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Farming families honored at Hall of Fame induction ceremony



Dave Dickerson entertains audience members at Saturday, Sept. 20's Michigan Farmers Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. Dickerson has been involved with the Farmers Hall of Fame since its inaugural event in 1982. **Photos by Molly Macleod**

Molly Macleod
Editor

Five Michigan farming families were honored on Saturday, Sept. 20, as some of the best to ever do it.

Thomas Durand, of St. Clair County; Ken and Jane Gasper, of Ionia County; Jon and Gloria Haindl, of Schoolcraft County; Carl and Anne Pease, of Eaton County; and Van Buren County's DeGrandchamp family were inducted into the Michigan Farmers Hall of Fame at its 2025 induction ceremony on Saturday.

This year marked the Hall of Fame's 38th induction ceremony.

The five farming families honored on Saturday join dozens of other Michigan farmers honored in the Hall of Fame, which was established by Barry County farmer Bill Aukerman in 1982. This year, the ceremony was held at its new permanent home not far from where it began: the Barry Expo Center in Hastings.

Longtime Farmers Hall of Fame volunteer Dave Dickerson kicked things off on Saturday, busting out his guitar and singing pipes to serenade audience members with folk tunes — some incorporating tales of the 2025 inductees.

Michigan Farmer's Hall of Fame President Mark Kies explained why it is important to honor farmers. He thanked the volunteers who helped secure the Hall of Fame's new home in Barry County.

"The transition to get here, a lot of people got involved. You guys (the 2025 inductees) are going to be the first class. And it's good to see some good faces here and lots of young people. I think we're off to something good," Kies said.

Kies teared up as he played a recording of Paul Harvey's speech "So God Made a Farmer," recited by his granddaughter.

Kies introduced representatives from each of the honored families on Saturday, giving them each a few minutes to speak on the honor.

Durand, who operates a 435-acre

See **CEREMONY** on 4

Local ag educator releases children's book

Molly Macleod
Editor

Fifth-generation farmer and agricultural literacy educator Kathryn Christie is embarking on a new venture this month: children's book author. Christie released her first book, "The Hibernating Combine," on Sept. 1.

The book has enjoyed immediate success, with the local author selling over 250 copies across the country already.

The book, illustrated by Sudipta (Steve) Dasgupta, follows the story of Farmer Boyd and his young helper as they finish the fall harvest and prepare the combine for winter storage. It is aimed for children between 4 and 8 years old.

"It's kind of a different side of farming that not many people get to see, which is how farmers care for their equipment just as they care for their land," Christie said.

Christie said she was inspired to write the book by her son and from her own experiences growing up on the farm.

"When my son was a lot younger and we had finished harvesting, he was like, 'Mom, where did all the combines go?'" Christie said. "He's super into wild animals, and I said, 'Oh, they're hibernating like the bears do.'"

After visiting their local library in Woodland, Christie realized there is a lack of children's books that teach about agriculture.

"So, that kind of started my thinking about how can I make a difference," Christie said.

Christie, who has served as the Barry County Farm Bureau's promotion and education committee chair for over a decade, met children's author Peggy Thomas at a Farm Bureau conference in 2021. Thomas is a two-time recipient of the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture Book of the Year award.

"I already had this idea in my mind, and after the session, that's when I finally sat down and started working on (the book)," Christie said.

That conference also inspired Christie to work with the Barry County Farm Bureau to donate every year the Agriculture Book of the Year to each local library in Barry County.

"We've been able to get so many more ag books into the community. And then I kind of just wanted to leave my mark, too,"



Kathryn Christie, a fifth-generation Barry County farmer, stands in a soybean field holding her first children's book, "The Hibernating Combine." **Courtesy photos**

"The Hibernating Combine" took Christie four years from start to finish. But, she has started two other children's books in the meantime.

"I never dreamt of being an author," Christie said. "I actually really struggled with English in school — that was not my strong subject. But this just comes so naturally to me, because so much of what I do is ag education, especially with those younger ages. "

When not serving on the

See **BOOK** on 3

Suspect receives jail sentence after being caught in 'To Catch a Predator' style sting

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

A 54-year-old Battle Creek man will serve much of the next year of his life in the Barry County Jail, after allegedly being caught in a "To Catch a Predator" style internet sting.

Shane M. Barker, 54, of Battle Creek, was sentenced to 300 days in jail, as well as five years probation and being required to register on the state's sex offender list, by Judge Michael Schipper during a sentencing hearing on Sept. 17 in Barry County District Court 56B.

According to court records, Barker was arrested on May 25 on charges of accosting a minor for immoral purposes and using a computer in commission of a crime for allegedly soliciting a sexual relationship with a person he thought was a 15-year-old boy.

Assistant Prosecutor Jessica Payne said Barker allegedly made contact with the person online before sending sexually explicit messages, and then seeking the individual he thought to be a teen.

"All of that is fine if you're talking to an adult," Payne said. "But, he thought, at the time, he was a 15-year-old who was a minor.

"He (then) gets inside the home to meet the minor," she added. "That's very brazen."

Once inside the Barry County residence, Payne said Barker

See **PREDATOR** on 3

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FORMER TIGER MAKING APPEARANCE AT SEPT. 27 CARD SHOW
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Gun Lake Fall Fest returns Sept. 26-28

Karen Turko-Ebright
Staff Writer

Free trolley stops around the lake are back on Saturday, Sept. 27, at the second annual Gun Lake Fall Fest in Yankee Springs. Anyone can hop on a trolley for a ride to a local business or restaurant.

A route of where to board a trolley is mapped out on the Gun Lake Tourism website at https://gunlaketourism.com/fall-fest/.

Fall Fest events begin Friday, Sept. 26, and conclude Sunday, Sept. 28. The bulk of Fall Fest events are happening between 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 27.

At 11 a.m. on Saturday, the Gun Lake Tribe will lead an opening ceremony at Chief Noonday Car Park, honoring their heritage and connection to the land.

Co-chairs of the Gun Lake Fall Fest, Kenna Graham and Kim Lynch, said there's plenty to do and see, with many free activities for the whole family.

Organizers encourage visitors to support local businesses and restaurants, plus take advantage of specials and some free family fun.

Lynch heads up the Kids Corral, which includes free activities on Saturday at Chief Noonday Car Park in Yankee Springs. Kids can enjoy a petting zoo, face painting, temporary tattoos and bobbing for apples. Plus, there will be elephant ears — and the first 150 are free.

"We're having games and prizes and giveaways," Lynch said.

Thanks to sponsorship from a few local businesses, Lynch said fire trucks will be at Chief Noonday Car Park this weekend, giving away apple cider and donuts.



Free trolley stops around the lake are back from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 27, at the second annual Gun Lake Fall Fest. Anyone can hop on a trolley for a ride to a local business or restaurant. **Courtesy photos**

"Gun Lake Fall Fest is about showcasing all our area has to offer and the entire community celebrating the beauty of our area together," said Graham. "With the trolley linking restaurants, shops and activities, you can explore Gun Lake in a relaxed and fun way while celebrating the season."

Visit the Gun Lake Tourism page at gunlaketourism.com/fall-fest/ for more information and a complete list of events.

"Money is tight for a lot of people," Lynch said. "Families can make memories and a lot of things are free."

Festival highlights include the painted peninsula sculptures on display at Chief Noonday Car Park. Visitors can place silent auction bids on the sculptures during the day and return at 5 p.m. for the people's choice award announcement and live auction.

Along the trolley route, shoppers can enjoy food and drink specials, seasonal menus and pop-up shopping at participating businesses.

Family fun activities are offered at each stop from fall-themed crafts, food tastings, painting a free pumpkin, interactive demonstrations and live music.

For more information, contact the president and treasurer of the Gun Lake Business Association, Deb Timmerman, at 616-401-7199 or email deb@lessstressinlife.com.

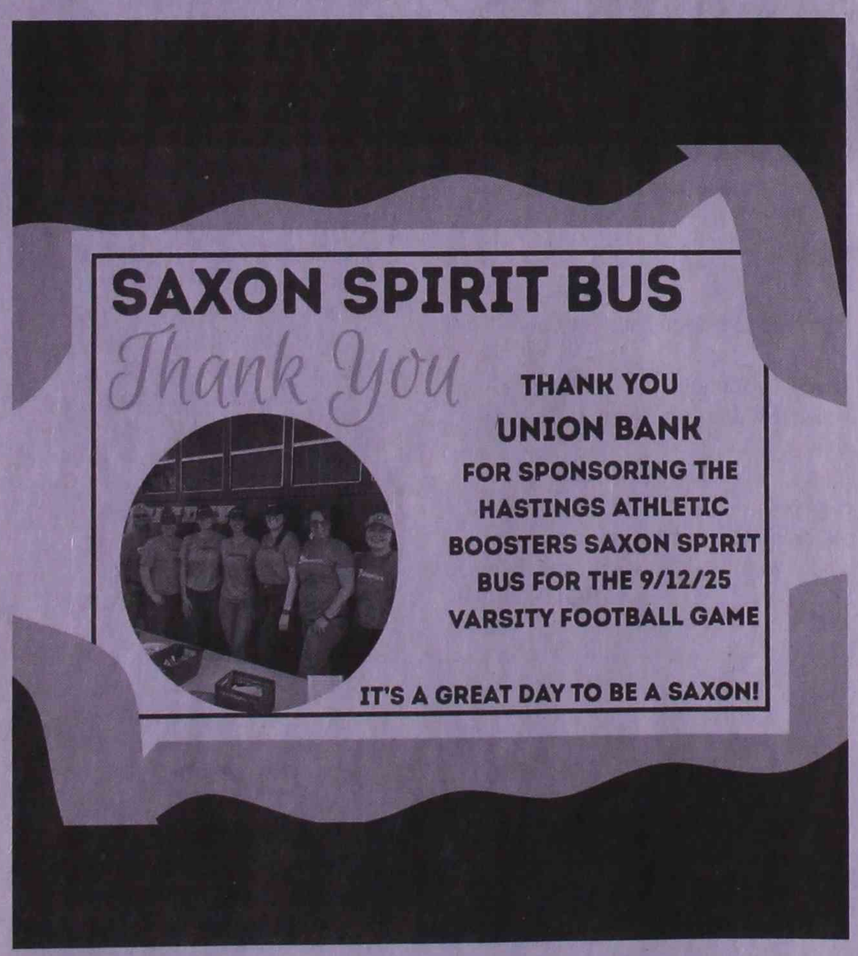


Gun Lake Fall Fest events begin Friday, Sept. 26, and conclude Sunday, Sept. 28. A route of where to board a trolley around Gun Lake is mapped out on the Gun Lake Tourism website at gunlaketourism.com/fall-fest/. The bulk of Fall Fest events are happening between 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 27.

Chamber celebrates ribbon-cutting for PR firm



Barry County Chamber & Economic Development Alliance officials gathered behind the Chamber office on State Street on Tuesday, Sept. 23, to celebrate the ribbon-cutting for a new public relations firm in Hastings. Lien Public Relations is led by Sara Lien Edelman (center). She launched the firm in 2010, operating part-time between 2016 and 2024. This year, Edelman returned full-time to her firm, where she helps build connections, create relationships and tell the stories of her clients. **Photo by Chris Silverman**



WAITING GAME: As state lawmakers debate, LPS board acts to fund free meal programs

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

With or without help from the State of Michigan, Lakewood Public Schools will be continuing to offer its free breakfast and lunch programs to students – at least through October.

The LPS Board of Education voted unanimously, 7-0, at its regular meeting Monday, Sept. 22, to fund free breakfasts and lunches for all students. That will include funding the meal initiatives through the district's food service budget at a cost of $40,000 for the month of October.

Students attending public schools in Michigan have had free meals available since the 2023-24 school year. But, according to Superintendent Jodi Duits, the board action at Monday's meeting was necessary due to the fact that state lawmakers had yet to approve a budget for the 2025-26 fiscal year that starts on Oct. 1.

The school district had adopted its current budget prior to the start of its fiscal year, which runs from July 1 to June 30, based on receiving more than $1.32 million in revenue for its food service program, including more than $495,000 in state revenue.

And, Duits said that district officials could consider paying for the meal programs using existing fund balances, if the state were to cut funding for such programs.

"With our food service balance, if we continue to do this through the (school) year, there would be enough to cover that cost," she said.

If LPS were to fund the meal programs for the entire school year, it would come at a cost of about $280,000.

But, for now, board President Jamie Brodbeck-Krenz said Monday's action would only fully fund the meal programs through October, as officials wait to see what happens at the state level.

"Stay tuned," Duits added.

Board members were quick to voice their support for continuing to fund the meal programs, at least in the short term.

"I think it's great we can cover this," said Trustee Alisha DeWalt. "That's wonderful."

Trustee Wendy Behrenwald added that the local school district could "see how it goes" and look at the need to fund the meal programs on a month-to-month basis.



Lakewood Public Schools will be continuing to offer its free breakfast and lunch programs to students – at least through October. **File photo**

"It's good we can do it," Behrenwald said.

LPS isn't alone with both its frustrations over the lack of an approved state budget plan at the state level, which has forced school districts to look at least short-term solutions to fund meal programs.

Hastings Area School Systems officials recently announced plans to fund meals through the end of December, regardless of the outcome of budget deliberations in Lansing.

Officials from several school districts in Barry County and surrounding areas traveled to Lansing to urge state lawmakers to approve a budget plan before the Sept. 30 deadline.

"We were there for one reason – to ask for the (state) House and Senate to get together to pass a budget," said HASS Superintendent Nick Damico at a Sept. 15 board meeting. "The House and Senate are very far apart on their proposals. Our hope is that they pass a budget."

In addition to traveling to Lansing, the three superintendents, including Damico, Delton Kellogg Schools Superintendent Jeremy Wright and Barry Intermediate School District Superintendent Rich Franklin, penned a letter explaining the impacts the lack of state budget has on local schools.

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

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

— Editor Molly Macleod contributed to this report.

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BCSO deputies respond to Leach Lake drowning

Molly Macleod
Editor

A 60-year-old man is dead after going underwater in a Carlton Township lake last week.

Barry County Sheriff's deputies responded to reports of a drowning on Leach Lake around 6 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 18. BCSO officials say Richard Martin, 60, was swimming off of his pontoon boat before going unresponsive and dipping below the water.

