

INSIDE
TODAY'S EDITION
DELTON KELLOGG GIRLS WIN SAC CENTRAL AGAIN
PAGE 14



LOCAL DIVERS AMAZING AT MISCA MEET; SLAGEL WINS, YARGER THIRD
PAGE 10



RANDALL MAKES IT THREE CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS IN THREE SEASONS
PAGE 11

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City, county and airport officials gather on Tuesday, Oct. 21, for a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the new Larry Baum Memorial Terminal at the Hastings City/Barry County Airport. **Photo by Molly Macleod**

Officials dedicate Larry Baum Memorial Terminal

Molly Macleod
Editor

The rain didn't dampen spirits at Tuesday's ribbon-cutting and dedication ceremony for the Hastings City/Barry County Airport's new Larry Baum Memorial Terminal.

Airport staff and volunteers, joined by city and county officials, were all smiles on Tuesday, Oct. 21, in spite of the gray skies. The group gathered at 3:30 p.m. for the official dedication and ribbon cutting for the airport's newest terminal, which crews wrapped up construction on in August. 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 ceremony took place during an all-day open house hosted by the airport on Tuesday.

Lucci reflected on the community support, which has helped the airport become what it is today.

"The airport was founded back in 1947. There's been a lot of contributors to the airport — they weren't always money," Lucci said. He mentioned the names of several individuals who gave their time, labor and money to the airport.

"Then we also have folks like Larry Baum who donated here to the airport, extended the runway and really made us what we are today — brought us to the

See **TERMINAL** on 3

Village council snub may lead candidate to seek alternative way to serve community

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

The Lake Odessa Village Council probably has not heard the last from local resident and businessman Barry Hoven.

Hoven, a former member of the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne Division, was one of five village residents to file letters of interest to serve the remainder of former Trustee Terri Cappon's term in office on the Lake Odessa Village Council. Cappon announced in August she'd be stepping down to spend more time traveling with her husband, attending her last meeting as a trustee on Sept. 15.

Three of the five candidates made short presentations at the council's regular monthly meeting on Monday, Oct. 20. Clerk/Treasurer Kathy Forman said two of the individuals had withdrawn their names from consideration prior to Monday's meeting.

Neena Rush, a medical assistant and mother of two, was sworn in to replace Cappon after receiving the votes of five of the remaining council members, with Trustee Ben DeJong instead voting to have Hoven appointed to serve the remainder of Cappon's term, which expires in November 2026.

It didn't take Hoven long to express his disappointment, confirming he posted a statement on the "Lake Odessa Area Neighborhood" page on Facebook

See **COUNCIL** on 4

Hundreds gather for Hastings 'No Kings' protest



"No Kings" organizers led demonstrators to the Barry County Courthouse, where they sang a rendition of "This Land is My Land." **Photos by Hunter McLaren**

Hunter McLaren
Contributing Writer

Hundreds of protesters marched through Hastings Saturday, Oct. 18 as part of the second "No Kings" demonstration.

The first "No Kings" demonstration took place June 14, with demonstrators speaking out against what they describe as authoritarian actions taken by President Donald Trump and his administration. The event in June coincided with both a military parade held in Washington D.C. to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the U.S. Army as well as Trump's 79th birthday. National organizers for the protest estimate 5 million participants in June, and as many as 8 million this past Saturday.

Barry County residents participated in both demonstrations. Mary Beth Adyniec, co-chair for the Barry County chapter of the national grassroots organization Indivisible, said Saturday's demonstration drew around 500 participants. She said the event had closer to 200 in June.

Protesters gathered at Thornapple Plaza before marching through downtown Hastings to the Barry County Courthouse, many carrying signs and wearing costumes. A handful of counter-protestors were present, standing on the corner of Broadway Avenue and State Street, holding wooden crosses and wearing "Trump is President" shirts. Cars passing by alternately cheered and jeered.

Adyniec said counter-protesters present at the event were polite and engaged in a back-and-forth discussion with the demonstrators. She said she was inspired to take up the Barry County Indivisible chapter after seeing the results of the 2024 election.

"Like a lot of people, I was going to try and just crawl into a hole and act like nothing happened," Adyniec said. "But I read an article that said this is not the time to do that, it's the time for American citizens to rise up and say they are not happy."

See **PROTEST** on 4

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PAGE 12

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

Village of Lake Odessa seeks to move forward with housing proposal

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

The Lake Odessa Planning Commission unanimously approved forwarding a recommendation to amend the village's zoning ordinance at its regular meeting Tuesday, Oct. 21, possibly clearing the way for a proposed housing development that would be built on a former football field.

Interim Village Manager Gregg Guetschow said the proposed "tweaks" to the zoning ordinance addressed such issues as the height of structures allowed in the village, as well as the density of multi-family developments.

Indigo Design and CopperRock Construction, both based out of Grand Rapids, previously filed an application and site plan for construction of a 54-unit apartment complex on the site of a former football field located off of Jordan Lake Avenue. The site plan calls for the construction of two three-story buildings, which would be taller than what is currently allowed, on property currently owned by local residents Dr. Lee Stuart and his wife, Ruth Ann.

Guetschow emphasized that the public hearing held at Tuesday's meeting, as well as the vote on forwarding any recommendation to the Lake Odessa Village Council, were related to amending the village's zoning ordinance and were not an approval of the proposed site plan.

"This is on the ordinance, not the site plan itself," he said. "We tried to rationalize … to go over provisions (of the ordinance)."

Guetschow added there had not been an application to build such multi-family dwellings since the village had adopted its zoning ordinance, with the recently proposed project providing officials with a "test case."

"This is a unique site," he added. "That's a reason to look at this seriously."

Ryan Schmidt, a partner with Indigo Design, said an updated site plan had been submitted to the village prior to Tuesday's meeting, though he added "nothing materially" had changed.

According to initial site development plans, the project would include construction of one building with 18 units and a second, larger building housing 36 units, with options for one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments. The project would also include a smaller, third structure that would serve as office and maintenance space, along with 108 parking spaces.

Schmidt said "open to a conversation" on other remaining issues, such as a sign to be installed in front of the project and landscaping at the site.

"We want to be good neighbors," he added.

While the village council could act on recommendations to amend the zoning ordinance at its Nov. 17 meeting, Planning Commission members on Tuesday also voted to set a public hearing on the site plan for the housing project for its Nov. 24 meeting.

"I think we need a public hearing," said Planning Commission member Beth Barrone. "There are people who are calling in. They want to have their say."

In responding to a request by Planning Commission members, Schmidt said he'd supply displays on the project for the Nov. 24 meeting.

"I appreciate you getting us on the agenda quickly," he added. "We'd like to go as quickly as possible."



Youth Advisory Council students gathered in costume downtown Saturday, soliciting donations for the Barry County Humane Society. **Photo by Hunter McLaren**

YAC Roof Sit raises $2,500 for Barry County Humane Society

Hunter McLaren
Contributing Writer

The Youth Advisory Council successfully raised nearly $2,500 for the Barry County Humane Society during its annual "roof sit" Saturday.

The YAC is a board made up entirely of Barry County students created by the Barry Community Foundation in 1996. YAC members meet to discuss community needs throughout the county, running fundraisers and tackling community service projects. YAC members also approve tens of thousands of dollars in grant funding to various Barry County organizations every year.

