

INSIDE
TODAY'S EDITION

LOCAL GROUP TO HOST PROTEST
PAGE 4



SECOND SWING AT SOUTH CHRISTIAN GOES MUCH BETTER FOR TK LADIES
PAGE 10



NO HOMECOMING CUPCAKES FOR TK AND HASTINGS
PAGES 12-13

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THE HASTINGS BANNER

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State lawmaker helps secure funding for local bridge project

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

The Barry County Road Commission might be receiving a gift – one it will pass onto local residents – at least in part due to the efforts of state Rep. Gina Johnsen, after state lawmakers reached a compromise on an $81 billion budget deal.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer signed the budget for fiscal year 2025-26, which officially started on Oct. 1, on Tuesday, Oct. 7.

According to a statement released by Johnsen's office, the budget deal includes $2.5 million for the replacement of the Brown Road crossing in Woodland Township.

Officials with the Michigan House Republicans stated that other highlights of the budget agreement include:

- Nearly $2 billion to repair local roads and bridges across the state;
- Stronger public safety investments through the Public Safety Trust Fund designed to help communities hire more police officers;
- Tax relief by eliminating state taxes on tips, overtime pay and Social Security income;
- Cutting waste by eliminating thousands of unfilled government positions and ending payments for unused state office space; and
- New transparency requirements.

"This compromise was not everything we wanted, but it delivers real wins for Michigan families and small businesses," said Johnsen, R-Portland.



The state's $81 billion budget deal includes a $2.5 million appropriation that will go toward the replacement of the Brown Road crossing in Woodland Township. The crossing currently consists of four large culverts. **Courtesy photo**

"We are fixing roads and bridges, supporting police to keep communities safe, and letting workers and seniors keep more of what they earn.

"I am also pleased that the budget provides funds for the Brown Road bridge project in my district," she added. "Even in divided government, we proved compromise can deliver results."

Jake Welch, BCRC manager, said he's appreciative of the efforts by

See **PROJECT** on 3

Yankee Springs FD sees good turnout at first annual open house

Karen Turko-Ebright
Staff Writer

With summer temperatures still clinging on at the beginning of the week, many could not resist the open house at the Yankee Springs Township Fire Department. Fire trucks, safety experts and more took center stage for families and friends to learn and explore.

The event kicked off Fire Safety Prevention Week on Oct. 6, with this year's theme: "Charge into Fire Safety: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home."

Fire Chief Dan Miller said the event drew an "excellent turnout" of visitors.

"The kids had fun," he said. "Parents learned a lot on fire safety, especially with lithium batteries."

Other topics included smoke detectors, power lines and what to do when calling 911.

Lithium-ion batteries fall in the category of Household Hazardous Waste (HHW). To learn what is considered HHW and how to properly dispose of dangerous products and materials, including lithium-ion batteries, visit barrycounty.org/barrycountyrecycles/index.php.

Miller wants every homeowner to ensure fire safety protocols.

"Fire safety should be every day, not just (in) October. Every home should have a smoke detector in every bedroom, in hallways, living room, basement, on every level of a home," Miller said. "They should be tested monthly; if they're not 10-year batteries, then the batteries should be replaced every six months.

"New smoke detectors out now are good for 10 years. The outside of the detectors should be vacuumed to keep the dust from collecting on them."



Hot topics at the Yankee Springs Township Fire Department open house to observe Fire Safety Prevention Week included lithium-ion battery safety, smoke detectors, power lines and what to do when calling 911.

Miller said homeowners should make a plan in case of a fire.

"Families should have a safe meeting place outside, where if there is a fire that everybody goes to that meeting place, to make sure everybody has made it out of the residence or structure," he said.

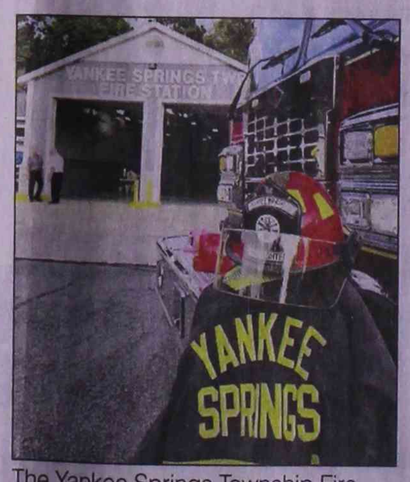
"Proper smoke detector placement is crucial for your home's fire safety," Miller continued. "Should the smoke detector go off, make sure everybody is aware of the alarm and do not go back inside whatsoever."

Miller said not to forget about carbon monoxide (CO) detectors either, especially with colder weather on the way.

Other safety precautions from Miller include:

- If you live in a multi-story house, make sure you install CO detectors on

See **SPRINGS** on 2



The Yankee Springs Township Fire Department hosted an open house on Monday, Oct. 6, to celebrate Fire Safety Prevention Week with the theme, "Charge into Fire Safety: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home."
Photos by Dan Miller

LO Council reviews updated posting in manager hiring search

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

Members of the Lake Odessa Village Council gathered for a "committee of the whole" meeting Tuesday, Oct. 7, to put the potentially final touches on an updated job posting to be used in the council's fourth hiring search for a new, full-time village manager.

Village President Karen Banks said Tuesday's meeting comes after a "very productive" meeting by a three-person ad-hoc committee that reviewed the previous job posting.

According to Banks, the ad-hoc committee developed a three-tier approach for the new posting that would include:

Manager 1 – An entry-level position where the candidate would learn the administrative functions of managing a village under the direct supervision of an experienced manager;

Manager 2 – A "journey level" position, where the candidate would bring "some of the knowledge and skill to perform the village manager's role," while needing some mentoring and time to work under an experienced manager; and

Manager 3 – A "senior level" candidate would bring the knowledge, skill and ability to independently perform "the full range of duties" of village manager.

Salaries would reportedly range from a low of just more than

See **MANAGER** on 3

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SAXON SOCCER FINDS THE NET A FEW TIMES IN REGULAR SEASON FINALE
PAGE 9

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An open house, ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony are planned for the Hastings City/Barry County Airport's Larry Baum Memorial Terminal on Tuesday, Oct. 21. **File photo**

Airport to host ribbon cutting for new terminal Oct. 21

Molly Macleod
Editor

Staff and volunteers at the Hastings City/Barry County Airport are gearing up to show off the airport's new Larry Baum Memorial Terminal this month. On Tuesday, Oct. 21, the terminal will be open to the public for an open house, ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony.

All of the events taking place on Oct. 21 are free and open to the public.

Members of the public are invited to tour the terminal throughout the day on Oct. 21, between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. Free hot dogs and lemonade will be provided all day.

The ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony will begin at 3:30 p.m. on Oct. 21, with special treats for attendees to follow.

Construction on the new terminal wrapped up in August, according to airport officials. The new terminal quickly took shape, with crews breaking ground on the project in December 2024. Airport Manager Gino Lucci said no local tax dollars were used for the project. $1.2 million in federal funds, plus $300,000 from the airport's own funds, were used to construct the new terminal.

The Hastings City/Barry County Airport is located at 2505 Murphy Drive in Hastings.

City council approves Halloween closure of Green Street for trick-or-treating



Green Street in Hastings is very festive each year during Halloween, lined with a variety of elaborate decorations. The city plans to shut down a stretch of the road to vehicular traffic to accommodate trick-or-treaters again this year. **File photo by Hunter McLaren**

Molly Macleod
Editor

An annual Halloween tradition in Hastings will continue for another year as the Hastings City Council approved the closure of a popular stretch of road that serves as the epicenter for Hastings trick-or-treating.

The council approved a motion at a special meeting last week, on Sept. 29, to close a portion of Green Street located between South Broadway Avenue and South Cass Street on Oct. 31 from 5 to 7:30 p.m., blocking vehicle traffic while kids and families quest for candy.

The closure is routine for the city, which has recognized that the stretch of Green Street has become a hub for trick-or-treaters — even more so when the road is blocked off to traffic.

Green Street is the only roadway that the Hastings Police Department shuts down for the special night. Resident volunteers, the Hastings Fire Department and the HPD all offer support to ensure safety and a smooth event.

Department of Public Works volunteers will also join in on the fun this year, helping ensure smooth operations throughout the evening. The city's fire pit will travel from downtown to add to the evening's enjoyment, say city officials.

Those who live on Green Street can still enter and exit during the closure. Escorts will help provide safe travel to Green Street residents.

EDITORIAL

Local journalism focus of National Newspaper Week 2025

October 5th through the 11th marks the 85th celebration of National Newspaper Week. Since 1940, Newspaper Association Managers, a professional organization of newspaper associations, has sponsored and supported National Newspaper Week, a week-long promotion of the newspaper industry in the United States and Canada.

The theme, or we might say, the rallying cry, of this year's celebration is "Embracing Local Journalism for a Better Future."

Local journalism is the heartbeat of informed communities. It brings stories to light that national outlets often overlook — stories about school board decisions, city council debates, neighborhood events, and local heroes. In a world increasingly shaped by global headlines and social media noise, reconnecting with local news is vital for civic engagement, accountability and community resilience.

Why Local Journalism Matters:

• Informed Citizens: Local reporting empowers people with the information they need to make decisions in their everyday lives — from voting to attending town hall meetings.

• Accountability: Local journalists often serve as watchdogs, uncovering corruption or negligence that directly impacts their communities.

• Community Connection: Local news fosters a sense of belonging by highlighting stories that resonate on a personal level.

• Economic Development: Thriving local media can support small businesses through advertising and partnerships, strengthening the local economy.

• Trust: According to the 2024 Trust in Media Study conducted by America's Newspapers and Coda Ventures, local newspapers are the most trusted news source in the country. Readers rank them highest for transparency, ethical standards and connection to their communities — qualities that are critical in an environment saturated with misinformation and national polarization.

View Newspaper Group Serves Local Communities:

With our 22 locally-owned community newspapers serving readers and advertisers across14 Michigan counties, View Newspaper Group was founded and built on local journalism. Today, we deliver more than 350,000 printed newspapers every week into readers' homes in more than 60 cities and villages and dozens of townships. In most of those communities, we are the only professional local news organization. Without our coverage of local government, schools, nonprofits, agriculture, businesses and economic development, people in many of those communities would lack the consistent, unbiased and thorough news and information that is most important to their daily lives.

Numerous studies have shown that local newspapers, in our watchdog role, hold local government officials accountable to voters and taxpayers while the absence of local newspapers has the opposite effect. (See "Lack of Local News Tied to Government Secrecy" on page 4.)

Beyond reporting news and information, the View team members serve as marketing experts, community boosters and nonprofit champions by serving on multiple boards and committees. View Newspaper Group contributes more than $180,000 annually to local nonprofits, service organizations, charitable causes and fundraisers along with providing those groups with hundreds of thousands of dollars more in free publicity. Social media, digital advertising and search engine corporations do not give back to our communities.

A Call to Action:

To build a better future, we encourage your support of local journalism through subscriptions, sharing stories and sharing your point of view in our letters to the editor pages. We encourage local businesses to commit a portion of their advertising budgets to our local and effective newspapers. We encourage local government and school officials and community leaders to subscribe to — and read! — our newspapers. Schools, libraries, and civic groups can also play a role in educating the next generation about media literacy and the importance of a free press.

Celebrate National Newspaper Week with Us!

By embracing local journalism, we're not just preserving the past — we're shaping a more informed, connected, and empowered future. National Newspaper Week is a time to reflect on and reinforce the vital role newspapers play in informing, empowering, and uniting our communities.

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Parents and kids learned about fire safety and explored the firetrucks at the Yankee Springs Township Fire Department open house on Oct.6.

SPRINGS

Continued from Page 1

every floor, including the basement and attic.

• Do not forget to install CO detectors in every sleeping area and rooms where people spend the most time, such as the living room.

• Install as many CO detectors as needed to be safe in your home.

Carbon monoxide is a toxic gas that you can't perceive without a device. High levels are potentially lethal, and it's simply not worth risking your and your family's health and life by not using the right number of CO detectors, Miller said.

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VIEW Newspaper Group
Rick Burrough, President
Wes Smith, Group Publisher
Molly Macleod, Editor

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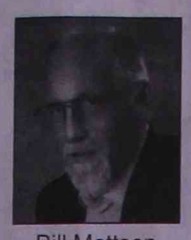
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Mattson celebrates 40 years of service in leadership, community advocacy


Bill Mattson

The staff at Family Support Center of Barry County recently celebrated 40 years of service in the nonprofit and human services sector by its executive director, Bill Mattson, according to a statement released on Wednesday, Oct. 2.

For four decades, Mattson has reportedly exemplified servant leadership, dedicating his career to uplifting children, families and vulnerable individuals across Michigan, Alaska – and beyond. Guided by the principle of "service above self," he has consistently placed the needs of others at the center of his work, fostering hope and opportunity in the communities he serves, the statement read.

Mattson has served as executive director of the Family Support Center of Barry County since September 2024, following nearly four years as program director.

Under his leadership, the Family Support Center has deepened its mission of strengthening families through education, prevention, and advocacy. His vision of collaborative, community-centered leadership has been instrumental in advancing innovative services for children and families throughout Barry County.

"For me, the true measure of success has always been about making a meaningful difference in people's lives. When we help individuals and families overcome obstacles, find their voice and move toward their dreams, we create stronger, healthier communities," Mattson said. "After 40 years, I'm still inspired every day by the opportunity to walk alongside people as they discover their own strength and reach for their goals."

Over the course of his career, Mattson's leadership has held executive roles including at the Family Support Center of Barry County since 2020, the Four Health Family Resource Center from 2021 to 2023, Senior CommUnity Care of Michigan PACE from 2018 to 2019, Adult Learning Programs of Alaska from 2014 to 2018, Alternative Services, Inc. from 2003 to 2012, and the Lutheran Social Services of Michigan from 1985 to 2003.

His service has also extended deeply into civic and community leadership, where he has served on numerous boards and commissions. Mattson is also an active Rotarian and currently a member of the Hastings Rotary Club, while previously having served with the Rotary Club of Lansing and the Fairbanks Golden Heart Rotary Club, reflecting his steadfast belief in Rotary's ethos of "service above self."

To commemorate this milestone, the Family Support Center invites the community to join in recognizing Mattson's contributions and his lifelong dedication to servant leadership and service above self. — *DM*

Chamber receives award for child care leadership

The Barry County Chamber & Economic Development Alliance and its president and CEO, Jennifer Heinzman, were recently honored as an "Imagine MORE!" Award honoree by the Western Regional Childcare Coalition, led by Vibrant Futures and The Right Place.

The award was presented during a CEO/Executive Leadership Roundtable at Cascade Engineering in Grand Rapids.

According to an announcement by BCCEDA officials, the recognition highlights the chamber's collaborative, workforce-aligned approach to expanding childcare access – bringing employers, local government, health partners, philanthropy, and providers together to grow capacity, streamline resources, and integrate childcare within broader housing, talent and economic development strategies.

"We could not do this work without the help of the Barry Community Foundation, the County of Barry, and the B-Healthy Barry County Coalition—this has truly been a team effort," said Heinzman. "Child care is essential infrastructure for a strong workforce and a vibrant local economy, and our partners have been shoulder-to-shoulder with us every step of the way."