Deputies arrived on the scene and were able to locate Martin with the assistance of a lake resident's pontoon boat. Deputies pulled Martin from the water and performed CPR.

Martin was transported to Corewell Health Butterworth Hospital in Grand Rapids by Life EMS. Martin later died in the hospital on the morning of Sept. 19.

BCSO officials say Barry County Sheriff's Office Road Patrol deputies, the Barry County Sheriff's Office Marine Division, Barry County Central Dispatch, Hastings Police Department, Hastings Fire Department and Life EMS assisted during Thursday's incident.



"The Hibernating Combine" follows the story of Farmer Boyd and his young helper as they prepare the farm and its equipment for winter. Author Kathryn Christie was inspired by her son and her own farming experiences to write the book.

BOOK

Continued from Page 1

local Farm Bureau, writing children's books, farming or raising her kids, Christie teaches agriculture literacy to children and adults across the county through her brand, An Ear Full of Agriculture.

An Ear Full of Agriculture originated when Christie was still in the pageant circuit. In 2020, Christie was crowned Pure International Miss Michigan State. During her year-long reign, Christie read agriculturally-accurate books at local libraries across the state. Though her reign is now over, Christie continued agricultural education at local libraries and schools and is now offering adult programming.

Christie says it's important for Barry County youth to have a connection to the agriculture that surrounds them.

"Barry County has more cattle than it has people," Christie said. "… So many of our kids are not connected to agriculture — 98% of farms are family-owned. But we have such a high population of people that don't have a tie, even living in a rural community."

Christie is involved with the Farm Bureau's annual Ag Awareness Day, which helps expose Barry County third graders to farming up close.

"It's really cool to get to see that side of it — and all of these third graders who have lived in Barry County all of their life, and have never seen a cow up close. And I just wanted to be able to continue making that difference and offer more specialized, in-classroom and smaller ratio programs to where it can be more customizable to the group that I'm working with directly," Christie said.

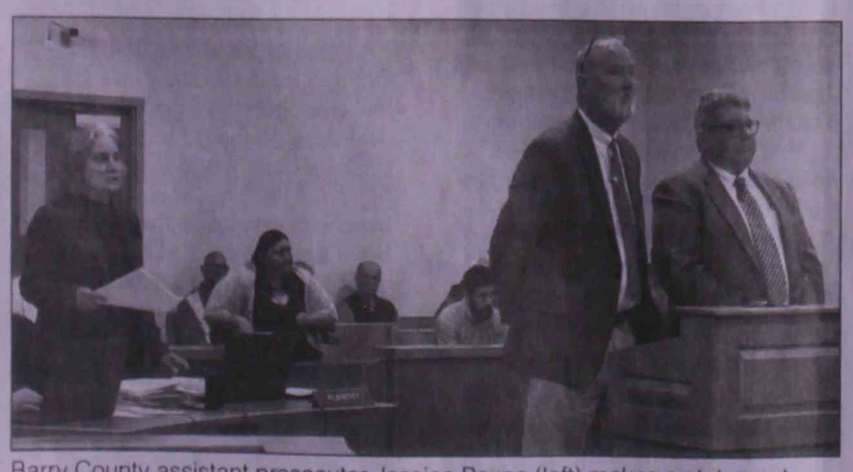
Christie, a fifth-generation farmer, has always been involved in the farming process. Her great-great-grandfather and great-grandfather brought the first Charolais cattle to Michigan in 1955. Today, the Endsley Charolais Farm still raises Charolais cattle on 2,000 acres in Coats Grove. The white cattle can often be seen grazing on the rolling hills off of Coats Grove Road.

Locals can purchase copies of "The Hibernating Combine" and meet with Christie at two upcoming events.

Christie will be present at The Wild Wood Books & Music in Hastings from noon to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 11, signing books and reading. Kids can also enjoy a corn and soybean sensory bin during the Oct. 11 event.

On Tuesday, Oct. 28, Christie will be at the Hastings Public Library for book signings, multiple readings and themed activities. Kids can also enjoy sensory bins at that event.

"The Hibernating Combine" can be purchased at anearfullofagriculture.com.



Barry County assistant prosecutor Jessica Payne (left) makes a statement during a Sept. 17 sentencing hearing for Shane Barker (far right), 54, of Battle Creek, before Judge Michael Schipper in Barry County District Court 56B. Photo by Dennis Mansfield

PREDATOR

Continued from Page 1

allegedly put his arms around and tried to kiss the individual before being confronted by a camera crew.

Barker's attorney, Shane McNeill, said his client's arrest was the result of a vigilante-style effort.

"There are potential entrapment issues, Miranda issues," McNeill said.

However, Schipper said he viewed the situation differently, that those involved in events leading up to Barker's arrest were not vigilantes but citizens looking to catch a potential predator.

"I choose my words in my court," he said. "I want to make that clear."

And, despite any issues relating to events leading up to his arrest, Payne added that the focus needed to be on Barker's actions, not those of persons involved in luring him to Barry County.

"Yes, he was set up by this gang," she said. "But I do not see him as the victim in this."

Barker read a statement before being sentenced.

"I can't begin to explain why I made such a horrible error in judgment," he said. "I brought some on myself. Moreover, I brought shame on my family.

"This is not me," he added.

As well as jail time, Barker was also ordered to have no social media presence and not to make contact with persons under the age of 18, as well as pay for various court costs. Schipper also warned Barker that, if he were to violate the terms of his parole, he would be sent to prison.

"If we protect no one else in society, no one, we must protect kids," the judge added.

Barker was one of a handful of similar cases before the court during proceedings held on Sept. 17, with up to three other cases being adjourned to be heard later and Schipper issuing a bench warrant in one other case.

County transit officials encourage riders to download new app

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

Barry County Transit officials continue to work through "bugs" involved in switching to updated computer software, while also urging potential riders to download a new phone app that allows them to better manage their ride experience.

BCT launched the new phone app and software on Aug. 4. While the changeover has gone as planned for the most part, BCT director Mary Bassett said there have been a few glitches as information is merged from the previously used software.

Though, she added, as of last week, that most of the issues seemingly have worked out.

"It's going well," Bassett said. "Everything is falling into place.

"There's a lot of things that are going to help us," she added.

Bassett also said transit officials continue to urge potential riders to download the new phone app, which allows them to schedule rides and communicate directly with transit representatives, including being able to do the following:

- Schedule rides;
- Track current and upcoming trips
- Check cash balances;
- Receive automated ride reminders; and
- Receive notifications on when a driver is on the way.

BCT officials stated the features are designed to improve communication, increase transparency and provide additional flexibility for riders.

Currently, Bassett said the BCT receives about 10 requests for service daily through the new phone app. That's out of a total of more than 300 rides that are scheduled on a daily basis.

To increase usage of the phone app, Basset said BCT officials will continue to advertise its benefits of the app and work with riders to download it to their phones, even if that means bringing them to the BCT office in Hastings and personally assisting residents in learning how to use it.

She said people may also learn more about the phone app by visiting the BCT website, barrycountytransit.com.

But, updated software and a new phone app wasn't the only good news being talked about by BCT officials recently, as the local transit authority was honored with an "Innovative Transit Project" award in August by the Michigan Public Transit Association.

According to the MTPTA's website, the annual award recognizes projects that improve transit access, safety, efficiency, sustainability and ridership, as well as serving as models for other transit providers.

BCT reportedly received the award for its efforts to expand transit access to underserved students attending the Lighthouse Academy in Hastings. It utilized existing resources to implement the service cost-effectively, resulting in significant community impact and increased revenue.

"Ms. Bassett and the Barry County Transit staff played a major role in the Lighthouse Academy opening a school in the Barry County area to serve and support expelled and court-ordered youth who otherwise would not have an option to revive much-needed face-to-face learning opportunities," stated the academy's assistant superintendent.

Bassett said the award is the result of a request to help bus students and increase access to the academy's programming.

"I'm really excited for my team," Bassett said. "It meant something to provide a service that might make a difference."

And, the BCT is not resting on its laurels. According to Bassett, the county transit agency will begin offering a limited ride schedule, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., on Sundays beginning Oct. 5 to assist those without transportation to be able to attend events, such as local church services.

"It will be basic service that needs to be pre-arranged," she said, adding dispatchers will not be on duty on Sundays and riders will need to schedule any service earlier in the week during normal business hours.

For more information, individuals may contact BCT by calling 269-948-8098 or through its website, as well as on Facebook by searching "Barry County Transit."



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Financial tips for first-time college students

Sending your child to college is an exciting milestone filled with new experiences, friendships and opportunities for them to grow. For many families, it's also the first time your student will be managing their own money independently.

The good news is that helping your child develop smart money habits doesn't have to be overwhelming. With a few simple strategies, you can guide them to take control of their finances and avoid common pitfalls that trip up many college students.

Start with a budget. Creating a budget might sound boring, but it's instrumental in helping your student take control of their finances. Many people use the 50/30/20 rule, which calls for putting 50% of income toward needs, 30% toward wants and 20% toward savings and other financial goals. So, if your child has $1,000 per month from financial aid, work or family support, they'd spend $500 on essentials like textbooks and food, $300 on fun activities and $200 on savings or paying down debt.

Encourage them to track their spending and subtract anything they pay out from their total monthly funds. This helps them know exactly how much money they have at any given time. There are plenty of free apps to help monitor expenses, or they can simply use a notebook to write down what they spend each day.

Guide them toward smart credit habits. That first credit card in college can be both exciting and scary for parents. The key is helping students understand how to use credit wisely by paying off their balance on time every month. This helps build a positive credit history that will help them qualify for better rates on car loans, apartments and eventually a home mortgage.

Make sure your student understands that credit cards aren't free money. It takes discipline to charge only what they can afford to pay off completely when the bill arrives. Otherwise, late fees and interest charges can be substantial.

Pay attention to everyday expenses. College life doesn't have to break the bank. Remind your child to take advantage of student discounts available at restaurants, clothing and grocery stores and entertainment venues.

Help them set spending limits for discretionary categories like entertainment, dining out and personal expenses. Here's where that budget can help set clear limits to prevent overspending. It's easier to say no to that expensive coffee or designer clothing when they know it would put them over their weekly limit.

Think about the future. While it might seem early to worry about life after college, making smart financial moves now can benefit them later. If your student has loans, consider encouraging them to make small payments while they're still in school, even though they're not required to do so. This reduces the amount of interest that builds up over time.

Encourage an emergency fund, even if they can only save $25 per week. Having money set aside can give them flexibility after graduation, whether they want to move to a new city for a job, take time to travel, purchase a used car or pursue graduate school.

Teaching your child to manage money in college isn't just about helping them survive until graduation. The habits they develop now will shape their financial future for decades to come. By guiding them to start with a simple budget, use credit responsibly and make thoughtful spending choices, you're helping set the stage for success in college and beyond.

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

Edward Jones, Member SIPC

Former Tiger making appearance at Sept. 27 card show

Molly Macleod
Editor

For the first time in Barry County's history, a sports card and Pokémon card show is coming to the Barry Expo Center this Saturday, Sept. 27. The show runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., with raffle prizes every hour and a barbecue food truck on site for hungry attendees. Admission to the card show is free.

Two-time Cy Young award winner and MVP Denny McLain, a former Detroit Tiger, will be present at Saturday's show, signing cards and meeting attendees.

Organizer Jason Lindsey said he's eager for Saturday's show. The Expo Center will be packed next weekend, with the 70 available tables for the show already sold out.

"I'm excited and nervous," Lindsey laughed.

Lindsey said he hopes to bring the card shows to Barry County every six months, should there be interest.

"There's going to be all different kinds of varieties of sports cards and Pokémon cards," Lindsey said. "And it's a beautiful venue."



Denny McLain's rookie card. The former Tiger will be signing cards at Saturday, Sept. 27's sports card and Pokémon card show at the Barry Expo Center.

Courtesy photos



This autographed Bobby Cox jersey is one of many items that will be on display during this weekend's sports card and Pokémon card show.

CEREMONY

Continued from Page 1

farm in St. Clair County, said he is grateful for the opportunities in life that led him down his path. He farms corn, soybeans, wheat, black beans and sugar beets. Durand has spent much of his life giving back to his community, serving on several boards and coaching, refereeing and broadcasting high school sports.

"Through all these experiences, I got to work with so many wonderful people and always felt so grateful for these opportunities. It's really been an honor and a privilege to be able to farm and represent farmers throughout our state," Durand said. "This award tops it all off as I transition into retirement. Thank you so much."

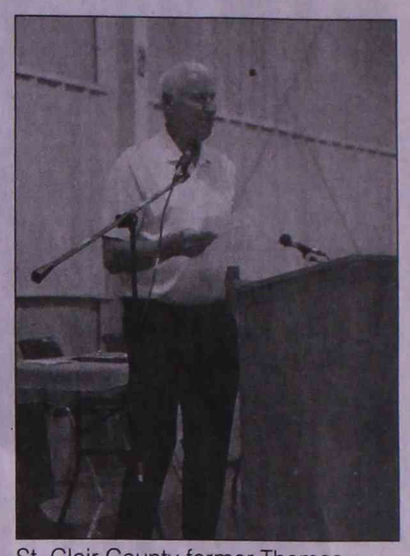
Peter Dickow, a representative from United States Senator Gary Peters's office, helped congratulate inductees on Saturday on behalf of Senator Peters and Senator Elissa Slotkin. The inductees' local representatives congratulated the farmers with proclamations, as well.

Several speakers recalled the Hall of Fame's origins on Saturday.

Aukerman was a dairy farmer in Prairieville Township. He was listening to the radio one day in May 1982 while on his tractor where he heard a story about football players being inducted into that sport's Hall of Fame. He believed farmers should have a similar type of recognition for the work they do in providing food to their communities.



Michigan Farmers Hall of Fame volunteers stand up front during Saturday's ceremony.



St. Clair County farmer Thomas Durand reflects on his career and thanks his family after being inducted into the Michigan Farmers Hall of Fame on Saturday.