This year, students chose the Barry County Humane Society because of a large and unexpected intake of cats at the shelter this year. The costs will help cover costs from spaying/neutering, food and medicine. Although the fundraiser has been called a roof sit since its inception, YAC students have never actually sat on a roof. For a time, they did sit on scaffolding, although that was discontinued due to safety and liability reasons.

Now students gather downtown to raise awareness, collect donations from passersby and go door-to-door. Delton Kellogg sophomore Alyce Donley said she joined YAC after attending last year's roof sit. The group is always accepting new members, and Donley encourages anyone interested to look them up on social media and talk to their school advisors about joining.

"I came to this last year and became a part of YAC," Donley said. "It's a very fun time and you can make a lot of friends here."

DID YOU **SEE?**



A SKELETAL SCENE

This family of skeletons was seen gathering in a Delton neighborhood this week. The family, joined by its skeletal furry friends, made no bones about its preparations for Halloween next week. Locals can get a jump on the holiday this week on Saturday, Oct. 25, during the Delton's Rockin' Halloween event at William Smith Memorial Park. The event will be held from 3 to 6 p.m., featuring hay rides, candy, games for all ages and more.
Photo by Allie Steele-Rouse

Hastings DDA launches strategic planning process to shape downtown's future

The Hastings Downtown Development Authority is launching a new strategic planning process to guide the next chapter of revitalization and investment in the city's downtown district. The effort will run through February 2026 and is being led in partnership with community engagement and planning firm Double Haul Solutions (DHS).

Over the coming months, the DDA will be inviting residents, businesses and community stakeholders to help shape a shared vision for downtown Hastings through surveys and public workshops.

"This process is about listening to the people who know and love our downtown," said Patty Woods, DDA chairperson. "We want to ensure our future investments and initiatives reflect the needs and values of our community."

The planning process will include a public workshop and community-wide survey launching in November. These activities will help the DDA identify priorities for economic development, public improvements, placemaking and more. Regular updates will also be shared through the Downtown Hastings website and social media.

The final plan will outline strategies for strengthening the downtown district, supporting local businesses, and enhancing the area's historic charm and walkability. It will also clarify how the DDA can use its tools and funding to advance the community's goals.

The DDA will kick off its engagement with a community workshop on Thursday, Nov. 6, in the Walldorff Brew Pub & Bistro ballroom (third floor, 105 E. State Street).

The workshop will feature three identical sessions at 8 a.m., 3:30 p.m., and 6:30 p.m., offering multiple opportunities for community members to share their experiences, opportunities for growth and ideas for the future of downtown Hastings. Participants are asked to RSVP for their preferred session time at tinyurl.com/HastingsDDA-Workshop.

All residents, business owners and downtown supporters are encouraged to participate.

Information about upcoming meetings, engagement opportunities and plan progress is available at: hastingsmi.gov/boards/downtown-development-authority-dda.

"We know that a strong downtown helps create a stronger Hastings overall," said Hastings Community Development Director/Zoning Administrator Dan King. "This plan will help us be more intentional and more responsive to our community."
— *MM*



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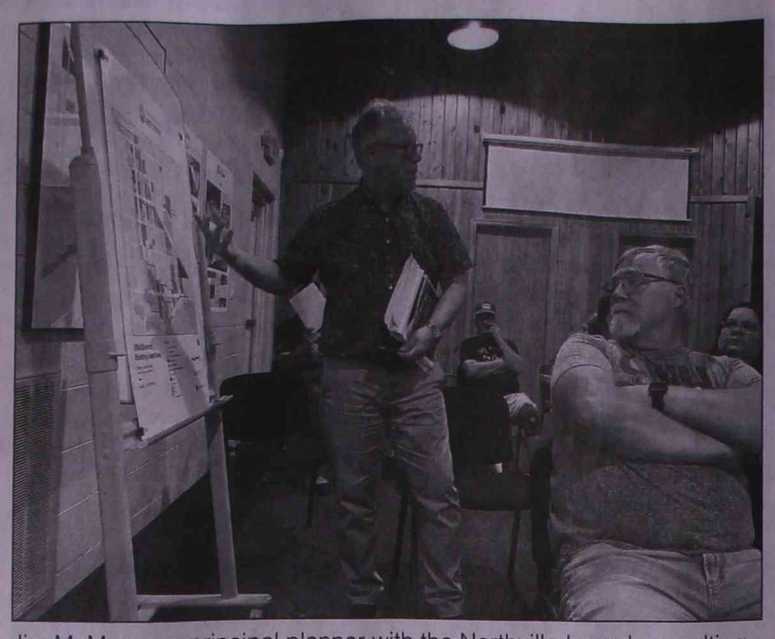
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Jim McManus, a principal planner with the Northville-based consulting firm McKenna, outlines areas that could be included in a proposed expansion of the Lake Odessa Downtown Development Authority's tax increment financing, or TIF, plan during a public hearing hosted by the Lake Odessa Village Council at its Sept. 15 meeting. **File photo by Dennis Mansfield**

Village of Lake Odessa votes to share revenue with DDA to fund street projects

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

The Village of Lake Odessa and its Downtown Development Authority could soon have the chance to share – tax revenue, that is.

The Lake Odessa Village Council at its regular meeting Monday, Oct. 20, unanimously approved a resolution to share captured tax revenue from projected growth in the DDA's tax increment financing, or TIF, district to help fund future street and alley improvements.

"This resolution would communicate to the DDA the desire of the council to set aside as assigned fund balance tax increments capture from the general highway fund millage in excess of those captured in the 2025 tax year," interim Village Manager Gregg Guetschow stated in his report to the council. "These funds would then be available for use only on street, alley and sidewalk improvement projects in the DDA project area."

Previously, Guetschow provided council members with a spreadsheet outlining the potential loss of revenue, if the DDA's plan is approved as currently proposed. According to projections, the village would lose more than $1.35 million in tax revenue from its operational levy and nearly $600,000 from a street levy over the next 30 years.

During Monday's meeting, Guetschow said the proposed resolution was an attempt to address the village's need to fund infrastructure projects, "specifically streets," while also supporting the DDA.

"That's what this is intended to do," he added. "This is a fair way to handle this, without impacting projects the DDA wants to accomplish."

The vote on Monday comes as village and DDA officials are working through the process of enacting an updated and expanded TIF plan, as well as amending the 2005 ordinance that created the DDA to eliminate a sunset date which calls for the DDA to be dissolved as of the end of this year.

Not everyone seems ready to support the DDA's plans for expanding the TIF district or even the DDA itself, however.

The Odessa Township Board of Trustees voted 5-0 at its regular meeting Oct. 6 to notify the village it was seeking to opt out of the DDA TIF plan altogether.

Also, Guetschow said he attended a meeting of the Ionia County Board of Commissioners' Finance Committee on Tuesday, Oct. 21, at which committee members reportedly approved a recommendation for the county to also opt out. The full county board could vote on the recommendation at its upcoming meeting Tuesday, Oct. 28.

He added, however, there's a question whether the township or county could opt out of the entirety of the DDA plan or just the new, expanded boundaries. Village and DDA officials have also discussed the option of negotiating with other governmental bodies on the potential to share property tax revenues captured by the DDA TIF plan.

"It's all part of the process," Guetschow said.

LO DDA set to negotiate with township, county over sharing captured revenue

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

The process of enacting a new, updated and expanded tax incremental financing, or TIF, plan for the Lake Odessa Downtown Development Authority could soon enter a new phase, with village officials looking to negotiate with both Odessa Township and Ionia County on sharing property tax revenue currently used to fund DDA efforts.

