of the family's dairy farm alongside her beloved husband. For decades, she rose before the sun to handle all of the cow milking herself, a quiet but powerful testament to her strength, commitment, and work ethic. Together, they raised their children with the same love and consistency that defined life on the farm. Mary created a home where the door, the fridge, and her heart were always open.

Mary grew up with a love of horses and kept them throughout her life. She loved showing them and taught her children important lessons through both horses and competition. She not only cheered on her own children but also encouraged everyone in the ring, forming lasting friendships along the way. Beyond her family, Mary was passionate about promoting farming and dairy awareness, sharing her knowledge and love of the land with the broader community.

Whether hosting large family gatherings or lovingly spoiling her grandchildren and "bonus grandkids," Mary had a remarkable way of making everyone feel cherished and welcome.

A celebrated cook, Mary delighted in creating signature dishes that became staples at family and community gatherings. An avid reader, poet, gardener, and shopper, she found joy in both the farm and the lake. From her teenage years, Mary's love of travel led her on many adventures, including a high school exchange to Denmark and trips to Germany, where she built cherished friendships. With her husband of 57 years, she built a life rich in love, raising a family and embracing each season with her steadfast belief that Life is Good. She cherished the growth of her children and grandchildren and found joy in the simple pleasures of the farm, where cows, whether in the fields or in her home, were never in short supply.

Her strength and kindness left a lasting impression on all who crossed her path. Friends remember her as "a wonderful, friendly, supportive person," "a remarkable woman who made everyone feel part of her family," and "a gift whose love and legacy lives on in all of us." Many recall cherished memories at the farm, late nights of card games with family, laughter at horse shows, or simply sitting around the table enjoying her famous cooking. As one loved one shared, "We were all so spoiled to be loved by her."

Mary was preceded in death by her beloved parents, Eugene and Joyce Haywood.

Her greatest joy in life was her family. She is survived by her devoted husband of 57 years, Daniel Mark Javor; her loving children, Kimberly (Mike) Johnson, Kristina (Kevin) Riggs, and Kristopher (Stacy) Javor; and her cherished grandchildren, Drew, Aidan, Natalie, Claudia, Addison, and Hendrik. She is also survived by her siblings, Larry, Barbara, and Bill Haywood, as well as a wide circle of extended family and countless friends whose lives she touched with her warmth, generosity, and open heart.

Mary's legacy lives on in the countless meals shared around her table, the laughter echoing through generations, the lessons learned on the dairy farm, and the deep, unwavering love she poured into her family and community. As one friend beautifully reflected, "To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord."

A Celebration of Life will be held on Sunday, Sept. 28, 2025 from noon to 3 p.m. at her beloved home at Middle Lake, 102 Culbert Drive, Hastings, MI. Family, friends, neighbors, and all who knew her are warmly welcome to join and honor her remarkable life.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to a charity of your choice in Mary's memory. The family invites you to honor Mary's legacy in the everyday moments by sharing a meal with loved ones, extending kindness to a neighbor, or embracing someone with the same warmth and generosity that Mary so freely gave.

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

PIERCE CEDAR CREEK INSTITUTE EVENTS

— SEPT. 18-25 —

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

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

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

Friday, Sept. 19 — Science Storytime at the Hastings Public Library (ages 6 and under with an adult), 10:30-11:15 a.m.

Monday, Sept. 22 — PCCI Chess Club, 4-6 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 25 — Shinrin-Yoky Experience, 6:30-8 p.m. Join certified forest therapy guide Katie Venechuk as she introduces the practice of Shinrin-Yoku (also known as "forest bathing"). *More information about these events can be found on the Institute's website at CedarCreekInstitute.org.*

Worship Together

...at the church of your choice~

Weekly schedules of Hastings area churches available for your convenience...

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.

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.

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

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

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

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

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.

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

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

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

HASTINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY SCHEDULE

No library card is required for library programs and activities.

Wine pairing and basket auction tickets are available now.

Thursday, Sept. 18 – Novel Ideas Book Club discusses "Mrs. Kennedy and Me" by Clint Hill, 1 p.m.; Movie Memories and Milestones watches a 1950 film starring Ann Sothern and Zachary Scott, 5 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 19 – Friday Storytime, 10:30 a.m.

Saturday, Sept. 20 – Dungeons & Dragons and Warhammer, 10 a.m.

Monday, Sept. 22 – Crafting Passions, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 23 – Baby Cafe, 10 a.m.; mahjong, 5 p.m.; chess, 5 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 24 – Itsy Bitsy Book Club, 10:30 a.m.; Open Art Studio, 11:30 a.m.; tech help, 2 p.m.; acoustic jam session, 5 p.m.; Discover the Treasures of Historic Hollywood with Terry Dennison, 6 p.m.

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

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

AT THE CROSSROADS: Jefferson and State streets

DAVID W. MILLER
Special to The Banner

The crossroads of Jefferson and State streets once beat the very heart of Hastings' commerce, where two imposing brick landmarks stood kitty-corner, each serving much the same purpose. On the southwest corner, the Union Block rose in 1866 —a united venture by three business interests: W.S. Goodyear and Nathan Barlow of Goodyear & Barlow; D.G. Robinson and R.B. Wightman of Robinson & Wightman; and attorney L.A. Holbrook. This was the first entirely brick structure in downtown Hastings, a milestone that signaled the town's growth and ambition.

Three years later, in 1869, an equally grand three-story neighbor appeared kitty-corner: Empire Building—today Walldorff Brew Pub & Bistro—built by William Barlow, John Goodyear and James Sweezy. During the 1870s, it was famously called the "Goodyear and Barlow" store, a bustling dry goods emporium. Both structures anchored the downtown district, with upper ballrooms that hosted dances, social clubs and civic meetings. Yet it was the Union Block, as the first, that set the tone for State Street commerce and community life.



E.Y. Hogle and Julius Russel's dry goods store at the corner of Jefferson and State streets in Hastings circa 1890. **Courtesy photos**

THE UNION BLOCK: A MARKETPLACE AND MEETING PLACE

The southwest corner of State and Jefferson streets in Hastings once boasted the first three-story brick structure in the county that served as both marketplace and meeting place—locally known as the Union Block. For decades, this three-story structure anchored the downtown business district, offering not only goods and services but also a place where the community could gather, celebrate and shape its civic spirit.

Built in 1866, the Union Block was more than an architectural achievement; it was a symbol of partnership. Goodyear & Barlow occupied the east third of the ground floor with their dry goods, Robinson & Wightman filled the center with hardware and Holbrook held the west section. The second floor became office space, while the third floor hosted Union Hall, a lively venue for entertainment, dances and community events. Masonic Lodge #52 also met there, further cementing the building's role as a common meeting place.

In January 1893, tragedy struck when stage scenery ignited in Union Hall, damaging the west third of the building. Although rebuilt, that section was never again considered a full part of the Union Block. Still, the landmark endured and continued to evolve with the city.

LOPPENTHIEN ERA

In 1910, a 26-year-old entrepreneur, Richard Loppenthien, purchased the Wright Brothers' business and transformed it into a modern department store. With a full line of merchandise, this double-front store—which included a popular grocery department—the Loppenthien Company quickly grew into a retail cornerstone which would operate for the next 40 years. For Hastings residents, this meant they no longer needed to travel to Grand Rapids or Lansing to find the latest fashions or necessities. Everything was available right in town, a testament to the growth of Hastings as a self-sufficient community.

BEN FRANKLIN STORE

In September 1942, the Hagen Bros. of Chicago brought the Ben Franklin Store to Hastings, replacing Loppenthien's on the ground floor of the Union Block with John Onion as its first manager. Shortly after opening, Mr. & Mrs. Stan Cummings assumed the management role, purchasing the business from the Hagen Bros. in 1946.

Mr. Cummings was active in civic affairs, including the Youth Council Board, Kiwanis and the Chamber of Commerce. He managed the store until 1971.

During the Cummings era, the third floor housed the White Pigeon Field Archery Club, which featured a 75-foot indoor range. The club flourished, with as many as 60 members from across southwestern Michigan. Thanks in part to the Laubaugh family's 40-acre field course in Yankee Springs, the White Pigeon club became a regional model for competitive archery, hosting meets for men, women and youth alike.



The Union Block building's façade is now adorned with a large mural painted by J. Maizlish Mole.

RADIO SHACK

After Ben Franklin closed in 1987, the Union Block cycled through smaller retail ventures. A Radio Shack operated there for the remainder of the 1980s, reflecting the era's fascination with personal electronics, home computers, and later, wireless phones.

SECONDHAND CORNERS

Secondhand Corners, a thrift and consignment shop, opened in 1990 at 102 W. State St., where Radio Shack had been. The store was owned and operated by Richard and Karen (Kibiloski) Heath. Known for their eye for bargains, the Heaths filled the store with finds from estate sales and walk-in sellers. As Karen once quipped, "Where else can you bring in a banjo and trade it for a lawn mower—and then trade the lawn mower for a diamond ring?" The store closed in 2019, ending an era of eclectic commerce.

Under the stewardship of current owner Tom Kramer, the historic Union Block has been modernized and divided into versatile office and retail suites, now welcoming The Wild Wood Books & Music at street level. In late 2021, a striking public art project transformed the east-facing façade (fronting Jefferson Street) with a towering mural by local artist J. Maizlish Mole: a bold outline of the continental United States, titled "You Are Here," complete with a small red asterisk marking Hastings' place in the expansive design, commissioned by the Thornapple Arts Council.

THE WILD WOOD BOOKS & MUSIC

Nearly 160 years after its bricks were first laid, the Union Block still stands as a cornerstone of downtown Hastings, carrying its history forward with each new generation. Today, its story continues through Shawn and Paige Brandli, who have opened The Wild Wood Books & Music within its storied walls. More than a shop, Wild Wood serves as a gathering place where readers, music lovers and neighbors can connect—surrounded by shelves of new titles, new and vintage vinyl and the hum of creativity.



Secondhand Corners was located in the Union Block building from 1990 to 2019.

As the Union Block's long history reminds us, downtown Hastings has always thrived when neighbors came together—not only to share in civic life, but to support the merchants whose shops kept the town alive. From the dry goods of Goodyear & Barlow to the familiar aisles of Ben Franklin to the treasures of Secondhand Corners to today's books and vinyl at Wild Wood, the heartbeat of Hastings has never been found in a warehouse a thousand miles away, but right here on State Street.

In an age when the lure of online shopping is only a click away, the story of the Union Block offers a reminder: Every purchase made downtown is more than a transaction. It is a vote of confidence in our community, an investment in the people and places that give Hastings its character. If we wish the Union Block—and the rest of our historic business district—to remain vital for another 160 years, then it falls to us to keep that tradition alive. Shop local, walk through those familiar doors and help ensure that Hastings' heart continues to beat strong in its own downtown.

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



The Ben Franklin store took the place of Loppenthien's at the Union Block building in 1942. Ben Franklin's shut down in 1987.



Today, the ground floor of the Union Block building is home to The Wild Wood Books & Music, owned and operated by Shawn and Paige Brandli.