Aukerman contacted then-U.S. Rep. Howard Wolpe, as well as family, friends, and an attorney, to propose the idea of a Farmers Hall of Fame. An organization was formed and a board of directors named to provide guidance to the fledgling organization. In the fall of 1982, seven Barry County farmers – Ira Osgood, Carl and Cecil Palmatier, Arthur and Margaret Winters, and John and Coreen Woodman – were the first to be inducted into the newly-created Hall of Fame during the Prairieville Farm Days celebration, according to the Hall of Fame website (michiganfarmershalloffame.org).

Eventually, Aukerman donated three acres of his land so that a special barn and silo could be built to serve as home of the Farmers Hall of Fame. Built in 1986, the barn and silo would house photos of inductees as well as other agricultural artifacts. New members were inducted every fall for more than 25 years as part of the Prairieville Farm Days celebration on the Aukerman farm, according to the Hall of Fame website.

Speakers during Saturday's ceremony recalled the past Hall of Fame celebrations, which drew in thousands of people to Prairieville.

"It's been an honor to know Bill (Aukerman)," said Jerry Vander Roost on Saturday. Vander Roost said he was present at the first Farmers Hall of Fame induction ceremony in 1982. "He was a friend, and he loved farming. And he loved the people who were into farming. He had a huge event. It was an event that would be 30,000 people — that'd be a city the size of Portage — all in one week. He'd entertain them, take care of them, feed them, and all the rest of that. It was just amazing. But it outgrew everything, and there was nobody that was ever going to be able to carry it on the way that he did."

After 24 years of leading the Farmers Hall of Fame, Bill Aukerman turned over its leadership to his son, John. But interest in the organization faded. In 2010, the last group of farm couples was inducted into the hall. Ownership of the Hall of Fame site in Prairieville changed hands. There was no place for the inductee photos or other information about the Hall of Fame to be found. Bill Aukerman died in 2018 at the age of 84.

For about five years, the Hall of Fame organization was inactive. Then, in 2015, Battle Creek-area farmers Harry and Sharon Pratley got the idea to breathe new life into the Hall of Fame, of which Sharon's parents had been inducted into, and relocate it to the Calhoun County Fairgrounds.

The Pratleys brought their idea to the Fredonia Grange, a fraternal organization that promotes agriculture. The Grange embraced the proposal. A new board of directors for the Hall of Fame was established.

A group of volunteers from the Grange cleaned up more than 200 inductee photos and the frames that held them. With the blessing of the Calhoun County Agriculture and Industrial Society, the photos were hung with care inside the Belcher Building at the county fairgrounds, according to the Hall of Fame website.

On Aug. 15, 2016, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held for the resurrected Hall of Fame at the fairgrounds. Then, on Labor Day weekend the following year, two farm couples — Velmar and Margaret Green of Clinton County and Roger and Marcia Lewis of Hillsdale County — became the first new inductees in the Hall of Fame in seven years, according to the Hall of Fame website.

Today, the Barry Expo Center is the new home for the Michigan Farmers Hall of Fame, thanks to efforts by 2024 inductee Tom Otto and others. Kies thanked Otto and other volunteers who helped find the Hall of Fame's new home in Barry County.

Nominees for the Michigan Farmers Hall of Fame are always being accepted. According to its website, nominees for the hall should meet the following criteria:

- Having spent at least 20 years in farming.
- Be 60 years of age or older.
- Be involved in the community.
- Be a contributor to the advancement of agriculture.

A nomination form can be found on the Hall of Fame website at michiganfarmershalloffame.org. Sometimes, it takes a little convincing for a farmer to consider being nominated for the Hall of Fame.

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Church to host 'Blessing of the Animals' mass Oct. 5

A Bellevue area church will be hosting a very special service to kick off October.

Our Lady of Great Oak Catholic Church in Bellevue will celebrate a "Blessing of the Animals" mass on Sunday, Oct. 5, at its service at 8:30 a.m.

All persons are invited – with or without pets – to the Oct. 5 service. Attendees are asked to bring blankets or lawn chairs for seating, and to bring their animals on leashes or in carriers.

The service and blessing will take place outdoors in the tree-lined church yard with Father Harold Potter officiating. Refreshments will be served after the service.

In case of rain, the event will be canceled.

The Our Lady of Great Oak Catholic Church is located at 6547 Lacey Road, between North Avenue and M-66.

For more information, persons may call 269-758-3116. — *DM*



Our Lady of Great Oak Catholic Church in Bellevue will celebrate a "Blessing of the Animals" mass on Sunday, Oct. 5, at its service at 8:30 a.m. Courtesy photo

DID YOU SEE?

SOYBEAN CENSUS

Charles Scovill, Golden Harvest state agronomist, greeted area farmers at the company's corn and soybean variety plot field day held Thursday, Sept. 18, near Hastings. During the presentation, Scovill used soybean plants from various plot varieties to compare plant height, plant growth pattern, pod placement and pod number count per plant. Disease resistance and planting population levels for the different varieties in the plot were also discussed by Scovill before he answered farmers' questions. The plot field day event was hosted by local Golden Harvest dealer Katie Christie at the Louis Wierenga farm in Carlton Township, northeast of Hastings. Photo by George Hubka/MG News



Local choral society presents concert Sept. 28

After many years the Lakewood Area Choral Society is thrilled to be bringing pop music back to the stage.

The concert, "Pops Potpourri, An Afternoon With the Lakewood Area Choral Society," is set for Sunday, Sept. 28, at 3 p.m. at the Hastings Performing Arts Center on South Street in Hastings, and will feature music from the 1920s to the 1980s, including solos, ensembles and the full choir.

The doors for the concert will open at 2:30 p.m. and, in lieu of tickets, a freewill offering will be taken.

The concert will open with "The Star-Spangled Banner," followed by the ballad "Unforgettable," made famous by Nat King Cole, highlighting Paul and Mary Kuhlman as soloists. "Ain't Misbehavin'" features Larry Ott as soloist. LACS sopranos and altos will sing "Beauty and the Beast" arranged and conducted by LACS assistant conductor Cindy Olson with soloist Stephanie Lucas.

The second part of the concert will feature soloists and ensembles from the choir. Bert Payne, tenor, will sing "Empty Chairs at Empty Tables."

Cindy Thelen will perform "All of Me," a jazz standard written in 1931 by Gerald Marks and Seymour Simons, with Thelen singing Ella Fitzgerald's famous scat solo. LACS accompanist Ethan Holmes will entertain the audience with a solo piano arrangement of "I Got Rhythm" by George Gershwin. The choral society's promotional video, "Come Sing With Us," to commemorate the choir's 40th season this year, will also be presented. Afterward, Evie Proulx will play her guitar and sing "Both Sides Now," words and music by Joni Mitchell. Closing the second part will be the LACS Three Tenors, Warren Bishop, Jon Cleveland, and John Myers, along with soprano, Cindy Olson, singing "Prima Donna" from "Phantom of the Opera."

Part three begins with "Unchained Melody," arranged for the LACS tenors and basses, by Robert Oster, artistic director and conductor. It features Jon Cleveland, Scott Taylor and Paul Kuhlman as soloists. "Since I Fell for You" will be performed by the choir with soloists Lisa Sterkenburg and Greg Haskins, followed by the traditional spiritual, "When the Saints Go Marching In." The concert concludes with the quiet, acapella "A Welsh Lullaby" with Anna Williams soloing. — *DM*

BISD taking millage request to voters Nov. 4

Community input on what local students need to succeed has prompted the Barry Intermediate School District to seek a regional enhancement millage to fund programs targeting learning and career essentials.

The 1-mill request will be on the Nov. 4 ballot for voters living in the Delton Kellogg Schools and Hastings Area School System districts. Funds would be distributed fairly and proportionally to public schools within the ISD.

BISD Superintendent Rich Franklin said the ISD Board of Directors elected to put the millage request before voters based on a survey of residents conducted by Perspectives Consulting Group earlier this year. The survey asked where the ISD could improve learning and career opportunities for district students.

"Residents told us we needed to do more to address student behavioral issues, special education, and career and technical learning," said Franklin. "They also said they would consider a reasonable millage to support that work.

"Our request for a regional enhancement millage is a direct result of their input," he added.

A regional enhancement millage, or REM, is a tool commonly used by ISDs to address critical needs not met through other resources. A REM raises funds through a voter-approved property tax to strengthen key learning areas and make local schools more competitive.

Franklin said the 1-mill REM would raise $1.49 million annually. Those dollars would go directly into student behavioral supports, special education programming, and career and technical education.

Hastings and Delton Kellogg school leaders discussed the potential value of a regional enhancement millage in improving student outcomes.

"Locally, we do a good job within tight budgets to give every Panther a great education," said Dr. Jeremy Wright, DK Schools superintendent. "Where critical needs stretch across local school boundaries, additional funding in partnership with the ISD holds promise for doing better for our students."

"Last spring, our community shared a clear vision for what our students need to succeed, and now the decision rests with Barry ISD voters. I encourage everyone to review the proposed REM, explore the survey results that shaped it, and vote on November 4 to choose the best path forward for our children's future," said Dr. Nick Damico, superintendent of HASS.

To support that learning effort, BISD has launched an informational campaign. A new webpage with links to a Q&A and the full ballot language is now live at barryisd.org/

See MILLAGE on 10

CLASSIFIEDS

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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!

GARAGE SALES

SALE: SEPTEMBER 25TH, 26TH, & 27th, 9am-5pm. 874 Beach St., Lake Odessa. Doing Flea Markets for 30 years, going out of business. For Sale: fishing poles, car top carrier, air mattresses, tools, antiques, canning jars, men's clothing, numerous other things.

EMPLOYMENT

BARN HELP WANTED Must have experience with horses. Full and part time positions available with competitive pay. Please call 269-207-4218 or email at zlpowell@yahoo.com if interested.

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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PIERCE CEDAR CREEK INSTITUTE EVENTS

– SEPT. 25-OCT. 2 –

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

Sept. 1-30 — 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. 25 — Shinrin-Yoku 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").

Monday, Sept. 29 — PCCI Chess Club, 4-6 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 29 — Rooted in Renewal: Regenerative Agriculture, Healthy Communities and the Future of Our Food, 6:30-7:30 p.m. What if growing healthier food could also heal our land, strengthen our community and create more opportunity for the next generation? In this free talk, Virginia Bolshakova, Barry County native and executive director of Pierce Cedar Creek Institute, shares her personal story from a local family farm to a career in agroecology, and how regenerative agriculture offers real hope for rural communities. Learn how simple practices like cover cropping, composting and school/community gardens connect to the health of our soil, our families and our future.

Oct. 1-31 — Oct. Storybook Walk: "Jumper: A Day in the Life of a Backyard Jumping Spider" by Jessica Lanan. Join Jumper, a small spider on a big journey! This spider has some amazing adaptations that help her survive a day in the neighborhood. The Storybook Walk is free and self-guided on the purple and green trails.

Oct. 1-31 — Bats of Michigan. Take a free, "spook-tastic" hike to learn all about Michigan bats. These creatures of the night are critical to many Michigan habitats. Find your favorite bat along the green trail.

Oct. 1-Jan. 31 — Chelsea Bivens' art exhibit. Bivens is a local artist whose work is heavily influenced by her experiences living in this community. A quarter of the proceeds from sales will be donated to the Institute to further its mission: To inspire appreciation and stewardship of our environment.

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

Proceeds to go for living expenses for Mrs. Ben (Susan) Raber.

(Ben Raber died 7 years ago)

Amish Benefit Dinner
October 3, 2025

4:00 to 7:00 p.m.
at 7981 S M-66 Hwy., Nashville, MI

Cafeteria style, no reservations needed. Take-out provided. Menu to include: barbeque chicken, mashed potatoes, bread dressing, gravy, mixed vegetables, salads, pies, and homemade ice cream. Refreshments of coffee and water.

Baked Goods available for purchase!

The family of Ben Raber wishes to express their heartfelt thanks for your kind thoughts and well wishes!

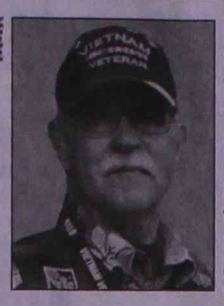
Mrs. Susan Raber and Family

With appreciation for all you have done for me.

OBITUARIES

VIEW OBITUARIES ONLINE. HASTINGSBANNER.COM

Michael Dale Leatherman



Michael Dale Leatherman, age 78, of Battle Creek, MI, passed away on September 15, 2025, surrounded by his loving family. Born on October 4, 1946, in Battle Creek, MI, Mike was the eldest son of Lois and Dale Leatherman.

Mike married Latricia Ann Gilmore on October 30, 1965. Together, they built a life in Barry County (Lacey, MI). He was a devoted husband, father, and Papa who cherished time with his family, especially fishing trips to Canada, hunting trips out west, camping and trail riding on horseback with family and friends. Mike was an exceptional marksman, winning many shooting competitions, including State championship.

Mike graduated from Lakeview High School in 1964, was drafted in 1965 and enlisted in the United States Navy (MCB11) where he served three tours in Viet Nam; Dong Ha, Long Vei, Khe Sahn, Quang Tri. After an Honorable discharge, Mike retired from Clark Equipment Company where he worked for 24 years as a Quality Control Engineering Manager. After retiring, Mike assumed control of Leatherman Oil Company until it was sold. Mike also worked at Kendall Electric and Bedford Valley Golf Course.

Mike was an active member of the Barry County Sherriff's Posse, where he became a Certified Glock Armorer and assisted the Posse in range training and glock inspections. Mike volunteered for the Fort Custer Honor Guard, serving as a member of the Wednesday Squad. He enjoyed reconnecting with other Navy Sea Bee MCB11 brothers through annual reunions and Facebook friendships. Mike's cheeky smile and blue eyes will be remembered by those who had the pleasure of knowing him.

Mike is survived by his wife of 59 years, Trish; daughters, Christina (Scott) Hutchings and Michelle (Benjamin) Hull; grandchildren, Mackenzie, Gavin, Macy and Roman.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brothers David, Danny and Larry.

Visitation will be held at Farley Estes Dowdle Funeral Home in Battle Creek on Wednesday, Sept. 24, 2025 from 4 to 6 p.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be held at St. Philip Catholic Church at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025. Mike will be laid to rest at Fort Custer National Cemetery at 2 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that heartfelt donations be made to: CURE ALZHEIMER'S FUND https://curealz.org/giving/donate In Memory & In Honor in Michael Dale Leatherman's name. 100% of general donations go to support Research Programs.