BCCEDA officials stated the award celebrate scalable, public-private solutions that increase childcare supply and support family stability across Michigan Prosperity Region 4 that includes Allegan, Barry, Ionia, Kent, Lake, Mason, Mecosta, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Osceola and Ottawa counties. — *DM*

PROJECT

Continued from Page 1


Rep. Gina Johnsen

Johnsen and the area's other state lawmakers in securing the funding.

"They've been very receptive to listening to us," he said. "I can't say how much easier that's made my job.

"It's invaluable to have them as partners."

While the state budget plan is finally in place, Welch said he's still waiting on details of the funding for the Brown Road project but hopes the installation of a new bridge could occur as early as next year, if not in 2027.

"The project got funded. That's great," he added. "That's a fantastic deal for the road commission."

According to Welch, the Brown Road crossing is currently a series of four large culverts located more than a half mile west of Woodland Road, with Brown Road serving as a thoroughfare connecting Hastings and southeast Grand Rapids suburbs to Lake Odessa and eastward to Lansing.

The replacement of the culverts has been a top priority for BCRC officials, but Welch said the county agency has been unable to secure the necessary funding for a more traditional bridge-type structure.

"Bridges are more expensive," he said.

Now, however, funding is seemingly no longer a roadblock. And, Welch said BCRC officials hope to put the project out to bid in either January or February of next year.

"It's currently being designed," he said. "We're hoping to do this in 2026."


Interim Village Manager Gregg Guetschow (far left) and members of the Lake Odessa Village Council work to review an updated job description that will be used in an upcoming hiring search for a new, full-time manager at a "committee of the whole" meeting Tuesday, Oct. 7. **Photo by Dennis Mansfield**

MANAGER

Continued from Page 1

$68,500 for Manager 1 to a high of $102,000 for Manager 3, depending on the candidate's qualifications. All levels would receive "a generous" benefit package, including health care and 401(k) plans.

Interim Village Manager Gregg Guetschow said he's already heard from four individuals, including two already interviewed by the council during previous hiring searches, about vacant manager's position.

"There may be some other people that come to mind," he added.

Before officially kicking off yet another hiring search, some council members questioned if the salary scale also needed to be updated.

"I know we talked about pumping up the pay to be a little more competitive," said Trustee Ben DeJong.

"We should talk about that salary," added Trustee Michael Brighton. "Is there a feeling we're low?"

At its current levels, Guetschow said he believes the village is at a competitive disadvantage.

"It's not comparable," Guetschow said, adding he had previously urged the top salary range to push $120,000 annually. "It's a challenge for us."

However, he also stated the overall compensation could be bumped up by increases in other areas of the benefit package.

"I'm really torn," Guetschow said. "You have to realize there's competition out there.

"At the same time, you have a system here that was put in place as far as compensation," he added. "My inclination is to keep it where you are now."

Another option, according to Banks, would be to also review a previous salary study for village employees and include language in the job description that the pay scale might be adjusted.

"I wholeheartedly think we should have that salary study updated – across the board," Brighton said.

Later during Tuesday's meeting, council members reached a consensus to have the job posting placed on the Michigan Municipal League's website for 30 days.

Banks asked for Guetschow to tweak the job description, reflecting input from the committee of the whole meeting. She added she'd then review the changes, before village staffers forwarded it to the MML.

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

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

Electric vehicles on display at HPL this Saturday

Local electric vehicle drivers and enthusiasts will display their vehicles for the public this Saturday, Oct.11, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Hastings Public Library.

A variety of battery-electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles will be available for inspection, with their owners standing by to answer questions and share their real-world experiences. Some vehicles will be available for rides or drives. To date, owners have registered vehicles from Chevrolet, Hyundai, Polestar, Subaru, Tesla and Toyota. This educational event is free and open to all who are interested in learning about driving electric and how electric vehicles can save people money and benefit the climate at the same time. Organizers say the event is a great opportunity to see what electric vehicles are really like.

An information table will have resources and other giveaways, including information for EV owners from Consumers Energy about special electric rates and incentives on EV chargers.

This event is part of National Drive Electric Month, now in its 15th year. Those interested in registering to display their electric vehicles or interested in finding other events can go to driveelectricmonth.org.

The Electric Vehicle Show and Tell is presented by the Hastings Public Library, the Kalamazoo Electric Vehicle Association, and the Southwest Michigan chapter of the national Electric Vehicle Association. The Kalamazoo Electric Vehicle Association is a volunteer group of EV enthusiasts based in Kalamazoo devoted to promoting further adoption of electric vehicles. The group has been organizing educational EV events for the public since 2015. — *MM*



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

Member SIPC

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

A retiree's guide for National Financial Security Month

If you're retired, it's easy to let your finances go on autopilot. Since October is National Retirement Security Month, it's a good time to revisit some areas that can impact your long-term financial security and help your money last a lifetime.

Consider these suggestions:

• **Manage your withdrawal rate.** You'll likely need to tap into your retirement accounts — your IRA and 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored plan. But think carefully about how much income you withdraw every year. If you take out too much, especially in the early years of your retirement, you risk outliving your resources. You have the option of withdrawing from these accounts at age 59½. Once you turn 73, you'll be required to take out at least a certain amount each year based on your age and account balance.

• **Estimate health care costs.** When you turn 65, you will be eligible for Medicare, but you may still need a Medicare supplement plan, both of which will require premium payments. You'll probably also incur a variety of other unreimbursed expenses for doctor visit copays or deductibles, prescription drugs and vision, hearing and dental care. Additionally, about 70% of adults ages 65 and older will need some form of long-term support, according to the Department of Health and Human Services. This may include a paid home health aide (average cost of $77,792 per year), an assisted living residence (average cost of $70,500 per year) or nursing home care (private room average cost of $127,750 per year). (Cost estimates are from Genworth 2024 Cost of Care Survey.) Over the course of your retirement, these can add up, so be realistic when budgeting for health care expenses in retirement.

• **Consider when to take Social Security.** You can start receiving monthly Social Security checks at age 62, but your payments will generally be larger if you wait until your "full" retirement age of 66 or 67. (The size of your payments will "max out" at age 70.) If you believe you have longevity working in your favor, and you can afford to wait, you may well be better off by delaying Social Security as long as possible.

• **Avoid investing too conservatively.** Once you're retired, you might think you should take as few chances with your investments as possible — after all, you have less time for them to bounce back from a downturn than you did during your working years. Nonetheless, it's important to consider keeping a reasonable percentage of growth-oriented investments in your portfolio to help you stay ahead of inflation. Even at a low rate, inflation can erode your purchasing power over time.

• **Keep your generosity in check.** If you have grown children who need financial help, or grandchildren heading to college someday, you'd no doubt like to do what you can to assist them. However, the hard truth is that they have more time than you to find workable financial solutions, whereas if you deplete your funds through your generosity, you could put yourself in a precarious position. So, be as giving as you can afford — but try not to go beyond that. By preserving your financial independence, you'll end up benefiting your family as well.

Retirement is ideally an enjoyable time in your life, especially if you feel financially stable. So, take time to check in periodically to keep that stability on track.

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

Edward Jones, Member SIPC



Demonstrators make their way along the south side of State Street in downtown Hastings during the June "No Kings" protest hosted by MI Barry County Indivisible. **File photo**

Local group to host protest Oct. 18

Members of MI Barry County Indivisible will be hosting a second "No Kings" protest from noon to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 18, at the Thornapple Plaza in Hastings.

According to organizers, the theme of the event is "No Kings, No Throne, No Dictator."

Marcia Szumowski said the event will feature poems, music and presentations. Then, at 1 p.m., participants will "peacefully walk" through downtown Hastings to the Barry County Courthouse, where they hope to circle the building and sing before dispersing.

The upcoming rally will be similar to the first "No Kings" protest on June 14, organizers stated.

During the Oct. 18 event, the local group will be collecting non-perishable food items for Barry County Cares.

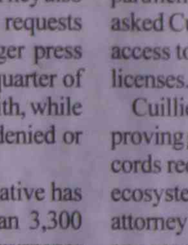
MI Barry County Indivisible hosts monthly peaceful protests on the first Thursday of the month at U.S. House Rep. John Moolenaar's office in Caledonia and on the third Saturday of the month at the Barry County Courthouse.

For more information, persons may visit online at nokings.org/host-toolkit or on the group's Facebook page by searching "Mibarrycountyindivisible." — *DM*

Lack of local news tied to government secrecy, new report says

By John Volk, Research Associate,
Medill Local News Initiative

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John Volk

The loss of local news is linked with increased government secrecy, according to a new study conducted by the Brechner Center for the Advancement of the First Amendment at the University of Florida.

The findings lend the first empirical evidence to the connection long intuited between the declining health of local news ecosystems and decreased government transparency. They add to the growing body of research that demonstrates the impact of news deserts on democracy, including increased partisanship, lower voter participation, and diminished civic engagement.

"Where there are no newspapers and weakened newspaper systems, government secrecy is flourishing," said David Cuillier, director of the Freedom of Information Project at the Brechner Center and author of the report. "Government officials see that journalists are hurting, and they're taking advantage of that."

To measure transparency, Cuillier and his colleague Brett Posner-Ferdman, a law student at Penn State, requested the same seven records from 44 state governments under each state's public records law. They found that the states with fewer newspapers per capita were more likely to deny or ignore their requests. They also found that responsiveness to requests improved in states with stronger press associations. Overall, about a quarter of requests were fully complied with, while another quarter were outright denied or not responded to.

The Medill Local News Initiative has tracked a net loss of more than 3,300 local newspapers and 45,000 newspaper journalists in the US since 2005. Those losses represent drops of about 33% and 60%, respectively.

The researchers did not find a significant connection between the density of digital-only local news sites and government transparency. Cuillier argued that these typically small start-ups can't be expected to replace the work once done by large newspaper teams.

"They're stretched so thin in trying to produce content that they often don't have time to pursue public records, let alone sue for them," Cuillier said of digital-only local news sites.

David Cuillier, director of the Freedom of Information Project at the Brechner Center, explained the local news crisis may lead pulbic officials to feel emboldened to withhold documents. "This is a terrible, terrible situation for democracy," Cuillier said.

Former Washington Post journalist and Fulbright Scholar Miranda Spivack explained that government secrecy can take its most damaging form at the state and local levels where most citizens encounter government. She documented local officials' attempts to hide critical information about issues ranging from toxic chemicals in firefighter gear to dirty drinking water in her book "Backroom Deals in Our Backyards: How Government Secrecy Harms Our Communities and the Local Heroes Fighting Back" published earlier this year.

"It paralyzes communities in a lot of ways," Spivack said of local governments' noncompliance with transparency laws. "It puts a lot of power in the hands of officials and private companies, usually, that they're doing business with."

Medill researchers requested records from a sample of 165 news desert counties earlier this year, looking to learn who, if anyone, was requesting records from these local governments. Almost half did not respond to the requests. Of the 54 counties that produced records in full, more than 70% received no records requests from journalists in a full year.

Journalist and scholar Miranda Spivack described noncompliance with records requests as depriving citizens of a critical avenue to exercise oversight of state and local governments.

In many cases, news desert counties are small and rural. Cindy Ornsbey, the county clerk and recorder in Slope County, North Dakota said she had no memory of any records requests in her five years on the job. "The population here is about 740 people," Ornsbey wrote over email. "There would be no reason that any news media organizations would need any records from Podunk."

Long wait times and copying fees also stood in the way of access to documents, both in Medill's look at the local level and Cuillier's look at the state level. The Department of Natural Resources in Iowa asked Cuillier for more than $16,000 for access to records on hunting and fishing licenses.

Cuillier listed four paths toward improving government compliance with records requests: Strengthened local news ecosystems; stronger laws that mandate attorney's fees and monetary penalties if an agency is found improperly withholding documents; independent information commissions in each state; and bolstered litigation efforts.

He noted The Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press has made strides on this final point. It launched the Local Legal Initiative in 2020 to provide on-the-ground legal support for local journalists with backing from the Knight Foundation and Press Forward, a nationwide philanthropic coalition working to strengthen local news.

Eric Feder, the director of the Local Legal Initiative, explained that the initial request is only the starting point of the battle for public records. He hopes that increased litigation from initiatives like his can change the culture around government transparency.

"Bringing a lawsuit gets results," Feder said. "It doesn't win every time, but keeping the pressure on, holding agencies accountable has this almost immediate effect."

John Volk manages, updates and analyzes the Medill Local News Initiative's database of news organizations. A two-time Northwestern graduate (MS and BS in journalism, double major in statistics), he has previously worked at the Star Tribune, the Local News Accelerator and Northwestern Athletics.

Park officials announce availability of track chair



Historic Charlton Park officials recently announced they are taking reservations for use of the track chair for persons needing a mobility device. There is no cost to use the track chair, but reservations are required.

Visitors to Historic Charlton Park in Hastings now have the option to roam the local park using an all-terrain wheelchair, or track chair.

HCP officials recently announced they are taking reservations for use of the track chair for persons needing a mobility device. There is no cost to use the track chair, but reservations are required.

"The purchase of the track chair will promote health and wellness for the Barry County community with a specific focus on a portion of the population that is often overlooked," said Dan Patton, Barry County Parks director. "Sharing this resource with other community organizations will allow for greater reach and usage."

According to park officials, the purchase of the track chair was funded in part by a grant from the Barry Community Foundation.

The HCP track chair is to be reserved on a first-come, first-served basis and only one user can be scheduled per day.

HCP's track chair is available to borrow April 1 through Dec. 15, Tuesday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The user must be accompanied at all times by an adult companion who is in good physical condition to navigate HCP property.

To reserve the track chair, persons may visit online at charltonpark.org/park/track-chair-reservation.html. Or, for additional information on the HCP, individuals may contact park officials by calling 269-945-3775 or via email at info@charltonpark.org. — *DM*



Historic Charlton Park visitors now have the option to roam the park using an all-terrain wheelchair. **Courtesy photos**

Visit us online at www.HastingsBanner.com

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BUILDING BRANDS

Why your brand must embrace local journalism through advertising dollars


Emily Caswell

Sunday, Oct. 5 is a special occasion, as it marks the start of the 85th celebration of National Newspaper Week. (It's also my birthday, but I'm afraid you'll ask how old I am, so we'll skip that part.)

National Newspaper Week is a week-long promotion of the newspaper industry in the United States and Canada. This year's theme is: Embracing Local Journalism for a Brighter Future.

From the National Newspaper Week website, "In a world increasingly shaped by global headlines and social media noise, reconnecting with local news is vital for civic engagement, accountability, and community resilience."

Regular readers of our 22 locally-owned, locally-connected community newspapers across the state of Michigan know this and already embrace local journalism. Chances are each of you has a unique reason why you love and read your local paper. And maybe that reason changes from week to week. For some it may be as simple as seeing your friends or neighbors featured in our papers. Some may enjoy following high school sports. Others want to know about upcoming events, concerts, plays, fundraisers and more. Parents want to know what is happening in their child's school and throughout the district. Everyone wants to stay informed about increases in taxes, water bills, street projects and road construction, local elections, on-going developments and new businesses opening in the community.

Of course, there's another reason many people read our newspapers — the advertisements. Whether you are car shopping, need your furnace serviced, looking for the best deal on ground beef for the week or wondering what to do this weekend, the pages of our papers are filled with marketing messages from local and national businesses and nonprofits that inform and reach our readers in a way that no other form of advertising can offer. The thousands of brands that use our newspapers to advertise know this because their print ads deliver results.