SPORTS

Fastest TK guys improve PRs on soggy Sparta Invitational course

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Looking to get out of the crowd as fast as possible in the combined Gold/Blue Division race at the Sparta Invitational at at Fruit Ridge Hayrides Saturday, TK freshman Owen Bremer and junior Grady Galaviz pushed things a little early on.

They kept going fast through the orchard and corn fields on their way to new personal record times. They never really got out of the crowd though as a narrow, short finish area on a wet downslope caused quite a bit of congestion and a few collisions and crashes.

Bremer skidded down, but not until he had tallied a time of 17 minutes 58.60 seconds. Galaviz was right behind in 18:06.20. They placed 32nd and 33rd respectively in the Blue Division competition.

The Trojan boys' team had five of its top seven, and its top four overall, all set new personal records in the early morning rain. Freshman Parker Robinett finished in 19:38.29 in 48th-place and senior Benjamin Postma was 49th in 19:38.47.

Isaac Kaboos also tallied a PR for the TK boys with a 54th-place time of 20:15.14.

The top seven for the TK boys also had senior Noah Donker 52nd in 20:04.36 and junior Jerin Donker 55th in 20:16.65.

East Grand Rapids had five PR's among its first seven finishers, and all those guys finished in the top ten individually to power the Pioneers to a championship. The first six guys across the finish line in the Blue Division were EGR runners. Senior Jonah Workman led the way with an impressive PR of 14:58.80. Sophomore teammate Micah Becker was the runner-up in 15:44.46.

The Pioneers closed the race with just 15 points. Forest Hills Northern was second with 56 points ahead of Cedar Springs 75, Greenville 120, Grand Rapids Track Club 129, Thornapple Kellogg 177 and Grand Rapids Union 178.

The TK girls team had two new PRs among its top seven. Sophomore Amya Gater flew to a 13th-place time of 21:24.79 and sophomore Breanna Schut placed 16th in 21:58.50. It was a great pack for the TK girls who were third as a team.

The top six for the Trojans were all within a minute of each other.

Junior Peyton Hardy led the way with a time of 21:00.87. Senior Madison Kietzman was 12th in 21:17.51. They both had new season best times as did junior Carmen Reynolds who was 14th in 21:51.60.

The Trojan team also had junior Alaina McCrumb 15th in 21:57.52 and senior Avery Hagemann 29th in 23:26.29 among its top seven.

Forest Hills Northern won the Blue Division girls' title with 42 points ahead of East Grand Rapids 53, Thornapple Kellogg 63, Grand Rapids Track Club 86, Greenville 101 and Grand Rapids Union 185.

Greenville senior Gracelin Martin won the race with a personal record time of 18:21.55. East Grand Rapids junior Adeline Armstrong was the runner-up in 19:12.19 and EGR sophomore Anneliese Passchier set her PR at 19:43.44 to place third.



Thornapple Kellogg freshman Owen Bremer races to a new PR during the Sparta Invitational Blue/Gold Division race at Fruit Ridge Hayrides in Kent City Saturday morning. **Photos by Brett Bremer**



Thornapple Kellogg sophomore Amya Gater closes in on the finish line with an improved PR during the Sparta Invitational at Fruit Ridge Hayrides in Kent City Saturday.

The next four girls across the finish line were FHN Huskies, a quartet led by sophomore Jaclyn Charbauski who clocked in at 20:06.84.

The Thornapple Kellogg runners are off now until heading to Wayland Sept. 24 for the second OK Gold Conference jamboree of the season.

DK boys in top third at first SAC cross country contest

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Delton Kellogg varsity boys' cross country team ran to a sixth-place finish at the first Southwestern Athletic Conference jamboree of the fall Thursday at Warner Camp in Grand Junction.

Panther junior Landon Madden led his team with a season-best time of 18 minutes 17.29 seconds.

Holland Black River ran to victory in the boy's meet with 41 points. Saugatuck was second with 68 points ahead of Hackett Catholic Prep 87, Schoolcraft 166, Fennville 181, Delton Kellogg 183, Gobles 186, Allegan 195, South Haven 248 and Martin 254 in the top ten at the 18-team meet.

The Delton Kellogg girls were 14th in their contest led by senior Elli Timmerman who was 34th with a time of 23:46.19.

Saugatuck outscored Hackett Catholic Prep 33-61 at the top of the girls' standings.

Hackett Catholic Prep had the two fastest guys at the race. Senior Marek Butkiewicz won the race in 15:48.68 and senior Sean Siems was second in 16:27.05.

Delton Kellogg senior Nick Muday placed 33rd in 19:15.24. Sophomore Jace Hilton placed 38th in 19:28.96 for DK. Panther sophomore Joseph McCoy improved his personal record to 19:53.10 to place 50th. DK freshman Malachi Allersma placed 52nd in 19:54.68.

The top seven for the DK boys also included junior Jack Favreau and sophomore Ayden Jones who both set new PRs at the meet.

Gobles freshman Libby Smith led her team with a winning time of 18:27.25 in the girls' meet. Gobles was third in the girls' competition with a score of 86 points ahead of Martin 104, Bridgman 115, Constantine 183, Watervliet 194, Schoolcraft 218, Black River 251 and South Haver 256 in the top ten. The DK girls placed 14th with 339 points.

Saugatuck had four girls in the top ten led by senior Alina Martinson who set her PR at 19:19.27 to place second and junior Kamryn Sixberry who improved her PR to 19:20.01 to place third.

The DK team had a pair of PRs. Junior Evelynn Courneya improved to 26:49.85 to place 80th and freshman Olivia Vincent was 82nd in 27:00.22. DK junior Riley Perley was her team's number two with a 79th-place time of 26:37.20. The Panthers also had junior Makayla Lutz 101st in 30:22.15.

Saxon teams fifth, Randall a champ, at first I-8 jamboree

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Both the Hastings varsity boys' and girls' cross country teams placed fifth at the first Interstate-8 Athletic Conference jamboree of the season, hosted by Jackson Northwest, Tuesday, Sept. 9.

Saxon junior Caroline Randall proved the conference's fastest female as she hit the finish line first in 19 minutes 20.7 seconds.

Nobody was close to Randall as Parma Western sophomore Bridget Fullerton was the runner-up in 20:34.0 and Parma Western junior Natalie Kuhl placed third in 21:10.6.

The girls' team standings were close though as Harper Creek managed to beat out the Parma Western girls by one point for the victory, 56-57. Marshall was third with 68 points ahead of Coldwater 113, Hastings 122, Pennfield 146 and Jackson Northwest 158.

Freshman Emerson Leary was the Saxon girls' team's number two with a 28th-place time of 25:21.9. Saxon junior Chloe Pirtle was right behind in 29th with a time of 25:24.8.

A couple of Saxon juniors ran their fastest times yet. Malena Tomaszewska placed 32nd in 26:23.2 and Sucel Peral 41st in 27:41.7.

Senior Maddie Elzinga was right behind Peral with a 42nd-place time of 27:45.9. Freshmen Brynn VanderMale and Haley Williamson rounded out the top seven for the Saxon girls.

Parma Western dominated the boys' meet winning with 18 points. Harper Creek was second with 55 points ahead of Coldwater 67, Marshall 105, Hastings 138, Pennfield 179 and Northwest 199.

Parma Western had six of the first seven finishers including the senior champ Edison Lopeman who hit the finish line in 16:55.6. Junior teammate Ryan Good was the runner-up in 16:59.1. Harper Creek junior Christian Ayers was third in 17:01.9.

Sophomore Tanner Krzysik led the Saxon team with a time of 20:20.1. It was a trio of sophomores at the front for Hastings. Eli Li placed 30th in 21:11.2 and Alex Timmers 33rd in 21:18.9.

Junior Caleb Kramer was 35th overall for the Saxons in 21:27.9 and sophomore Parker Erb placed 39th in 21:44.2. The Saxon top seven also included Carter Krzysik and Spencer Crozier.

The Saxons had three medalists Saturday as they competed in the Hopkins Invitational at Jijak Camp. Randall won the girls' race and Tanner Krzysik placed 20th and Timmers 29th in the boys' race.

The Saxon leaders on the boys' side had their fastest races yet. Tanner Krzysik placed 20th in 19:35.61 and Timmers was 29th in 20:14.79. The Saxon team also had Li 40th in 20:48.59, Kramer 44th in 21:06.80 and Erb 45th in 21:07.22.

Hackett Catholic Prep won the boys' meet with 54 points ahead of Hopkins 55, Fennville 97, Lakewood 131, Parchment 140, Wayland 147, Hastings 154, Muskegon Catholic Central 176 and Calvin Christian 188.

Hackett senior Marek Butkiewicz won the boys' race in 15:32.48. Hopkins senior Jack Estelle was second in 16:43.85 and Hopkins sophomore Kash Moored third in 16:54.94.

Lakewood junior Kaden Rohrbacher dropped his personal record to 17:56.01 to place seventh. Lakewood also had sophomore Ethan Langmaack 21st in 19:36.08.

Maple Valley was led by junior Tyler Curtis who had a time of 20:15.83 to place 30th. Lion junior Cameron Murray wasn't far behind with a 34th-place time of 20:28.25 which is a new PR for him.

Lakewood also had sophomore Dakota Harmer set a PR of 20:37.99 to place 35th, sophomore Gibson Yeiter place 41st with a PR of 20:49.53 and senior Benjamin Possehn 50th in 21:58.85.

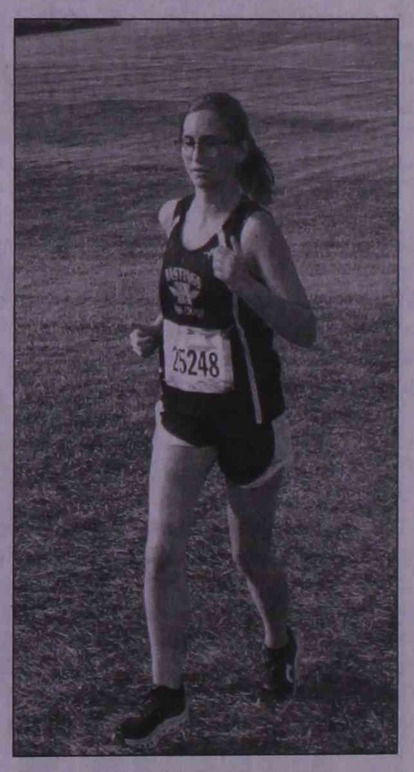
Maple Valley got a PR from sophomore Grady Wilkes who placed 60th in 23:00.22 and junior Quincy Page ran to a 62nd-place time of 23:01.97.

Calvin Christian won the girls' meet with 53 points ahead of Hackett Catholic Prep 69, Hopkins 74, Wayland 79, Fennville 127, Hastings 142 and Allegan 162.

Randall won the girls' race in 18:53.65. Her nearest competitor was Fennville junior Isabelle Sliter who came in at 19:39.48. Sliter was almost a minute and a half ahead of the third-place finisher.



The Saxons' Ryan Harris (from left), Dakota Cole and Billy Hilbert make their way along the course during the first I-8 jamboree of the season, hosted by Jackson Northwest Sept. 9.