Personal messages for Mike's family may be shared at www.farleyestesdowdle.com.

Susan Steele



Susan (Susie) Steele, age 69, of Hastings, MI, passed away peacefully at home on September 17, 2025, surrounded by her loving family, after a courageous 20-year battle with cancer.

Susie was born on December 8, 1955, in Hastings, MI, to her loving parents Charlie and Jean Cook. She grew up on the family farm, where she learned the values of hard work, love of nature, and the joy of simple living. A proud graduate of Lakewood High School, Class of 1974, Susie went on to attend beauty school and began her career at Mary's Salon in Hastings. Later, she joined Viking Corporation, where she worked faithfully for 14 years before retiring.

Family was always the center of Susie's world. She adored her children, grandchildren, and her devoted husband, Warren. Susie loved sewing, tending to her gardens, and caring for her beloved dogs and chickens. Her kindness, creativity, and gentle spirit touched everyone she knew.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Charlie and Jean Cook, and her grandson, Austin Endres.

Susie is survived by her loving husband of 39 years, Warren Steele; her children, Michelle (Doug) Simpson, Joyelle (Blake) Lucas, Devan (Jenny) Endres, Joe (Melanie) Steele, and Allen (Heather) Steele; as well as nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Susie's life was one of love, strength, and devotion. Her family and friends will carry her memory in their hearts forever.

Visitation was held Sunday, Sept. 21, 2025, with a funeral service on Monday, Sept. 22, 2025, all at Girrbach Funeral Home, 328 S. Broadway; Hastings, MI 49058. Interment was at Fuller Cemetery with a luncheon followed at Hastings Elks Lodge, 102 E Woodlawn Ave, Hastings, MI 49058.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the National Cancer Institute, Building 31 Room 11A-16, 9000 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20892.

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

Dorothy Mae Ogden



Dorothy Mae Ogden, age 88, of Battle Creek, MI, passed away peacefully Monday, Sept. 15, 2025. She was born on November 7, 1936 in Crookston, MN, the daughter of William and Rica LaFleur.

She was blessed to meet her future husband at her sister's wedding. She married Robert Ogden on June 26, 1954, and together they raised four sons and operated a dairy farm north of Battle Creek. She was a proud mother and stayed home to raise her sons until they were all in school. Dorothy then pursued a degree in nursing in her 30s, and worked for many years as a nurse in nursing homes and hospice care. She and Robert spent many loving years together until his passing in 2011.

Dorothy was preceded in death by her loving husband; parents, and granddaughter, Lindsey.

Her memory will live on through her beloved sons, Robert (Naomi), Jamie (Rebecca), Scot (Dawn), and Kenneth (Julie); adoring grandchildren, Benjamin, Emily, Brian, Erica, Tyler, Nathan, and Samantha; eight cherished great-grandchildren; and numerous other loving relatives and friends.

The family would like to express their gratitude for the loving care provided by the staff at The Reflections Memory Care facility in Battle Creek.

A memorial service and committal was held on Wednesday, Sept. 24, 2025 at Fort Custer National Cemetery, after which she was laid to rest with her late husband.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks for memorial tributes in her honor donated to Centrica Care Hospice. Donations can be mailed to 7100 Stadium Drive, Kalamazoo, MI 49009 or made online at https://centricacare.org/giving.

Arrangements by Bachman Hebble Funeral Service.

HASTINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY SCHEDULE

No library card is required for library programs and activities.

Wine pairing and basket auction tickets are available now.

Celebrate "Teen'Tober" with a bingo card reading challenge and ongoing activities in the Teen Room.

Explore the iconic "School Bell" cartoons by political cartoonist Herblock in a special exhibit this month on the library's main floor.

Thursday, Sept. 25 – Movie Memories and Milestones watches a 1939 film starring the Ritz Brothers, 5 p.m. After a wealthy man is threatened by a killer known as "The Gorilla," he hires the Ritz Brothers to investigate. A real escaped gorilla shows up at the mansion just as the investigators arrive.

Friday, Sept. 26 – Friday Storytime, 10:30 a.m.; teen video game tournament (grades 6-12), 3:30 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 27 – Rockin' Tots – Music and Movement, 10 a.m.

Monday, Sept. 29 – Crafting Passions, 10 a.m.; Regenerative Agriculture: Conservation with Pierce Cedar Creek Institute and Barry County Earth Alliance, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 30 – Baby Cafe, 10 a.m.; mahjong, 2 p.m.; chess, 5 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 1 – Itsy Bitsy Book Club, 10:30 a.m.; Open Art Studio, 11:30 a.m.; Digital Literacy: Cybersecurity Basics, 2 p.m.

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

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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
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1301 W. Green St. Hastings, MI 49058
945-9541

ASK DR. UNIVERSE

Ladybug life cycles

What is the life cycle of a ladybug?

Rachel, 6, Va.

Dear Rachel,

Every spring, I see spiny bugs that look like tiny alligators. They spend all day chomping up other insects outside my window.

I asked my friend Rich Zack about them. He's an insect scientist at Washington State University.

He told me those spiky gobblers are immature ladybugs.

The ladybug life cycle includes complete metamorphosis. They undergo big body changes to become adults. An insect that does that is holometabolous.

"Millions of years ago, holometabolous insects split up their duties between the immatures and the adults," Zack said. "An immature's job is to feed. An adult's job is to mate."

There are four stages in this life cycle: egg, larva, pupa and adult.

A ladybug starts out as an egg. They're yellow or orange. They look like fat grains of rice. You might find them on the underside of leaves.

After a few days, the eggs hatch. A spiny larva comes out. Its job is to eat and grow.

First, it chows down on extra eggs its mother left behind. A particularly peckish larva might also eat its siblings—especially the small or slow ones. Then it starts snacking on nearby soft-bodied insects.

As it grows, its tough outer skin, or cuticle, gets too tight. The larva pops the skin open and climbs out. It has a new, bigger cuticle ready to expand and harden to fit its body.

The larva will molt like this a few times. The time between molts is called an instar.

After a few weeks, a ladybug larva is ready to transform into an adult. It sheds its cuticle one last time. But this time it stays inside. That's now a pupal case.

The pupal case is hard. It sticks firmly to a leaf or other surface. Inside, the larva's body breaks down. It reorganizes into an adult body.

After about a week, an adult ladybug comes out.

Zack told me that most insects go through a big change like that. About a third of insects go through a partial metamorphosis instead. Those insects are hemimetabolous.

They have three stages: egg, nymph and adult.

Since they don't undergo a big change, the immature nymphs look a lot like the adults. They're just missing wings and working reproductive parts. They'll get those at their final molt.

The least common life cycle has no metamorphosis at all. Those insects are ametabolous. The juveniles look exactly like the adult, just smaller. They never get wings.

Ametabolous insects are so well-adapted that they haven't changed much for millions of years. The ancestors of all insects were ametabolous.

Complete metamorphosis—like ladybugs undergo—is the newest insect life cycle.

It's possible it evolved so the juveniles and adults don't compete. Or maybe it happened that way to make better wings. But it's still a mystery. It's wild that so many insects break down and reorganize their bodies just to grow up.

"It's so complicated and so vulnerable," Zack said. "We see changes in other animals but nothing like this. It's just amazing."

You really can't beetle an awesome adaptation like that.

— Dr. Universe

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

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

The Cobra and the teen club era



The Cobra, seen here, was the brainchild of Douglas M. Vickery Jr., a Hastings native who worked at E. W. Bliss from 1961 until 1972. **Courtesy photos**

In the late 1960s, America was caught up in the sound of rock 'n' roll. The Beatles had already changed everything, Motown was on the radio and Detroit was beginning to roar with the raw energy of garage rock. Teenagers across Michigan were eager to be part of the movement. But in those days, there weren't many places for young people under 21 to hear live music. That gap gave rise to a remarkable phenomenon: the teen nightclub.

These were not bars, nor were they school dances. They were independent clubs—often converted from old halls, motels or roadhouses—where teens could gather, dance and hear the same bands that were climbing the charts. From Lansing to Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo to Battle Creek, teen clubs sprang up like mushrooms after rain. And Hastings had its own place in that story. Just south of the city limits on M-37, The Cobra opened its doors in 1968, quickly becoming a landmark for Barry County teens.

VICKERY'S VISION

The Cobra was the brainchild of Douglas M. Vickery Jr., a Hastings native who worked at E.W. Bliss from 1961 to 1972. Vickery was not only a hardworking employee but also a dreamer who recognized the musical pulse of the times. In 1968, he took a bold step, opening a dance hall aimed squarely at teenagers. His timing could not have been better.

Rock music was moving from high school gyms and armories into dedicated clubs, and Hastings kids were eager for a place of their own. Vickery's Cobra provided that outlet, and in doing so, brought some of the most exciting acts in Michigan rock to Barry County.

THE ATTRACTION

The draw of The Cobra lay in both its accessibility and its ambition. For teens, it was close to home—just a short cruise down M-37. But once inside, you might feel like you were at a big-city venue. Vickery succeeded in booking acts who were already making a name for themselves: Dick Wagner and the Frost, Alice Cooper, Bob Seger and the MC5 all played The Cobra. These were not just local garage bands; these were artists who would go on to national and even international fame.

But The Cobra also served as a stage for local musicians who were chasing the same dream. Among them was a group of Hastings-area teens who called themselves The Bad Mons. The lineup featured Greg Gillons, David Robinson, Gary Hall, Greg Wood and Will Ellis. For them, The Cobra was both a proving ground and a chance to stand on the same stage as the stars. Their presence reminded everyone that Barry County had talent of its own—and that some of the music worth dancing to was being made right here at home.

ON ANOTHER NOTE

The Cobra was not alone in this movement. West Michigan in the 1960s and early 70s was dotted with teen clubs that became legendary in their own right. To the west, near Gun Lake, stood The Note, tucked away on Chief Noonday Road. It drew crowds of teens from Hastings, Allegan and Middleville. The Note booked big-name acts as well—The Box Tops, The Guess Who, Alice Cooper and even James Brown himself took the stage there. The drive down dark country roads to find the club only added to the sense of adventure.

Farther to the east, near Sunfield on M-43, there was The Sceen. Owned by promoter Don Trefry, The Sceen had four stages and often rotated multiple bands in a single evening. Tom Kirby of Tonto and the Renegades recalled, "There were nights when all of us would play sets under the same roof… The energy, the talent, and the camaraderie made The Sceen a place like no other."

Together, these clubs formed a circuit. Teenagers from Hastings, Lakewood, Grand Ledge and beyond would pile into cars, cruise Main Street, and then set out for whichever club was hot that weekend. Word traveled fast—sometimes by radio, sometimes by posters tacked to utility poles, but mostly by word of mouth.

ROCK 'N' ROLL COMES TO TOWN

It is difficult today to imagine the impact these clubs had on the Hastings teens of that day. We now live in an era where music is available instantly on our smartphones, where YouTube can stream a live concert at any hour. But in the 1960s, hearing live music of this caliber required either driving to a big city or waiting for a major tour to stop nearby. Teen clubs changed that. Suddenly, kids in small towns like Hastings could see the same bands that were filling arenas in Detroit or Grand Rapids.

For many, it was more than just entertainment—it was cultural education. The Cobra and clubs like it exposed local teenagers to new sounds, new styles, and new ideas. Music was the voice of that generation, and these venues gave it a home.

Those who remember The Cobra recall more than just the names on the stage. They recall the excitement of standing in line with friends, the low rumble of bass notes escaping through the doors and the rush of entering a room alive with colored lights and anticipation. The music was loud, the dance floor was packed and the night seemed endless.

There was also a sense of independence. For many teens, The Cobra was the first place they went without parents watching over them, the first place where they felt part of something bigger. It was where high school rivalries melted away and friendships were made that lasted far beyond graduation.

A LEGACY PRESERVED

Douglas M. Vickery Jr.'s time as a promoter was relatively brief, but the impact was lasting. After leaving E. W. Bliss in the early 1970s, he continued his life in Hastings, passing away on Aug. 31, 2021. Yet his role in bringing rock 'n' roll to Barry County is part of his legacy. Thanks to his vision, Hastings teens had their own place in the great wave of music history.

The Cobra, The Note, The Sceen—each has now passed into memory. Some of the buildings still stand, though often unrecognizable. Chief Noonday Road, once so quiet, is now built up near Gun Lake. M-37 south of Hastings no longer echoes with the same anticipation it once did. But for those who were there, the memories remain vivid.

KEEPING THE MEMORY ALIVE

As we "turn back the pages," it is worth pausing to remember the role these teen clubs played in shaping a generation. They were more than dance halls—they were gathering places, incubators of culture and safe havens where teenagers could be themselves. The Cobra in particular stands as a reminder that even a small town can play host to big dreams and big sounds.

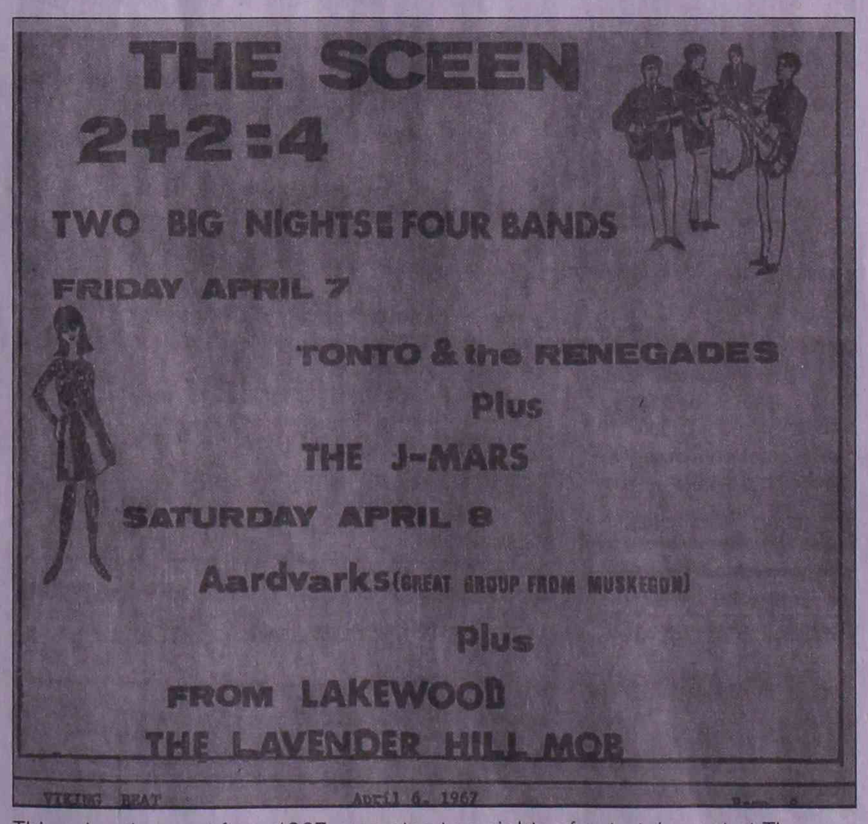
Today's youth may stream their music instantly, but they will never know the thrill of waiting all week for a Friday or Saturday night, driving just beyond the edge of town, and stepping into a place where the music was live, the crowd was alive and the night seemed endless.