The money businesses and organizations invest in newspaper advertising, however, does more than just benefit their bottom line, it benefits the entire community. Our community newspapers are supported in large part by advertising dollars, meaning, no advertising, fewer newspapers. That doesn't mean community newspapers are a charity case. Brands aren't handing over their hard-earned dollars to keep us in business. I'll say it again, brands use our newspapers to market their goods and services, because it works. Their print ads attract and retain customers, but the impact is bigger than that. Here is why your brand must support local journalism with advertising dollars. Newspapers with local journalism:

Provide a connection to a trusted source: Placing your marketing messages in the pages of our community newspapers automatically makes you credible with consumers. Just as newspapers are held to the highest standard when it comes to truth and accuracy in our reporting; so is true with the marketing messages in our newspapers. As a locally-owned company we have the right to refuse an advertising partner that isn't trustworthy. Do you think social media platforms ever turn away money? I don't. Bottom line, newspapers are trusted. A recent piece on *newspapers.org* sites this study: "According to the 2024 Trust in Media Study conducted by America's Newspapers and Coda Ventures, local newspapers are the most trusted news source in the country. Readers rank them highest for transparency, ethical standards and connection to their communities — qualities that are critical in an environment saturated with misinformation and national polarization."

Help in employee retention and attraction: Studies find that communities with newspapers are safer, have lower taxes, have a better turnout in local elections and are more connected. You know who likes to live in communities like that? Your team members. Brands that exist is news deserts may find it hard to recruit and retain talent if the community in which talent is asked to live doesn't feel connected, has high taxes or poor schools.

Associate your brand with smiles: While there are times when our community newspapers have to report on bad, sad or what some might consider slightly boring news, the majority of what we deliver our readers delivers smiles. Students on a special day at school, young community members enjoying a fundraising event, local artists sharing their works, stories of love, redemption, inspiration and more grace our pages daily. Our readers get a jolt of joy and on the same page they see your brand and associate you with that feeling.

If you're ready to embrace local journalism or expand upon your current plan, contact me at *ecaswell@mihomepaper.com.*

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

Speakers series returns to Hastings library

The lecture series, "Life Stories," is returning with two nights of speakers slated for Monday, Oct. 13, and Monday, Oct. 20, at the Hastings Public Library in Hastings.

The two events will be hosted by the Roundtable Companions for Racial Equity to promote diverse perspectives with the goal of creating a more inclusive community, according to organizers.

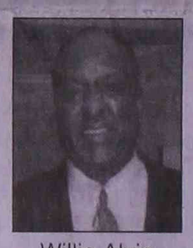
The Oct. 13 event will focus on issues concerning military veterans and feature a presentation by Carla Wilson-Neil, the retired chief operating officer at Spectrum Health Pennock, now Corewell Health Pennock Hospital, who was recently appointed to the Michigan Veterans Facility Authority Board of Directors.

Wilson-Neil, a member of American Legion Post No. 45, will share her life story, working with veterans and speak about her new appointment, as well as talk on the possible impact of recent federal legislation on veterans and their health care.

Willie Alvin Taylor, the founder and president of the I Carried the Cross Foundation, a non-profit organization that helps and supports veterans, will speak after Wilson-Neil. The Mississippi native reportedly has supported numerous causes, including the American Red Cross, where he is a manager and instructor, and serves as a commander for The Sons of the American Legion.

Also, a table will be set up by the DAV with information for disabled veterans.


Carla Wilson-Neil


Willie Alvin Taylor


Bill Griffey


Virginia Sprague-Vanderband

The series will continue on Oct. 20, with the focus switching to the Native American perspective and a presentation by Bill Griffey, education director for the Gun Lake Tribe, on the challenges currently facing the tribal community. The presentation will also include Virginia Sprague-Vanderband, who also serves on the Gun Lake Tribal Council.

By sponsoring talks like these, the Roundtable Companions for Racial Equity are committed to "giving people a voice and a platform, where they may have felt they didn't have a place to share their story in the past," according to the group's president, Desiree Holley.

The two informational events are open to the public and free to attend. — *DM*

PIERCE CEDAR CREEK INSTITUTE EVENTS

— OCT. 9-16 —

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

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.

Friday, Oct. 10 — Chelsea Bivens' Artist Reception, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Meet local artist Chelsea Bivens and explore her vibrant collection of nature-inspired paintings on display at the Institute. Learn more about her creative process through an in-person painting demonstration. Enjoy light refreshments and connect with fellow art and nature enthusiasts. A quarter of sales will be donated to the Institute to further its mission: To inspire appreciation and stewardship of our environment.

Saturday, Oct. 11 — Barry County Water Quality Program's 2025 Seasonal Summary (ages 15+, under 18 with an adult), 9 a.m.-noon.

Monday, Oct. 13 — Bird Brains with the Barry County Bird Club (ages 15+, under 18 with an adult), 8:30-10:30 a.m.

Monday, Oct. 13 — PCCI Chess Club, 4-6 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 15 — Fall colors accessible tours (ages 9+, under 18 with an adult), 2-4 p.m. Want to be immersed in and enjoy Michigan's beautiful fall colors but not quite up to hiking the Institute's trails? Explore the Institute's property in its motorized, all-terrain vehicle with seatbelts, stopping along the way to observe and learn about Michigan's forests and their fall colors. Please register for one date as the tour is the same each day. This tour is extremely limited, so Institute staff ask you to reserve your spot today. Institute members can enjoy the tour for $7; non-members will pay $10.

Thursday, Oct. 16 — Shinrin-Yoku After Dark, 6:30-8 p.m. Join the Institute for a special night under the stars. Certified Forest Therapy Guide Katie Venechuk will introduce attendees to the practice of Shinrin-yoku (also known as "forest bathing") as they explore the tranquility of the forests and meadows of Pierce Cedar Creek at night. The Institute has partnered with In Your Element Wellness to offer a special, discounted rate for this program. This program will include a small snack. Please list any allergies when registering. Institute members can register for $22; non-members will pay $28.

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

CLASSIFIEDS

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

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GARAGE SALES

GARAGE SALE: NAME YOUR PRICE! Proceeds go to Barry County United Way Fresh Food Initiative and Thornapple Manor Auxiliary. Thursday, Friday, & Saturday, October 9th, 10th, & 11th; 9am-4pm. 488 Gaskill Rd., Hastings.

GIVE US YOUR SCOOP!

If you see news happening, or if you just want us to know about something going on...

Email mmacleod@mihomepaper.com

THE HASTINGS BANNER

VIEW Newspaper Group

Visit us online at mihomepaper.com

Holiday Adoption Program Begins

Barry County Cares is ready to launch its annual holiday adoption program. Sign-up is October 13 - November 26, 2025. Contact the locations below that correspond with your address:

***Hastings and Middleville**-Barry County Cares Monday-Friday 9 am-1 pm; 269-948-9555.*

***Delton area**-Delton District Library M/W/F 9 am-5 pm, Tues/Thu 9 am-6 pm, Sat/9 am-1 pm 269-623-8040.*

***Nashville area**-Nashville Clerk's Office M-Thursday 8:30 am-4: pm 517-852-9544.*

***Freeport area**-Freeport District Library M/Thu 1 pm-8 pm, W/Fri. 9 am- 5 pm, Sat/9 am-11 am 616-765-5181.*

***All other Barry County addresses**-contact Barry County Cares at 269-948-9555.*

Those who wish to adopt households can contact the Barry County Cares phone number.

HASTINGS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Professional Events

Kingston Trio | Saturday, 10/18/25 | 7:00pm

GR Symphony - Hans Zimmer | Sunday, 10/26/25 3:00 pm

Tickets: hastings.ludus.com | 269-818-2492

Other Events

Fall Band Concert | Sunday, 10/12/2025 | 3:00pm

Fall Choir Concert | Thursday, 10/16/25 | 7:00pm

Thornapple Wind Band | Sunday, 10/19/24 | 3:00pm

Hastings HS Talent Show | Wednesday, 10/22/24 | 7:00pm

OBITUARIES

VIEW OBITUARIES ONLINE. HASTINGSBANNER.COM

Kathryn Diane Veronica Blady McNeill



"Am I dying?"

"You are. Are you okay with that?"

"Yes. I'm okay with it."

"You've lived a good life and you've been a wonderful Mom to us."

"I like your shirt."

Our Mom, Kathryn Diane Veronica Blady McNeill (August 22, 1942), passed away on September 30, 2025, so very peacefully, with dignity and grace, at 83 years of age. Mom was not only a class act, but our lifelong friend, protector, companion, and advocate. Mom was married to our dad for more than 30 years, and while it didn't last, my brother and I remain very grateful for the effort.

One of the defining relationships in her life was the care she provided to one of the best men we knew, her father-in-law John, in his declining years. We tried to honor her in her last years as she did our Pop-Pop in his last years, while the amazing caregivers and admin at Woodlawn Meadows lead the way. Big shout-out to Woodlawn Meadows (best MC and ALF ever!), and their amazing angels of care!

Mom was raised Catholic, but fell away. Mom was concerned about whether she would go to Heaven, but had asked for forgiveness and believed in Jesus Christ. Mom studied at Temple University, attended at least one frat party, and hung out with Bill Cosby (before it was still cool and apparently not yet dangerous), until her oldest came along when she became a mother at 21, and then again 16 months after that.

Mom worked as a bank teller, befriended our Aunt Mary, established the Washington Twp, NJ Public Library, worked in schools, owned an antique shop, was a realtor, and volunteered with food delivery to our jail. Mom devoted herself to her family, libraries, hospice and charitable efforts, her several dogs and the dog park here. Mom wanted to contribute, to make situations better or simply offer of herself, even as it became increasingly difficult for her to do so. When one of us lost sight in one eye, Mom offered (quite a few times) one of her eyes so we could see again properly.

Mom was her father's daughter, a world-renowned head and neck cancer specialist/surgeon, the son of Polish immigrants from Wisconsin, a great cook and of whom she was very proud. Her mother arrived in Tacoma at age 16, on a ship by herself, from Newcastle-on-Tyne in England. Mom was born and raised in Philadelphia, the really-nice-Grace Kelly part, and never understood why she didn't realize her mother spoke with an accent (until a friend pointed it out when she was a teenager.)

GrammarKiki, AlKayda ~ always determined, usually convinced she was right, Mom could be obstinate and aggressive at bridge and dominoes, and with her opinions. Mom was always our biggest fan, and then a great supporter of her grandchildren, whom she loved very much. I'm not sure I ever heard her really raise her voice, and she put up with a lot from us, especially growing up.

Mom was quick to laugh, always wanted to be cheerful, and didn't suffer fools.

A special thanks to Robin Bartlett for simply being there, Rhonda Martinez for years of friendship, again to the Woodlawn Meadows angels and admin, the great Dan Brown, and to Stacy at the Hastings McDonald's for always asking after Mom, by name, when Mom could still be driven through and for long after she could not.

Mom kept our families grounded and on track.

Mom is survived by Jon Blady (Anna) McNeill, of Broomfield, CO, and Shane (Lori) McNeill, of Hastings, MI; four grandchildren, Sean, Sam, George and Kelly; brother, John Fisher (Mel) Blady, of New Hope, PA; nephews, Rush and Derrick, and nieces, Suzanne, Lori and Andi.

She was preceded in death by her father, John Valentine Blady, M.D., and her mother, Mary Esther Fisher Blady.

Against my better judgment, but because she would have wanted it; Mom was also preceded in death by her last cat (of several names), her companion and dog, Roger, and before Roger, Wilbur – both of which she had, while living next door to gentlemen named Wilbur and then Roger.

We pray she ("Who's 'she'? The cat's mother?" – that's an in-joke!) has found the weightless love she gave us in her life. Rest in peace, good and faithful Mom.

"Good night, bless you
Let angels possess you
Don't think it's too much
To close your eyes and leave us
You know how I'll miss you.
And the building blocks
Sometimes have to crash
Not meant to last
like a mother's love"

A small service and remembrance of celebration is planned for October 25, 2025 at The Jefferson, 103 W. State Street, downtown Hastings, next to Barlow's Florist. 10 a.m. gathering, 10:30 brunch and 11:30 service.

William "Bill" Warren



William "Bill" Warren, age 90, of Delton (Banfield), MI passed away peacefully in his home of 60 years on Friday, Oct. 3, 2025.

Bill was born October 30, 1934 in Charlotte, MI to Merle Z. and Francis (Holtom) Warren. Being raised on tenant farms, his family moved frequently. He and his seven siblings attended numerous one-room schools in Barry County as well as Kellogg Agricultural School in Hickory Corners.

Bill began working early in life as he left school and home at 14 years old, working for local farmers. Shortly thereafter, he began his career as a truck driver, heavy equipment operator, and foreman with Cole Brothers Gravel Contractors. He eventually retired from Battle Creek Gravel.

Bill married his sweetheart, Janice McCarty. Bill and Jan raised three children on their homestead, Millwood Farm, in Barry County. They bought 77 acres in 1965 and farmed most of the years. Children were not the only thing growing on the farm: beef cattle, saddle horses, hay, and grain crops were tended to as well.

The early 1970s brought Registered Percheron Draft Horses to the farm. From that first team, a legacy was born. Breeding, raising, training, and selling Percherons became a passion that kept him busy for over 30 years.

In 1976, our Nation's Bicentennial Anniversary brought about covered wagon trips and camping with fellow teamsters- both family and friends. Bill somehow managed to find time for a local farm heritage event known as Prairieville Old Fashioned Farm Days, where he was a spirited competitor in draft horse events like obstacle courses and catalog races. He had a great reputation as a good horseman or teamster.

Bill had a lifelong hobby in auction sales. He would meet up with old friends and make new ones along the way. His bidding behavior earned him the nickname, "Two Dollar Bill", as he had a habit of starting bids low and winning from the "Jewelry Wagons" nobody seemed to want!

His family was important to him, but the love for his grandkids was unparalleled. Whether on the farm or at Farm Days, he took great pleasure in loving them- as well as a bit of teasing! In later years, "Camp Warren" became a tradition. Multiple times each year, the family would camp in a Walnut Grove at the back of the farm. He especially loved breakfast over an open fire and relished time with his growing family.

Surviving are his beloved wife of 68 years, Janice; children, Timothy (Kathy) of Battle Creek, Terri of Battle Creek, and Tedd (Suzanna) of Delton; six granddaughters; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents; and all of his siblings, Aletha, Robert, Jean, Jack, Darlene, Thomas and Richard.

A visitation will be held at Bachman Hebble Funeral Service, Thurs., October 9, 2025 from 6- 8 pm. A funeral service will take place at Hickory Corners Bible Church, Friday, Oct. 10, 2025 at noon, with a one-hour visitation prior to the service. Bill will be laid to rest in a private graveside service.

Arrangements by Bachman Hebble Funeral Service.

HASTINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY SCHEDULE

No library card is required for library programs and activities.

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, Oct. 9 – PAWS for Reading, 3:30 p.m.; Movie Memories and Milestones watches a 1940 film starring Shirley Temple, Spring Byington and Nigel Bruce, 5 p.m.; Wine Pairing & Basket Auction, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 10 – Friday Storytime, 10:30 a.m.; kids' video game play, 3:30 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 11 – Drive Electric Car Show, 11 a.m.