Saxon senior Olivia Goodrich races along during the first Interstate-8 Athletic Conference jamboree of the season hosted by Jackson Northwest Sept. 9. **Photos provided**

Freshman Melanie Jones led the Maple Valley girls with a time of 24:134.44 and Hastings freshman Emerson Leary was her team's number two in 24:49.73 which put her in 31st place.

Lakewood was led by sophomore Heidi Carter who placed 36th in 25:26.45.

The top five for Hastings also included Pirtle 40th in 25:37.03, senior Maddie Elzinga with a PR of 26:24.13 to place 42nd and freshman Sage DeCamp with a PR of 26:29.57 to place 43rd..

Senior Emma Tidd was Lakewood's number two with a season best time of 26:02.87. The Viking team also had Laurelye Carter 76th in 31:28.94 and senior Marci Nurenberg 82nd in 33:51.50.

Maple Valley's foursome also included senior Izabelle Soper 47th in 26:59.22, senior Lydia Emerick 56th in 27:47.80 and senior Ada Marie Blakely 81st in 33:29.65.

Gators work on dropping more time against Catholic Central

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Grand Rapids Gator Mckenna Hawks didn't swim anything longer than 100-yards at the 2024 OK Conference East Division Championship. Her two individual races at the end of her freshman season were the 100-yard freestyle and the 100-yard backstroke.

For her sophomore season, she is working on going further, faster.

Hawks set a personal best time of 6 minutes 32.17 seconds to place second in the 500-yard freestyle during the Gators' senior night meet against conference foe Grand Rapids Catholic Central in the Grandville High School pool Thursday, Sept. 11. She cut more than 13 seconds off her previous best in the race.

"I just kind of like pushed it and did as much as I could, and I worked as hard as I could," Hawks said.

"It's hard because it's kind of like a mindset thing," she added. "You have to have a good mindset and just try your best and swim as hard as you can, and even if you don't get that time, it's okay because you have another meet."

Hawks said she has been working on her breathing lately, taking breaths on both sides of her body throughout the race that is 20 lengths of the pool long. It helps her even out her strokes throughout the race.

"She is like a kid in a candy store," Gators head coach Jeff Saltzgaber said. "I think she just has so much to to learn from these races, because this is her first go around with these types of long events. So, to see her drop so much time is just like super affirming. I think once she kind of gets the actual, like internal side of it, like knowing the time and like seeing that she's 'okay, I can get that rhythm' the sky is the limit. It is super exciting."

Saltzgaber said Hawks, a captain this fall, courageously volunteered to take on the event this fall.

Hawks got to chase Cougar senior Kate McNamara in the race who is one of the conference's top returning distance swimmers. She was fourth at the conference meet a year ago in the 500 freestyle and qualified for the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 3 Girls' Swimming and Diving Finals in the race – among other events.

The Catholic Central Cougars had enough talent all around to best the Thornapple Kellogg, Hopkins, West Catholic, West Michigan Aviation Academy co-op team known as the Gators by a score of 99-65.

The Gators' own returning state medalist, and NISCA All America honoree, Lydia Slagel had a solid day on the diving board. She got her team's first victory of the night with a score of 240.00. She bested Catholic Central's top diver, Lucy Cotter, by 40.5 points through their six dives.

"That's an okay day for her. I know her goals and aspirations are to be 250 and above. I know that she is really working to compete not just at meets like this, but against competitors that are not always at meets like this. She is competing against kids that are maybe at a different caliber. She knows that. Really, every meet it is really her versus her, and her versus those kids that might be at other meets.

"'She has a great coaching staff, Francesca [Pileci] and coach Todd [Bates] there in Hastings do a wonderful job with her. She is determined and hard-working and I know it'll pay off for her."

Slagel closed her sophomore season last fall placing fourth in the diving competition at the Division 1 state finals with a score of more than 375 points which qualified her for All America honors.

The Gators got a second individual victory later on with Mara Raak taking the 100-yard breaststroke in 1:22.96 with a solid time drop. Teammate Lucy Krug for the runner-up points in that one too. Saltzgaber said Raak, a freshman, has shown a lot of progress so far.

Another freshman, Adelaide Nydam had a solid time drop in the 100-yard freestyle to place fourth, a spot behind teammate Leyna Kursch.

Devon Barnhill, Eloise Nichols, Hawks and Raak teamed up to win the first-place points in the 400-yard freestyle relay with a time of 5:17.20 too for the Gators.

Hawks also improved her personal best in the 200-yard individual medley to place second. She finished in 2:42.52. McNamara won that one as well in 2:27.95.

Cougar speedster Mae Braun won the 200-yard freestyle in 2:04.50 with teammate Kristen McNamara second. Kristen added a winning time of 59.63 in the 100-yard freestyle later. Those two were also a part of the Cougars' winning team in the 200-yard freestyle relay, joined by Eden Morrow and Valeria Rodriguez.

The Gator team had the top three scorers in the 100-yard backstroke. Kursch won in 1:37.08 with Scarlett Hilzey second and Pepper Selph third.

At the opening of the evening, the Gator team of Jenna Robinett, Raak, Hawks and Nydam placed second in the 200-yard medley relay with a time of 2:24.68, about 12 seconds behind the Cougar foursome of Hayley Tovar, Kate McNamara, Rodriguez and Kathleen Sullivan that won the race.

Sullivan led a sweep of the top four scoring places in the 50-yard freestyle for the Cougars. Braun also won the 100-yard butterfly, a race where the Cougars had the three fastest finishers.

The Gators were back in action at the Mason Invite Saturday and they placed eighth at the nine-team meet. Marshall won the championship with 240 points ahead of Mason 236, Coldwater 215, Mount Pleasant 200 and St Johns 172 in the top five. The Gators closed the day with 94 points. Slagel had the Gators' lone event win with a score of 237.80 points in the diving competition.



Grand Rapids Gators sophomore McKenna Hawks swims to a personal best time of 6 minutes 32.17 seconds in the 500-yard freestyle Thursday, Sept. 11, to place second in her race against Grand Rapids Catholic Central at Grandville High School. **Photos by Brett Bremer**



Grand Rapids Gator junior All America diver Lydia Slagel somersaults above the water on a dive during her team's OK Conference East Division meet against Grand Rapids Catholic Central at Grandville High School Thursday.

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Household Hazardous Waste Including aqueous acids and bases; oil-based paints; reactives; solvents; aerosol cans; automotive liquids; pesticides (liquids and solids); automotive batteries; alkaline, nickel-cadmium and/or silver oxide batteries; liquid cleaners; heavy metal solutions; mercury-containing articles; motor oil.



Limit of 10 gallons per vehicle

Electronics including computers, cell phones, laptops, gaming systems, tablets, and more will be collected for no charge. **There is a suggested donation of $10 for all CRT and LCD TVs and monitors (cash or check only).**

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We Cannot Accept: asbestos; latex paint (when dry it can go to the landfill); propane tanks; commercially generated waste; radioactive material; explosives; unknown wastes; speakers in wooden cases; tires heavily caked with dirt.

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DISPOSE OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS AND MEDICATIONS SAFELY

Don't pour paint, solvent, medicine, automotive oil, or chemicals down the drain or dump them in the trash where they may end up in our drinking water and lakes!





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(NO BUSINESS TIRES)
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REGISTRATION REQUIRED www.barrycounty.org/barrycountyrecycles/hhw_registration.php

Sponsored by the Barry County Solid Waste Oversight Committee with thanks to the Barry County Fair Board, Waste Management, Barry-Eaton District Health Dept., Barry County Substance Abuse Task Force, Sheriff's Dept., City of Hastings Police Dept., Hastings Padnos and Local Pharmacies.

Portland ends Lakewood volleyball's league win-streak

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

First in line to greet the Raiders at the net was Lakewood senior Emma Duffy. Good game. Good game. Good game …

A conference foe played a better game than the Lakewood Viking varsity volleyball team for the first time in more than a decade Tuesday.

Portland bested the Lakewood ladies in four sets in their Capital Area Activities Conference White Division dual at Portland High School. Lakewood battled to try and avoid its fate, but falling behind two sets to none proved too big a deficit to overcome against the solid Raider squad. The Raiders won by the scores of 25-21, 29-27, 21-25, 25-23.

Lakewood went undefeated through nine years of Greater Lansing Activities Conference play and swept its way to CAAC White championships in each of the past two seasons. The Vikings' last conference defeat came in their previous turn in the CAAC White which ended in 2013. Lakewood has won at least a share of its conference championship in each of the past 23 seasons.

When the Vikings were at their best Tuesday, they were firing wicked serves that spun, raced, twisted and/or floated at Portland receivers; passes were getting up to setters Duffy and junior Camyla Copelin; and sophomores Ahlanna Thomas and Johanna Duits were slamming attacks in all directions from the middle of the night. When they weren't, it was a struggle to get that first pass where it needed to go.

"They're going to figure out how to be mentally tough and bounce back from this," Lakewood head coach Brooke Francisco said. "Hopefully, this is a motivator if anything, to help us keep moving forward.

"When we were good, we were really good, but we just couldn't pull it together consistently."

Lakewood rallied from a 20-14 hole late in set number four to try and force a fifth set. Duffy assisted Thomas for a kill in the middle of the net, then started ripping off a string of excellent serves. Portland called a time-out with a 20-19 lead, and the two teams returned to the court to see things even up at 20-20 with Duffy rolling a serve over the net for an ace.

During a scramble, Duffy pushed a ball to an opening deep on the Raider side to give Lakewood a 21-20 advantage, but the Raiders got the side-out they were desperate for on a kill in the middle by Makayla Evansen.

In a pivotal moment, with the score tied 22-22, Thomas and Portland middle McKenna Boykin met above the net. The ball bounded between the two of them and fell out of bounds on the Lakewood side. Officials ruled that Thomas had knocked the ball into Boykin, the Raiders' all-time blocks leader, and when Boykin directed it back it glanced off Thomas' fingertips before falling to the floor.

The Raiders passed a ball over to an opening on the Viking side to get to 24-22, had an attack go into the net to drop it to a 24-23 lead, and then finished things on their second chance at match-point with Boykin drilling a kill in the middle.

One big Raider run was really the difference in each of the first two sets. Setter Alianna Sutberry put together an eight-point run to help turn what had been a six-point Lakewood lead into a three-point Raider advantage at 19-16 late in set one. In set two, it was a seven-point run with middle Grace Avery serving that helped turn a one-point Lakewood advantage into a 17-10 Portland lead.



Lakewood senior Emma Duffy, junior Camyla Copelin and sophomore Johanna Duits lead the handshake line with the Portland Raiders following the Portland varsity volleyball team's four-set win over the visiting Vikings Tuesday in Capital Area Activities Conference White Division action. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

Duits had a team-high 16 kills for the Vikings. Duffy had 13 kills to go with four aces. Thomas finished the night with eight kills. Matti Aldrich matched Duffy for the Lakewood lead in aces with four.

"When we can pass, that is the goal. Find our middles. When passing breaks down, we really struggle to score and that is what today showed. It's September. It's early. We have a lot of time to get better. But it just shows how hard we have to come to practice and work now," Francisco said.

Coach Francisco and the Vikings knew that having an inexperienced back row would be a challenge early in this season. While there were rocky times Tuesday, coach Francisco said she has seen some good strides from the group so far.