So, to those who were there: What do you remember about The Cobra? Did you see Alice Cooper under those lights, or dance to Bob Seger before he became a household name? Or perhaps you cheered on Hastings' own Bad Mons, proving that hometown talent could rock just as hard as anyone. Your memories are part of Barry County's history. Let's keep them alive.

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



The Sceen in Sunfield had four stages and often rotated multiple bands in a single evening.



This advertisement from 1967 promotes two nights of entertainment at The Sceen in Sunfield.



The Note was a teen club located on Chief Noonday Road. The Note booked big-name acts including The Box Tops, The Guess Who, Alice Cooper and James Brown.

Yarger ups degree of difficulty to break CERC record

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The defending state champ, Delton Kellogg/Hastings sophomore Aubrey Yarger has never been better.

No one has ever been better on the diving board at the Community Education and Recreation Center Hastings High School.

Yarger tallied a record-setting score of score of 284.50 points to win the diving competition in her team's Southwestern and Central Michigan Swim Conference dual with visiting South Haven Tuesday. She improved her own personal record by more than 18 points, upped her own team record and broke the pool record previously held by Wayland Union's Allyson Schafer who set it at 273.30 in a six-dive performance in 2016.

"Just before the meet started, Jillian [Brandli] my other diver said 'look, Aubrey can break that record tonight,'" Delton Kellogg/Hastings diving coach Todd Bates said. "In my mind, I thought, she is going to break it some day, but I wasn't expecting it now. That was a really, really good diver that set that record. I wasn't expecting that to happen this year even. This was a really nice surprise."

Brandli said she didn't know why that though popped into her head just then looking up at the record board.

"It is our pool, and Aubrey likes to do a lot of weird stuff in our pool. I just felt it. She has been doing really well in practice this week," Brandli said.

Brandli was second in the diving competition with a score of 159.95 and Annabelle Kuck third at 114.60. As usual, it was one of the best events of the night for the DK/Hastings team, but the local co-op was bested by a score of 108-72 in the conference dual. All three of those divers are sophomores.

Yarger was the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 2 diving champion last November as a freshman. Her dives have gotten more difficult since then, and she has gotten better.

"My first dive I really had a bad approach, and I was like okay, we just really have to come back from there. That is what I did," Yarger said Tuesday. "I know I have better dives after my first dive. I went in knowing that this first dive is not the best dive on my list and I know I can make up with it with the rest of my list."

She was really pleased with her performance on her forward 2 ½ somersault dive in the pike position which was her third dive of the competition. It was one of two dives during her routine with an impressive degree of difficulty of 2.6.

"Two years ago during my first middle school season, I had my two and a half pike and my double twister to my head, but last year I just couldn't make them any more," Yarger said. "I had a mental block. Like, I just couldn't get myself to do them. So this year, I was like I need to be on my A game. I need to break my middle school PR. I need to do all this. I finally had those two back. I completed them both well tonight, and I think that really helped me compared to last year."



Delton Kellogg/Hastings sophomore Aubrey Yarger gets into her pike position at the start of her forward 2 ½ somersault dive Tuesday at the CERC in Hastings. Yarger improved her own team record and set the pool record with her performance in her team's SCC dual against visiting South Haven. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

Bates, who also coaches Yarger in the Hastings Community Diving Club, works with Yarger and the DK/Hastings divers for two hours each day during practice and often spends another four hours with Yarger on the weekends working on three-meter and platform dives for national competitions. High school competitions are on the one-meter board.

"She does it all," Bates said. "Sometimes it is easier to learn it on three and then bring it down. On three meters, obviously you have more time to do everything. One meter is really challenging for the big dives because you just don't have a lot of time to do the tricks."

"She has just gotten so strong this year," he added. "I have added some new dives for her with some high DD, and now she is getting quality points to go along with that DD. That was really the difference tonight. She did both of those newest dives the best she has ever done them tonight, and that was the difference. It was the front two and a half in the pike position and the front one and a half with two twists, and she is the only girl in the state doing that dive right now, that I know of and I would know if there was another one."

South Haven took the team victory, but it was another night of personal records all around for the DK/Hastings girls.

Things got exciting after that diving competition. DK/Hastings sophomore Annabelle Kuck won the 100-yard butterfly in 1 minute 9.14 seconds, beating her nearest competitor by almost seven seconds.

The race after that, DK/Hastings sophomore Lilly Randall tied for first with South Haven senior Marissa Uckele in the 100-yard freestyle. Both girls touch the pad for the final time in 1:1.33.

"There has been really great progress," DK/Hastings head coach Carl Schoessel said. "Almost every meet, almost every girl has gotten their best time. One girl dropped four seconds tonight in the 100. After the meet, the thing we do the next day is I go through and I list all the girls who had their best times. By the end, almost everybody, and there have been times where everybody has been standing up."

"We aren't winning a lot, but I tell the girls you're winning if you keep beating your times," he added. "I them all give me their goal for what they want to do at the end of the year. They're on their way to getting those goals."

Randall also had a runner-up time of 2:35.60 in the 200-yard individual medley. DK/Hastings junior Petra Foster placed second in the 500-yard freestyle in 6:43.31 and in the 200-yard freestyle with a time of 2:27.61.

Yarger competed in a couple relays on the night. She is happy coach Schoessel hasn't kept her in the 500 freestyle, which she swam once early in the season. She's enjoying the 100-yard freestyle distance, and she swam a 50-yard freestyle as a part of the DK/Hastings' team's runner-up finish in the 200-yard medley relay. Randall, sophomore Kassidy Peake, Kuck and Yarger teamed for a time in that race of 2:21.34.

Junior Sofia Grieves and sophomore Sydney Cavadas won two individual races each for the Rams in the dual. Grieves took the 200-yard freestyle and the 500-yard freestyle. Cavadas won the 100-yard breaststroke and the 200-yard individual medley. The were both four-time winners. They both swam with the Rams' winning 200-yard medley relay team. Cavadas anchored the winning 200-yard freestyle relay team and Grieves anchored the winning 400-yard freestyle relay team.



Delton Kellogg/Hastings sophomore Lilly Randall swims to a new personal best time and a runner-up finish in the 200-yard individual medley against South Haven in the CERC pool in Hastings Tuesday.

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PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF BARRY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Trust Estate

Decedent: Robert L. Cardiff. Date of Birth: August 18, 1952.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Robert L. Cardiff, who lived at 10881 4 Mile Rd., Plainwell, Michigan 49080 died July 27, 2025. There is no probate estate.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against Robert L. Cardiff or the Robert L. Cardiff Revocable Trust dated March 9, 2010, as amended on April 1, 2013, will be forever barred unless presented to Jason D. Headly, the named successor trustee within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: September 17, 2025
William B. Millard P39054
DeMent and Marquardt, PLC
211 E. Water Street, Suite 401
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
(269) 343-2106
Jason D. Headly
6868 Springbrook Lane
Kalamazoo, MI 49004
(269) 998-2503

STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF BARRY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Trust

In the Matter of Patricia M. Sager Trust. Date of Birth: November 11, 1935.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Patricia M. Sager, died August 13, 2025 leaving the above Trust in full force and effect.

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

Date: September 23, 2025
Rhoades McKee PC
Stephanie S. Fekkes P43549
607 North Broadway, Suite A
Hastings, MI 49058
(269) 945-1921
Kim Freeman
c/o Rhoades McKee
607 North Broadway, Suite A
Hastings, MI 49058
(269) 945-1921

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF BARRY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. and JUDGE 25-30208-DE

Estate of Bonnie L. Maker, Deceased. Date of birth: 01/19/1938.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Bonnie L. Maker, died 03/10/2025.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Becky L. Wilson, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 9549 Thornapple Lake Rd., Nashville, MI 49073 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: 09/22/2025
Robert L. Longstreet P53546
607 N. Broadway
Hastings, Michigan 49058
(269) 945-3495
Becky L. Wilson
9549 Thornapple Lake Rd.
Nashville, MI 49073
(269) 838-0348

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
BARRY COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. and JUDGE 2025-30217-DE
William M. Doherty

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

Estate of Kenneth M. Ost. Date of birth: 08/24/1956.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Kenneth M. Ost, died 08/24/2025.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Charlotte C. France* (aka Carlotta Charlotta France), personal representative, or to both the probate court at 206 West Court Street, Hastings, MI 49058 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: 9/19/2025
Nathan E. Tagg P68994
202 South Broadway
Hastings, MI 49058
269-948-2900
Charlotte C. France (aka Carlotta Charlotta France)
164 South Main Street
Woodland, MI 48897
269-953-5462

Saxon sophomore fourth at final I-8 golf jamboree

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

It's championship time for the Saxons already.

The Hastings varsity girls' golf team was set to head to Cedar Creek Golf Club Wednesday, Sept. 24, for the Interstate-8 Athletic Conference Championship. Saxon sophomore Lilli Edger kept her outstanding conference season going at the final nine-hole conference jamboree last week finishing in a tie for fourth individually.

Edger shot a score of 46 strokes at the Saxons' home jamboree at The Legacy at Hastings Sept. 17.

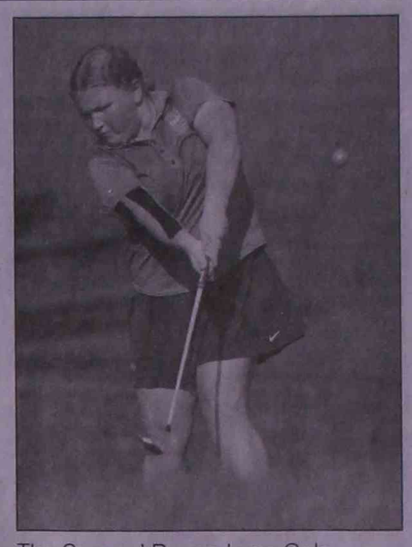
Harper Creek sophomore Haley Willi had a great day shooting a 40 to take medalist honors. Her freshman teammate Ella Bushman was the runner-up with a 43. Marshall sophomore Anna Thompson shot a 45.

Edger was tied with Northwest senior Mya Warner and Coldwater sophomore Harper Anglin at 46.

The Beavers won handily with the day's top two individual scores. Harper Creek tallied a team total of 178 strokes ahead of Parma Western 196, Jackson Northwest 198, Marshall 199, Coldwater 203, Hastings 210 and Pennfield 239.



The Saxons' Maddie Stora fires her ball towards the green on number seven at The Legacy at Hastings Monday during her team's nine-hole dual with visiting Greenville. **Photos by Brett Bremer**



The Saxons' Ryann-Lynn Cole chips her ball up onto the green on number nine during her team's non-conference dual with visiting Greenville at The Legacy at Hastings Monday.

Senior Sophia Greenfield was the Hastings team's number two scorer for the day with a 52. Greenfield and Edger both scored a par on the 235-yard, par-45 number seven during their round. Edger had a couple pars during her round including another one on par-3 number four.

Sophomore Ryann-Lynn Cole and junior Rylee Burnham both scored a 56 for the Saxons.

The Saxons were back in action for nine-holes Monday in a non-conference dual with Greenville. The host Yellow Jackets took a 176-192 win in the match.

Edger led the Saxons with a 41. Greenfield shot a 47 and Cole and Burnham both tallied a 52.

The Saxons head to The Medalist in Olivet for a scramble Oct. 1 and then will be a part of the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 2 Regional at Island Hills Golf Course in Centreville Oct. 7.

Lion ladies at their fastest yet during Big 8 jamboree

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Freshman Melanie Jones and senior Izabelle Soper ran their fastest races ever to lead the Maple Valley varsity girls' cross country team to a fifth-place finish at the first Big 8 Conference jamboree of the season, at Stockbridge High School.

Jones hit the finish line in 13th-place with a time of 23 minutes 21.71 seconds. Soper placed 24th in 25 minutes 9.31 seconds.

The Maple Valley boys were seventh as as team. Both the Lion boys' and girls' teams had four competitors at the meet, one short of the typical five needed to earn a team score, but the small school conference uses hypothetical scoring for short-handed teams to get a full team score each meet. Maple Valley isn't the only team with fewer than five competitors in the conference.

Bronson won both the boys' and girls' races Tuesday. The Bronson girls beat out Concord 35 points to 39 at the top of the standings ahead of Union City 66, Stockbridge 115, Maple Valley 148, Springport 161, Quincy 163 and Reading 196.

Lion head coach Tiffany Blakely said her girls more than exceeded their goal for the meet as a team, and the individual performances were outstanding.

"[Jones] just really looked so much stronger in this race then she has all season," Blakely said. "She continues to improve each time out. Another stand out runner was senior Izabelle Soper who also put in a new personal best time, and much like Jones has just been pushing her time faster each time she races."

The Maple Valley girls' team also had sophomore Lydia Emerick place 32nd in 27:07.81 and senior Ada Marie Blakely 41st in 34:29.74.

"Emerick was right at a near personal best and has just been so consistent each race," coach Blakely said. "She is currently over two minutes faster than she was at this time last year. You can tell she wants that better time each time she gets on the start line."

Bronson senior Ashlynn Harris won the race in 20:03.13. She was well in front of Union City junior Allison Gautsche who was the runner-up in 21:17.94. Concord freshman Audrey Pyle set her PR at 21:36.17 to place third.