DDA chairperson Sarah McGarry and board member Darwin Thompson, along with interim Village Manager Gregg Guetschow, were reportedly selected to serve as the authority's negotiating team at a special meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 14.

The appointments come a little more than a week after the Odessa Township Board of Trustees unanimously voted to opt out of the DDA plan, which was created via a 2005 village ordinance.

"The DDA members all received a copy of the resolution," said Karen Banks, village president and DDA board member. "The board is willing to negotiate."

Also, Guetschow said he attended a meeting of the Ionia County Board of Commissioners' Finance Committee on Tuesday, Oct. 21, at which committee members reportedly approved a recommendation for the county to also opt out. The full county board could vote on the recommendation at its upcoming meeting Tuesday, Oct. 28.

According to a spreadsheet presented to the Lake Odessa Village Council on Oct. 7, under the new updated TIF plan, Odessa Township is projected to lose nearly $111,000 in property tax revenue from its operational millage over the next 30 years, as well as more than $253,000 from a fire millage if approved and if it were to include the township.

Township officials have previously stated that the loss of such revenue could hinder their efforts to fund various projects, including the construction of a proposed new fire station.

While indicating a willingness to negotiate, Banks said she's unaware of any schedule for times to meet with township and county officials. Though, the issue is on somewhat of a clock.

The village council is tentatively set to hold a second public hearing on the DDA plan, as well as on proposed changes to the village ordinance to eliminate a sunset date that calls for the authority to be dissolved at the end of this year, at its Nov. 17 meeting at 7 p.m. at the Page Memorial Building.

"There's time," Banks said. "There's a willingness to work with them. We'll see how it goes.

"I'm optimistic."

A small contingent of Odessa Township officials, including Treasurer Sharon Rohrbacher, was in attendance at the Oct. 14 special meeting.

"It was interesting," Rohrbacher said. "To us, we've opted out. We've done what we needed to do."

To view documents related to the DDA's proposed development plan and boundary adjustments, persons may visit the Village of Lake Odessa website at lakeodessa.org.

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Open enrollment: What to know before you enroll

For many people, fall brings an important opportunity: open enrollment. While it may not sound as exciting as planning for the holidays, taking a careful look at your workplace benefits now could save you hundreds or even thousands of dollars next year.

Open enrollment is the period when you will choose your medical and other workplace benefits for the year ahead. Most employers hold it in the fall, with elections taking effect in January. Once the window closes, you usually can't make changes unless you experience a major life event like marriage, divorce, the birth of a child or when a dependent has become an emancipated adult.

While it may be easy to simply renew last year's choices, that could be a costly mistake. Your employer's plans, providers or costs may have changed. It's also possible your own circumstances are different than they were a year ago — for example, if you had a baby, got married or expect new medical needs. Taking a fresh look helps ensure your benefits match your life today.

Here are a few tips for navigating open enrollment.

Compare health plans carefully. Employers often offer more than one health, dental or vision option. Look at differences in provider networks, prescription coverage and premiums. If you and your spouse both have coverage options, compare plans across employers. Just be mindful that some companies charge a fee if you enroll a partner who has their own workplace coverage. Many plans offer wellness discounts on monthly premiums based on your personal health condition.

Check your life insurance. Many employers provide a base level of life insurance, with the option to buy more. If your family has grown or your financial responsibilities have increased, now is the time to make sure you have enough coverage to protect your loved ones.

Consider disability coverage. A short-term disability plan can help cover income gaps for up to 12 months during recovery from surgery, illness or childbirth. Long-term disability insurance offers protection if you're unable to work again for an extended period up to age 65. Ideally, coverage should replace up to 60% of your pre-tax income.

Understand supplemental options. Some employers also offer accidental death and dismemberment (AD&D) insurance. While it can provide peace of mind, remember that it's not a substitute for life or disability insurance, since it only covers specific accidents.

Take advantage of tax-friendly accounts. Flexible spending accounts (FSAs) and health savings accounts (HSAs) let you use pretax dollars for eligible medical expenses. If you have young children or other dependents, ask whether your employer offers a dependent care FSA to help offset care costs. Note that these are use-it-or-lose-it, so contribute only what you expect to spend every year. HSAs, available with high-deductible health plans, are more flexible, since unused funds roll over from year to year and can even serve as long-term savings.

Review your retirement savings. While your retirement plan usually isn't part of open enrollment, this is a good time to revisit it. Make sure you're contributing enough to earn your employer's match. Small increases can make a big difference over time.

Open enrollment may not be the most thrilling item on your fall to-do list, but it could be one of the most important. Taking a little time now to review your employee group benefits could give you greater financial security and extra savings throughout the year.

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TERMINAL

Continued from Page 1

next level. And then I would be remiss were I to ignore Mr. (Earl) McMullin, who the previous building was named after — the old terminal building," Lucci said.

Lucci said that the plaque honoring McMullin that was displayed outside of the old terminal building will be put back on display inside the new terminal building.

"We don't forget those people whose shoulders that we stand on to get where we are at today," Lucci said.

Lucci expressed his gratitude to the partners who made the new terminal possible. He thanked the airport board, the Michigan Department of Transportation and Mead & Hunt, the engineers for the new building, and the project's architects.

Hastings Mayor David Tossava reminded attendees of the legacy of the late Larry Baum, whom the building is named after. Baum was a lifelong supporter of the airport.

"We are here today to honor Larry Baum by dedicating this Barry County/Hastings Airport terminal building in his name. Larry was a visionary — a doer. He loved his community. He loved his school. He cared about the health of his fellow citizens, and he loved this airport," Tossava said.

"Whenever there was a need at the airport or anywhere around in the community, Larry was the first person to jump in," Tossava said.

With support from Baum, the airport was able to become self-sustaining.

"When I came on the city council back in 2008, the city (of Hastings) and Barry County each paid as much as $45,000 a year to help sustain the airport. Through Larry's generosity, over the years, the main runway was extended, new hangars were built, older hangars were purchased by Larry and given to the airport. Larry also paid to install a fuel farm at the airport … Because of Larry's vision and generosity, the airport is self-sufficient, self-supporting, and what it is today," said Tossava.

Dave Baum, Larry's son, said his father would be proud to see how the airport is operating today.

"He really wanted a viable, self-sustaining airport. He saw it as an important part of the local economy of Hastings. He wanted to do things that would bring in people," Baum said.

To close, Baum mentioned a recent milestone achieved by the airport.

"Who else can say they've had Kid Rock at their small airport?" Baum asked.

The Hastings City/Barry County Airport is located at 2505 Murphy Drive in Hastings. More information on the airport can be found at barrycounty.org/departments_and_officials/departments/airport.php.

COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1

shortly after the meeting.

"It seems that politics influenced the decision and the chosen candidate was primarily valued for being a young mother," he stated. "I believe decisions like this should be based on merit and community service, not just personal circumstances or politics.

"I remain committed to serving my community and will continue to seek opportunities to contribute meaningfully."

According to his letter of interest, Hoven, who is currently seeking to establish his own personal training business, has been employed as a retail manager for six-plus years and recently founded the Lakewood Area Small Business Alliance, as well as listing himself as the founder of the Playwell Michigan Foundation.

"My goal is simple," Hoven said during his presentation Monday night. "It's to answer the call.

"Our community's future depends not only on growth but on unity," he added. "Yes, this vision extends well beyond the village limits."

In comparison, Rush in her letter of interest stated that her background in health care, community outreach and youth leadership "equips me with the perspective and skills necessary to serve effectively."