Monday, Oct. 13 – Crafting Passions, 10 a.m.; Lift Every Voice: Life Stories speaker, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 14 – Baby Cafe, 10 a.m.; mahjong, 2 p.m.; teen button making, 3:30 p.m.; chess, 5 p.m.; Lift Every Voice Book Club: "Small & Mighty" by Sharon McMahon, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 15 – Itsy Bitsy Book Club, 10:30 a.m.; Open Art Studio, 11:30 a.m.; Build a Board: Charcuterie with Chef Bridgette Rhaine (registration and supply fee required), 6:30 p.m.

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

Worship Together

...at the church of your choice~

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ASK DR. UNIVERSE

Adrenaline rush

How does epinephrine work?
— Annabelle, 15, Mo.

Dear Annabelle,

I love a peanut butter and tuna sandwich. But when I was a kitten, my school outlawed peanuts. My classmate was super allergic to them. So, we had a rule to keep our friend safe. I packed plain tuna fish instead.

I talked about that with my friend Travis T. Denton. He studies medicinal chemistry and neuroscience at Washington State University.

He told me that epinephrine is the medicine people use for a serious allergic reaction called anaphylaxis. It comes in an auto-injector, or EpiPen.

"The interesting thing about epinephrine is that it's a chemical made by the body," Denton said. "It's also called adrenaline."

The epinephrine in your body controls your stress response—also called fight or flight. It's how you get ready to handle a threat.

Let's say an angry bear charges you. Your body dumps epinephrine into your bloodstream. It tells your heart to beat faster and your blood vessels to narrow. It orders your lung muscles to relax. Now you're ready to fight the bear or run away.

Epinephrine the medicine works the same way. If you have anaphylaxis, you get itchy and swell up. Your airways close so you can't breathe. It's an emergency.

So, you grab your auto-injector and stab it through your clothes, right into your thigh muscle.

The epinephrine immediately spreads through your blood. It reaches protein receptors all over your body. Epinephrine molecules fit into those receptors. It's like a key slipping into a lock. Or a ball hitting a glove.

What happens next is a signal cascade.

Imagine you want to make your friend smile—but they're on the other side of the room. You draw a funny picture and pass it to someone next to you. They pass it to the next person and the next person. Eventually your pal gets your message and gives you a goofy grin.

Your message traveled through many people to get to its destination. That's like a signal cascade.

When epinephrine binds to the protein receptor, that protein changes shape and activates. It releases a messenger molecule. That messenger zooms to another protein. It activates that protein. The message travels to even more proteins.

Passing that signal from protein to protein is how epinephrine "tells" your cells to tighten up your blood vessels or relax your muscles. It all happens super-fast.

When the blood vessels squeeze smaller, your blood pressure goes up. That reduces swelling. When your lung muscles relax, your airways open. Now, you can breathe again.

After using an auto-injector, you should call 911. You need a doctor to make sure the allergic reaction is totally over.

Doctors use epinephrine for other things, too. It can minimize bleeding during surgery—because it squeezes blood vessels. It can help with other conditions that cause scary-low blood pressure or difficulty breathing.

Epinephrine uses what we know about the body to help us out. And you'd (peanut) butter believe science is how we figured that out.

— 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

A VANISHED LANDMARK: The Wall at Wall Lake

DAVID W. MILLER
Special to The Banner

It is quite possible that Wall Lake took its name from a natural formation that once stood as one of its most striking features. For generations of cottage owners and visitors, the so-called "Wall" was a familiar presence—sometimes a playground, sometimes a nuisance, always a landmark that gave the lake much of its character. Today, the formation is gone, remembered only in the stories of those who lived along its shore prior to 1962. This story is worth retelling, for it captures not only the natural history of Barry County but also the human relationship with the land and water.

The Wall itself stretched east to west for a hundred yards, lying just offshore from a string of cottages between Reahm's Place on the west and McCreary's on the east. During dry summers, when rainfall was scarce and the lake receded, the Wall revealed itself in full majesty: a ridge of stone, its boulders standing high above the waterline, forming a natural jetty 30 yards out from shore. On such days, you could walk its length, stepping from rock to rock. During wet years, however, the Wall became a hidden menace, lying just beneath the surface, often catching the propeller of an unsuspecting motorboat.

The Wall was not, as some old stories suggested, the work of human hands. Instead, it was a deposit of glacial till—stones, gravel and clay left behind by the great ice sheets that shaped Michigan's landscape 9,000 to 10,000 years ago. The glaciers gouged the basins that became our inland lakes and scoured the earth into ridges, hills and valleys. What remained at Wall Lake was a dense ridge of boulders—some basketball-sized, others massive and irregular, up to 4 feet across. All were rounded smooth from centuries of ice and water, their east-west alignment further evidence of glacial origin.

During dry years, when the lake level dropped, the Wall was troublesome, forming a barrier between the shore and open water. For the cottages behind it, the Wall was more than an inconvenience; it was a dam that hindered boating, swimming and enjoyment of a clear shoreline. A temporary remedy was once made by clearing a gap wide enough for boats to pass, but frustrations lingered. Weeds and cattails grew thickly, and rotting vegetation washed ashore in smelly masses, discouraging swimming unless one ventured well beyond the wall.

It was during a span of record low rainfall in the early 1960s that cottage owners decided something permanent had to be done. Men such as Don Reahm, Ken Miller, Jesse Mack, Art Cook and Bill McCreary, whose families all summered there, hatched a plan to remove the Wall altogether. Before work began, a team of geologists from one of Michigan's universities was invited to study it. They surveyed carefully, intrigued by the suspicion that the visible portion was only part of a larger structure. A few days later, they returned with diving equipment and, accompanied in a rowboat by curious residents, plunged beneath the water well beyond the shore. Their discovery confirmed local suspicion: the ridge extended in a continuous line all the way across the lakebed to the opposite shore. Their report concluded firmly that the Wall was not manmade but natural—a glacial deposit of granite boulders and stone. Though native peoples may have used it in earlier times, the Wall itself was the result of the Ice Age.

Rumors soon spread that other residents of the lake, not directly affected by the Wall's presence, were considering legal action to prevent its removal. They valued it as a landmark and feared that its destruction would erase part of the lake's history. But the plan went forward. In the summer of 1962, Baldwin Brothers Excavating of Hastings arrived with heavy machinery. Their work began quietly one morning, with only a few onlookers. Wooden planks were laid across the Wall so the company's crane could inch forward into position without sinking into the lakebed. Slowly and methodically, the crane operator began lifting the massive stones from their watery bed. One by one, they were deposited into waiting dump trucks, which rumbled up Cortez Road to a dumping site on the north side of the lake.

For a boy of 10, watching from the family cottage, it was an unforgettable sight. Some stones were so large they nearly toppled the crane as it strained to raise them. Load after load was hauled away until, by day's end, the Wall was gone. In its place lay a gouged and muddy bottom, raw from the disturbance but open at last to clear water. Within a season or two, the shoreline adjusted. The muck gave way to firmer clay, swimmers once again enjoyed a sandy approach, and boats passed freely from shore to lake without hindrance.

For those who grew up with the Wall, however, its absence was bittersweet. As children, we had clambered over its boulders, chased crayfish between its cracks, and dangled fishing lines into its depths. Weeds had grown on it, and sometimes it was an eyesore, but it was also a place of adventure. After its removal, the open view of the lake was indeed more beautiful, but the Wall was missed all the same. What had once been an obstacle became, in memory, a playground lost.

Even so, the Wall's disappearance did not erase its deeper history. Arrowheads and stone tools, uncovered in the 1950s along the beach behind the cottages, testified to the long presence of indigenous peoples who made use of the shoreline long before the first cottages appeared. One can imagine how useful such a ridge of stone might have been a century or two earlier, when the Potawatomi and other tribes camped along the lake. It offered a ready platform for fishing, bathing and daily chores. Though modern excavation carted away much of the stone, the memory of its usefulness lingers in the lore of the lake.

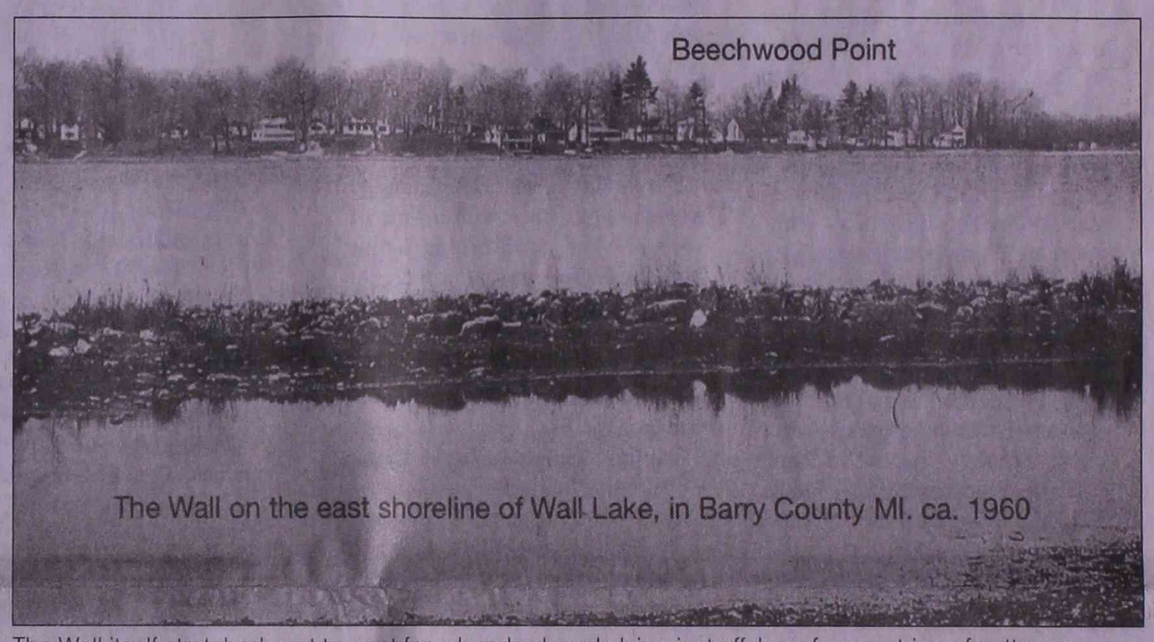


Wall Lake took its name from the natural rock formation that once stretched through the lake. **Photos by Ken Miller**

Today, the shoreline where the Wall once stood is much like any other stretch of Wall Lake: broad, open and inviting. The cottages have passed into new hands, the children who once clambered over boulders now grown and scattered. Yet the story lives on. It is told in the memories of those who recall its rise and removal, in the arrowheads still occasionally found along the shore, and in the name of the lake itself—a reminder that even the most enduring landmarks are sometimes no match for human will and summer ambitions.

I was that 10-year-old boy who watched the Wall rise and fall with the seasons, saw how low rainfall reshaped the shoreline and observed the careful study that preceded its removal. To me, the Wall was a place of wonder—full of adventure, mystery and memories. Yet when it was finally gone, and the waters lay open and free before our cottage, I discovered that the beauty of the lake remained undiminished. Writing for The Hastings Banner, I seek accuracy and context, ensuring that what is remembered is both fair and factual. The Wall had given us stories; its absence gave us access. In both, there was something to cherish.

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



The Wall on the east shoreline of Wall Lake, in Barry County MI. ca. 1960

The Wall itself stretched east to west for a hundred yards lying just offshore from a string of cottages between Reahm's Place on the west and McCreary's on the east.



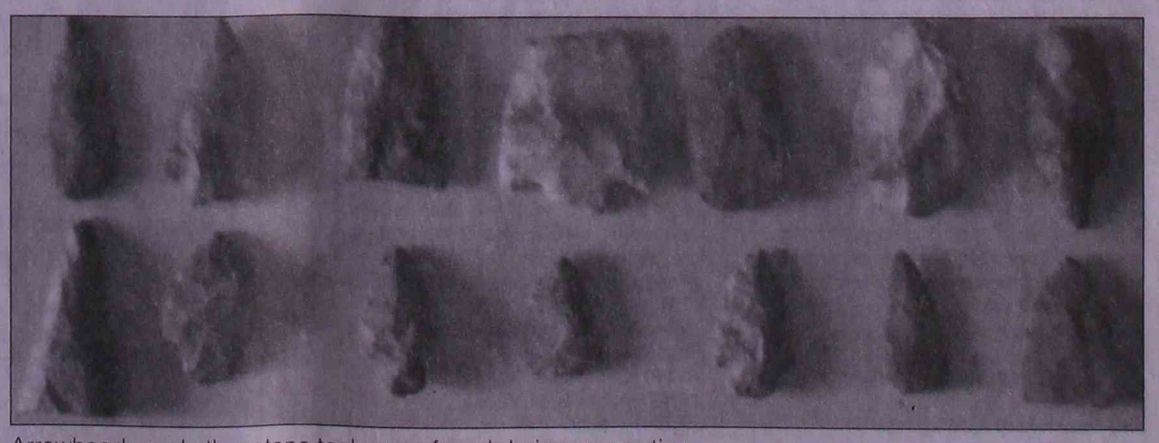
It was during a span of record low rainfall in the early 1960s that cottage owners decided the "Wall" had to be removed.



In the summer of 1962, Baldwin Brothers Excavating of Hastings disassembled the "Wall" at Wall Lake with heavy machinery



An overhead photo of Wall Lake shows where the "Wall" once stood.



Arrowheads and other stone tools were found during excavation.

SPORTS

Lion ladies all run to new PRs at last Big 8 Conference jamboree

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

All four Maple Valley girls ran their fastest race ever at the Big 8 Conference jamboree hosted by Concord Tuesday.

Melanie Jones, pushing for all-conference honors in her freshman season, ran to a time of 22 minutes 9.24 seconds to lead the Lion team and place tenth overall.

"They knew going in that this was the last of the jamborees, and it would be the last time to see how the Big 8 Championship would play out," Lion head coach Tiffany Blakely said. "Freshman Melanie Jones, said she wanted to do everything to make the top 10 because that is where she wants to be for all conference. She took over a minute off her time and is now better ranked in our region."

The Lion ladies were sixth in the day's overall team standings.

Senior Izabelle Soper ran to a 20th-place time of 24:00.59. Sophomore Lydia Emerick placed 34th in 26:47.29 and senior Ada Marie Blakely turned in a time of 31:43.82 to place 43rd.

Soper took nearly a minute off of her previous PR. Coach Blakely said she followed up that news with a question, ""how about states?"

"My response is absolutely, let's go for it," coach Blakely said. "All of them are seeing possibilities with their faster times, and it will make for a great finale for the season."

Bronson won the girls' race with 32 points ahead of Concord 55, Union City 78, Stockbridge 107, Quincy 141, Maple Valley 148, Springport 153 and Reading 203.

Junior Tyler Curtis led the Maple Valley boys with a time of 19:55.03 that put him in 22nd place. That is a new season best time for him.

Maple Valley also had junior Cameron Murray 25th in 20:27.52 and sophomore Grady Wilkes was 38th in 22:32.18.

"The boys' team managed their three-man squad very well," coach Blakely said. "They still held on their seventh place standing even with missing two runners to make a full scoring team."