"They are working hard in practice to get every day. Now we just have to work one percent harder every day when we come ready to go," Francisco said.

The Vikings are now 1-1 in conference duals this fall. There is a chance they get another shot at the Raiders Oct. 25 when the Vikings host the conference tournament at Lakewood High School.

Viking junior Rohrbacher keeps picking up speed

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Lakewood junior Kaden Rohrbacher is picking up speed. His last three races have been his fastest ever.

Rohrbacher broke the 18-minute mark for the first time Sept. 11 at the Lansing Catholic Invite, dropped his personal record to 17 minutes 56.1 seconds Saturday at the Hopkins Invitational, and then had his best conference finish ever placing 14th at the Capital Area Activities Conference White Division jamboree hosted by Portland High School Tuesday.

Rohrbacher hit the finish line in 18:08.3 Tuesday on a hot, hilly, twisty, tough course.

The Lakewood boys were fifth as a team at the meet and the Lakewood girls closed the first conference jamboree of the fall in seventh place.

The Lansing Catholic boys and girls took team victories on the afternoon. The Lansing Catholic boys won with just 22 points. Portland was second in the boys' meet with 62 points led by individual champion Andrew Feldpausch, a senior who hit the finish line in 16:25.5.

Feldpausch was one of three guys to finish in less than 17 minutes. The other two, and the two guys on their heels, were all Cougars. Lansing Catholic junior James Tennes was the runner-up in 16:47.1. Lansing Catholic had senior Lucas Gates third in 16:58.3.

Behind those top two teams, Ionia finished with 82 points, Olivet 103, Lakewood 128, Charlotte 130 and Lansing Sexton 222.

Junior Bryce Goodemoot was the Viking boys' number two. He placed 21st in 18:52.23.

A couple first-year varsity runners set PRs for the Vikings despite the tough conditions. Sophomore Dakota Harmer placed 39th in 20:37.2. Freshman Maddix Thomas was 52nd in 22:14.7. The Viking team also had sophomore Ethan Langmaack in its top five. He placed 41st in 20:42.2.

Sophomore Gibson Yeiter and senior Jacob Wieland were the Lakewood boys' sixth and seventh finishers on the day.

Sophomore Heidi Carter led the Lakewood ladies with a 40th-place time of 25:32.0. Viking senior Emma Tidd placed 53rd in 27:25.2. Junior Laurelye Carter had her fastest race of the season to place 67th in 31:16.1.

The Vikings also had senior Marci Nurenberg 77th in 3518.4 and junior Jayda Miller 79th in 38:37.6.



Lakewood junior Kaden Rohrbacher runs to his best finish yet at a Capital Area Activities Conference White Division jamboree Tuesday at Portland High School. Rohrbacher led the Viking boys' team with a 14th-place finish at the first conference meet-up of the season. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

Lansing Catholic won the girls' meet with 29 points ahead of Charlotte 66, Olivet 68, Ionia 105, Portland 134, Eaton Rapids 156 and Lakewood 198.

Olivet sophomore Tiya Feldpausch ran her fastest race yet to win the race in 18:48.6. Lansing Catholic sophomore Josie Bishop was second in 18:59.4 with Eaton Rapids sophomore Remie Ellis right behind her in 19:00.7.

The Lansing Catholic team had six of the top ten finishers.

RUTLAND CHARTER TOWNSHIP
BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN
NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 220 (ZONING) OF RUTLAND CHARTER TOWNSHIP CODE

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

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that at the September 10, 2025 meeting of the Rutland Charter Township Board the following Ordinance No. 2025-198 was adopted. This ordinance in its entirety has been posted in the office of the Township Clerk and on the Township website (www.rutlandtownship.org).

The original ordinance may be inspected or a copy purchased by contacting the Township Clerk, Robin Hawthorne, 2461 Heath Road, Hastings, MI 49058-9725, (269) 948-2194, during regular business hours of regular working days, and at such other times as may be arranged.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF RUTLAND
BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN
ORDINANCE NO. 2025-198
ADOPTED: SEPTEMBER 10, 2025
EFFECTIVE: SEPTEMBER 26, 2025

An Ordinance to amend §220-5-3.H. of Chapter 220 of the Rutland Charter Township Code pertaining to the keeping of livestock on a non-commercial basis in the CR Country Residential District.

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF RUTLAND
BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN
ORDAINS:

SECTION 1
AMENDMENT OF §220-5-3.H. OF RUTLAND CHARTER TOWNSHIP CODE PERTAINING TO KEEPING OF LIVESTOCK IN CR COUNTRY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT

§220-5-3.H. of the Rutland Charter Township Code, pertaining to the keeping of livestock on a non-commercial basis in the CR Country Residential District, is amended to read as follows:

H. Keeping of livestock on a non-commercial basis is allowable accessory to an existing dwelling on the premises, subject to all applicable provisions of this Chapter, including the generally applicable special land use approval standards specified in §220-20-3., and also the following density, setback, and other requirements:
1. The minimum lot area for the keeping of any such livestock is three acres. The Planning Commission may approve a lot area of less than three acres but at least one acre for the keeping of a maximum of twelve (12) hens and chickens, pursuant to the otherwise applicable approval standards and requirements.
2. There shall be at least two acres of lot area per animal unit kept on the premises. For purposes of this provision, only, the number of animals per animal unit shall be determined as follows:
   A. slaughter and feeder cattle: one animal equals 1.00 animal unit.
   B. mature dairy cattle: one animal equals 1.42 animal units.
   C. horses: one animal equals 1.00 animal unit.
   D. swine (weighing over 55 lbs.): one animal equals 0.40 animal unit.
   E. sheep and lambs: one animal equals 0.10 animal unit.
   F. laying hens or broiler chickens: one animal equals 0.01 animal unit.
   G. turkeys: one animal equals 0.018 animal unit.
   H. Any other types or sizes of livestock not listed here are to be calculated as one thousand pounds live weigh equals 1.00 animal unit.
3. All areas in which the livestock are confined shall be located at least 100 ft from all existing dwellings on adjacent properties.
4. All areas in which the livestock are confined shall be located at least 50 ft from any wellhead, not including any drain field.
5. Keeping of Chickens.
   A. Roosters are prohibited.
   B. Chickens must be confined to a chicken coop or enclosed structure. An outside, completely enclosed run attached to the coop may be provided.
   C. All feed and other items associated with the keeping of chickens likely to attract rats, mice, or other rodents or vermin shall be secured and protected in sealed containers.

SECTION 2

REPEAL AND EFFECTIVE DATE

All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed. This Ordinance shall become effective on the eighth day after publication or such later date as may be required by law.

Robin Hawthorne, Clerk
Charter Township of Rutland

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Revocable Inter Vivos Trust

Living Trust of John E. Chilton and Norma J. Chilton Dated September 30, 1992, as amended and restated

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The Settlors of the trust, John E. Chilton (date of birth: July 9, 1926), who lived at 15160 Banfield Road, Battle Creek, MI 49017, died December 4, 2002; and Norma J. Chilton (date of birth: November 12, 1925), who lived at 15160 Banfield Road, Battle Creek, MI 49017, died July 30, 2025. There is no personal representative of either Settlor's estate to whom Letters of Authority have been issued.

Creditors of the Settlors, John E. Chilton and Norma J. Chilton, are notified that all claims against the trust will be forever barred unless presented to Marc H. Chilton, the trustee of the trust, at 13551 Bird Road, Dowling, MI 49050, within 4 months of the date of publication of this notice. Notice is further given that the trust assets will thereafter be assigned and distributed to the persons entitled thereto.

Date: 9/10/2025
Kreis, Enderle, Hudgins & Borsos, PC
Stephen L. Simons (P33047)
One West Michigan Avenue
Battle Creek, MI 49017
(269) 966-3000
Marc H. Chilton
13551 Bird Road
Dowling, MI 49050

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF BARRY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. and JUDGE 25-30201-DE

Estate of Kathy E. Kulikowski, deceased. Date of birth: 02/13/1948

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Kathy E. Kulikowski, died 06/10/2025

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

Date: 09/10/25

Robert J. Longstreet P53546
607 N. Broadway
Hastings, MI 49058
(269) 945-3495

Amanda N. Herp
513 Sierra PL
Gurnee, IL 60031
(661) 344-6499

TK tennis shuts out back-to-back conference foes

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Thornapple Kellogg upped its OK Gold Conference varsity boys' tennis record to 2-1 with an 8-0 win over visiting Grand Rapids Union Monday afternoon in Middleville.

The Trojans also toppled Wyoming 8-0 in the conference, on the road, last Thursday Sept. 11.

The TK boys won the six contested matches with the Red Hawks in straight sets Monday. The best battle came at number one singles where Trojan senior Franklin Wilkinson took a 6-2, 6-4 win over Union senior Anish Kulkarni.

The rest of the Trojans gave up just one game combined. Freshman Parker Sylvestre at second singles and senior Mark Gielincki at fourth singles both took 6-0, 6-0 wins. Sophomore Max Lepper at third singles won 6-1, 6-0 for TK.

Union had just two doubles teams to face the Trojans. TK juniors Layne Schilthroat and Samuel Teachout at first doubles took a 6-0, 6-0 win. At second doubles, TK junior Gideon Scott and sophomore Graham Eden won 6-0, 6-0 as well.

Scores were similar in last week's dual with Wyoming. Wilkinson breezed to a 6-0, 6-0 win over Wyoming's top player on that day though. Sylvestre and Gielincki both won 6-0, 6-0 as well. Lepper fought off Wyoming senior Allan Barrientos for a 6-1, 6-4 win at third singles.

Schilthroat and Teachout at first doubles and Eden and Scott at second doubles won 6-0, 6-0 as well, and the Wolves forfeited the third and fourth doubles flights to the Trojans.



Thornapple Kellogg's Layne Schilthroat hits an overhead volley down as first doubles teammate Samuel Teachout looks on from the baseline during their win over Grand Rapids Union Monday in Middleville. **Photos by Brett Bremer**



Thornapple Kellogg senior first singles player Franklin Wilkinson hits a serve during the first set of his 6-2, 6-4 win over Grand Rapids Union's top player in an OK Gold Conference dual in Middleville Monday.

The Trojan team was tested over the weekend at the Big Rapids Invitational. The Trojans took a runner-up finish behind the host Cardinals. Big Rapids bested the TK boys 6-2, the Trojans defeated Sparta 6-2, and the TK team also took an 8-0 win over a Grant team that competed at just four flights throughout the day.

Sylvestre at second singles and the fourth doubles team of senior Alex Eggleston and junior Mark Cuison were both 3-0 on the day. Those were the two flights where TK took wins in the dual with Big Rapids.

Sylvestre, Mark Gielincki and all four TK doubles teams scored wins over Sparta. TK got straight set wins from all four singles players in the match with Grant to go along with forfeits at the four doubles flights.

The Trojans were slated to face Wayland Wednesday, Sept. 17, in the OK Gold and Saturday will travel to Vicksburg for the Bulldogs' Military Appreciation Tournament. The Trojans are home again Monday, Sept. 22, for a tough conference dual with West Catholic and then home Sept. 24 to take on Northview.