"I believe I can bring a fresh perspective," she said Monday. "I want to help guide the future of our community."

Rob Young, a resident of Lake Odessa for three decades, was the third candidate to make a presentation, listing "past local experiences" that included serving as vice president of the Lakewood Area Chamber of Commerce, as a member of the Lake Odessa Area Arts Commission and firefighter with the Lake Odessa Fire Department, as well as previously serving four years on the village council.

"You pretty much know who I am," Young said, adding he wanted to help local government take advantage of the village's location halfway between Lansing and Grand Rapids.

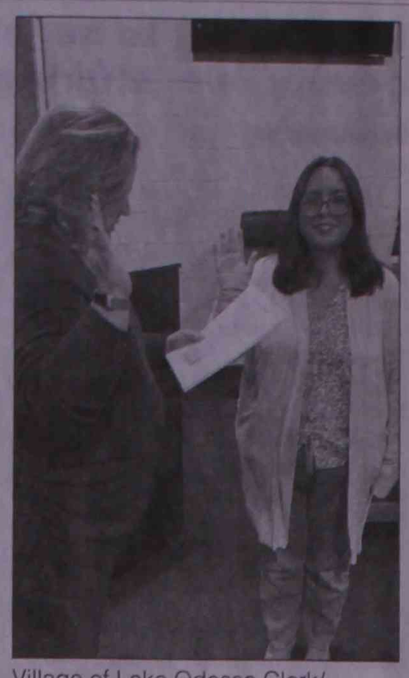
"It's the last place you can be without paying really high taxes," he said. "Here, you're fortunate. You have everything you need in our town."

In choosing Rush, several council members noted her family connections to the community and the attraction of adding the perspective of a young mother to the council.

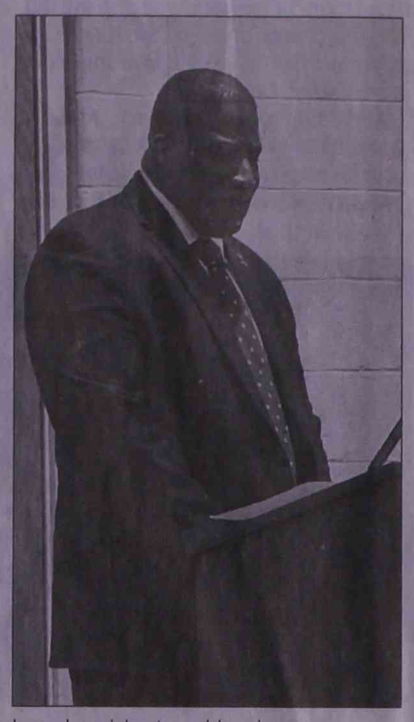
"I think she'd be a positive influence on the council," said Trustee Roy Halfmann, adding Rush was his neighbor for four years.

Trustee Michael Brighton also said he knew the Rush family, whom he called "stand-up" members of the community.

"I think they're really positive about the community," Brighton said. "It's great to see a young family get started here in Lake Odessa."



Village of Lake Odessa Clerk/ Treasurer Kathy Forman (left) gives the oath of office to Neena Rush, after Rush was appointed to serve the remainder of former Trustee Terri Cappon's term in office on the Lake Odessa Village Council at the council's regular meeting Monday, Oct. 20. **Photos by Dennis Mansfield**



Local resident and businessman Barry Hoven makes his pitch to be appointed to serve the remainder of former Trustee Terri Cappon's term in office on the Lake Odessa Village Council at the council's regular meeting Monday, Oct. 20. Council members interviewed three candidates before voting on Monday night, including Hoven, Neena Rush and Rob Young.

But, as the lone council member not voting for Rush, DeJong said he preferred Hoven's enthusiasm in being an advocate for the village.

"Clearly, I felt Barry was the better choice," DeJong said afterwards, adding he was somewhat puzzled by Rush's selection.

"Hard to say," he said. "Hard to know their thought process.

"What they stated in the meeting is they've known her for a long time."

DeJong said he talked to Hoven after Monday's meeting, encouraging him to seek a possible run for village council at a later date.

"(I) told him that I hope he runs in the next general election for village council and to keep up all the great work he's been doing," he added.

And, Hoven said that might just be his plan.

"I remain committed to serving our community and am keeping all opportunities open," Hoven said later. "While I haven't made any firm decisions, I believe in working to support positive change at the local level, where I can make the biggest impact.

"As for ambitions beyond that, I'm exploring options, but my focus is on representing residents and addressing their needs," he added. "I believe our representatives should prioritize honesty and service, regardless of political labels."

PROTEST

Continued from Page 1

While many signs and chants directly named Trump, many of those in attendance said their concerns lie primarily with the well-being of American citizens and the country's democratic institutions. Barry County resident Kathy Merlino cited concern for the consequences of significant planned cuts to Medicare and Medicaid programs as one example.

"This is not about party v. party," Merlino said. "This is not Democrat vs. Republican. This is about America, about saving democracy, saving our constitution, saving our republic."

Adyniec said the "No Kings" demonstrations are just part of what the Barry County Indivisible organization hopes to do. She said the group has already held town halls with local political candidates and hopes to stay active with more events to come. Although the group is still young, Adyniec said it's already gathered a lot of interest.

"People need to be with other people who are concerned and know that they are not alone," Adyniec said.



Protesters circled the sidewalk around the Barry County Courthouse, nearly encircling the entire block.



Richland residents Jeff Price and Sue Harrison came out to participate in the demonstration. Price, a U.S. Army veteran, said, "I fought for this."



Protesters march through downtown Hastings.



Counter-protesters sported shirts stating "Trump is President" and flew flags proclaiming "Jesus is King."



Protester signage decried various actions and policies enacted by the Trump administration, ranging from immigration policy to Trump's alleged ties to financier and convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

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SEN. ALBERT: Despite positive steps, Michigan's state budget remains unsustainable

Sen. Thomas Albert

It took much longer than it should have, but Michigan finally adopted a new state budget shortly after the new fiscal year began Oct. 1.



State Senator Thomas Albert

There are some positives in this new budget, and I am thankful that it was adopted in a way that avoided disruption in state services. But I voted against the budget plan because, overall, it is unsustainable moving forward.

This structural problem began when Michigan Democrats burned through a $9 billion state budget surplus a few years ago — needlessly expanding the size of state government instead of investing in infrastructure, saving money or lowering taxes.

Despite Republicans' best efforts to rein in spending, the newly approved budget relies too heavily on new taxes and tax shifts. Legislative leaders already acknowledge that annual budgets in the coming years will likely be hundreds of millions of dollars short, which would require more cuts — or worse, more taxes and fees — to remain balanced as required by state law.

The additional investment in Michigan roads outlined in this budget — ramping up to $1.9 billion annually — is desperately needed, but it relies too heavily on tax increases and missed opportunities to capitalize on recent tax changes at the federal level. Ultimately, these costs will be passed along to Michiganders through higher prices or lost jobs.

The budget deal separates or "decouples" Michigan from some recent changes in federal tax law, costing state businesses an estimated $540 million more than they would otherwise have paid in the new fiscal year. Worse, it makes Michigan less competitive moving forward. Why would businesses create new jobs here when there will be a significant tax advantage in neighboring states?

A new wholesale tax on marijuana products is expected to cost businesses and taxpayers roughly $420 million, although I highly doubt it will rise that much. The marijuana industry is already suing in an effort to block its implementation.