Maple Valley junior Tyler Curtis led his boys' team with a time of 19:57.59, finishing in less than 20 minutes for the first time this season. Lion junior Cameron Murray wasn't too far behind with a 24th-plce time of 20:34.26.

"Murray really wants to beat that 20-minute barrier and he gave it his all. Even though he didn't quite get there, he too has seen major improvements since last year consistently running 2-3 minutes faster in races than he was at this time last season," coach Blakely said.

Lion junior Quincy Page placed 38th in 22:59.17 and sophomore Grady Wilkes was 39th in 23:02.24. Page ran a season best time, and coach Blakely said those two guys continue to push each other.

"Watching these boys work so hard and support each other not only in the races but also each practice has been amazing," coach Blakely said.

Bronson beat out Unity City by a single point for the boys' victory, 55-56. Concord placed third with 80 points ahead of Quincy 84, Springport 125, Stockbridge 127, Maple Valley 167 and Reading 203.

Stockbridge junior William Gancer was the first guy across the finish line. He earned a time of 17:01.80. Union City had senior Ben Gautsche second in 17:13.93 and junior Cullen Decker third in 17:51.24.

The Lion teams are back in action Saturday at the Otsego Bulldog Classic.

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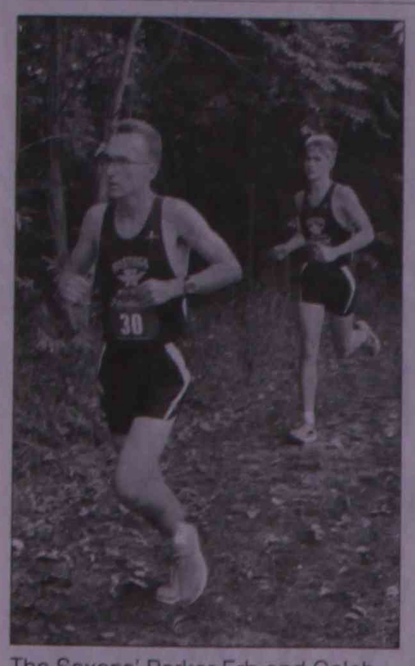
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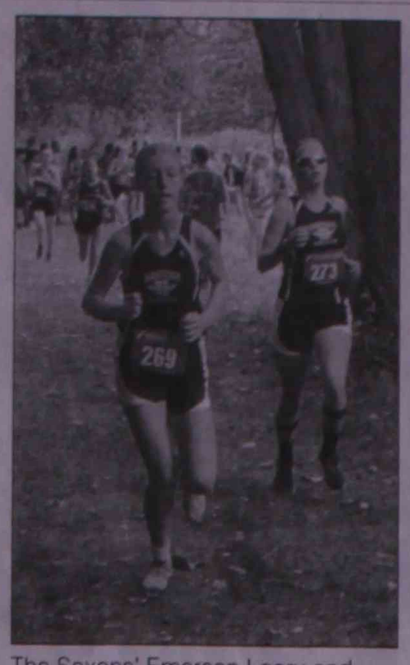
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The Saxons' Parker Erb and Caleb Kramer make their way around the course during the Bangor Invitational Saturday. **Photos provided**



The Saxons' Emerson Leary and Chloe Pritle make their way along the Bangor Invitational course together Satuday.

Saxon sophomores improve PRs at Bangor Invitational

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Saxon sophomores Tanner Krzysik and Alex Timmers ran their fastest races yet to lead the Hastings varsity boys' cross country team Saturday at the Bangor Invitational.

Krzysik placed 24th in the 13-team boys' race with a time of 19 minutes 25.47 seconds. Timmers came in 37th with a time of 20:10.95.

The Hastings boys were seventh and the Hastings girls placed fourth in a field of ten schools. Saxon junior Caroline Randall won the girls' race with a time of 19:10.56, and a couple of Saxon freshmen improved their personal records for the Hastings girls' team.

Paw Paw barely beat out Plainwell for the day's team championship on the boys' side 47-50. Kalamazoo Homeschool Sports was third with 101 points ahead of Allegan 109, Bangor 115, Watervliet 141, Hastings 164, St. Joseph Our Lady of the Lake Catholic 209 and Parchment 230.

Centreville sophomore Will Hulin was the boys' individual champion with a time of 16:18.13. Paw Paw had junior Christopher Vogt second in 16:47.56 and sophomore teammate Landon Lindsay third in 17:05.09.

Saxon sophomore Eli LI was third for his team and placed 40th overall in 20:42.52 The top five for the Saxons also included junior Caleb Kramer 42nd in 20:57.00 and sophomore Parker Erb 43rd in 20:58.27. Kramer and Erb both ran their fastest race of the season.

Seniors Carter Krzysik and Spencer Crozier were the Saxons' six and seven on the day.

Plainwell sophomore Mai Nguyen was the runner-up in the girls' race with a time of 19:45.98, a little over 35 seconds behind Randall. Allegan senior Jayden VandenAkker was third in 20:56.92.

Plainwell won the girls' meet with 33 points ahead of Watervliet 64, Paw Paw 70, Hastings 105, Kalamazoo Home School Sports 120 and Allegan 124.

Freshman Emerson Leary was the Saxons' number two with a 19th-place time of 24:11.36. Fellow freshman Sage DeCamp was 32nd with a PR of 26:13.29.

Junior Chloe Pirtle was between the two Saxon freshman. She placed 25th in 25:17.23.

Lilianna Enyart rounded out the Saxon top five with a 34th-place time of 26:23.41 and the Saxons also had senior Maddie Elzinga 37th and freshman Brynn VanderMale 39th.

Delton Kellogg boys fourth at Bronson Invitational

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Delton Kellogg varsity boys' cross country team placed fourth and the DK girls were seventh at the Bangor Invitational Wednesday, Sept. 17.

Junior Landon Madden had the top finish for the Delton Kellogg boys' team with a time of 18 minutes 54.66 seconds that put him in 11th place overall. Senior teammate Nick Muday wasn't far behind in 15th-place with a time of 19:02.34.

The Delton Kellogg girls were led by senior Elli Timmerman who had a 16th-place time of 23:53.09.

Coldwater beat out Interstate-8 Athletic Conference foe Marshall by seven points for the boys' team title. Coldwater closed the day with 59 points ahead of Marshall 66, Bronson 84, Delton Kellogg 109, White Pigeon 127, Allegan 149, Martin 169, Parchment 206, Pennfield 234 and Galesburg-Augusta 245 in the top ten.

Marshall junior Abraham McHugh was the individual champ in 17:16.10. There were three guys who hit the finish line in less than 18 minutes. White Pigeon senior Jesse Fielis was second in 17:44.42 and Coldwater junior Luke Aerts third in 17:54.87.

Sophomore Jace Hilton was 22nd overall for the DK boys in 19:42.08. Sophomore Joseph McCoy was 31st in 20:15.67. Freshman Malachi Allersma was right behind McCoy in 32nd-place with a time of 20:16.57.

Sophomore Ayden Jones and junior Jack Favreau were the Panther boys' teams' six and seven runners.

Marshall won the girls' meet with 45 points ahead of Bronson 49, Martin 64, Coldwater 115, Pennfield 136, Algoma Christian 166, Delton Kellogg 176, Kalamazoo Christian 186 and White Pigeon 217.

Bronson senior Ashlynn Harris was the day's fastest female with a winning time of 20:10.89. Martin junior Veyda Conley was the runner-up in 20:14.41 and Marshall sophomore Alaina Dillon was third in 21:31.33.

Junior Riley Perley was the number two for the Delton Kellogg girls. She placed 45th in 27:38.03. Freshman Olivia Vincent placed 46th in 27:45.11. DK junior Evelynn Courneya was 48th in 27:50.42. Makayla Lutz had her fastest race of the season to place 50th in 27:59.73.

Slagel improves her 11-dive team record at Spring Lake

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Her scores keep going up.

Grand Rapids Gator diver Lydia Slagel improved her team's 11-dive record with a score of 432.05 at the Spring Lake Invitational Saturday.

She bested her own school record by about 30 points in what was the first 11-dive meet of the 2025 season. Slagel put up an 11-dive score of 375.20 at the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 1 Girls' Swimming and Diving Finals in Holland last November to place fourth at the finals.

Slagel will get to compete again this Saturday at the East Grand Rapids Dive Meet.

The Gator co-op team of Thornapple Kellogg, West Catholic, West Michigan Aviation Academy and Hopkins placed fifth at the seven-team invitational.

Traverse City won the meet with 624.5 points ahead of Spring Lake 345, Holt 273, Muskegon Mona Shores 246.5, Grand Rapids Gators 162, Ludington 161 and Manistee 94.

A couple of fifth-place finishes were the top performances in the pool for the Gators. Freshman Mara Raak was fifth in the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 1 minute 23.78 seconds. Gator sophomore Mckenna Hawks placed fifth in the 200-yard individual medley with a time of 2:40.43 and fifth in the 500-yard freestyle in 6:24.54.

Raak also added an eighth-place time of 1:06.56 in the 100-yard freestyle.

Senior Jenna Robinett was eighth in the 100-yard butterfly in 1:28.07 and added a ninth-place time of 1:23.15 in the 100-yard backstroke.

Gator teams were fifth in both the 200-yard medley relay and the 200-yard freestyle relay.

Last Thursday, Sept. 18, the Gators were bested 60-34 in a dual at Fremont.

Hawks had a pair of wins in individual races in the dual. She took the 200-yard individual medley in 2:42.45 and the 500-yard freestyle in 6:29.97.

Raak won the 100-yard breaststroke in 1:23.56.

The Gator team also had the foursome of Eloise Nichols, Robinett, Hawks and Raak win the 400-yard freestyle relay in 4:48.88.

Nichols was the day's runner-up in the 200-yard freestyle with a time of 2:46.83. Robinett and Nichols went 2-3 in the 100-yard butterfly with Robinett finishing in 1:33.54 and Nichols in 1:46.69.

The Gators return to OK Conference East Division action at Grand Rapids Union Tuesday, Sept. 30.

GO ONLINE TO HASTINGSBANNER.COM

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)

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 October 23, 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): Rex R. Risner and Lauren Risner, husband and wife Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender's successors and assigns Date of mortgage: July 29, 2019 Recorded on August 7, 2019, in Document No. 2019-007405, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): FEDERAL HOME LOAN MORTGAGE CORPORATION AS TRUSTEE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE FREDDIE MAC SEASONED CREDIT RISK TRANSFER TRUST, SERIES 2024-2 Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: Three Hundred Seventy Thousand Four Hundred Fifty and 89/100 Dollars ($370,450.89) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Barry County, and described as: Parcel E: Part of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 17, Town 4 North, Range 10 West, Thornapple Township, Barry County, Michigan, described as: Commencing at the Southwest corner of Section 17; thence North 00 degrees 11 minutes 22 seconds East 1317.14 feet along the West line of the Southwest 1/4 to the Northwest corner of the Southwest 1/4; thence North 89 degrees 16 minutes 01 second East 996.13 feet along the North line of the Southwest 1/4 of said Southwest 1/4 of said Section 17 to the place beginning of this description; thence continuing North 89 degrees 16 minutes 01 second East 335.49 feet along said North line to the Northeast corner of the Southwest 1/4 of said Southwest 1/4 of Section 17; thence South 00 degrees 09 minutes 50 seconds West 1315.41 feet along the East line of said Southwest 1/4 to the Southeast corner of the Southwest 1/4 of said Southwest 1/4 of Section 17; thence South 89 degrees 11 minutes 33 seconds West 95.00 feet along the South line of said Southwest 1/4; thence North 00 degrees 09 minutes 50 seconds East 338 feet parallel with the East line of the Southwest 1/4 of said Southwest 1/4 of Section 17; thence South 89 degrees 11 minutes 33 seconds West 70.00 feet; thence North 00 degrees 09 minutes 50 seconds East 180.00 feet; thence North 11 degrees 56 minutes 23 seconds West 813.02 feet to the place of beginning. Subject to an easement for ingress and egress described as: the South 135.00 feet of the East 95.0 feet of the Southwest 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 17, Town 4 North, Range 10 West, Thornapple Township, Barry County, Michigan. Commonly known as 5078 Harvest Dr, Middleville, MI 49333 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. Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, as Trustee for the benefit of the Freddie Mac Seasoned Credit Risk Transfer Trust, Series 2024-2 Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400
1572957
(09-25)(10-16)

MILLAGE

Continued from Page 5

rem. Local news outreach, social media posts and mailers will be part of the effort as well.

"We want to make sure every voter has the details they need, that they get every question answered, so they can make an informed choice at the polls," said Franklin.

Franklin also said he's committed to keeping that information flow going after the vote. "Barry ISD and local schools will develop a robust communication plan to keep voters informed of how dollars are being used and how they benefit students," he said. — *MM*

DK beats Gobles in three for second SAC Central win

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Delton Kellogg varsity volleyball team moved to 2-0 in the Southwestern Athletic Conference Central Division, and 4-1 overall against SAC foes, with a 3-0 win over visiting Gobles Tuesday.

The Panthers won by the scores of 25-15, 25-11, 25-11.

"The girls played well," Delton Kellogg head coach Erin Thornton said. "We need to work on polishing up the off-tempo balls, and create the plays off of them. We're expecting hard hits and we're a little slow getting to the balls of the blocks and the tips coming up and over."