The Saxons' Bronson Elliott clears the zone with a powerful kick upfield during his team's I-8 contest with visiting Harper Creek Sept. 11. **Photos by Perry Hardin**

First two I-8 opponents shut out Saxon soccer squad

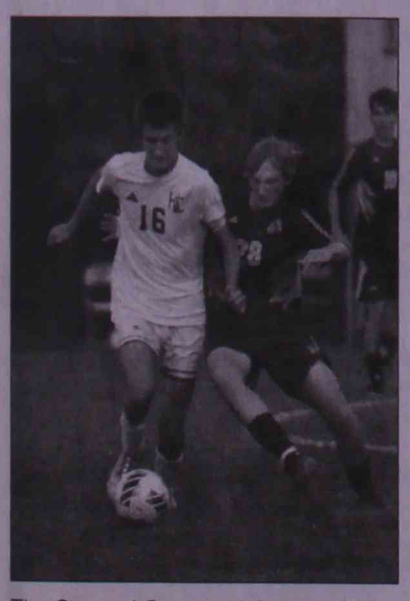
Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Hastings is still chasing its first Interstate-8 Conference win and its first conference goal of the season.

Jackson Northwest and Harper Creek bested the Saxon varsity boys' soccer team in the first two matches of the conference season.

Harper Creek scored a 3-0 win over the Saxons in Hastings Sept. 11. The Saxons were also bested 3-0 at Northwest Tuesday, Sept. 16.

The conference season continues this afternoon, Sept. 18, as the Saxons hit the road to face Parma Western. The Saxons go to the Mattawan Invitational Saturday, Sept. 20, and then will be home in I-8 play to take on Pennfield Tuesday, Sept. 23.



The Saxons' Cooper Hokanson (28) steals the ball away from Harper Creek's TJ Ruble (16) with a poke check in the second half Thursday, Sept. 11, on Pierce Field in Hastings.

SYNOPSIS
Hastings Charter Township
Regular Meeting
September 9, 2025

Meeting called to order 6:30 p.m.
All board members present
Approved agenda/consent agenda
Discussed Ranked Choice Voting, ambulance svc agreement, cemetery issue, parks funding, BC Chamber activities, EGLE biosolids site
Approved payment of bills
Dept. reports received
Motion to adjourn 7:51 pm
Submitted, David J. Olson, Clerk
Attested to by
Jim Partridge, Supervisor

City of Hastings

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON AMENDING CHAPTER 90, ARTICLE VI, BY ADDING DIVISION 90-VI-18

The Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing for the purpose of hearing written and/or oral comments from the public concerning amending Chapter 90, Article 90-VI by adding Division 90-VI -18 - 3-4 Family Overlay District. The public hearing will be held **on Monday October 6, 2025, at 7:00 PM** in the Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall, 201 East State Street, Hastings, Michigan 49058.

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

Please contact Dan King, Community Development Director, at dking@hastingsmi.gov or 269-945-2468 if you have questions or comments regarding this public hearing.

A copy of this information is available for public inspection from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM Monday through Friday at the Office of the City Clerk, 201 East State Street, Hastings, Michigan 49058.

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

Linda Perin
City Clerk

Yarger sets DK/HHS dive record in meet at Ionia

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Delton Kellogg/Hastings girls swam well despite some absence and illness Thursday during a non-conference dual at Ionia.

The Ionia varsity girls' swimming and diving team tallied a 114-65 win over the DK/Hastings girls.

Sophomore diver Aubrey Yarger set a new team record in the diving competition with her six-dive score of 266.40 points. Teammate Jillian Brandli was the runner-up in the event with a score of 147.15, beating out Ionia's top diver by a little over a point and a half.

The DK/Hastings girls won some races in the water too. The team of Lilly Randall, Kassidy Peake, Annabelle Kuck and Yarger won the 200-yard medley relay to start the evening with a time of 2 minutes 21.17 seconds.

Kuck added a winning time of 1:12.00 to win the 100-yard butterfly. Randall won the 100-yard backstroke in 1:13.77. Randall had a runner-up time of 2:42.85 in the 200-yard freestyle too.

Yarger followed up her diving and relay wins by placing second in the 100-yard freestyle with a time of 1:11.54.

DK/Hastings head coach Carl Schoessel said some fill-ins did very well for the squad including Sofia Arias Trejo, Brandli, Selena Corona, Shiloh Crandall, and Jayda Villarreal.

Villarreal was the runner-up in the 500-yard freestyle with a time of 8:01.90.

That meet came in between a couple tough Southwestern and Central Michigan Swim Conference duals. Otsego bested the DK/Hastings girls in the conference opener Sept. 9 and the Sturgis girls took a 101-65 win over the visiting DK/Hastings girls Tuesday.

Yarger took the diving competition with a score of 242.50 with Brandli second again.

Kuck won the 100-yard butterfly with a season-best time of 1:10.26. Peake got the winning time of 1:42.85 in the 100-yard breaststroke

Randall had a runner-up time of 2:41.99 in the 200-yard individual medley and was the runner-up in the 100-yard freestyle in 1:02.28. Teammate Petra Foster was the runner-up in the 500-yard freestyle in 6:47.73.

The DK/Hastings girls also got the first place points in the 400-yard freestyle relay from the team of Foster, Brandli, Villarreal and Corona.

SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - BARRY COUNTY

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

1570655
(08-28)(09-18)

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:

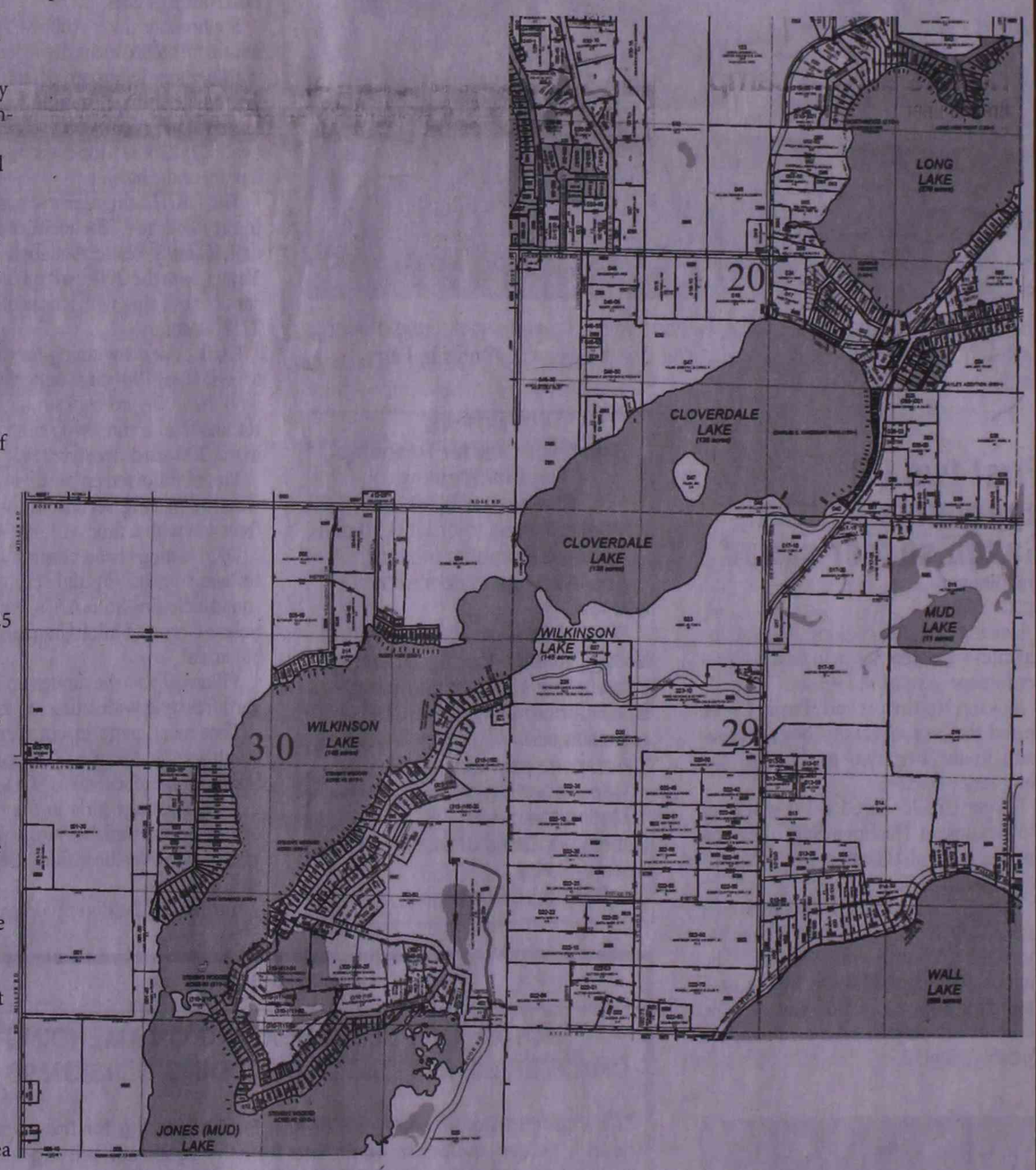
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Township Board of Hope Township, as authorized by PA 188 of 1954, as amended, proposes to undertake an aquatic plant control project (with associated activities) on Cloverdale, Wilkinson and Jones (Mud) Lakes in Hope Township as more particularly described below and to re-establish 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.

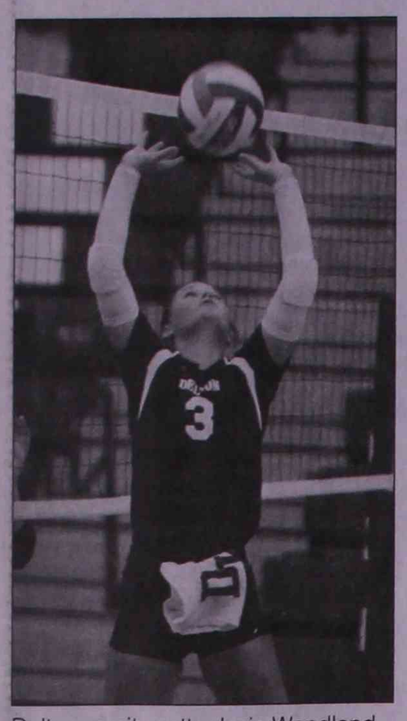
PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that appearance and protest at the public hearing is required in order to appeal the amount of the special assessment to the State Tax Tribunal within 30 days after the special assessment roll is confirmed. An owner or party in interest, or his/her agent, may appear via Zoom 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.