The budget deal would allow the Department of Health and Human Services to restructure an assessment on health insurance providers that raises about $650 million a year. This cost is primarily passed along to Michiganders through higher insurance premiums, and a state agency should not have that kind of authority.

As part of the roads deal, local governments will miss out on an estimated $63 million in constitutional revenue sharing that helps communities pay for police, fire and other services. This reduction hits rural townships particularly hard.

While I support investments in Michigan schools, this budget spends money in the same ways we always have — which is unlikely to produce better results. Michigan ranks below the national average in achievement test scores despite spending more per student than most states. This plan does not address glaring issues with chronic absenteeism and only gives lip service to cellphone distractions in schools.

Would it be better to spend $200 million on the governor's plan to add accountability and resources for failing schools or to give one-time bonuses to educators regardless of student performance? Students would have been better served by leaving compensation solely to local bargaining and focusing our attention on failing schools. Unfortunately, the governor's targeted improvement plan will have to wait.

I also disagree with the decision to shift an additional $400 million from the K-12 School Aid Fund to universities, which again is part of funding shifts to free up money for road repairs.

House Republicans deserve credit for some significant achievements as they negotiated with a Democratic-led Senate and a Democratic governor. I applaud the decision not to renew funding for the Strategic Outreach and Attraction Reserve Fund, a failed economic development program I have sought to eliminate for the past few years.

New transparency requirements ultimately will help reduce spending on pet projects and hopefully screen out some of the undeserving recipients. The budget plan also takes a step toward reining in the size of state government by eliminating 2,000 "ghost employee" positions that, for the most part, have remained unfilled.

It is difficult to craft a state budget that everyone will be happy with when political power is divided. But we cannot continue down the unsustainable path of raising taxes and making life more expensive for Michiganders.

State Sen. Thomas Albert represents the 18th District, which includes Barry County and portions of Allegan, Calhoun, Kalamazoo, Kent and Ionia counties.

Building Brands

Let go of your ego and brand yourself a team player



Emily Caswell

The team at View Newspaper Group makes it our mission to give back to the communities we serve. We do this in many ways, including sponsorships and donations, which last year totaled more than $180,000. That is in addition to the thousands of dollars of free and discounted advertising space we offer nonprofits to share their mission, promote an upcoming fundraiser and more. View team members also give of their time and talent by serving on area nonprofit boards, being active members of area service clubs and volunteering where needed throughout the community.

Giving back is a huge point of pride for our organization, so a few years ago when I was asked by a local nonprofit to emcee their annual fundraising event I was happy to do so.

This particular event is fun and loud and since it's hosted near Halloween has an annual theme to encourage attendees to dress up. Of course, I dress up too. In past years I've been careful to pick something comfortable as I'm on stage for several hours. This year I did the same, but my costume idea required a wig. I had never worn a wig and greatly underestimated how wildly uncomfortable it would be. Plus, the wig would not stay in place so I was constantly adjusting it. After a few minutes on stage it was not looking good. As I stood there gazing out at more than 200 community supporters I thought to myself, it's a good thing I don't have a big ego.

While I wished I could have executed the costume with a bit more talent, in truth I don't really care how I looked on stage. No one else did either. The event was a huge success, attendees had tons of fun and the nonprofit raised much-needed funds for their mission. My faulty wig played no role.

As I worried what to wear the following week to a speaking engagement I thought back to my failed costume. I realized that just as no one cared about that, no one cared what I wore to the lunch meeting either. They cared about what I was going to share with them about View Newspaper Group.

In the business world appearances (and fashion!) are important to an extent. What's more important is that you are confident. But there is a big difference between being confident and having a big ego.

An article from *entrepreneur.com* sums up those differences. "... confidence is a requirement: It drives you to realize your vision, and gives you the resilience to pick yourself up when you hit a roadblock. It's having faith in your abilities and believing in yourself. In contrast, ego is self-interested. It seeks approval, accolades and validation. It's resistant to feedback. In life, ego can be annoying to those around you. In the workplace, it can break your career. Whereas confidence is fueled by passion and commitment to success, an egocentric outlook closes your mind to new solutions and keeps you from growing."

The article goes on to discuss some of the risks an inflated ego can pose to your business, your brand and you as a business leader. Here is my take on a few of the worst offenses. If you let your ego rule, you may:

- **Stop listening:** From the article, "Being egocentric restricts the ability to listen to other points of view and other people's concerns. Soliciting advice from others — be it friends, partners, investors or mentors — is the best way to bring fresh ideas and perspectives to your business."
- **Prioritize yourself over the business:** In some cases you may be the business (or least the face of it) so the two are intertwined and that's a good thing. The article points out that the key is making sure your team members, customers and clients are still a part of the decisions you make.
- **Take all the credit:** If you ever catch me taking sole credit for any success at View Newspaper Group, please stop me. Everything we do in this organization is fueled by our leaders and our hardworking team members. I've seen many people in leadership roles say things like "I came up with this campaign ..." What? I don't think so. No one works in a silo. Maybe you developed the campaign language, for example, but who inspired you, who supported you while you took time to brainstorm, who put the campaign in motion through graphic design? There is no "I" in team.
- **Be lame:** If your ego is too big to wear an ill-fitting wig on stage in front of 200 people, you are probably a little lame. Take the work seriously, but don't take yourself too seriously.

When is a time you've had to set your ego aside to succeed? Email me at *ecaswell@mihomepaper.com*.

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

Delton hosting Halloween events this weekend

It's back. Delton's annual Rockin' Halloween at William Smith Memorial Park kicks off at 3 p.m. this Saturday, Oct. 25. A costume parade starts a few minutes before 6 p.m.

Families can enjoy free candy, games, face painting, bubbles, Noah's Ark Barrel Train, a hay ride and s'mores by the fire. Kids must be accompanied by an adult.

Shrek, Fiona, Donkey and Puss in Boots will join the fun throughout the Halloween festivities.

Plus, "Scared Shrekless" will be showing at 6 p.m. on the big outdoor movie screen.

Families have other chances to celebrate Halloween in Delton this weekend.

Locals are being told to bring their sweet tooths this Friday, Oct. 24, for the second annual Trunk or Treat from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Delton Kellogg Elementary School in the front drive. Anyone interested in hosting a trunk can contact the elementary school office.

According to organizers, car decorating starts at 4 p.m. The front drive will be blocked off at 5:15 p.m. for trunk or treaters. A prize will go to the trunk that wins. —*KTE*

Supper club hosting free sourdough workshop, plant-based dinner Nov. 2

Fall has arrived, and a local club is offering locals an opportunity to learn how to bake homemade bread perfect for pairing with soups and other warm meals. The Hastings Healthy Living Supper Club is hosting a free workshop at 5 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 2, that will teach attendees the ins and outs of baking sourdough bread.

The free workshop, which will also provide a plant-based dinner for attendees, will be held at the Hastings Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Attendees can expect to watch a demonstration by guest instructor Kasey McFarland, an expert sourdough baker. McFarland will walk participants through how to make the perfect loaf while they enjoy a meal featuring vegetarian soups and warm sourdough bread.

Participants can browse sourdough starter, bread and other goodies available for purchase.

The workshop and dinner are free to attend; goodwill donations will be accepted.

The dinner and workshop will be at the Hastings Seventh-day Adventist Church, located at 904 Terry Lane, off Star School Road, in Hastings.