She added that Curtis has said "he has more to give and is aiming for a sub 19-minute time before the season is out. Wilkes just missed his fastest time ever by six seconds, but is hungry for faster times. It has been awesome watching him grow through the season, and I know he will be under 22 minutes before too long."

Union City won a close contest for the top spot in the boys' race. The Chargers closed the meet with 60 points ahead of Bronson 61, Quincy 63, Concord 77, Stockbridge 125, Springport 144, Maple Valley 186 and Reading 187.

Union City senior Ben Gautsche won the boys' race with a time of 16:59.61 and Stockbridge junior William Gancer was the runner-up in 17:09.66.

Bronson senior Ashlynn Harris won the girls' race in 19:37.87 with Concord freshman Audrey Pyle second in 20:53.65.

The Lions head to Ledge Meadows Golf Course for the Greater Lansing Cross Country Championships Saturday, Oct. 11, and will host the Big 8 Championship Tuesday, Oct. 14.

Saxon soccer finds the net a few times in regular season finale



Battle Creek Central's Hayden Duran is challenged by the Saxons' Abe Winebrenner during their non-conference match Monday in Battle Creek.
Photos by John Hendler

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Hastings varsity boys' soccer team closed out the 2025 regular season by matching its season-high offensive output.

The Saxons scored three times at Battle Creek Central Monday, but the Bearcats managed three goals as well as the two teams finished in a 3-3 draw.

Hastings fell 3-0 in a non-conference match at Greenville last Thursday.

The Saxons close the regular season with a 1-18-3 overall record. Hastings was scheduled to go to Harper Creek for its MHSAA Division 2 District opener Wednesday, Oct. 8. The Beavers won the regular season meeting between the two teams 3-0 in mid-September.

The winner of Wednesday's postseason opener will face either Thornapple Kellogg or Marshall in the MHSAA Division 2 District Semifinals at Plainwell High School Monday, Oct. 13. That semifinal match is slated for 6 p.m. Thornapple Kellogg and Marshall play their district opener tonight, Oct. 9, in Middleville.



Hastings' AJ Kohmescher works to fend off Battle Creek Central's Griffin Roberson during their non-conference match in Battle Creek Monday.

Plainwell takes on Otsego and Wayland takes on Gull Lake in the district's other two opening round games.

Trojan team closes OK Gold girls' golf season in fifth place

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Junior Vivian Hansson led the Thornapple Kellogg varsity girls' golf team with a 15th-place finish at the OK Gold Conference Championship at Kaufman Golf Course in Wyoming Thursday.

The Thornapple Kellogg girls were fifth as a team.

The South Christian girls capped off a conference championship season with a score of 352 strokes. West Catholic was second at 380 ahead of Northview 384, Wayland 444, Thornapple Kellogg 449 and Grand Rapids Union NTS.

Hansson shot a 102 highlighted by a par on the 239-yard, par-4 number 10. She scored a 49 on the back nine.

The top four for TK also included a 114 from junior Jordan Price, a 119 from junior Sydney Martin and a 117 from freshman Emily Coe. JuniorKatie Chase was right behind that group with a 117 as TK's fifth score.

TK finishes fifth in the final conference standings, one point behind the fourth-place Wayland team.

West Catholic senior Sarah Chen and South Christian senior Anna Marcusse both shot an 86 to finish at the top of the individual leaderboard Thursday, and Marcusse was one of four Sailors to earn first team all-conference honors, and two more Sailors earned honorable mention all-conference.

South Christian had four of the day's top five golfers Thursday with junior Katelyn Alles third at 88 and seniors Tessa Vugteveen and Averie Noesen tied for fourth with 89s.

The TK girls were set to return to action Wednesday, Oct. 8 at their MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 2 Regional Tournament at Island Hills Golf Course in Centreville. The top three teams and top three individuals not on those teams at the regional earn spots in the Oct. 17-18 state finals.

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 1:00 PM on NOVEMBER 6, 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 mortgage made by Russell M. Peasley, a married man joined by spouse, Teresa N. Peasley, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Village Capital & Investment LLC, its successors and assigns, Mortgagee, dated November 18, 2021 and recorded February 10, 2022 in Instrument Number 2022-001725 Barry County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by Planet Home Lending, LLC, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Two Thousand Six Hundred Eighty-Six and 35/100 Dollars ($102,686.35).

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Barry County, Michigan at 1:00 PM on NOVEMBER 6, 2025.

Said premises are located in the Township of Maple Grove, Barry County Michigan, and are described as:

A parcel of land in the Southwest ¼, of Section 25, Town 2 North, Range 7 West, Maple Grove Township, Barry County, Michigan, described as: Beginning at a point on the West line of said Section 25, distant North 00°16'09" East 931.62 feet from the Southwest corner of said Section 25; thence North 00°16'09" East 220.00 feet along said West Section line; thence North 88°38'54" East 650.32 feet, thence South 00°41'27" West 220.05 feet; thence South 88°38'54" West 648.70 feet to the point of beginning.

8797 S Clark Road, Nashville, Michigan 49073

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, 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 damage to the property during the redemption period.

Dated: October 9, 2025
File No. 25-012465
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400
(10-09)(10-30)

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 November 6, 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): Amy Landhuis, 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): Lake Michigan Credit Union

Date of Mortgage: November 27, 2017

Date of Mortgage Recording: December 12, 2017

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $106,659.91

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Village of Woodland, Barry County, Michigan, and described as: A parcel of land in Southeast 1/4 of Section 16, Town 4 North, Range 7 West, described as commencing 30 rods West of the Southeast corner of said Section 16; thence North 271.8 feet; thence West 82.5 feet; thence South 271.8 feet; thence East 82.5 feet to the place of beginning.

Common street address (if any): 178 W Broadway St, Woodland, MI 48897-9709

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: October 9, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1573867 (10-09)(10-30)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED BUDGET

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on October 28, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. the Barry County Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing on the 2026 Barry County budget during the regular Board of Commissioners meeting in the Commission Chambers, located on the mezzanine level of the Barry County Courthouse, 220 W. State Street, Hastings MI 49058.

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

A copy of the proposed 2026 Budget is available for public inspection during normal business hours at the County Administrator's office, 3rd floor, Courthouse, 220 W. State St., Hastings MI 49058, or at http://www.barrycounty.org/budget

Sarah VanDenburg, County Clerk
Barry County Board of Commissioners

Gators get in a few really good swims against conference powerhouse

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Caledonia varsity girls' swimming and diving team is something that Grand Rapids Gators head coach Jeff Saltzgaber would like to see his program grow into in the future.

The Caledonia girls finished off their second straight undefeated season of OK Conference East Division duals with a 132-45 victory over the visiting Gators at the Cal Community YMCA Tuesday.

The Fighting Scots have gone from a part of the Byron Center co-op team along with South Christian, to hosting meets in their own pool as the lead school in a co-op with South Christian and Lowell that regularly finishes the season with girls on the state medal stand and chases conference championships.

The Gators are currently in their second season as a co-op led by Thornapple Kellogg along with Hopkins, West Catholic and West Michigan Aviation Academy Swimmers. The first step forward has been getting the chance to practice in the pool in Middleville.

A little more time in the pool for those Thornapple Kellogg girls and a little less in the car has certainly proven a positive – even if the Gators aren't ready to outrace the Fighting Scots yet.

The Gators took two victories in Tuesday's meet that saw the Scots improve to 5-0 while the Gators fell to 0-4 so far this fall in conference duals. All-state diver Lydia Slagel had one of those wins for the Gators, putting up a score of 238.95 points in the diving competition. She is the returning conference champion in the diving competition.

"Her diving has just continued to progress throughout the season. She is hitting all her benchmarks. She is adding more dives," Saltzgaber said. "She is really stepping up to those challenges, and all the while being very kind and humble about her pathway."

A big push in the breaststroke powered Gator sophomore Mckenna Hawks to a win in the 200-yard individual medley early in the meet. After slipping a little behind during the backstroke and butterfly legs of the race, Hawks pushed past Caledonia's Lena Gesing in the breaststroke leg and then held her off through the 50 yards of freestyle swimming.

Hawks trimmed almost two and a half seconds from her personal best in the race with her winning time of 2 minutes 38.07 seconds.

"I was really happy to see Mckenna Hawks step up in such a big way, as a captain as a sophomore. She is just following in the footsteps of her sister, and continuing to raise the bar."

Hawks placed ninth at the conference championship meet a year ago in the breaststroke, but has shifted her focus to the 500-yard freestyle and the 100-yard butterfly this fall.

"I would definitely say that is the secret ingredient in the 200 IM, if you have a really strong breaststroke you can really make some moves. She certainly did," Saltzgaber said. "That enabled her to surpass her competition, and to be honest last year that was more of her bread and butter. This year we have another great, strong breaststroker which allows us to diversity in our events – that's Mara Raak who also did great today."

All-state swimmer Sophie Gaylord had a strong day, as usual, for the Scots. She won the 50-yard freestyle in 24.25 seconds and the 100-yard breaststroke in 1:10.78 while also swimming as a part of the Scots' winning 200-yard freestyle relay team.

That breaststroke races was one of the most exciting ones of the evening. Gaylord's teammate Nora DeHaan was the clear runner-up in 1:15.08, but there was a great battle for third with Caledonia senior Anneka Schuurmans racing against Gator freshman Raak. Raak had a great finish to beat out Schuurmans by one hundredth of a second 1:21.58 to 1:12.59. Raak and DeHaan both had a personal best by almost a second in the race.

"That was so fun to watch," Saltzgaber said. "[Raak] has worked on her finish and came in just how she was supposed to."

Raak and Hawks teamed with Jenna Robinett and Eloise Nichols for a runner-up time of 2:19.85 in the 200-yard medley relay to start the meet, finishing behind the Caledonia foursome of Madelyn Foerch, DeHaan, Lena Gesing and Schuurmans that won in 2:04.57.

Hawks continues to score well for the Gators all around. She was the runner-up in the 500-yard freestyle with a time of 6:27.45. Foerch won that one in 6:15.87. She jumped right back in the pool after that race to anchor the Gators' 200-yard freestyle relay team to a runner-up time of 2:04.94. She joined with Raak, Robinett and Nichols in that race too.

"She just continues to show grit and perseverance, and I am very proud of the work that the team does. Those types of actions really build comrade and culture," Saltzgaber said.

Mya Vanderzwaag won two individual events for the Fighting Scots on the day too. She took the 100-yard backstroke in 1:04.44 and the 100-yard butterfly in 1:02.11. Caitlyn Morris took the 200-yard freestyle for the Scots in 2:11.51. DeHaan won the 100-yard freestyle in 59.59 – a new personal best for her by almost two seconds.

Caledonia closed out the evening with the team of Aubrey Klapmust, Vanderzwaag, Morris and Amelia McCann winning the 400-yard freestyle relay in 4:09.76.

The Gators have one final conference dual against Wayland Thursday, Oct. 16, which they'll score during a tri-meet with Otsego in Otsego.

Caledonia and the Gators will be together again Nov. 7-8 for the OK Conference East Division Championship Meet. A location for that meet is still to be determined. A year ago, the conference got together to decide its champion at the CERC in Hastings.



Grand Rapids Gators freshman Mara Raak (right) shares a high five with Caledonia's Anneka Schuurmans after their photo finish in the 100-yard breaststroke Tuesday at the Cal Community YMCA pool. Raak outraced Schuurmans to the wall to beat her for third place in the race by one hundredth of a second. **Photos by Brett Bremer**



Grand Rapids Gators sophomore Scarlett Hilzey races to a fifth-place finish in the 100-yard freestyle during her team's OK Conference East Division dual against Caledonia at the Cal Community YMCA Tuesday.

Panthers go for perfect SAC Central season at Black River Tuesday

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Delton Kellogg varsity volleyball team is one win from sweeping through an undefeated Southwestern Athletic Conference Central Division season.

The Panthers moved to 4-0 in conference duals with a three-set win over visiting Saugatuck Tuesday. The Delton Kellogg girls won handily by the scores of 25-9, 25-10, 25-13.

The Panthers haven't dropped a single set in their four SAC Central wins so far. They'll close out the SAC Central duals on the road at Holland Black River Oct. 14.

There is a tough SAC crossover test ahead for the Panthers as they host Hackett Catholic Prep Thursday, Oct. 9. They'll follow up the contest at Black River by hosting Bridgman Oct. 15.





Wilkinson wraps up undefeated OK Gold first singles seasons

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Thornapple Kellogg senior Franklin Wilkinson wrapped up an undefeated conference season as the top player in the OK Gold Conference Thursday.

Wilkinson took the first singles championship at the 2025 OK Gold Conference Championship tournament, played out on the courts in Middleville and at South Christian High School.

Wilkinson pulled out a 7-6(2) win in a tie breaker at the end of the first set against South Christian sophomore Joe Maas and then took set two 6-1 for the title. Maas was the only guy in the conference to win a set against Wilkinson this fall.

Wilkinson opened his day with a 6-1, 6-2 victory over Wayland senior Chesney Hudson.

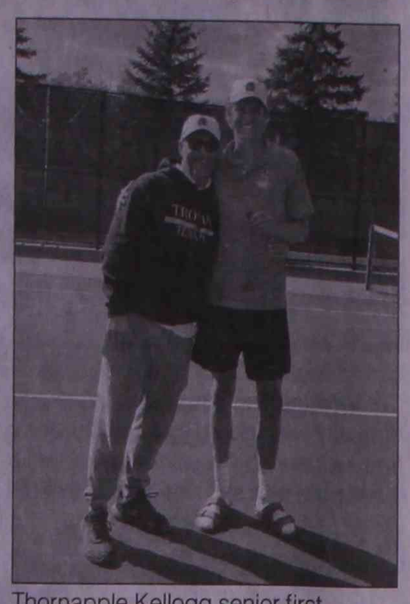
Maas and his teammates won enough points to take the outright conference championship though. The Trojans were second Friday and second in the final overall conference standings. The Sailors won the tournament with 16 points ahead of TK 13, West Catholic 12, Northview 10, Wayland 9, Grand Rapids Union 2 and Wyoming 1.

TK freshman Parker Sylvestre was second at second singles and the second doubles team of Graham Eden and Gideon Scott also had a runner-up finish for the Trojans.

Mark Gielincki was third at fourth singles, the third doubles team of Aiden Riffel and Luke Archer placed third and the fourth doubles team of Mark Cuison and Alex Egleston was third too.

The TK team also had Max Lepper fourth at third singles. The TK first doubles team of juniors Layne Schilthroat and Sam Teachout had to bow out of the tournament early because of an injury after going 1-1 in their first two matches of the day.

Wilkinson ran his season record to 18-5 overall with his two wins. The Trojan team was slated to take part in the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 2 Regional Tournament in Holland Wednesday, Oct. 8.