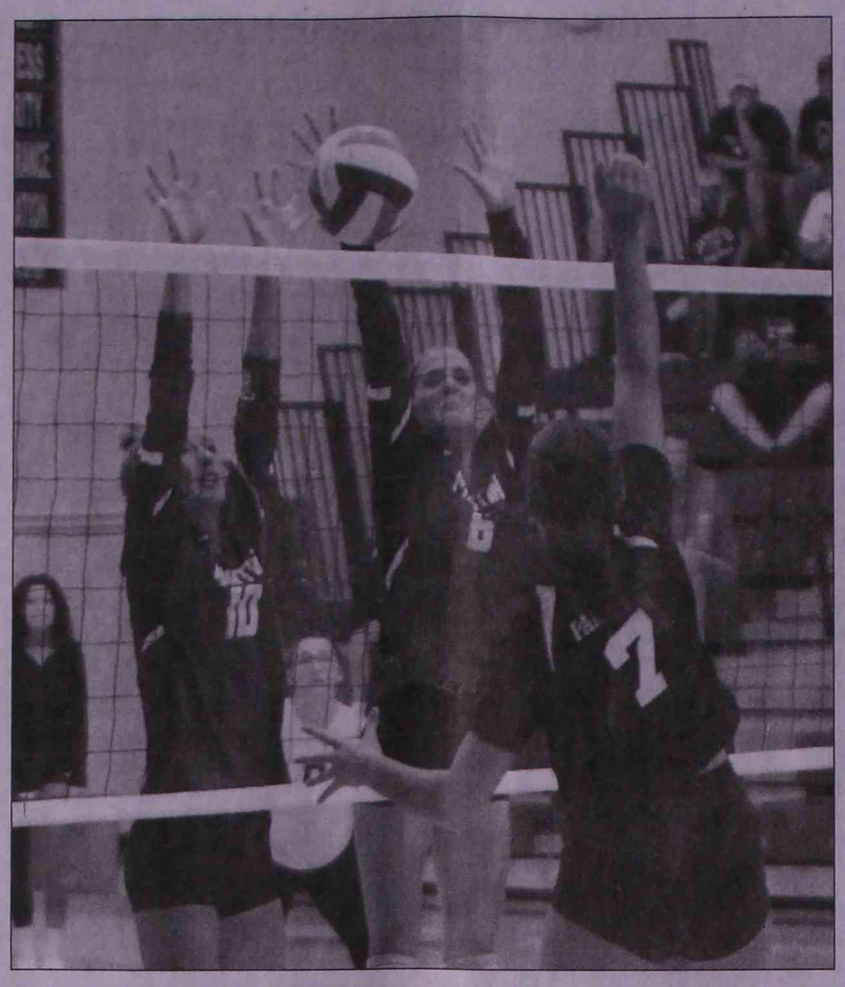
Hope Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services at the hearing, to individuals with disabilities at the hearing upon seven (7) days' notice to the Township Clerk at the address below.

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

Upping aggressiveness helping DK start strong in SAC



Delton varsity setter Izzie Wendland (3) sets the ball in the second game with Martin Tuesday at DKHS.



Delton Kellogg's Clara Sanchez-Palenia (7) attacks from the left side of the net to shoot the ball past the block of Martin's Anna Jager (10) and Marybeth Ritchie (6) Tuesday.



Delton Kellogg's Laana Hooker (12) knocks down a kill from center court during her team's three-set win over visiting Martin Tuesday. **Photos by Perry Hardin**

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Delton Kellogg varsity volleyball team added another Southwestern Athletic Conference victory to its 2025 resume opening SAC Central play by topping Martin in three sets Tuesday.

The Panthers bested the visiting Clippers by the scores of 25-18, 25-20, 25-11.

DK head coach Erin Thornton was away from the team Tuesday night, but said that her girls are "doing a great job working together and being aggressive. That's been a big push the last few years from the coaching staff, getting the girls to take action and not be meek about their plays. They're really taking that to heart and making strides to finish the ball on each rally.

"They played really well together, and Martin has lost a few key players, so that lead to us taking the W last night."

The Panthers have a tough SAC dual on the slate for tonight, Sept. 18, at home against Schoolcraft. The Panthers face more solid competition Saturday when they head to the Lakewood Invitational. There is a SAC Central dual on the slate for Tuesday, Sept. 23, at home against Gobles.

TKHS cheerleaders earn All-American honors at NCA camp

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

A group of six Trojans earned All-American honors and a trio of seniors were invited to become members of the National Cheerleaders Association (NCA) at the NCA camp at Grand Blanc High School Aug. 14-15.

Thornapple Kellogg sideline and competitive cheer head coach Madelynn Lula and 20 members of the 2025 TKHS sideline cheer team were a part of the NCA camp that hosted eight of the to cheer teams in the state. Lula said the Trojans were one of just two programs at the "elite" camp that were not a part of the MHSAA State Finals in competitive cheer last winter – although the Trojans are no strangers to participating in the state finals.

A handful of girls who have cheered for the orange and black earned NCA All-American honors at the camp for their performance, poise and personality. That group of TK All-Americans included Mia Hilton, Clara Kovich, Kaylee Clarke, Keiryn Merrill, Caitryn Hilton and Tobey DeGroot.

"You had to be at the clinic, recognized by one of the people on staff as an elite leader on the team, an elite talent on the team, and you had to show that you're exceptional in athletics and teamwork and leadership," Lula said. "We had 12 on our team that were nominated to tryout, and then you have to complete a cheer that they learned the first day of the clinic, and a series of tumbling and stunting and jumping."

Lula added that Mia Hilton, Clarke and fellow senior Peyton Gater were chosen to become a part of the NCA.

This was a new experience for the TK team. The NCA has hosted midwest camps as close as Wisconsin which some Michigan teams have attended in the past. Lula said the camp was run mostly by cheerleaders from the University of Louisville.

"It was awesome. It was a great experience," Lula said. "We had never attended anything like that before. It was really cool to see the girls flourish in front of especially talented people like that."

The 2025 Trojan sideline cheer team got its first action of the fall season in Thursday, Aug. 28, in front of the Trozone student section inside Bob White Stadium as the Thornapple Kellogg varsity football team played host to Hastings.



The Thornapple Kellogg High School varsity sideline cheer team gathers during the National Cheerleaders Association Camp at Grand Blanc High School the weekend of Aug. 14-15. TK had six cheerleaders earn NCA All-American status at the event. **Photo provided**

Wayland edges out Hastings girls by one at Orchard Hills

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Wayland pulled out a one-stroke victory over the visiting Saxons at Orchard Hills Golf Course Monday.

The Wildcat varsity girls' golf team took a 209-210 win over the Hastings girls.

Saxon sophomore Lilli Edger led her team and matched Wayland's top player with a 46. Hastings got a 51 from senior Ellie Cous9ins. Rylee Burnham added a 56 for Hastings and Ryann-Lynn Cole scored a 57. Sophia Greenfield was right behind the team's top four shooting a 58.

Saxon head coach Ross Schueller said that despite some confusion at the start, a late shift from the first to the 19th tee, his girls regrouped quickly and found their rhythm after the first few holes, showing composure under less-than-ideal circumstances.

Last Thursday, Sept. 11, the Saxons were a part of Comstock's Kate Kwasny Memorial Tournament, held at Eastern Hills Golf Course. Schueller said that Eastern Hills is a classic public course and one of the nicer venues the team will see this season, and it provided a good test against a strong field of competition. His girls placed eighth in a field of ten full teams – again just behind the Wayland girls.

Edger was seventh individually with a 91 and was among the day's medalists. Cole shot a 106, Maddie Stora a 118, Greenfield 121 and Burnham 123 for the Saxons.

Schueller said he was short-game play that was an encouraging step forward, with the team showing better touch and recovery around the greens. While focus wavered at times during the long round, the Saxons consistently found ways to reset and finish each hole strong according to their coach.

Plainwell took the day's team championship with a score of 351 strokes. Portage Northern was second at 364 ahead of St. Joseph 378, Sturgis 379, Cassopolis 413, Vicksburg 414, Wayland 429, Hastings 436, Comstock 483 and Paw Paw 496.

Portage Northern senior Brooke Randall was the day's individual champion with a score of 75. Plainwell junior Ayla Jaeger closed her day in second with a 77.

Coach Schueller said competing with quality teams like Plainwell, Portage Northern and St. Joseph is a good preview for his girls of what kind of talent they'll see at regionals at the end of the season.

City of Hastings

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Election Commission of the City of Hastings will meet at **11:00 AM on Tuesday, September 30, 2025,** in the 2nd Floor Conference Room at City Hall, 201 East State Street, Hastings. The purpose of the meeting is to appoint election inspectors, approve ballots, and deal with other matters pertaining to the upcoming election on Tuesday, November 4, 2025.

The City will provide necessary reasonable aids and services upon five days notice to mpeacock@hastingsmi.gov or (269) 945-2468.

Linda Perin
City Clerk

FORECLOSURE NOTICE

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. 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 01:00 PM, October 16, 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. Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Samara A. Champion, A Single Person and Daniel D. Paling, A Single Person to Fifth Third Mortgage - MI, LLC, Mortgagee, dated September 14, 2004, and recorded on October 14, 2004, as Document Number: 1135472, Barry County Records, said mortgage was assigned to Fifth Third Bank, National Association, FKA Fifth Third Bank as successor by merger to Fifth Third Mortgage Company by an Assignment of Mortgage dated July 05, 2018 and recorded July 16, 2018 by Document Number: 2018-006896, , on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Fifty-Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy-Five and 71/100 ($157,975.71) including interest at the rate of 3.00000% per annum. Said premises are situated in the Township of Hope, Barry County, Michigan, and are described as: Parcel 3: Commencing at the Southeast Corner of Section 23, Town 2 North, Range 9 West; Thence North 89 degrees 41 minutes 27 Seconds West 989.00 feet along the South Line of said Section 23; Thence North 00 degrees 37 minutes 14 seconds East 680.34 feet to the point of beginning; Thence North 00 degrees 37 minutes 14 seconds East 323.15 feet; Thence South 89 degrees 41 minutes 27 seconds East 328.99 feet; Thence South 00 degrees 37 minutes 14 seconds West 323.15 feet; Thence North 89 degrees 41 minutes 27 seconds West 328.99 feet to the point of beginning. Together with and subject to a private easement for ingress, egress and public utilities as described below. Easement: A private easement for ingress, egress and public utilities over the Easterly 66 feet described as: Beginning at a point on the South Line of Section 23, Town 2 North, Range 9 West distant North 89 degrees 41 minutes 27 seconds West 795.00 feet from the Southeast Corner of said Section 23; Thence North 00 degrees 37 minutes 14 seconds East 396.00 feet; Thence South 89 degrees 41 minutes 27 seconds East 68.99 feet; Thence North 00 degrees 37 minutes 14 seconds East 807.85 feet; Thence South 89 degrees 22 minutes 46 seconds East 66.00 feet; Thence North 00 degrees 37 minutes 14 seconds West 873.50 feet; Thence North 89 degrees 41 minutes 27 seconds West 68.99 feet; Thence South 00 degrees 37 minutes 14 seconds West 396.00 feet; Thence North 89 degrees 41 minutes 27 seconds West 66.00 feet along said South Section line to the point of beginning. Commonly known as: 7834 TAYLOR RIDGE, DELTON, MI 49046 If the property is eventually sold at foreclosure sale, the redemption period will be 6.00 months from the date of sale unless the property is abandoned or used for agricultural purposes. If the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241 and/or 600.3241a, the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of sale, or 15 days after statutory notice, whichever is later. If the property is presumed to be used for agricultural purposes prior to the date of the foreclosure sale pursuant to MCL 600.3240, the redemption period is 1 year. Pursuant to MCL 600.3278, if the property is sold at a foreclosure sale, the borrower(s) 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. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages are, if any, limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Dated: September 18, 2025 Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C. Attorneys for Fifth Third Bank, National Association, FKA Fifth Third Bank as successor by merger to Fifth Third Mortgage Company 43252 Woodward Avenue, Suite 180, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302, (248) 335-9200 Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Case No. 25MI00630-1
(09-18)(10-09)

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.