Those interested in the workshop are asked to register by Thursday, Oct. 30, to reserve a dinner plate. Organizers say spots are filling up quickly. Participants can reserve their seats by calling or texting 269-804-9959 or emailing Hhealthylivingsupperclub@gmail.com

— *MM*

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Billy to Elton | Saturday, 11/08/25 | 7:00 pm
Christmas with John Berry | Friday, 12/05/25 | 7:00 pm
GRS : Home for the Holidays | Wednesday, 12/10/25| 7:00 pm
Tim Zimmerman/King's Brass | Friday, 12/19/25 | 7:00 pm

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

Other Events

Hastings Youth Choir Concert | Tuesday, 11/04/25 | 6:30 pm
6th Grade Band Concert | Thursday, 11/06/25 | 7:00 pm
HS Fall Play | Friday, 11/21/25 | 7:00 pm & Saturday, 11/22/25 | 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm
HHS Collage Concert | Thursday, 12/04/2025 | 7:00 pm
Jazzy Christmas HHS & TJO | Monday, 12/8/2025 | 7:00 pm
Hastings Middle School Bands Holiday Concert | Tuesday, 12/09/25 | 7:00 pm
Hastings Middle School Choirs Holiday Concert | Thursday, 12/11/25 | 7:00 pm
St. Rose Christmas Musical | Friday, 12/12/25 | 6:30 pm
Thornapple Wind Band & Lakewood Area Choral Society Christmas Concert | Sunday, 12/14/25 | 7:00 pm

OBITUARIES

VIEW OBITUARIES ONLINE. HASTINGSBANNER.COM

Donald Lee Vetter



Donald Lee Vetter, age 94, passed away on Sunday, October 12, 2025, after living a full and dedicated life.

Born in Iowa and raised on a farm in central Illinois, Don proudly served in the Korean conflict beginning in 1952. Following his service, he applied his Army training in microwave communications to a 12-year career with Hughes Aircraft Company in Los Angeles.

In 1966, Don moved his family to Grand Rapids, MI, where he worked for Lear Siegler Corporation and later became Director of Marketing for Jet Electronics. After semi-retirement, he continued to provide technical representation for international companies in the United States.

Never one to stay idle, Don built a home near Gun Lake and began a small excavation business, offering topsoil, gravel, and bulldozing services to the local community—work he enjoyed well into his 80s.

Don is survived by his two sons, Michael Vetter and Randy (Shirley) Vetter; three grandchildren, Matthew Vetter, Brent Vetter, and Lauren (Tom) Tanner; and two great-grandchildren, Tripp and Berklee. He will also be fondly remembered by many dear friends, including members of his beloved hunting camp.

Cremation has taken place. Family and friends are invited to celebrate Don's life on Friday, Oct. 24, 2025 at 11 a.m. at Uccello's on 84th Street and Broadmoor. Lunch will be served following the gathering.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to Wings Home, whose kindness and care meant so much during his final weeks.

Sharry Ann Lee



Sharry Ann Lee, age 72, born September 3, 1953, in Battle Creek, MI, to Beverly (Higbee) Mainstone and Lyle Mainstone, went to be with her Lord and Savior on October 13, 2025.

Sharry grew up in Battle Creek, MI, while also spending time in California before eventually moving back to Michigan — where she met the love of her life and husband, James Lee. They married in 1970 and had three beautiful children. Together, they shared a wonderful 45 years before James' passing in 2015. Sharry worked at Jan's Place Restaurant, where she cleaned for over 20 years.

Sharry was a cherished soul — known for her faith-filled heart, her selflessness, and her kindhearted nature. She was devoted to and loved her family deeply, and she was, in turn, deeply loved by them. She enjoyed the simple things in life: spending time with family and friends, going to garage sales, and playing bingo.

Her grandchildren were the center of her world, and she reveled in their happiness and growth. Sharry's fun-loving and joyful spirit made every moment with her a treasure. She will be greatly missed — until we are reunited with her once again in Heaven.

She attended Gospel Light Baptist Church in Hastings, MI, and her faith in the Lord was evident. She never hesitated to share testimony of the wonderful works of the Lord in her life with anyone who would lend a listening ear.

She is survived by her son, Troy Lee; daughter, Tammy (Paul) Smith; grandchildren, Clayton (Becca) Smith, Ricky Smith, Brittany (Anthony) Millirans, Logan Smith, Kaitlyn (Jacob) Huffman, Parker (Jordan) Smith, and Levi Lee; her adored great-grandchildren, Kaydence, Anyrah, Ellie, Jessa, Delilah, Isabella, and a special place in her heart for her great-grandson Landon, with whom she shared a special bond — and two more great-grandchildren on the way. She is also survived by her brothers, Garry (Cindy) Mainstone, Jimmy Spinney, and Dale (Cecelia) Mainstone; her special sister, Nanette (Harold) Kline; sister, Sheryll Spinney; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Jim Lee; her beloved daughter, Tracy Lee; her beloved grandsons, Blake Baird and Joshua Lee; great-grandson, Blake Huffman; parents: Beverly (Frederick) Spinney and Lyle Mainstone; brother, Larry Caswell; and sister, Robin Mainstone.

Funeral services will be held at Bachman Hebble Funeral Service on Friday, Oct. 17, 2025, at 2 p.m. Burial will follow immediately at East Hickory Cemetery in Hickory Corners, MI.

Arrangements by Bachman Hebble Funeral Service (269) 965 5145. http://www.bachmanhebble.com

Serenity Village nears completion, welcomes new board member

Officials with Serenity Village, an end-of-life care facility, announced that its location in Barry County is nearing completion.

According to a statement by Serenity Village, the news marks a milestone toward opening its doors to serve terminally ill residents from Barry County and surrounding communities.

As Serenity Village prepares to welcome its first guests, officials welcomed Fred Jacobs as the newest member of the organization's board of directors.

"We are thrilled to have Fred Jacobs join our board," said Stephanie Fekkes, Serenity Village chairperson. "His insight and dedication to compassionate care align perfectly with our values and vision."

With construction nearly complete, Serenity Village is also launching a "Year-End Giving Campaign" to help furnish the home, train volunteers and ensure operational readiness.

Persons may make a secure contribution online at serenitybc.org or via mail to Serenity Village, P.O. Box 414, Hastings, MI 49058-0414.

For more information, individuals may also email director@serenitybc.org. — *DM*

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 Best Liner Tanks & Equipment 1301 W. Green St. Hastings, MI 49058 945-9541

RUTLAND CHARTER TOWNSHIP BUDGET HEARING NOTICE

The Rutland Charter Township Board will hold a public hearing on the proposed Township Budget for fiscal year 2026, at a regular meeting to be held on Wednesday, November 12, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at Rutland Charter Township Hall, 2461 Heath Road, Hastings, Michigan.

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 budget is available for public inspection at 2461 Heath Road, Hastings, Michigan.

This notice is posted in compliance with PA 267 of 1976 as amended (Open Meetings Act), MCLA 41.72a(2) (3) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The Rutland Charter Township Board will provide necessary reasonable 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 seven (7) days notice to the Rutland Charter Township Clerk. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Clerk at the address or telephone number listed below.

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

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. 23 – Movie Memories and Milestones watches a 1941 film starring John Wayne, Betty Field and Harry Carey based on Harold Bell Wright's novel "The Shephard of the Hills," 5 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 24 – Friday Storytime, 10:30 a.m.

Saturday, Oct. 25 – PAWS for Reading, 9 a.m.; Rockin' Tots: Music and Movement, 10:30 a.m.