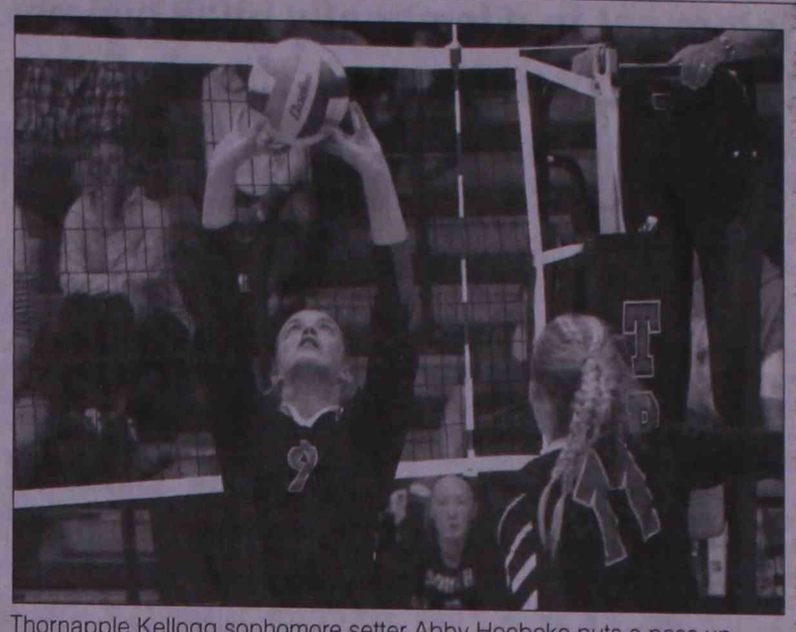


Thornapple Kellogg senior first singles player Franklin Wilkinson and head coach Philipe Sylvestre celebrate Wilkinson's championship at the OK Gold Conference Tournament hosted by South Christian High School Friday. **Photo provided**

Sylvestre beat Northview sophomore Micah Wells 6-0, 6-1 and then South Christian senior Ben Vos 6-3, 6-3 to get into the second singles final Friday. It was a battle of freshman for the championship, and West Catholic's Crew VanBeynen won a marathon match by the scores of 5-7, 6-4, 6-2.

Still, it was good progress for Sylvestre who had lost to Vos in three sets and fallen to VanBeynen while winning just three games in their regular season match-ups. Sylvestre moved to 20-4 on the season with his run to the finals.

The senior Gielincki at fourth singles for TK beat Wayland sophomore Spencer Miller 6-4, 6-4 in the match for third at their flight.



Thornapple Kellogg sophomore setter Abby Hoebeke puts a pass up while junior Reece Ritsema (11) looks to go on the attack against South Christian Thursday in Middleville. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

Second swing at South Christian goes much better for TK ladies

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Thornapple Kellogg varsity volleyball team showed off some progress in its second OK Gold Conference meeting of the season with the South Christian Sailors.

The Trojans didn't get to ten points in their first set against South Christian this fall, and were outscored by double figures in each set at South Christian High School last month.

South Christian, the eighth ranked team in the state in Division 2, still managed a three-set win in Middleville Thursday, but the TK ladies made the Sailors work in each set. South Christian won by the scores of 25-21, 25-22, 25-16. The win moves the Sailors to 7-0 in conference matches this season. TK is now 4-4 after adding a three-set win at Grand Rapids Union Tuesday, Oct. 7.

First-year TK head coach Haley Grams said she is happy with how competitive her team has been lately, and she has really started to see her girls coming together as a team in recent weeks.

The Trojans went four sets with West Catholic Sept. 23 and pulled out a four-set win at Wayland Sept. 30.

"It has been an adjustment from last year to this year," Grams said, "just getting them to adjust to a new head coach, getting them to work together and pulling them in together. They all kind of have their own little crews, but I think we're finally meshing. We're coming together, which is really nice. Our last three games have really been hard fought, so it is nice to see."

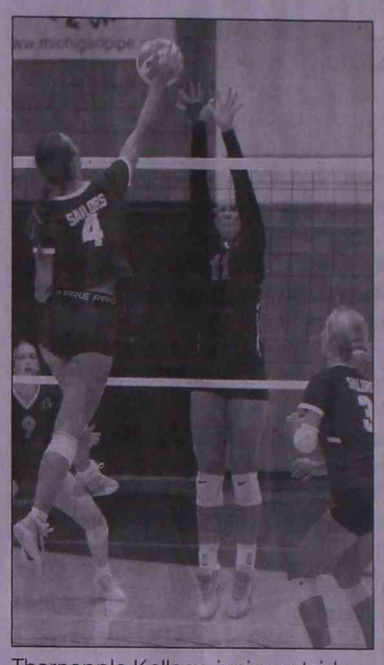
"Being in the 20's and competing with [South Christian] is amazing. I am super proud of them," Grams added. "The drive, the hustle it is all there and it is working."

She said physically her team is getting better at covering the court, especially on the serve receive. It was something they really struggled with in the early match-up with South Christian, making running through the offense as a whole almost impossible.

"Getting those serve receive balls up, we were able to put a hit down, get a set and a hit," Grams said Thursday.

Sophomore setters Abby Hoebeke and Olivia Fischer can certainly have an easier time running the offense and getting balls to hitters when those initial passes forward keep them keep the offense in rhythm.

Leading that attack were junior Reece Ritsema and senior McKenna Hoebeke, but they weren't the only ones willing to take a big swing at the net against the Sailors.



Thornapple Kellogg junior outside hitter Reece Ritsema goes up to try and slow down an attack by South Christian senior Colette Plattner during their OK Gold Conference match in Middleville Thursday.

"Reece has come a long way. She has been on varsity since she was a freshman, and it is amazing to see her flourish, work the net, own it and really be a leader on this team," Grams said.

TK had a lead as late as 15-13 in set two, but the Sailors went on a little run to score nine of the game's next 12 points before finishing off the set.

It wasn't until the third set that South Christian really stretched a lead against the Trojans. The Sailors pushed a 5-5 game to 20-8.

"I think we got a little tired. We all started to hang onto our own mistakes, which is something we have really been working on this season – just letting our own errors go and keeping up and moving on for the team," Grams said.

TK did put together one last little rally. They got to within 24-16 with all kinds of contributions including an ace from senior libero Alexa Eden and another from senior Maria Piccione, a block in the middle by Ritsema and a big kill on the left side from McKenna Hoebeke.

The Trojans are scheduled to be a part of a quad at Forest Hills Eastern this evening, Oct. 9. They'll host an OK Gold Conference match with Northview Tuesday, Oct. 14, and then be home against for a quad Thursday, Oct. 16.

Saxons work on being smart and aggressive against Parma Western

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Saxons were looking forward to a great match as they hosted Pennfield Wednesday, Oct. 8, for a "Pink Out" contest.

Hastings was chasing its first win of the Interstate-8 Athletic Conference season against the Pennfield girls after falling to 0-3 in conference play so far with a loss at Parma Western last week.

The Parma Western girls, among the teams in the honorable mention list of the state's top Division 2 varsity volleyball teams, took a 25-15, 25-15, 25-19 win over the visiting Saxons Wednesday, Oct. 1.

Hastings head coach Alexis Mast said that facing such a talented team "naturally brought some feelings of doubt. However, they've continued to show up with a mindset that they can compete, and it showed. Our coaching staff was impressed with the team's scrappiness and grit throughout the match, especially during several long rallies."

Part of the mindset the Saxons have been working on is learning the different between playing smart and playing safe. Coach Mast said she felt like some of her girls were holding back on the attack trying not to make errors.

"In preparation for [Western], our focus was on defensive movement and finding the balance between playing smart and playing aggressively," Mast said.

The Saxons head to the Battle Creek Central Invitational Saturday, Oct. 11, and will be back at it in the conference when they visit Coldwater Oct. 15. Hastings will also be a part of the Thornapple Kellogg quad in Middleville Oct. 16.

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NOTICE TO THE RESIDENTS OF BARRY COUNTY
Notice is hereby given that the Barry County Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing for the following:
Case Number: SP-14-2025 - Shawn Skinner, (Applicant/Owner)
Location: 2405 Stanton Dr., Middleville MI in Section 33 of Irving Township
Purpose: Request to allow the operation of a home occupation major, boat upholstery business in the LDR (Low Density Residential) zoning district, per section 2339 of the Barry County Zoning ordinance 2008.
MEETING DATE: October 27, 2025. TIME: 7:00 PM. PLACE: Tyden Center, Community Room, 121 South Church Street, Hastings, Michigan 49058
Site inspections of the above described properties will be completed by the Planning Commission members before the hearing. Interested persons desiring to present their views upon an appeal, either verbally or in writing, will be given the opportunity to be heard at the above mentioned place and time.
Any written response may be mailed to the address listed below, faxed to (269) 948-4820, or emailed to Barry County Planning Director Jeff Keesler at jkeesler@barrycounty.org.
The special use applications are available for public inspection at the Barry County Planning Department, 220 West State Street, Hastings, Michigan 49058, during the hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday - Friday. Please call the Barry County Planning Department at (269) 945-1290 for further information.
The County of Barry will provide necessary auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon ten (10) days notice to the County of Barry. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the County of Barry by writing or call the following: Eric Zuzga, County Administrator, 220 West State Street, Hastings, Michigan 49058, (269) 945-1284.
Sarah M. VanDenburg, Barry County Clerk

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF BARRY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
FILE NO 25-30213-DE
Estate of William J. Roush. Date of birth: 03/19/1939.
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, William J. Roush, died 07/30/2025.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Yvon X. Roush, person 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: 09/25/2025
Robert J. Longstreet P53346
607 N. Broadway
Hastings, MI 49058
(269) 945-3495
Yvon X. Roush
3553 Dawes Ave. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49508
(813) 857-2177

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
BARRY COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
Estate of Nellie Marie Allerding. Date of birth: 1/29/1939.
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Nellie Marie Allerding, died 8/6/2025.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Jerry Woltz, personal representative, P.O. Box 537 Hastings, within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
Date: 9-30-2025
Jerry Woltz
P.O. Box 537
Hastings, MI 49058
269-331-8044

STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF BARRY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Trust
In the Matter of Albert G. Krank and Kathleen R. Krant Trust. Date of Birth: September 4, 1934.
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Kathleen R. Krank, surviving Trustee, died August 31, 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 Laurie K. Wyman, Trustee, within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
Date: October 2, 2025
Rhoades McKee PC
Stephanie S. Fekkes P43549
607 North Broadway, Suite A
Hastings, MI 49058
(269) 945-1921
Laurie K. Wyman
c/o Rhoades McKee
607 North Broadway, Suite A
Hastings, MI 49058
(269) 945-1921

Randall has her best Portage run yet, places fourth in D2 race

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Hastings junior Caroline Randall cut almost half a minute from her best time on the course at Portage West Middle School to place fourth in the Division 2 girls' race at the annual Portage Invitational Saturday.

Randall hit the finish line in 18 minutes 30.5 seconds. Her previous course record in Portage came during her freshman season. She was just getting back into action recovering from an injury at Portage last fall.

Personal records overall were few and far between as a hot sun pushed temperatures into the upper 80s as the afternoon Division 2 and Division 1 races took off. Even organizers condensed the day's event, one of the largest in the state each fall, in an effort to put as few student-athletes at risk due to the heat. Varsity teams were allowed to run ten runners in each race and JV races were canceled in the day's leading up to the race.

Otsego sophomore Emma Hoffman blew away the girls' field with a winning time of 16:50.8. Randall was one of a dozen girls to finish the D2 race in the 18s. Pinckney junior Jaelyn Ray was second in 18:02.6 and Holland Christian sophomore Avery Engbers was third in 18:29.6.

Hoffman and the Otsego girls beat out Engbers and the Holland Christian girls by nine points for the championship. The Bulldogs finished with 109 points and Holland Christian with 118. Grand Rapids Christian was third with 168 points ahead of South Christian 176, Lexington 236, Coopersville 239, Pinckney 252, Cadillac 297, Ann Arbor Father Gabriel Richard 332 and Unity Christian 334 in the top ten.

The Hastings girls were 36th with 971 points. Thornapple Kellogg was a part of the day's Division 2 races too and the Trojan girls placed 27th with 715 points.

The Saxon team had freshman Emerson Leary 258th in 24:51.3, junior Chloe Pirtle 289th in 25:36.1, senior Maddie Elzinga 316th in 26:43.8 and junior Lilianna Enyart 323rd in 26:56.6 in its top five.

Junior Peyton Hardy led the Thornapple Kellogg girls with a 122nd-place time of 22:09.6 Freshman Brielle Miller ran to the Trojans' number two spot in 22:19.8 placing 132nd overall and junior Carmen Reynolds was right behind in 134th place with a time of 22:25.2.

TK senior Madison Kietzman placed 195th in 23:26.1 and sophomore Breanna Schut was 213th in 23:51.2.

East Grand Rapids won the Division 2 boys' competition with 117 points ahead of Lexington 172, Holland Christian 228, Grand Rapids Christian 262, Parma Western 263, Allendale 326, Pinckney 350, Otsego 354, Ann Arbor Father Gabriel Richard 393 and Forest Hills Eastern 414 in the top ten.

The Hastings boys were 49th with a 1,525 points and the Thornapple Kellogg boys were 43rd with 1,108 points.

The Saxon boys' team was led by sophomore Tanner Krzysik who hit the finish line 308th in 20:13.8. He was one of a handful of Hastings guys to run new course record times. Sophomore Alex Timmers did too placing 352nd in 21:01.4.

The Saxon team also had junior Caleb Kramer 359th in 21:12.7, sophomore Parker Erb 373rd in 21:34.5 and senior Carter Krzysik 321st in 21:58.1.

Thornapple Kellogg had freshman Owen Bremer lead the way with a 113th-place time of 17:55.7. Sophomore teammate Garrett Holzhausen was about a minute back placing 203rd in 18:58.1.

TK freshman Parker Robinett was third for his team with a time of 19:42.8 ahead of junior Grady Galaviz 293rd in 19:58.5 and senior Benjamin Postma 314th in 20:17.3.

East Grand Rapids was led to its team win with senior Johan Workman scoring a runner-up time of 15:44.3 Robert Jazwinski III won the D2 boys' race in 15:13.3. A group of seven guys finished in less than 16 minutes. East Grand Rapids had a second guy in that group with sophomore Micah Becker sixth in 15:59.1.

Hastings was set to race at the Wayland Invitational Tuesday afternoon, Oct. 7, and will be back in action at the Interstate-8 Athletic Conference Championship hosted by Harper Creek Oct. 16. Thornapple Kellogg is off until the OK Gold Conference Championship at Riverside Park in Grand Rapids Oct. 15.

The Saxons got to host the final I-8 jamboree of the season Sept. 30 at Charlton Park.

Parma Western boys and Harper Creek girls teams that performed well in Portage too took victories. The Parma Western boys beat out Harper Creek's guys 30-59 at the top of the day's standings.

Marshall junior Abraham McHugh ran to a winning time of 16:56.1, with six of the next ten guys across the finish line members of the Parma Western team. Panther freshman Logan Christian was the runner-up in 17:02.6.

Harper Creek junior Christian Ayres and senior Cooper Gardner were third and fourth.

Coldwater was third in the boys' team standings with 68 points ahead of Marshall 82, Hastings 147, Northwest 178 and Pennfield 179.

Krzysik led the Saxon boys with a 25th-place time of 20:21.9. Kramer came in 30th in 20:53.5. Erb placed 31st in 20:56.1 and Timmers 32nd in 20:57.2. Sophomore Eli Li was just behind in 34th place with a time of 21:01.2.