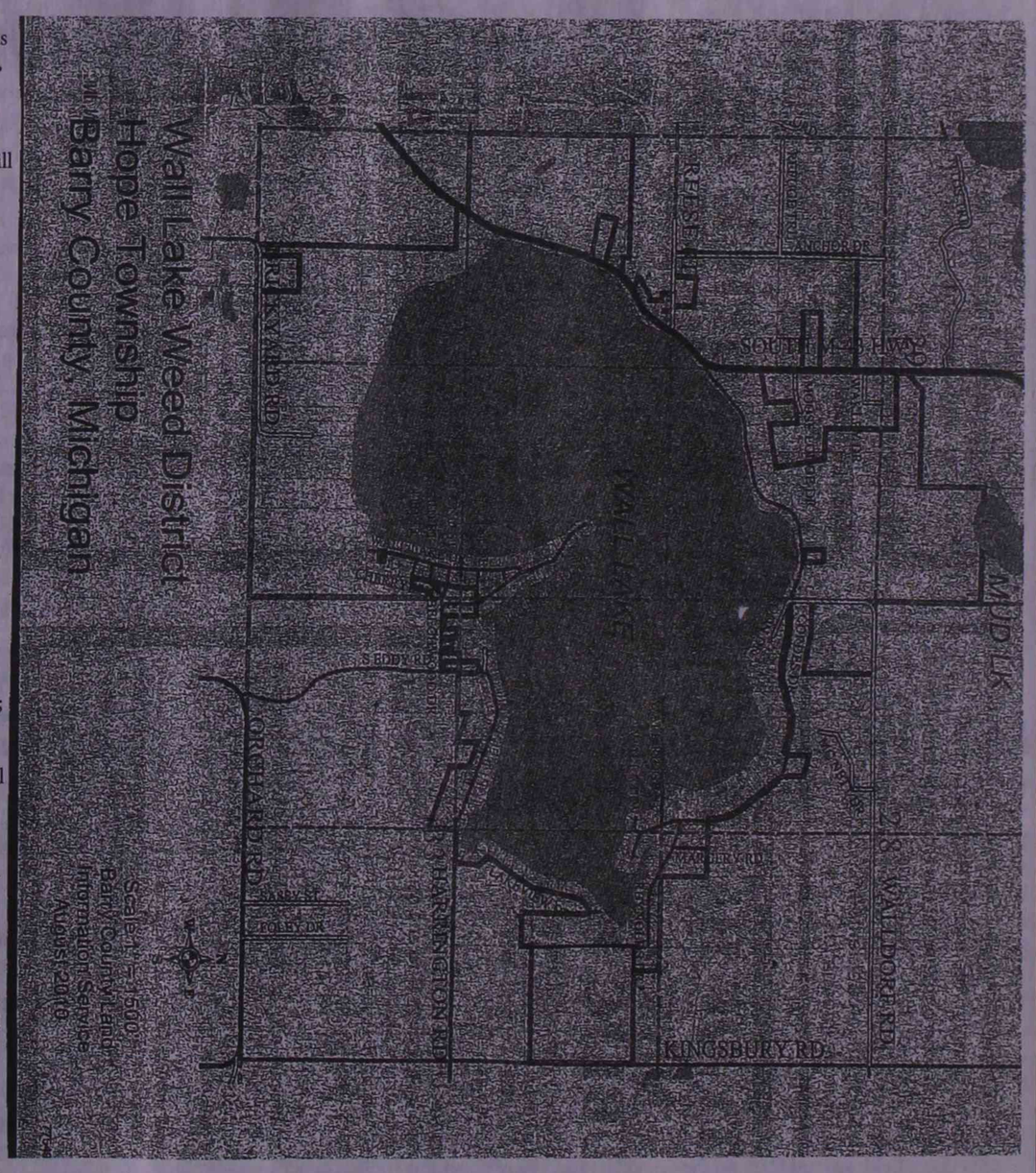
PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the special assessment district within which the foregoing improvements are proposed to be made and within which the costs thereof are to be specially assessed includes parcels with frontage on Wall Lake and/or back lots with access to Wall Lake and including the following 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
110-024-00	110-025-00	110-025-50	110-026-00	110-027-00	110-028-00	110-029-00
110-030-00	110-031-00	120-001-00	120-002-00	120-003-00	120-004-00	120-004-50
120-005-00	120-006-00	120-007-00	120-008-00	120-009-00	120-010-00	120-010-10
120-011-00	120-012-00	120-013-00	120-014-00	120-015-00	120-016-00	120-017-00
120-018-00	120-019-00	120-020-00	120-021-00	120-022-00	120-023-00	120-024-00
120-025-00	120-026-00	120-027-00	120-028-00	120-032-00	120-033-00	120-033-50
120-034-00	120-036-00	120-037-00	120-038-00	120-042-00	120-043-00	120-044-00
120-045-00	120-046-00	120-047-00	120-048-00	120-050-00	120-051-00	120-054-00
120-055-00	120-140-50	250-001-00	250-002-00	250-003-00	250-004-00	250-005-00
250-006-00	250-007-00	250-008-00	250-009-00	250-010-00	250-011-00	250-012-00
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
250-029-00	250-030-00	250-031-00	250-032-00	250-033-00	250-034-00	250-035-00
250-036-00	250-037-00	250-038-00	250-041-00	250-041-56	250-042-00	250-240-00
250-240-10	270-001-01	270-002-00	270-003-00	270-005-00	270-007-00	270-008-00
270-009-00	270-010-00	270-011-00	270-012-00	270-015-00	270-016-00	270-018-00
270-061-00	270-062-00	270-065-00	270-067-00	270-070-00	270-075-00	270-088-00
270-091-00	270-096-00	270-099-00	270-101-00	270-103-00	270-105-00	270-106-00
270-110-50	270-114-00	270-163-00	270-163-50	340-001-00	340-002-00	340-004-00
340-005-00	340-006-00	340-007-00	340-008-00	340-009-00	340-010-00	340-011-00
340-012-00	340-013-00	340-014-00	340-015-00	340-017-27	340-018-00	340-019-00
340-020-00	340-021-00	340-022-00	340-023-00	340-024-00	340-025-00	340-026-50
340-027-00	340-028-00	340-029-00	340-030-00	340-031-00	340-117-00	340-126-00
360-001-00	360-001-10	360-002-00	360-003-00	360-004-00	360-005-00	360-006-00
360-008-00						
360-009-00	360-010-00	360-013-00	360-014-00	360-015-00	360-016-00	360-017-00
360-018-00	360-019-00	360-020-00	360-021-00	360-022-00	360-023-00	360-024-00
360-025-00	360-026-00	360-027-00	360-028-00	360-029-00	360-030-00	360-032-00
360-033-00	360-039-00	360-041-00	360-042-00	360-043-00	360-044-00	360-045-00
360-046-00	360-047-00	360-048-00	360-049-00	360-050-00	360-051-00	360-052-00
360-053-00	360-054-00	360-055-00	360-056-00	360-057-00	360-058-00	360-059-00
360-060-00	360-061-00	360-062-00	360-063-00	360-064-00	360-065-00	360-066-00
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.

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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

Local gridiron teams all into conference play this week

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

There were close games, games that were closer than the final score showed, and a couple blowout wins for the local teams last Friday night.

Now everyone is into conference play this week. Delton Kellogg and Thornapple Kellogg are the last to see their conference rivals.

The Thornapple Kellogg squad has bounced back from its week one defeat to knock off Hamilton and Wayland in road non-conference contests the past two Fridays. TK makes another trip this week to face Ottawa Hills at Houseman Field in Grand Rapids to open the OK Black Conference season. The Trojans have won seven straight against the Bengals who come into the contest at 0-3.

Delton Kellogg starts things off in the Southwestern Athletic Conference Valley Division looking for its first win of the season. The Panthers take on a 2-1 Lawton team that just pulled out a three-point win over Kalamazoo United last week. DK is no stranger to close games this season, but the Panthers have yet to find a way to pull one out. Lawton has won its last three against the Delton Kellogg squad in SAC Valley play.

Hastings got win number one in the Interstate-8 Athletic Conference last week. The Saxons go on the road this Friday to face a Parma Western team that was trounced by Marshall in its conference opener last week. The Panthers are 1-2 so far his season, and haven't beaten the Saxons since 2020.

Lakewood lost a three-point ballgame to Charlotte to open Capital Area Activities Conference White Division action last week, and now it is on to Eaton Rapids. It will be the first road contest of the season for the Vikings. The Greyhounds knocked off Ionia 33-30 last week top open conference play, but Lakewood is looking to match its success against the Greyhounds from a year ago.

Maple Valley is still chasing its first win of the season. The Lions will have to spoil Springport's homecoming to get it done this week. The Lions are 0-2 in Big 8 Conference play so far, and are looking to avoid an 0-3 conference start. It'll be a tough task. The Spartans are off to a 3-0 start overall and have shut out two of their first three foes.

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

Hastings 58, Jackson Northwest 34

The offensive front came to play Friday, and everybody got to play as the night went on for the Saxons.

The Hastings varsity football team improved to 2-1 overall this season opening the Interstate-8 Athletic Conference season with a 58-34 win over visiting Jackson Northwest Friday inside Baum Stadium at Johnson Field.

Hastings took a 30-14 lead in the first half and then tallied four more touchdowns in the second half to finish off the Mounties while rushing for 414 yards as a team.

"When you run for over 400 yards you really need to look at what the linemen were doing right," Hastings head coach Jamie Murphy. "=Granted we are young in the backfield, but our linemen up front did a phenomenal job. The leadership of [Grady] Reed, [Caden] Pettengill, [Seth] Arnold, and [Trapper] Reigler really helps with our new varsity players. Having those four guys that understand and communicate well together is our number one asset."

The number one rusher for the Saxons on the night was Tyler Frazer who had nine carries for 110 yards and two touchdowns. Jonah Hamp had seven rushes for 97 yards and a score. Trevin Russell had seven carries for 79 yards and two touchdowns. Cardale Winebrenner added four rushes for 34 yards and a touchdown. Drew Jiles also had a TD run for Hastings.

In all, 13 different guys carried the ball for the Saxon team.

Quarterback Mason Tossava had three rushes of his own for 26 yards and was 2-of-3 passing for 76 yards and a touchdown to Frazer. Spencer Wilkins had a team-high 35 yards receiving.

Defensively, Quinnton Schnerre intercepted a Northwest pass for the Saxons. Winebrenner had a team-high nine total tackles. Pettengill had eight and Liam Renner had seven. Wilkins, Russell and Colton Delton had five tackles each.