Monday, Oct. 27 – Crafting Passions, 10 a.m.; Spooky Cookie Decorating, 3:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 28 – Baby Café, 10 a.m.; mahjong, 2 p.m.; "The Hibernating Combine" book release and kids' activities with local author Katie Christie, 3:30-6 p.m.; chess club, 5 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 29 – Itsy Bitsy Book Club, 10:30 a.m.; Open Art Studio, 11:30 a.m.; tech help, 2 p.m.; Teen Makerspace, 3:30 p.m.

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

PIERCE CEDAR CREEK INSTITUTE EVENTS

– OCT. 23-30 –

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.

Saturday, Oct. 25 — Trick-or-Treat on the Trails (family-friendly), 6-8:30 p.m. Dress up for nature-inspired, Halloween fun on candlelit trails. Trick-or-treat along a short, quarter-mile trail. Afterwards, come inside for snacks, warm drinks, games and crafts in the Visitor Center. Institute members can register for the event for $5; non-members will pay $8. Families can register for $25.

Monday, Oct. 27 — PCCI Chess Club, 4-6 p.m.

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

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THE HASTINGS BANNER VIEW Newspaper Group

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

RIVERSIDE CEMETERY: Hastings' resting place on the Thornapple

DAVID W. MILLER
Special to The Banner

When we walk among the stones of Riverside Cemetery today—15,957 plots laid out across rolling ground along W. State Road, with 8,502 currently occupied—we are stepping into more than a century-and-a-half of Hastings' collective memory. Every family name that shaped the city's development can be found here, and among them rests a governor of Michigan. But Riverside's beginnings were not inevitable; they came about through necessity, circumstance and the vision of a grieving family in 1869.

THE FIRST BURIAL: Mrs. Nathan Barlow, 1869

On March 31, 1869, the wife of pioneer settler Nathan Barlow was laid to rest northwest of town, in a spot she had chosen for herself. Paul J. Moore, in "History of Hastings on the Thornapple" (2018), writes:

"On Mar. 31, 1869, Nathan Barlow's wife was laid to rest northwest of Hastings, in a place she had personally selected. At that time the city was removing people buried in the old Hastings Cemetery located where a new school was about to be built on what was officially 'the old City Cemetery' located at the southwest corner of Church and Grand streets. No other cemetery had been officially established until Sept. 27, 1870."

Her grave became the seed from which Riverside grew. Within a year, as the old burial ground was vacated, Hastings found itself with a new and lasting resting place.

FROM THE OLD CITY CEMETERY TO RIVERSIDE

The old "City Cemetery," situated at Church and Grand streets, had been the original burial ground when Hastings was still a village. As the community grew, pressure mounted to replace it. By the late 1860s, the school board eyed the site for expansion. Thus, in 1877, arrangements were made with James Swin to respectfully exhume and remove an estimated 130 graves at a rate of $1 per body. Swin ultimately removed and reinterred 127 bodies along with 14 tombstones, resetting them at the emerging cemetery northwest of town (*Hastings Banner*, April 1922).

This transition is more than a local footnote. It reflects a national pattern: in the mid-19th century, as towns matured, crowded village cemeteries were often relocated to more spacious grounds on the outskirts, influenced by the "rural cemetery movement." Riverside's opening in 1870 fits neatly into that era's thinking about landscape, dignity, and permanence.

A CEMETERY OF COMMUNITY AND CONTINUITY

When Riverside was formally dedicated in September 1870, Hastings had its first official cemetery. Families purchased lots, stonecutters supplied monuments, and over the decades, the grounds expanded westward. The cemetery came to reflect the city's layered history—Civil War veterans, prominent business owners, civic leaders, and ordinary families all resting side-by-side.

One prominent Civil War monument has been the focus Memorial Day commemorations since it was originally installed by the Fitzgerald Post in May of 1912. On the reverse side is a plaque it reads:

"FITZGERALD POST was named after Captain Leonard Fitzgerald, of Hastings, killed in battle. Its members were identified with the growth of Hastings from pioneer days until all of them had responded to the last great roll call.

On this spot they assembled annually on Memorial Day to honor with services the memory of their comrades, known and unknown, who had served their country.

Believing that their revered memory will inspire patriotism in the hearts of future generations, the members of the Grand Army Post and the Women's Relief Corps, their faithful auxiliary, and the citizens of Hastings and vicinity and their children erected this monument …."

RIVERSIDE UNDER CITY CARE

For more than a century, Riverside was operated privately. That changed in November 2013, when the City of Hastings formally assumed ownership and management. Records of plots and burials are now kept at City Hall by the clerk/treasurer, while maintenance is handled by the Department of Public Services.

The city has modernized its records with an online GIS mapping system, allowing residents to locate graves by name and section. In 2014, voters approved a cemetery millage, ensuring that Riverside and other city cemeteries would be properly maintained. These measures demonstrate the enduring respect Hastings holds for its dead and for the grounds that preserve their memory.

NOTABLE BURIALS

Among Riverside's thousands of memorials are names well known in Barry County, but one stands out on the state stage: Kimber Cleveland "Kim" Sigler (1894–1953).

Sigler, a native of Schuyler, Neb., came to Michigan, studied law, and eventually built a career as a reform-minded Republican. He rose to become the 40th Governor of Michigan, serving from 1947 to 1949. His administration was marked by attempts to root out corruption and modernize state government, though he lost re-election in 1948. His sudden death in a plane crash in 1953 shocked the state. Today, his grave at Riverside places Hastings firmly in Michigan's political history.

Another figure of note is Brigadier General Albert D. Kniskern (1874–1930), a U.S. Army officer whose career spanned the Spanish-American War and World War I. His presence in Riverside speaks to the military traditions of Barry County, echoed by the rows of veterans' stones that line the grounds.

But Riverside is not defined only by the prominent. Thousands of stones bear the surnames of Hastings' everyday families—shopkeepers, teachers, farmers, factory workers—whose lives collectively wove the fabric of the town. For genealogists, Riverside is an unmatched resource, offering direct connections across generations.



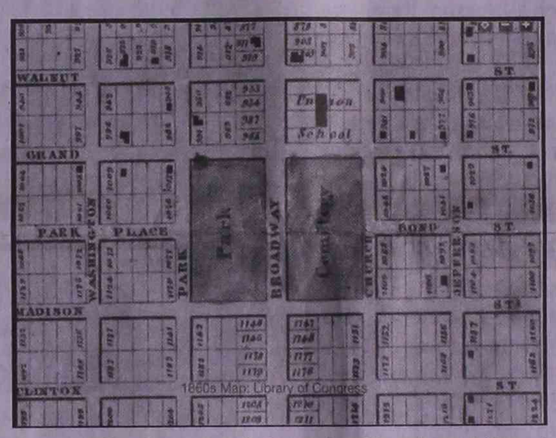
Hastings' Riverside Cemetery is home to 15,957 plots along W. State Road. Currently, 8,502 of those plots are occupied. **Courtesy photos**

THE CEMETERY AS A REFLECTION OF HASTINGS

Walking through Riverside is like turning through the pages of a living book. Victorian obelisks rise beside modest 20th-century granite markers. Family plots cluster beneath oak trees, while newer sections accommodate modern memorials. The design and inscriptions trace changing fashions, religious sentiments, and community values over time.

One can follow the epidemics that swept through the area in the 19th century, marked by small lamb-topped stones for children. War service is recorded in bronze plaques, from Civil War regiments through World War II. Even economic shifts are evident, as marble gave way to durable granite in the 20th century.