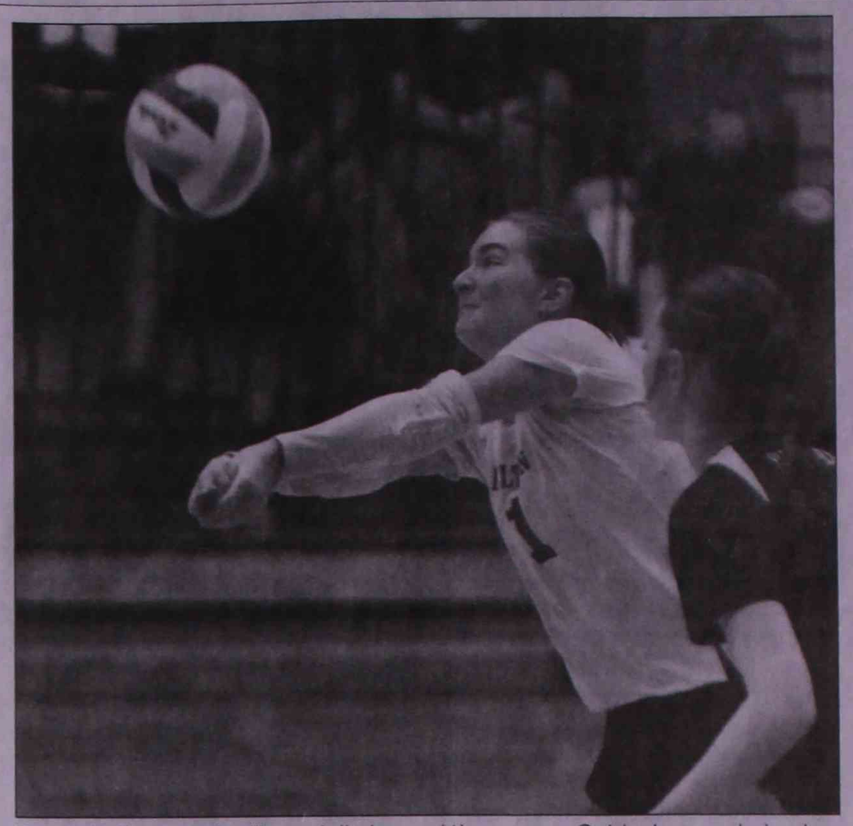
The Panthers have shuffled some things around lately and coach Thornton has liked the payoff so far. Last week the team shifted Jalin Lyons back to the libero position, and that has allowed Rylee Foreman to hit on the right side of the net.

"So many of these girls are so versatile that it really is a coach's dream," Thornton said.

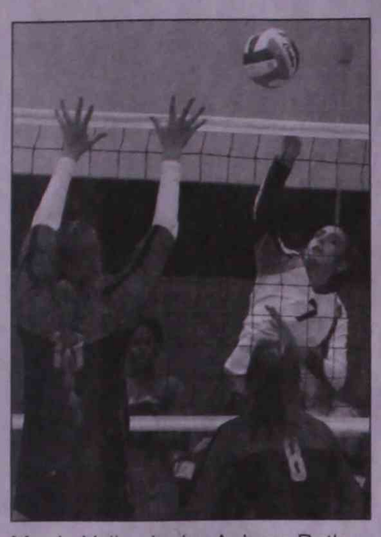
The DK team is back in action in the SAC tonight, Sept. 25, at Coloma. The Panthers are looking forward to a rematch after the two teams split two sets at the Comets' tournament a month ago.

The Panthers follow that up with SAC Central contest at Galesburg-Augusta next Tuesday, Sept. 30.

The Delton Kellogg girls were 0-2-1 in three matches at the Lakewood Invitational Saturday. The Panthers were bested 25-11, 25-17 by East Grand Rapids and 25-18, 25-18 by the host Vikings. The DK girls split with Cedar Springs 25-23, 14-25.



Delton Kellogg senior libero Jalin Lyons (1) passes a Gobles' serve during her team's three-set win over the visiting Tigers in SAC Central play Tuesday at Delton Kellogg High School.



Maple Valley junior Aubree Roth looks to get an attack past the Reading block during their Big 8 Conference dual at Maple Valley High School Tuesday. **Photos by Brett Bremer**



Lion senior Kaitlyn Garlinger hits a serve during her team's Big 8 Conference match with Reading at Maple Valley High School Tuesday.

Lions get their swings in against Reading girls

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Lions are learning they have some weapons.

Reading took a three-set win over the Maple Valley varsity volleyball team at Maple Valley High School Tuesday in Big 8 Conference play. The Rangers won by the scores of 25-8, 25-22, 25-18.

Reading cruised to a win in that first set pulling away from the get-go. A big run of tough serves by Maple Valley senior Kaitlyn Garlinger and some pretty good attacks by senior outside hitter Maddie Trowbridge and junior outside hitter Aubree Roth for the Lions kept things much tighter the rest of the evening.

"I think both of them have gained more confidence in their hitting ability," Lion head coach Timara Wehr said of Trowbridge and Roth. "We've been trying to get Maddie to slow down a little bit and to swing all the time. Sometimes she just runs up to tip it over if it is not the perfect set. And Aubree has a lot more confidence in that she can hit the ball over and it can be successful."

The Rangers built a little bit of a lead early in set number two, but a run of eight straight service points which included a few aces by Garlinger bumped the Lions from a two-point hole to a 21-15 lead before a serve finally clipped the net and fell down short.

Garlinger boosted the Lions with more than just her serves. Wehr credited her communication with being one of the things that really helped the team compete in that second set.

An assist from senior setter Storey Jonca had the Lions in front 22-17, but a Lion attack went into the net and a Ranger serve from libero London Trott rolled over the net for an ace to spark her team. Those two points had the Rangers within 22-19 and were the start of a 8-0 run to close out the set.

A kill at the left pin by Trowbridge had the Lions within 10-8, and they got the next point to pull within 10-9 in the middle of set number three before the Rangers started to extend their lead a bit.

Saxon soccer faces I-8 leaders in Coldwater this afternoon

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Hastings varsity boys' soccer team faces a tough task tonight as it goes on the road to take on the Interstate-8 Athletic Conference leading Coldwater Cardinals.

The Cardinals are off to a 4-0-1 start to the conference season with the one blemish on their record a 2-2 draw with Parma Western earlier this season. That same Parma Western team defeated the Saxons 7-3 in conference play last Thursday, Sept. 18.

Hastings is still looking for its first conference win at 0-4 so far in I-8 play. Pennfield took a 3-2 conference win over the Saxons on Pierce Field in Hastings Tuesday evening.

That loss came on the heels of a tough weekend tournament where the Saxons were shut out three times. At the Mattawan Invitational Saturday, the Saxons fell 3-0 to the host Wildcats, 3-0 to Battle Creek Lakeview and 8-0 against Coopersville.

The Saxons face conference foe Marshall Tuesday, Sept. 30, in Hastings and then will go on the road to face Greenville Oct. 2.

NOTICE: SEEKING APPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTEERS

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

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

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

SYNOPSIS
PRAIRIEVILLE TOWNSHIP
Regular Meeting September 17, 2025

Called to order at 6:38 p.m.
Present: Stoneburner, DeVries, Goebel, Pence
Agenda and Minutes approved
Commissioner's Report
Public comments were received.
Department Reports were received.
Approved: Payment of bills
Resolution 2025-14: Combined Precinct
Budget Amendment 2025-3
Public and Board comments were received.
Meeting adjourned. 8.42 p.m.

Submitted by:
Rod Goebel, Clerk

Attested to:
Jim Stoneburner, Supervisor

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 October 23, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Deirdre Hill, an unmarried woman
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC
Date of Mortgage: November 24, 2020
Date of Mortgage Recording: December 2, 2020
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $191,161.45
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Village of Middleville, Barry County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 14, Misty Ridge, according to the recorded Plat thereof in Liber 6 of Plats on Page 30.
Common street address (if any): 616 Misty Ridge Dr, Middleville, MI 49333-8395
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: September 25, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515,

1572808
(09-25)(10-16)

HOPE TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING TO CONSIDER A SPECIAL EXCEPTION USE APPLICATION FOR AN ACCESSORY DWELLING LOCATED AT 6632 GURD ROAD, HASTINGS, MI 49058.

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

Notice is hereby given that the Hope Township Planning Commission will hold a meeting and Public Hearing on Tuesday, October 14th, 2025 at 6:30pm at the Hope Township Hall located at 5463 S. M-43 Hwy Hastings, Michigan 49058 within the Township.

The purpose of the meeting is to receive comments from the public regarding an application by Tim and Marilyn Bayerl for the construction of an accessory dwelling on the parcel located at 6632 Gurd Road, Hastings, MI 49058 (parcel number: 08-07-013-011-00). The property is within the AR, Agricultural/Residential zoning district. Accessory dwellings are permitted in the AR district subject to Special Exception Use approval by the Planning Commission, and as permitted by Section 10.13 and Article IV of the Hope Township Zoning Ordinance.

A copy of the Hope Township Zoning Ordinance and the application is available for review at the Hope Township Hall, 5463 S. M-43 Hwy, Hastings, Michigan 49058, during regular business hours of= 9:00 a.m. through noon and 1:15 p.m. through 3:00 p.m. on Wednesdays. The Hope Township Zoning Ordinance is also accessible online at www.hopetwp.com. Written comments will be received from any interested persons by the Hope Township Clerk at the Hope Township Hall during regular business hours or via email at clerk@hopetwp.com up to the time of the hearing. Oral and written comments will be further received by the Planning Commission at the meeting.=

All interested persons are invited to be present at the aforesaid time and place.

This notice is posted in compliance with PA 267 of 1976 as amended (Open Meetings Act) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Hope Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed material being considered at the hearing, to individuals with disabilities at the hearing upon seven (7) days' notice to the Hope Township Clerk. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Hope Township Clerk at the address or telephone number listed below

HOPE TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Hope Township Hall
5463 S. M-43 Hwy
Hastings, Michigan 49058
(269) 948-2464

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
BARRY COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. and JUDGE 25-30185-DE
Hon. William M. Doherty

Court address: 206 West Court Street, Ste. 302, Hastings, MI 49058
Court telephone no.: 269-945-1390
Estate of Gladys L. Ploeg. Date of birth: April 6, 1943.
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Gladys L. Ploeg, died December 11, 2024.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Debra D. Drenten and Carla VanHaitsma, co-personal representatives, or to both the probate court at 206 West Court Street, Ste. 302, Hastings, MI 49058 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
Date: September 22, 2025
Amber M. Soler P76162
900 Monroe Ave. NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503
616/632-8000

Debra D. Drenten	Carla VanHaitsma
1883 Valley Pines	Dr. 10832 Griffith Dr.
Hastings, MI 49058	Middleville, MI 49333
616/366-5042	269/908-7954

Trojans and Vikings facing highly-ranked foes this week

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Thornapple Kellogg Trojans and the Lakewood Vikings both picked up their first conference victories of the 2025 varsity football season last Friday. Now they face the toughest tests their respective leagues can throw at them this week.

Thornapple Kellogg will host Grand Rapids Catholic Central at Bob White Stadium in Middleville Friday. The Cougars come in with a perfect 4-0 record and have the top ranked team in the state in Division 5. The Cougars have won six state championships in the past nine seasons. Both teams are 1-0 in the OK Black Conference so far.

"Catholic is always Catholic," Thornapple Kellogg head coach Jeff Dock said. "They play really hard and are really fast on defense. They are more of a run oriented team this year with their QB and RB leading the way."

"The focus is always on the little things and now doing them faster than ever," he added.

Lakewood goes on the road this week in the Capital Area Activities Conference White Division to face the 4-0 Portland Raiders who are ranked fourth in the state in Division 4. The Vikings last beat the Raiders in 1963.

Portland hasn't played since lambasting Olivet 35-0 Sept. 12. Illness and injuries forced Ionia to forfeit its contest with the undefeated Raiders last week. Portland is the defending CAAC White champ, and the Raiders knocked off Hastings in the MHSAA Division 4 District Finals a year ago.

The Hastings varsity football team looks to stay perfect in the Interstate-8 Athletic Conference this week traveling to Battle Creek to take on Pennfield. The Panthers, with two wins, have already surpassed their win total from 2024, but they were pushed around by the defending I-8 champs from Harper Creek in a 44-0 loss last week.

After dropping two meetings with the Panthers at the start of their tenure in the I-8, the Saxons have now won seven in a row against Pennfield.

Delton Kellogg and Maple Valley are both still chasing their first victory of the season.

The Delton Kellogg Panthers hope to get that job done on homecoming night as they take on a 2-2 Saugatuck team. Both squads are 0-2 in the Southwestern Athletic Conference Valley Division so far.

Maple Valley steps outside of the Big 8 Conference for a week to go on the road to face a 1-3 Hartford team. Both squads were shut out last week and looking to get their offenses humming Friday.

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

Hastings 22, Parma Western 14

Parma Western wiped out a 14-0 Saxon lead, but the Hastings varsity football team rallied for a 19-yard touchdown from Tyler Frazer with 5:37 left in the ballgame and a 22-14 win over the host Panthers.

The Saxons improved their Interstate-8 Athletic Conference record to 2-0 and moved to 3-1 overall with the road win in Jackson.

Trevin Russell scored on a 76-yard touchdown run a minute into the ballgame to put the Saxons up 6-0. Hastings added a 30-yard touchdown run by Cardale Winebrenner in the second quarter. A two-point pass from Mason Tossava to Spencer Wilkins made it a 14-0 Saxon lead.

While the Saxons scored on a couple big spurts in the first half, Parma Western got its first points on a long steady 11-play, 71-yard drive. Parma Western added a four-yard touchdown run from Brody Parrott before the half, and Luke Herrington hit the extra-point to get his team with in 14-7.

Jayden Willis scored on a 21-yard touchdown run for the Panthers early in the fourth quarter and a second Herrington extra-point evened the score at 14-14.

Neither team turned the ball over, but the Saxon defense thwarted three Panther fourth down conversion attempts. The Panthers did their homework on how they hoped to limit the Saxon offensive attack.

"Their linebackers flowed really well and their corners played up and tough on our off tackle play," Hastings head coach Jamie Murphy said. "They had a good defensive scheme to slow us down."

Hastings still managed 272 yards rushing in the ballgame. Murphy said Russell and Henry Elzinga both had a really good game on the offensive side. Russell closed the night with 13 rushes for 117 yards. Winebrenner had ten carries for 79 yards and Frazer had ten carries for 45 yards.

"Russell really picked his way through the defense on a couple off tackle plays. He is showing to be a patient runner," Murphy added.

Saxon quarterback Mason Tossava was 2-of-2 passing for 14 yards with Russell and Frazer each catching a pass.

Defensively, Murphy said Trapper Reigler and Cayden Pettengill played especially well, and Jack Webb and Colton Denton had a couple key TD-saving tackles on the edge.

Pettengill had eight total tackles. Wilkins had seven, Reigler six and Frazer and Tyce Richardson had five tackles each. Pettengill had two tackles for a loss and Reigler had one.