All of that after the Mounties built a 14-8 lead. The Saxons answered a go-ahead TD drive by the Mounties early in the second quarter by adding a 52-yard TD run from Hamp that tied the game at 14-14. The Saxons took the lead for good with a two-yard Winebrenner TD run and a hook and ladder TD pass from Tossava to Hamp who then pitched the ball back to Frazer to carry in for a score before the half.



Maple Valley senior Dayton Hillard tries to rip the ball from the grasp of Reading ballcarrier Reid Westfall during the first half of their Big 8 Conference ballgame at Maple Valley High School Friday. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

"Once the team gained control of the game we were able to get every player in for some significant playing time," coach Murphy said. "Those guys put a lot of themselves into this team and they don't get to play every Friday night, so that is alway a priority. That is what the team was most proud of Friday night, those guys getting in to play.

"We had a lot of coaching from teammates going on on the sidelines when groups came off the field. It was exciting to see."

Northwest was powered offensively by Jeffrey Miller who had 19 rushes for 95 yards and two touchdowns. Quarterback Gabe Christner was 10-of-24 passing for 213 yards and two touchdowns. Roe DeDeaux and Jonathon Osterberg had TD receptions for Northwest. Christner had a TD run of his own too.

Watervliet 20, Delton Kellogg 14

The end zone was right there a couple times, but the Delton Kellogg Panthers just couldn't quite add to the scoreboard.

Watervliet blocked a Delton Kellogg field goal attempt and stopped another DK fourth down play, eventually holding on for a 20-14 win over the host Panthers.

"We have to learn to execute our job on every play and finish drives off," DK head coach Brooks Smith said. "We moved the ball more consistently then previous weeks, but still have to finish.

The first offensive drive of the ballgame ended well for the DK team, with Griffyn Harmon rushing in for a four-yard TD. DK took a 7-0 lead, and still led 7-6 at the half.

Watervliet scored the only points of the second quarter on a 76-yard touchdown pass by senior quarterback Caleb Jewell to senior wide receiver Cole Getz who just ran by the DK defensive backfield to haul in the bomb from his QB.

Watervliet blocked a 25-yard field goal attempt by DK kicker Gabe Smoczynski to end the first drive of the second half. The Watervliet offense then went the other way for a four-yard TD run by Jewell who beat everyone around the right side on a read option play for a score. The two-point conversion boosted the Watervliet lead to 14-7.

The Delton Kellogg defense had a goal-line stand of its own to keep it a one-score game early in the fourth quarter, but the DK team had to punt the ball back to the Watervliet offense. Jewell weaved his way for a 30-yard touchdown scramble on a third-and-15 play to push his team's lead to 20-7.

The Panthers tacked on a five-yard TD run by quarterback Tucker Tack with 1:29 to go in the fourth quarter to get back within one score. Smoczynski's kick was good to make it a 20-14 ballgame.

Watervliet managed to snag a bounding onside kick attempt by DK, and the Watervliet offense made just enough plays to eat up all but the last six seconds on the clock. A desperation heave by Tack while rushing away from pressure was intercepted by Watervliet.

"Our defense was on the field a lot," Smith said.

Watervliet, with Jewell making plays with his arm and his legs, managed to convert 5-of-6 fourth down attempts. He threw for 193 yards on the night.

Smith said there was one defensive pass interference penalty that kept a Watervliet drive alive, but most of the time it was just a "special kid making a timely play, whether throwing or running. They have a great QB. We made it tough on him at times, but eventually given enough opportunity good players make plays."

The DK team had some good players making plays too.

"Mitchell Swift played well and was relentless all night," Smith said. "Keegan Hill played great at defensive back all night. Gryffin Harmon and Lasse Lokau played a great game at linebacker and carried the ball when asked."

Hill picked off a Jewell pass on Watervliet's first possession of the ballgame.

Thornapple Kellogg 41, Wayland 14

Through three quarters, the Trojan defense and the Wayland offense scored the same amount of points.

The Thornapple Kellogg varsity football team improved to 2-1 overall this season with a 41-14 win at Wayland in the final non-conference ballgame to open the season Friday.

Senior defensive lineman Owen Hood scooped up a Wayland fumble and returned it 22 yards for a touchdown to help put TK in front 14-0 in the opening quarter.

TK pushed its lead to 28-7 by the half.

See **GRIDIRON** on 16

FOOTBALL

LOCAL STANDINGS	W	L	PLAYOFF POINTS
Hastings	2	1	41.667
Thornapple Kellogg	2	1	35
Lakewood	1	2	16.667
Delton Kellogg	0	3	2.333
Maple Valley	0	3	2

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

OK Black	W	L	CONFERENCE Wins	CONFERENCE Losses
Grand Rapids Catholic Central	3	0	0	0
Holland Christian	3	0	0	0
Northview	3	0	0	0
East Grand Rapids	2	1	0	0
Thornapple Kellogg	2	1	0	0
Ottawa Hills	0	3	0	0

BIG 8 CONFERENCE	W	L	CONFERENCE WINS	CONFERENCE LOSSES
Quincy	3	0	2	0
Union City	3	0	2	0
Springport	3	0	1	0
Reading	1	2	1	1
Stockbridge	0	3	0	1
Maple Valley	0	3	0	2
Sand Creek	0	3	0	2

CAPITAL AREA ACTIVITIES CONFERENCE WHITE	W	L	CONFERENCE WINS	CONFERENCE LOSSES
Portland	3	0	2	0
Charlotte	2	1	2	0
Olivet	2	1	1	1
Eaton Rapids	1	2	1	1
Lansing Sexton	1	2	1	1
Lakewood	1	2	0	1
Ionia	0	3	0	1
Lansing Catholic	0	3	0	2

SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE VALLEY	W	L	CONFERENCE WINS	CONFERENCE LOSSES
Galesburg-Augusta	2	1	0	0
Lawton	2	1	0	0
Saugatuck	2	1	0	0
Schoolcraft	2	1	0	0
Coloma	1	2	0	0
Delton Kellogg	0	3	0	0



GRIDIRON

Continued from Page 15

"We played great team defense all night," TK head coach Jeff Dock said. "Played fast and physical."

He said junior Cam Peter had an especially great game. Peter finished the evening with three solo tackles and nine assists.

Junior quarterback Micah Dock rushed six times for 42 yards and two touchdowns, and was 3-of-4 passing for 62 yards and a TD pass to teammate Elliott Neff. Senior back Debo Robinson had ten rushes for 90 yards and a score, and senior Zach Eldridge busted loose for 73 yards on three carries.

As a team, TK finished with 210 yards rushing.

Malachi VanEngen opened the scoring for TK with a one-yard TD run and then TK added the defensive score. Dock had a seven-yard TD run in the second quarter, and then after Wayland pulled within 21-7, Micah Dock connected with Neff on a 35-yard touchdown pass.

Micah Dock scored on a 16-yard run in the third quarter. Robinson found the end zone on a 49-yard run in the fourth quarter.

TK kicker Mason Chivis hit his first five extra-point kicks.

The Trojan defense also picked off one Wayland pass.

Charlotte 17, Lakewood 13

It wasn't a victory on the Unity Field scoreboard for the Lakewood varsity football team Friday night. Year over year, it was a win though.

The Vikings were bested 17-13 in their Capital Area Activities Conference White Division opener against visiting Charlotte. The Orioles took a 35-0 victory over the Vikings in their conference ballgame a year ago.

As it has in every game all season, the Viking offense struck early. Sophomore quarterback Max Thrun had a gaping hole through the middle of the Oriole defensive line to follow junior center Clayton Goethals to the end zone with a minute and a half to play in the first quarter.

Evan Colosky fired a 29-yard touchdown pass to teammate Braylon Holmes to answer the Viking's score two and a half minutes into the second quarter, then added a two-point try to take an 8-7 lead.

The Orioles upped their lead to 15-7 with a one-yard TD run by Carter Carey late in the first half.

The Vikings got within 15-13 with an 18-yard TD pass from Thrun to sophomore Bryer Poll with 3:14 to go in the third quarter.

The Orioles upped their lead to four points with a safety early in the fourth quarter as a Viking ballcarrier was unable to get out of the end zone with the offense backed up at its own goal-line.

The Vikings are now 1-2 overall this season and 0-1 in the CAAC White.

Reading 28, Maple Valley 7

How big was the gap between the Lions and Reading on homecoming night at Maple Valley High School Friday? Just a couple of inches at the end of the first half would have made a big difference in what turned into a 28-7 win for the visiting Rangers in Big 8 Conference play.

Pushing to cut into a 12-7 Reading lead in the closing moments of the first half, the Lions quickly drove from their own 46-yard-line deep into Ranger territory. The Reading defense managed to haul down Lion senior quarterback Eli Wright just short of the goal-line as the final couple seconds ticked off the clock. The Lions had to burn a couple timeouts mostly due to substitution issues in the first half, and it burned them at that moment.

"That was tough," Lion head coach Mitchell McClintock said. "We had to burn a couple timeouts on silly stuff," he added. "The football Gods got a way of getting you back. That is the way it goes. I am not surprised it happened."

"That totally falls on me no doubt … something like that falls on the coaches and we should be better than that for sure."

A couple Maple Valley football players were crowned the homecoming king and prince during halftime ceremonies, but after the half most of the highlights belonged to the Rangers.

Reading quarterback Carter Bassage hurt the Lions on both sides of the ball. He intercepted a pass from his safety spot and returned it 55 yards for a touchdown to end the Lions' first drive of the second half. Senior running back Brayden Wright took a reverse 70 yards for a touchdown. The Rangers added a couple two-point conversions as well to make the final margin.



Delton Kellogg running back Mason Ferris finds a seam down the middle of the field for a large gain in the second half Friday against Watervliet.



Delton Kellogg senior Elijah Offringa can't quite reach a high pass as he's defended by Watervliet's Cole Getz Friday. **Photos by Perry Hardin**

The Lions had a lead for a bit in the first half. Gray took a pitch 54 yards around the left side for a touchdown three and a half minutes into the game. Eli Wright made plays on both sides of the ball like his QB counterpart. He recovered a Ranger fumble late in the first quarter and a few plays later connected with senior Jackson Burpee for a 23-yard touchdown pass.

Sophomore kicker Kelvin Davis booted the extra-point kick to put the Lions ahead 7-6 with 14.3 seconds to go in the opening quarter.

Reading followed with a 16-play drive that covered 80 yards over the first eight minutes of the second quarter. The drive concluded with a nine-yard Gray TD run as the Rangers moved in front 12-7.

Reading rushed for 220 yards in the ballgame led by Brayden Wright carried the ball seven times for 101 yards. Gavin Wright rushed 15 times for 59 yards for the Rangers.

Eli Wright led the Lion ground-game with 13 rushes for 44 yards and Hillard had 11 carries for 34 yards.

McClintock was pleased with the updated offensive attack that put the bigger Eli Wright at QB for the Lions allowing for a few more positive gains with early down rushes. He said he tried to get some more size and age up on the line Friday too.

"I thought we developed the run game a little more," McClintock said. "We had some personnel changes on the offense that seemed to work. It's not our good plays right now, it's our bad plays for sure."

The Lions are now 0-3 on the season. Reading moved its record to 1-2.

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