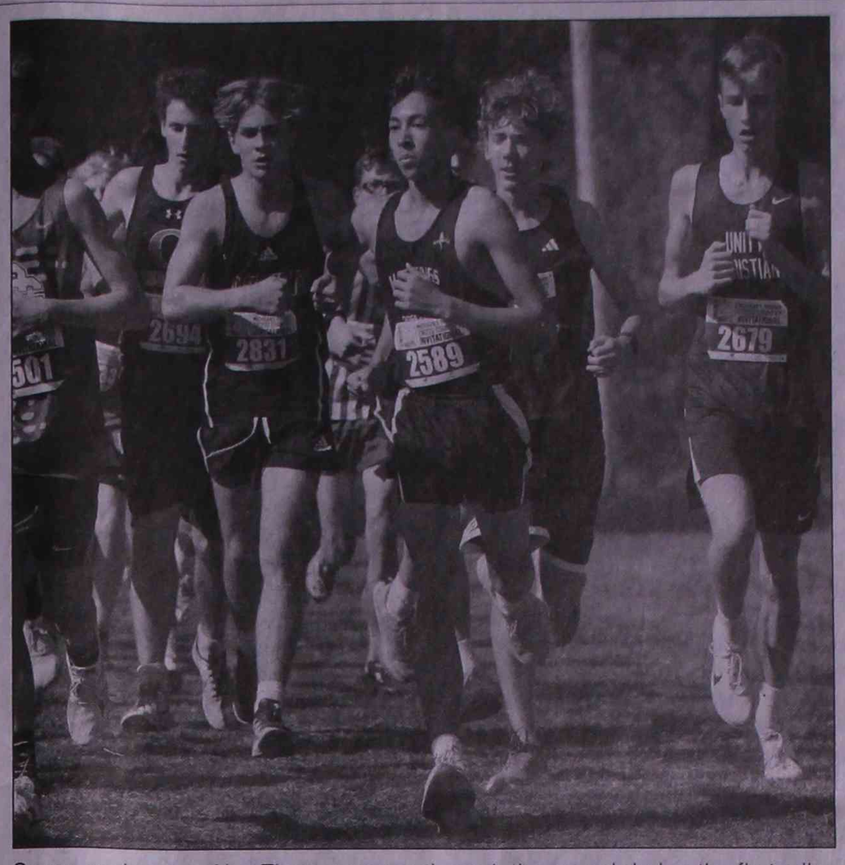
Randall won the girls' race in 19:17.2, finishing about a minute and a half in front of her nearest competitor. Parma Western sophomore Bridget Fullerton was the runner-up in 20:40.3 and her junior teammate Natalie Kuhl was third in 21:02.1. Harper Creek senior Julia Faber placed fourth in 21:11.0.

Harper Creek won the girls' meet with 46 points ahead of Parma Western 52, Marshall 57, Hastings 113, Coldwater 119 and Pennfield 126.

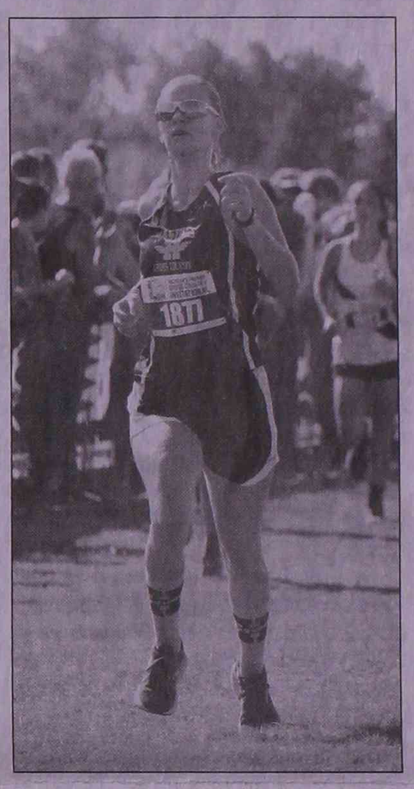
Randall was the only Hastings girl among the seven scorers for the team who didn't have an improvement in her standings from the first conference jamboree of the season.

Leary had a 23rd-place time of 24:48 for the Hastings girls. Pirtle was 26th in 25:00.0. Both girls had solid improvements in their placing from the first conference jamboree. Leary was five spots better and Pirtle three spots better.

The Saxon team also had Elzinga 41st in 27:15.2 and freshman Alyssa MacLeod 46th in 27:42.1. MacLeod was nine spots better than at the first I-8 get-together. The Saxons' six and seven runners on the day, Lilianna Enyart and Alex DeCamp were 47th and 48th respectively and both moved up in the conference pack too.



Saxon sophomore Alex Timmers races through the crowd during the first mile of the Division 2 boys' race Saturday at the annual Portage Invitational at Portage West Middle School.



Hastings junior Chloe Pirtle races to the finish line near the end of the Division 2 girls' race Saturday at Portage West Middle School during the annual Portage Invitational.
Photos by Brett Bremer

Fastest Panthers take big chunks of time off their course records at Portage

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Portage Invitational was a part of Delton Kellogg junior LandonMadden's big break-out as a sophomore.

Mid-season as a freshman, Madden took his times from the 20-minute mark down into the 17's and then under 17 minutes by the time he was running at the 2024 MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 3 Cross Country Finals.

Madden was more than half a minute faster on the course at Portage West Middle School Saturday than he was there as a sophomore. He placed 51st Saturday in a field of more than 400 runners in theD3 boys' race. He hit the finish line in 17 minutes 37.2 seconds, a good follow-up to his season-best time the previous Saturday at the Otsego Bulldog Invitational.

Personal records and season-best times were few and far between on the tough, crowded Portage course with temperatures rising throughout the day, although the Panthers missed the worst of the unseasonably warm temperatures over 80 degrees by running in the morning sessions.

The Delton Kellogg boys were 21st as a team in the D3 contest and the Delton Kellogg girls did not earn a team score with four finishers.

Delton Kellogg did get a couple of personal records in the back of its scoring group. Sophomore Ayden Jones was 191st overall with a time of 19:57.4, sixth for the DK team and in under 20 minutes for the first time as a varsity runner. Deegan Castaneda was DK's number seven on the day with a personal record time of 21:29.5 that placed him 289th.

Delton Kellogg sophomore Joseph McCoy was the team's number two placing 105th in 18:43.0. Senior Nick Muday placed 122nd in 18:58.6. Sophomore Jace Hilton placed 160th in 19:30.9. FreshmanMalachi Allersma was 167th in 19:35.8.

Central Montcalm senior Gage Hoffman won the D3 boys' race in 15:53.1. Monroe St. Mary Catholic Central sophomore Christian Craanen was second in 16:08.7 and Centreville sophomore Will HulinHulin third in 16:12.5.

Jackson Lumen Christi won the boys' team title in Division 3 with 118 points ahead of Delton's Southwestern Athletic Conference foes from Saugatuck who finished with 142 points. Lansing Catholic was third with a score of 163 ahead of Central Montcalm 210 and Jonesville 233 in the top five.

The Delton Kellogg boys closed the day with 549 points.

Delton Kellogg senior Elli Timmerman had a huge jump on the Portage Course finishing more than 90 seconds faster than she did last year. She placed 174th out of 340 finishers in the D3 girls' race with a time of 24:21.8.

Delton Kellogg freshman Olivia Vincent ran a new personal record time of 25:51.0 to place 228th. Evelynn Courneya, a junior, placed 249th overall for DK in 26:17.7. Junior Makayla Lutz ran her fastest race of the season to place 254th in 26:26.2.

Lumen Christi junior Samantha Schroeder ran to victory in the race with a time of 18:41.9.It was a photo finish between three girls behind her. Lansing Catholic sophomore Josie Bishop ran her PR to earn the second-place spot with a time of 18:51.0. Kent City sophomore Elliana Max was third in 18:51.3 and Pewamo-Westphalia junior Alyssa Kramer third in 18:51.8.

Lansing Catholic had three girls in the top seven with Grace Wonch fifth (18:53.4) and Anna Drauer seventh (19:06.7), and the Cougars won the girls' championship with just 52 points.

Pewamo-Westphalia was second with 139 points ahead of Saugatuck 171, Covenant Christian 229 and Lumen Christi 237 in the top five of the girls' race.

The Panthers are set to return to action this afternoon, Oct. 9, at Gilmore Car Museum where they will host the final Southwestern Athletic Conference jamboree.

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
BARRY COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. and JUDGE 2025-30210-DE
Hon. William Doherty

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

Estate of Martin Scott Preston. Date of birth: 01/18/1947.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Martin Scott Preston, died 04/16/2025

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Scott Preston, 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: 10/02/2025
Nathan E. Tagg P68994
202 South Broadway
Hastings, MI 49058
269-948-2900
Scott Preston
6316 South Broadway
Hastings, MI 49058
269-568-2634

Position Opening- Deputy County Administrator
Barry County

Barry County is accepting applications for a Deputy County Administrator/Finance Director. The Deputy County Administrator serves as the Finance Director for the County and is responsible for managing the County's accounting system, providing support to all county departments, and serves as the Administrator in the absence of that official.

The salary range is $107,500-117,500 and a comprehensive benefits package is provided.

Please send a cover letter, resume, and 5 professional references to: Deputy Administrator Search, 220 West State Street, Hastings, MI 49058. A job description and additional information is available at www.barrycounty.org, or by contacting the Administrator at ezuzga@barrycounty.org.

Barry County Board of Commissioners
NOTICE: SEEKING APPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTEERS

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

Barry County Conservation Easement Board – 1 agricultural interest; 1 township designee
Department of Health and Human Services – 1 position
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, November 3, 2025. Contact 269-945-1284 for more information.

No homecoming cupcakes for TK and Hastings

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

These aren't the homecoming opponents a team rolls over before rushing off to dine and dance.

Hastings and Thornapple Kellogg have big homecoming challenges ahead of them Friday.

The Saxons play host to the defending Interstate-8 Athletic Conference Champions from Harper Creek Friday. The Saxons are 4-0 in the I-8 so far this fall and the Beavers are 3-0. They are the only two teams with unblemished conference records left in the league. The winner is in the driver's seat on the road to the next I-8 title.

Hastings had won a share of four straight conference championships before the Beavers finished the 2024 season alone on top of the I-8. The Beavers shut out the Saxons 32-0 a year ago, the first shut out of the Saxons since their first season in the I-8 in 2016. Both teams come into the game 5-1 overall.

Thornapple Kellogg hosts East Grand Rapids in Middleville for homecoming inside Bob White Stadium. Both teams are 4-2 overall this season and 2-1 in the OK Black Conference.

The Trojans are 0-9 all-time against the Pioneers and fell 35-8 at EGR a year ago.

Hastings, Thornapple Kellogg and East Grand Rapids are all vying for sports in the MHSAA Division 3 Football playoffs this fall, and are all currently among the top 16 teams in terms of playoff points in the division. The top 32 teams in playoff points in each of the state's eight 11-player divisions earn spots in the playoffs, which begin Halloween weekend this year.

Lakewood has some work to do if it hopes to climb into the top 32 in Division 5 and earn a postseason berth. The Vikings need to start their playoff push this Friday on homecoming night at Lansing Catholic. The Cougars are just 1-5 overall this season and 1-4 in the Capital Area Activities Conference White Division. Both squads have fallen to Charlotte, Sexton and Portland in the conference this fall and beaten Eaton Rapids.

Swore said Lansing Catholic (1-4 overall, 1-5 conference) has struggled this year, after graduating a plethora of players from its 2024 squad.

"They get creative with their passing game," Lakewood head coach Tim Swore said of the Cougars. "They do some things to confuse you, so we have to pay attention.

"(But) we want to cash in this week," he added. "We feel we can get three wins to end the season. That's our goal."

The Vikings follow up that ballgame with conference contests against rivals Olivet and Ionia.

The Delton Kellogg Panthers have a big one ahead this Friday too with Galesburg-Augusta coming to Delton for a Southwestern Athletic Conference Valley Division tilt. Both teams are 1-2 in conference play with a win over Saugatuck.

Maple Valley has won back-to-back ballgames to get to 2-4 overall this season, and the Lions will host a 2-4 Stockbridge team Friday in Big 8 Conference play.

Here is a round-up of last week's local gridiron action ...

Hastings 54, Marshall 40

Hastings built a 30-point lead early in the fourth quarter and kept its Interstate-8 Athletic Conference record perfect with a 54-40 victory at Marshall Friday.

It was another dominant performance by the Saxons' offensive front and the Hastings backs. Backs Jonah Hamp and Trevin Russell shouldered the load against the RedHawks. Hamp rushed 18 times for 270 yards and five touchdowns. Russell was the team's number two ball carrier on the day with 13 carries for 182 yards and three touchdowns.

Quarterback Mason Tossava only threw one pass, a nine-yard completion to Russell.

The Saxons are now 4-0 in Interstate-8 Athletic Conference play and 5-1 overall.

Russell had a 30-yard TD run to open the scoring a little more than two minutes into the game, and Hastings led the RedHawks 20-8 after one quarter. Hamp had touchdown runs of 27 yards and 40 yards before that first quarter was up.

Hamp had a 44-yard TD run and Russell a 56-yard TD run in the second quarter, but the Saxons' weren't quite pulling away on the scoreboard yet.

Marshall kept pace thanks to three Akin Olapade touchdown runs in the first half. It was 32-24 at the break.

The Saxon defense shut out the RedHawks in the third quarter as Hastings upped its lead with a 21-yard touchdown run by Russell and a 56-yard touchdown run by Hamp. Hamp closed out the Saxon touchdown scoring with a 21-yard scoring run early in the fourth quarter.

Matthew Waito had a 67-yard touchdown run and Karson Moga had a TD run for Marshall as the clock wound down in the fourth.

As a team, Hastings ran for 471 yards on the night. Marshall had 259 yard on the ground.

The Saxons intercepted three RedHawk passes, one INT each for Spencer Wilkins, Colton Denton and Jack Webb.

Waito, the RedHawk quarterback, was 15-of-27 passing for 181 yards and had a team-leading 18 rushes for 189 yards. The Saxons held Olapade to 40 yards on 16 carries.

Wilkins had a team-high nine total tackles for the Saxons. Tyce Richardson and Caden Pettingill had seven tackles each, and Webb, Trapper Reigler and Henry Elzinga had six tackles apiece.

Coloma 28, Delton Kellogg 7

Comet senior quarterback Maverick Kraemer hit one big pass play on each of Coloma's first three drives and his team built a 20-0 lead over visiting Delton Kellogg in Southwestern Athletic Conference Valley Division action Friday.

The Comets went on to a 28-7 win over the visiting Panthers to move to 2-1 in the SAC Valley and 3-3 overall. Delton Kellogg is now 1-2 in SAC Valley play and 1-5 overall.

Kraemer connected with senior wide receiver Kameron Baker on a pass that covered 60 yards, after Baker spun out of a tackle at his own 45-yard-line. A couple plays later Kraemer rushed into the end zone from eight yards out to put his team in front.

The Comets' second drive ended in a 55-yard touchdown pass from Kraemer to senior Treyton Myers. Meyers took a short pass on the right side and dodged a couple Delton Kellogg tackles on the outside before racing up the sideline for the score.

A 39-yard pass from Kraemer to sophomore Lucadis Fonseca got the Comets into position to score their third touchdown of the evening, early in the second quarter. Kramer rushed the ball into the end zone again, this time from a yard out.