Willis had 20 rushes for the Panthers for 107 yards and a touchdown. Parrott closed the game with 16 carries for 83 yards. All five Lincoln Levy pass attempts fell incomplete for Western.



Delton Kellogg junior quarterback Tucker Tack weaves through the Lawton defense on a run during the first half of their SAC Valley ballgame in Delton Friday.

Lawton 42, Delton Kellogg 13

The student section was loud and proud long enough to cheer "I believe that we have scored! I believe that we have scored!" And the Panthers kept on playing 'til the end.

Some late success wasn't enough as the Delton Kellogg varsity football team fell 42-13 to visiting Lawton in the Southwestern Athletic Conference Valley Division opener Friday.

The Blue Devils led 28-0 at the half and upped their lead to 42-0 before Delton Kellogg got fourth quarter touchdown runs from senior running back David Cheftchuk and junior quarterback Tucker Tack.

Panther junior Alec Sinkler recovered an onside kick to give his team the chance to end the ballgame with back-to-back touchdown drives.

Cheftuck scored on a four-yard run with 4:44 to go in the football game. The extra-point kick from senior teammate Gabe Smoczynski was good. The successful onside kick eventually led to a six-yard TD run by Tack as time expired.

Those final drives were set up by some hard running from junior running back Menden Phillips, after sophomore Mason Ferris, Tack and senior Lassa Lokau carried much of the rushing load early on. Phillips closed the night with a team high 10 carries for 46 yards.

Tack was 0-of-6 passing the ball, and Lawton wrestled two interceptions away from Delton Kellogg receivers in the first half. Tyler McCartney pulled a ball away from Panther receiver Elijah Offringa and not long after Dillon Carlson went up high with the Panthers' Cristian Rojas for a ball and batted the ball up a couple of times before finally securing the INT.

Blue Devil senior speedster Greyson Burrous rushed for 34-yard, 24-yard and 60-yard touchdowns in the first quarter, and senior quarterback Brady Quick tossed a ten-yard TD pass to senior teammate Caiden Mitchell before the break.

Quick added a 17-yard touchdown run on the Blue Devils' first drive of the second half. Senior Caiden Mitchell tacked on a 27-yard touchdown run late in the third quarter for Lawton's final score.

Burrous was the Southwestern Athletic Conference champion and a state medalist in the 100-yard dash and the 200-yard dash last spring for the Blue Devil varsity boys' track and field team. He flew to a personal record time of 10.94 seconds in the prelim's of the 100 at the SAC Championships last May. He closed his night with nine rushes for 104 yards.

"When you get a kid that runs a 10.94 100 it is just tough," coach Smith said. "We have a couple kids that are just about as quick, but when he pulls away he pulls away. We knew if we didn't bottle him up and contain him and get him early we were going to have that problem. Sadly, he proved us right a few times."

The Blue Devils rushed 34 times as a team for 294 yards and had 79 yards passing as well. Quick was 3-for-4 throwing the football for 66 yards, and he rushed six times for 75 yards.

Burrous was faster than anybody else on the field, but as a whole the Blue Devils were bigger, faster and stronger across much of the field than their Panther counterparts.

"We have kind of talked about that program wide," Smith said. "A lot of the games we're losing right now, we're losing January through June. We've got to get in the weight room. We have got to figure that out. That is a school-wide issue.

"Our kids kept battling. We have asked them to learn a new offense and a new defense this year. We're taking steps every week. It's just hard to get them to see that when the score is the way it has been. They stayed with it. They stayed the course. We had a tendency last year a little bit that once our daubers get down they just stay down. I saw some resiliency. They wanted to continue to fight for each other. The ones that were out were rooting for the twos. That is a big positive step."

The Delton Kellogg defense did manage to keep Burrous bottled up on a couple runs late in the first half inside the Panther ten-yard-line. The Panthers then stuffed Mitchell on a fourth down run from the two-yard-line to prevent a Blue Devil score.

Thornapple Kellogg 42, Ottawa Hills 6

The Trojans have their first three-game winning streak since 2020.

The Thornapple Kellogg varsity football team opened OK Black Conference play with a 42-6 win over Ottawa Hills in Grand Rapids Friday, Sept. 19.

"The O-line has been doing a nice job," TK head coach Jeff Docks said. "Jacob Welch, Brody Hammer, Abram Dutcher, Isaac Fleischmann, Adam Lozada and Logan Goggins - they all play really hard. We are undersized, but come off the ball and get after it."

That line helped five different guys rush for touchdowns against the Bengals. Debo Robinson led the way for the TK backs with ten rushes for 73 yards and two scores. He scored on a pair of four-yard runs in the second quarter.

Malachi VanEngen, Jackson Smith, Micah Dock and Maddox VanEngen each scored once for TK.

Malachi had six rushes for 58 yards and got the scoring started with a 12-yard TD run in the first quarter. Smith upped the TK lead with a one-yard TD run in the first. The TK lead grew to 35-09 at the half with Robinson's two TD runs and a 13-yard TD run by the quarterback Micah Dock in the second. Maddox VanEngen capped the scoring with a 20-yard TD run in the third quarter.

Trojan kicker Mason Chivis was a perfect six-for-six on extra-point kicks.

The Trojans amassed 323 yards of offense ind the game while limiting the Bengals to just 42 offensive yards and three first downs. Passing the ball, Micah Dock was 2-of-2 for 32 yards. Cam Peter, Elliott Neff and Lucas Ploeg had one

Continued on next page

FOOTBALL

LOCAL STANDINGS	W	L	PLAYOFF POINTS
Hastings	3	1	46.25
Thornapple Kellogg	3	1	41.25
Lakewood	2	2	27.5
Maple Valley	0	4	5.25
Delton Kellogg	0	4	4

INTERSTATE-8 ATHLETIC CONFERENCE	W	L	CONFERENCE WINS	CONFERENCE LOSSES
Harper Creek	3	1	2	0
Hastings	3	1	2	0
Marshall	2	2	1	0
Coldwater	3	1	1	1
Pennfield	2	2	0	1
Jackson Northwest	1	3	0	2
Parma Western	1	3	0	2

OK Black	W	L	CONFERENCE Wins	CONFERENCE Losses
Grand Rapids Catholic Central	4	0	1	0
Northview	4	0	1	0
Thornapple Kellogg	3	1	1	0
Holland Christian	3	1	0	1
East Grand Rapids	2	2	0	1
Ottawa Hills	0	4	0	1

BIG 8 CONFERENCE	W	L	CONFERENCE WINS	CONFERENCE LOSSES
Quincy	4	0	2	0
Springport	4	0	2	0
Union City	3	1	2	1
Reading	2	2	2	1
Stockbridge	1	3	1	1
Maple Valley	0	4	0	3
Sand Creek	0	4	0	3

CAPITAL AREA ACTIVITIES CONFERENCE WHITE	W	L	CONFERENCE WINS	CONFERENCE LOSSES
Portland	4	0	3	0
Charlotte	3	1	3	0
Olivet	3	1	2	1
Lakewood	2	2	1	1
Eaton Rapids	1	3	1	2
Lansing Sexton	1	3	1	2
Ionia	0	4	0	2
Lansing Catholic	0	4	0	3

SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE VALLEY	W	L	CONFERENCE WINS	CONFERENCE LOSSES
Lawton	3	1	1	0
Schoolcraft	3	1	1	0
Coloma	2	2	1	0
Galesburg-Augusta	2	2	0	1
Saugatuck	2	2	0	1
Delton Kellogg	0	4	0	1



The Delton Kellogg student section cheers during the Panther varsity football team's SAC Valley ballgame with visiting Lawton Friday.

Continued from previous page

reception each. Zeke Webster came on and completed his only pass attempt for TK, for 24 yards to Peter.

Robinson Maddox VanEngen, Peter and Ploeg each had one tackle for loss for the TK defense. Goggins was in for four tackle assists. Ploeg, Eldridge and Zayne Whitmore had one tackle and three assists each on the defensive side. Blake Bossenberger had three assists too.

"The good thing is we got a lot of kids quality playing time," coach Dock said. "Overall, we played well on both sides of the ball."

Lakewood 35, Eaton Rapids 13

The Lakewood varsity football team scored its first Capital Area Activities Conference White Division win of the season Friday at Eaton Rapids.

The Vikings took a 35-13 win over the Eaton Rapids Greyhounds, spoiling the Greyhounds' homecoming night. It's the second straight win over the Eaton Rapids team for the Vikings.

Viking senior Carter Stewart had 20 rushes for 147 yards and two touchdowns to lead the Lakewood attack. Junior Michael Goodemoot rushed for 141 yards on 21 carries and scored a touchdown, and quarterback Max Thrun rushed for a pair of touchdowns.

Keegan Gochenour tossed a pair of touchdown passes for the Greyhounds, one to Brayden McGuirt and one to Connor Noffke.

Stewart opened the scoring for the Vikings with a four-yard touchdown run and he added a nine-yard TD run later on. Thrun had TD runs of four yards and five yards.

The Greyhounds answered Stewart's opening TD with McGuirt's TD reception, but the Vikings held on to a 7-6 lead with the Greyhounds' extra-point attempt was unsuccessful.

Lakewood eventually stretched its lead to 35-6, getting a late four-yard TD run from Goodemoot, before the Greyhounds found the end zone again.

Brady Makley led the Lakewood defense with seven tackles and sophomore Owen Smith had an interception.

Stockbridge 35, Maple Valley 0

The Springport defense tallied its third shut out of the season as the Spartans celebrated homecoming with a 35-0 win over the visiting Maple Valley varsity football team Friday.

The Spartans scored 21 points over a span of about five minutes in the second quarter to build a 28-0 lead at the intermission.

Kayden Woymae scored his team's final three touchdowns including a two-yard rushing TD with 3:17 to go before the half and then on a one-yard TD run with 1:24 to play in the first half. He tacked on a ten-yard TD run three and a half minutes into the second half.



Delton Kellogg receiver Cristian Rojas (31) and Lawton defensive back Dillon Carlson go up after a DK pass during the first half of their SAC Valley ballgame in Delton Friday. After a couple bobbles, Carlson picked off the pass. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

Springport got the game's first points on a one-yard touchdown run by Gibson Overweg. Easton Merrill scored on a two-yard TD run with 6:28 to go in the first half.

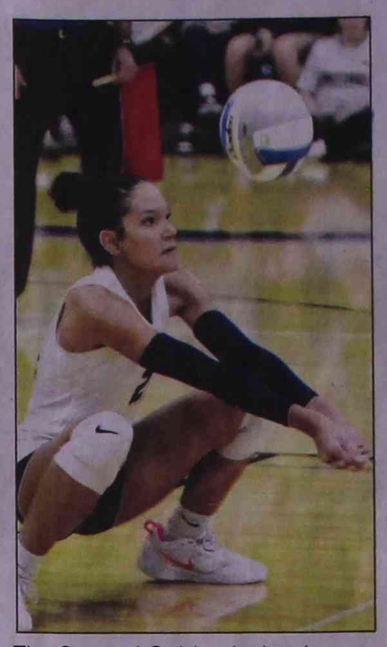
The Spartans moved to 4-0 overall this season and 2-0 in the Big Conference with the win.

Overweg was 4-of-7 passing in the game for 87 yards. Woymae led the Spartan rushing attack with 18 carries for 109 yards. Springport had 230 yards on the ground as a team. Merrill had nine carries for 69 yards.

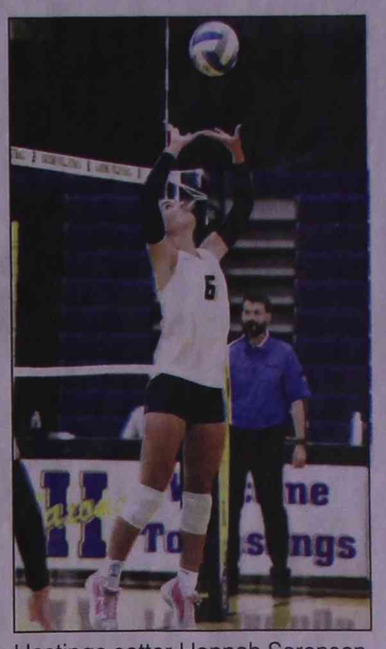
The Lion offense was powered by Tyrese Robinson El who had 12 rushes for 53 yards. Dayton Hillard added 13 carries for 37 yards. Lion quarterbacks Eli Wright and Darren Carpenter couldn't get much going with the passing game as they were combined 2-for-1 1for 11 yards. Wright was intercepted once.

Nolan Hoefler led the Maple Valley defense with 12 tackles. Robinson El had ten tackles and a sack. Kaiden Meyers added nine tackles and a sack and Merrill had nine tackles. Wright recorded two sacks on defense.

The Lions fall to 0-4 overall and 0-3 in the conference with the loss.



The Saxons' Gabby Juskewicz gets low to pass a Beaver serve during their I-8 match at Hastings High School Wednesday, Sept. 17. **Photos by Perry Hardin**



Hastings setter Hannah Sorenson puts a pass up during the second game of her team's contest with Harper Creek at Hastings High School Wednesday, Sept. 17.

Saxon spikers face tough first test in I-8

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Hastings was bested in three sets by visiting Harper Creek in the Interstate-8 Athletic Conference opener for each team Wednesday, Sept. 17, in Hastings.

The Beavers won by the scores of 25-15, 25-20, 25-15.

Harper Creek enters league play as one of three I-8 teams receiving a nod among the honorable mention squads in the MIVCA Division 2 state rankings. Parma Western and Marshall also open conference play listed among those honorees in the coaches' poll.

The Saxons bounced back from the tough evening to go 2-2 at the Lakeview Wildcat Invitational Saturday. Hastings took a 25-18, 25-19 win over Ithaca and a 27-26, 25-17 win over McBain on the day. Muskegon Catholic Central bested the Saxons 25-16, 26-23 and the Grant girls scored a 25-22, 27-26 win over Hastings.

The Saxons were slated to visit Jackson Northwest in the I-8 Wednesday, Sept. 24. The conference season continues for Hastings with a trip to Parma Western Oct. 1.

The next home match on the slate for the Saxons comes Oct. 8 against Pennfield.

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