They give some unique formations that make defending them tough," Delton Kellogg head coach Brooks Smith said. "They also have different personnel groups that can be tough to prep for. I thought our defensive coordinator, coach Munsell, had us pretty well prepared for what we would see and what they would do out of them.

"I think in the first half our kids were a little tentative at times. That was probably on us as as staff, we maybe had them too worried about their overall team speed and that made us apprehensive when we were in the open field. There were times in the first half when we were in position to make a play and did not execute well."

Meanwhile, the Panthers biggest play of the first half, what looked like a powerful 33-yard touchdown run through the middle by Harmon, was wiped out due to a procedure penalty. The Comets managed to turn the Panthers over on downs and then go the other way for their second TD.

Delton Kellogg eventually got on the scoreboard with 3:07 to go in the third quarter on a 15-yard touchdown run by Tucker Tack. Gabe Smoczynski added the extra-point kick for DK.

Both teams survived a miscue on a punt snap without it turning into points for their opponent.

The DK special teams had a snap get away late in the first half. That time, Coloma got itself into some trouble getting organized with their different personnel groups and had a shotgun snap hit a man in motion. Harmon pulled the fumble out of the pile to get DK the ball back without any damage done.

Coloma's punting miscue gave the ball to the Panthers at the Coloma 28 early in the fourth quarter, and the Panthers worked the ball inside the Comet ten-yard-line. But Tack had the ball punched out by the Comets' Dylan Groendyk and Ross Smothers recovered the fumble.

The Panther felt stung by a couple early calls, or non-calls, including the one that wiped out the touchdown according to coach Smith, but "regardless, the outcome was decided by all the plays we did not make, and or the mistakes we did. Not catching a snap, not finishing blocks, not running the entire route hard. We can see on film that we are getting better, but we are still struggling to put four quarters of football together," Smith said.

There were the few big plays early on, but coach Smith said he though his coverage guys in the secondary did well for most of the night.

Senior Mitchell Swift had another good night along the defensive front for the Panthers.

"He continues to be a problem for our opponents offensive line. I think that kid is an all-state caliber player," Smith said.

The Panthers' big left guard on offense, Swift also got his hands on the football taking a pitch on a hook and ladder play then plowing forward before ultimately being taken down a little shy of the line to gain on a fourth down conversion attempt in the fourth quarter.

He wasn't the only offensive lineman making plays for the Panthers.

"I also saw some new offensive lineman step up this week," coach Smith said. "Our starting center Evan Fleser left with a pretty significant injury. Sophomore David Menck stepped over from his usual guard spot and played well. Jonathon Bates took over at guard and did very well. Johnny has been a kid that has come on the last couple weeks earning more playing time.

"Mason Ferris caught a couple balls and blocked the outside well. It was his first week at wide receiver. He has been great about being flexible, he has moved around a lot on offense this year. We have been trying to find him a permanent home offensively and we think we finally have."

Smith also noted that Easton Stoneburner stepped up for Flesner on the defensive line, playing well in his increased playing time.

Thornapple Kellogg 37, Northview 30

The Thornapple Kellogg varsity football team took a 37-30 overtime victory in OK Black Conference play at Northview Friday to move to 2-1 in the conference.

The Trojans got the ball first in the overtime session, where each offense gets to start a drive from the ten-yard-line. Senior back Debo Robinson carried the ball to the six. Junior quarterback Micah Dock took it to the three. Junior back Camden Peter took it the rest of the way to the end zone on third down, and Mason Chivis' extra-point kick put TK up by seven.

The Trojan defense stopped the Wildcats on their possession, and the Trojans got to celebrate as they head into their homecoming week.

In what must feel like a rarity for the Trojans, even when things felt like they were going awry the ball just kept bouncing their way.

TK had a couple receivers collide on a fourth down play in Wildcat territory with 1:24 to go in the fourth quarter trailing 30-27. The defense came up huge. The offense got a little help. Northview lost the handle on a reverse and went backwards, and then a botched Northview snap to the punter in the closing minute set TK up at the Wildcat 30-yard-line.

With no timeouts left and 38 seconds to play, Dock tossed the ball back to senior back Zach Eldridge who lofted a pass towards the end zone that came up short and was intercepted by the Wildcats. The Northview celebration didn't last long though, as there was a flag for defensive pass interference behind the play to keep the TK offense on the field and move the ball to the 15-yard-line with 30 seconds to go. Eventually, Mason Chivis kicked a 33-yard field goal with six seconds left in regulation to tie the game at 30-30.

The Trojans had the last lead of the ballgame, and they had the first lead of the ballgame. Dock scored on a 20-yard run to finish off the opening possession of the ballgame midway through the first quarter.

There was no stopping either offense in the first half. Northview led 22-21 at the half.

Aaron Johnson answered Dock's opening score with an eight-yard touchdown run for the Wildcats with a little over a minute to play in that opening quarter.

The two teams were tied 7-7 at the start of the second quarter, but that didn't last long. Malachi VanEngen took a pitch through the left side 39 yards for a TK touchdown 35 seconds into that second quarter.

It was back the other way to even the score for the Wildcat offense with seven and a half minutes to play in the first half. The Northview offense broke a 39-yard run of its own to get inside the TK 10, and then Jalen Gant scored on a seven-yard TD rush.

Zach Eldridge answered for TK with a 19-yard touchdown run on the next possession.

Northview closed out the first half with a two-yard touchdown run by Beau Peterson with four seconds left in the half. When the Trojans were flagged for a penalty on the extra-point attempt, the Wildcats went for two and Peterson found the end zone again to put his team in front for the first time.

The Trojan defense got the first stop of the game after a more than six-minute drive by the Wildcats to start the second half. On a third-and-goal from the eight-yard-line, Northview had a pass go off the hands of its intended receiver at the goal-line and up into the hands of the Trojans' Maddox VanEngen for an interception.

TK took the lead back with a drive that covered 79 yards in 6 minutes and 23 seconds. It ended on a three-yard touchdown run by Debo Robinson that had TK in front 27-22 with 11:13 to play in the game. A two-point conversion try was unsuccessful for TK after a holding penalty took away a successful attempt and backed the Trojan offense away from the goal-line.

That lead lasted for about four minutes for TK. Peterson took a hand-off running left on a fourth-and-two play at the TK 26 and miraculously managed to pinball off one TK tackler behind the line of scrimmage and then still be everyone around the corner not only for a first down but he kept right on going for a touchdown. Collin Gessner ran in the two-point try to boost the Northview lead to 30-27 at the time.

Both TK and Northview are now 4-2 overall this season. The loss drops the Wildcats to 1-2 in the OK Black.

Lansing Sexton 41, Lakewood 34

With three games left on the 2025 schedule, Lakewood varsity football coach Tim Swore is hoping his young Viking squad learns from its 41-34 Homecoming loss to visiting J.W. Sexton on Friday, Oct. 3.

The host Vikings (2-4 overall, 1-3 conference) held a slim 14-13 lead at halftime but couldn't hang on for the win, as Sexton (3-3 overall, 3-2 conference) outgunned Lakewood 28-20 in the second half of the Capital Area Activities Conference clash.

"It was back and forth," Swore said. "We talk about our team needing to learn how to win.

"We did so many good things, but we just couldn't hold it," the coach added. "(But) we're getting to the point where we feel we can win."



Hastings running back Jonah Hamp looks to pull away from a Marshall defender during the Saxons win over the RedHawks in Marshall Friday. Hamp led the Saxon ground game with 270 yard rushing and five touchdowns in an I-8 win. **Photos by Seth Berry**

PRAIRIEVILLE TOWNSHIP ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

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

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing will be held on November 5, 2025 commencing at 7:00 p.m. at the Prairieville Township Hall, 10115 S. Norris Rd., Delton MI, 49046 within the Township, as required under the provisions of the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act and the Zoning Ordinance for the Township.

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

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

1. A request from builder Dylan Steele on behalf of property owner Jason and Andrea Bernard, 10950 Boniface Point Dr, Plainwell, MI 49080 for a variance to allow for the construction of a garage addition to single family dwelling that fails to meet setbacks, pursuant to sections 4.24 "Waterfront Lots" and 4.41"Schedule of Lot, Yard and Area Requirements" of the Prairieville Township Zoning Ordinance. The subject site is located at 10950 Boniface Point Dr, Plainwell, MI 49080. Parcel #08-12-006-069-00 and is currently zoned R2, Medium Residential.
2. Such other business as may properly come before the Zoning Board of Appeals.

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

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

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



Viking defender Jacob Everett (58) battles his way into the Sexton backfield during the second half of Lakewood's homecoming varsity football game Friday, Oct. 3. Everett tallied one and a half sacks on the night, as well as a pair of tackles. **Photo by Dennis Mansfield**



Marshall wide receiver Karson Moga, Jr. is swarmed by Saxon defenders Jonah Hamp (left), Spencer Wilkins (back) and Colton Denton (right) during their Interstate-8 Athletic Conference contest in Marshall Friday.

The Vikings actually made a late push, with Lucas Steward kicking a 39-yard field goal to draw Lakewood within seven points late in the fourth quarter. But Sexton was able to recover an onside kick and run out the clock.

Swore said the outcome was decided by the fact that Sexton was able to execute with the game on the line, with the visiting team converting a trio of fourth-down attempts on offense – and all three tries leading to touchdowns. That included converting on a fourth-and-20, aided by a pass interference call that made it just fourth-and-five.

"There you go," Swore said. "We knew they were dangerous. We knew it was going to be a challenge."

Despite the loss at home, Swore said there were several positives, including the continued maturation of a young offensive line and the Vikings putting up more than 300 yards in total offense.

"We put a premium on improving our offensive line in the offseason," Swore added. "That's how you control football games.

"We felt we could load up (against Sexton) and control the line of scrimmage."

Carter Stewart led the way for Lakewood, rushing for a team-best 179 yards and three touchdowns on 30 carries, with Michael Goodemoot adding 53 yards and a score on five rushing attempts.

Swore said quarterback Max Thrun was also effective in managing the Vikings' offense, hitting on 4-of-9 passing attempts for 68 yards. Bryer Poll caught two passes for 50 yards, with Hollis Poll and Brady Makley each recording one catch for nine yards.

Steward also proved to be a valuable weapon, kicking the late field goal and an earlier 31-yard field goal, as well as converting on all four of his point-after tries.

Defensively, Goodemoot and Owen Prowdley led the charge with six tackles each. Jacob Everett tallied one and a half sacks, along with a pair of tackles, with Briggs Schelter also getting in Sexton's backfield for half a sack to go with one tackle on the night.

Maple Valley 42, Sand Creek 12

Maple Valley made it back-to-back varsity football victories with a 42-12 victory over a winless Sand Creek team on the road in Big 8 Conference play Friday.

Dayton Hillard rushed for two touchdowns. Eli Wright fired a 31-yard TD pass to Kelvin Davis. Nolan Hoefler and Tyrese Robinson El had short TD runs for the Lions. Maple Valley also got a 50-yard interception return for a touchdown from Teegen McDonald to help seal the win in the second half.

It wasn't just the one big defensive play that was key for the Lions. They made plays on that side of the ball all evening holding Sand Creek to just 167 yards of offense.

"Our defensive coordinator, Chad McClintock, had a great defensive game plan and the kids executed it well," Lion head coach Mitchell McClintock said. "Lots of film study and practice time and it really came to fruition after the trick play to start the game."

AJ Murdico Jr. had a team-high 53 rushing yards for Sand Creek on 12 carries. Quarterback Jackson Sutherland was just 3-of-10 passing for 65 yards. Davis also intercepted a Sutherland pass. He didn't score, but he did flip the field with a 40-yard return of his own.

Bradley Ripley, Kaiden Meyers and Cayden Miller each recovered a fumble for the Lions. Meyers had a team-high seven tackles including a sack. Alex Shepard added four tackles and Hillard, Wright and Robinson had three tackles each.

"They use a lot of motion and play on the perimeter," coach Mitchell McClintock said. "We had some checks and ways to adjust after they motioned that put us in some advantageous positions. Tyrese Robinson, our captain and starting middle linebacker, has really grown into our 'coach' on the field."

Murdico fired a 69-yard touchdown pass to teammate Thomas Shanks to put Sand Creek in front on the first play of the game, but the Lions answered quickly.

Robinson scored on a three-yard run and Hillard scored on a five-yard run before the first quarter was through and the Lions led 14-6 at the end of one.

Lion kicker Davis hit all six of his extra-point attempts.

The Lions led 21-6 at the half. Wright tossed his 31-yard TD pass to Davis four minutes into the second quarter.

Hillard had a three-yard TD run in the third quarter and McDonald's interception return TD closed out the scoring for the Lions in the second half

Murdico Jr tacked on a 57-yard TD run with 2:47 to go in the football game.

Offensively, the Lions had Hillard rush for 49 yards on 16 carries. Wright had eight rushes for 48 yards. Robinson added nine carries for 34 yards. Passing, Wright was an efficient 6-of-8 passing for 61 yards.

"A couple things that stood out to me was the development of our run game, led by our quarterback Eli Wright, who as a first year QB is starting to get his footing," Mitchell McClintock said. "Our young offensive line is really growing as well, settling into the scheme and fundamentals. Our center, Alex Shepard, is a super smart kid who has taken a leadership role with the O-line."

Staff writer Dennis Mansfield contributed to this story.

FOOTBALL

LOCAL STANDINGS	W	L	PLAYOFF POINTS
Hastings	5	1	51.333
Thornapple Kellogg	4	2	47.333
Lakewood	2	4	26.667
Maple Valley	2	4	17.833
Delton Kellogg	1	5	10.667

INTERSTATE-8 ATHLETIC CONFERENCE	W	L	CONFERENCE WINS	CONFERENCE LOSSES
Hastings	5	1	4	0
Harper Creek	5	1	3	0
Coldwater	5	1	3	1
Marshall	2	4	1	2
Jackson Northwest	2	4	1	2
Pennfield	2	4	0	3
Parma Western	1	5	0	4

OK Black	W	L	CONFERENCE Wins	CONFERENCE Losses
Grand Rapids Catholic Central	6	0	3	0
East Grand Rapids	4	2	2	1
Thornapple Kellogg	4	2	2	1
Holland Christian	4	2	1	2
Northview	4	2	1	2
Ottawa Hills	0	6	0	3

BIG 8 CONFERENCE	W	L	CONFERENCE WINS	CONFERENCE LOSSES
Springport	6	0	4	0
Union City	4	2	3	1
Reading	3	3	3	2
Quincy	4	2	2	2
Stockbridge	2	4	2	2
Maple Valley	2	4	1	3
Sand Creek	0	6	0	5

CAPITAL AREA ACTIVITIES CONFERENCE WHITE	W	L	CONFERENCE WINS	CONFERENCE LOSSES
Portland	6	0	5	0
Olivet	5	1	4	1
Charlotte	4	2	4	1
Lansing Sexton	3	3	3	2
Lakewood	2	4	1	3
Eaton Rapids	1	5	1	4
Lansing Catholic	1	5	1	4
Ionia	0	6	0	4

SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE VALLEY	W	L	CONFERENCE WINS	CONFERENCE LOSSES
Lawton	4	2	2	1
Schoolcraft	5	1	3	0
Coloma	3	3	2	1
Delton Kellogg	1	5	1	2
Galesburg-Augusta	3	3	1	2
Saugatuck	2	4	0	3

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)

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
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