In this sense, Riverside is not only a burial ground but also a community archive in stone.



The old "City Cemetery," situated at Church and Grand streets, had been the original burial ground when Hastings was still a village. James Swin removed 127 bodies and 14 tombstones from the old cemetery in 1877, reinterring them at Riverside Cemetery.

PRESERVATION AND MEMORY

The Riverside Cemetery Preservation Advisory Board now works with city officials to balance upkeep with historical preservation. Trees are cared for, roads maintained and older stones stabilized where possible. Community volunteers occasionally assist in clean-up days, echoing the tradition of "decoration days" when families would gather to tend graves.

Digital tools have also reshaped memory. The interment database and Find-a-Grave, with nearly 9,000 memorials, allow descendants across the country to locate family resting places. Photographs of headstones are uploaded, biographical notes added, and Riverside becomes accessible beyond Hastings itself.

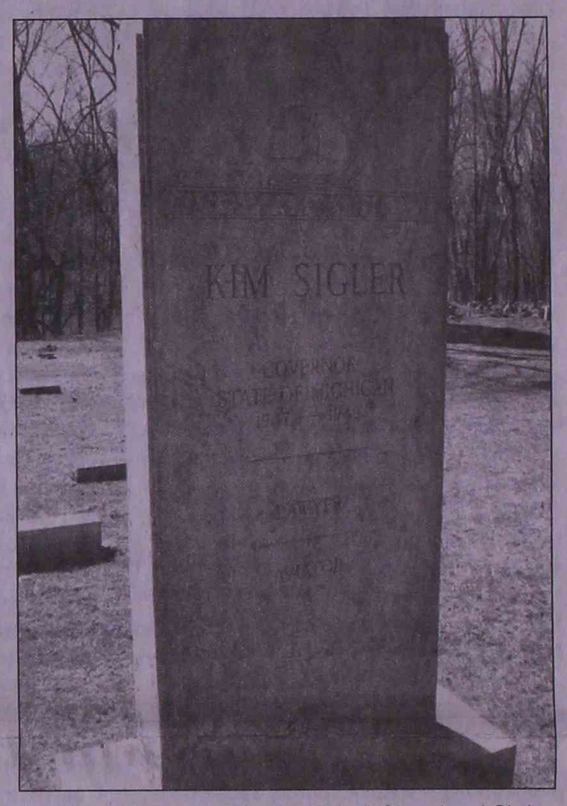
A PLACE OF REST, A PLACE OF STORY

In the end, Riverside Cemetery embodies the twin roles of any burial ground: a place of rest for the departed, and a place of story for the living.

From Mrs. Barlow's solitary grave in 1869 to Governor Sigler's prominent memorial in 1953, from veterans' rows to the stones of Hastings' schoolchildren, Riverside tells a collective story of struggle, achievement and continuity.

For Hastings, it is more than ground set aside—it is a mirror of the town itself. Generations have been gathered here, and generations yet to come will walk its lanes, pausing to read the names, to remember and to give thanks.

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



Michigan Governor Kimber "Kim" Cleveland Sigler is one of the more prominent figures buried at Riverside Cemetery.



Another figure of note buried at Riverside is Brigadier General Albert D. Kniskern (1874–1930), a U.S. Army officer whose career spanned the Spanish-American War and World War I.



One prominent Civil War monument has been the focus Memorial Day commemorations since it was originally installed at Riverside by the Fitzgerald Post in May of 1912.

Kietzman becomes third leader for TK girls in three conference races

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

There were a lot of highs and lows for both Thornapple Kellogg varsity cross country teams this fall in the OK Gold Conference.

But the Trojans put a couple pretty good packs together on the flat, fast course at Riverside Park in Grand Rapids Wednesday at the OK Gold Conference Championship Meet.

Junior Peyton Hardy and senior Madison Kietzman finished off runs to all-conference honors by leading the Trojan team. Amya Gater, Brielle Miller and Carmen Reynolds from the TK girls' team and Grady Galaviz and Owen Bremer from the TK boys' team were honored as honorable mention all-conference runners at the conclusion of the meet too.

Kietzman made it three different leaders in the three conference races for the TK girls. She hit the finish line 11th Wednesday with a time of 21 minutes 40.12 seconds. Hardy was right behind her in 12th place with a time of 21:41.26.

The freshman Miller and juniors Reynolds and Breanna Schut were right behind the two leaders for the TK ladies. Miller placed 14th in 21:51.21, Reynolds 16th in 22:00.52 and Schut 17th in 22:05.80.

Senior Avery Hagemann ran her fastest race of the season to finish as the TK girls' number five and sophomore Karsyn Boersma was the TK team's seventh runner. They were 28th and 31st overall respectively.

Both TK teams were running Wednesday without the student-athlete who lead them at the previous conference jamboree. Gator was out with an injury and Bremer was out sick.

That didn't change the placement in the standings much for the TK ladies, who still finished second, but it was a big hit for the TK boys who finished the day in fifth-place but had the chance to maybe finish as high as third at full-strength.

The South Christian teams won girls' and boys' championships in the conference this fall.

The Sailor girls finished the championship meet with 19 points ahead of TK 70, Wayland 74, West Catholic 95, Northview 103, Grand Rapids Union 187 and Wyoming 197.

South Christian had three girls in the top ten including the three fastest runners. Senior Chloe Rinzema won the race in 18:52.47 with freshman Lily VanEyk the runner-up in 18:53.78 – a new PR for her.

The Sailors won the boys' meet with 28 points ahead of Northview 38, Wayland 115, Grand Rapids Union 116, Thornapple Kellogg 141, Wyoming 147 and West Catholic 156.

Northview's Rhys Holmes and South Christian's Thad VanderLaan, a pair of seniors, both set new personal record times while leading the pack. Holmes won the race in 16:17.80 and VanderLaan checked in at 16:22.60.

The top 15 in the race included seven Northview runners and six South Christian runners. The only two from another team were Wayland's Mason Fein (fifth) and Ethan Manning (seventh).

Junior Grady Galaviz had a strong race to place 19th in 18:17.54 for TK.

'I'm happy for Grady to finally have a competitive race where he looked confident coming all the way through even with a mile to go, and was happy with his performance," TK boys' coach Josh Reynolds said. "That is hopefully a good uplift going into regionals and then Barry County over at Lakewood … We had a really good workout last Thursday and we talked about just that confidence. We moved some of our PR times up a little bit to try and build some confidence and do some mental work on what this race was going to be."

A pair of TK sophomores set new personal records. Wyatt Richardson came in 30th with a time of 19:14.46. Pender Workman was 34th in 19:46.11.

Sophomore Garrett Holzhausen placed 29th in 18:57.95, senior Benjamin Postma was 31st in 19:17.26 and freshman Parker Robinett was 32nd in 19:23.31.

"They were super confident about keeping their group together," coach Reynolds said, "which is what we have been working on all season. Really trying to make that cohesion be throughout the whole race so it wasn't just three individuals or four individuals racing. It really was where they were having those conversations out on the course in terms of what their strategies were and what they wanted to do."

TK's number seven for the day was senior Noah Donker who finished 39th.

Coach Reynolds also said he was pretty pleased with his JV runners. Senior Alex Frizzell, freshman Magnus Galaviz and junior Michael Mullin all set new personal record times. TK also got a PR from sophomore Harper Phillips in the JV girls' race.

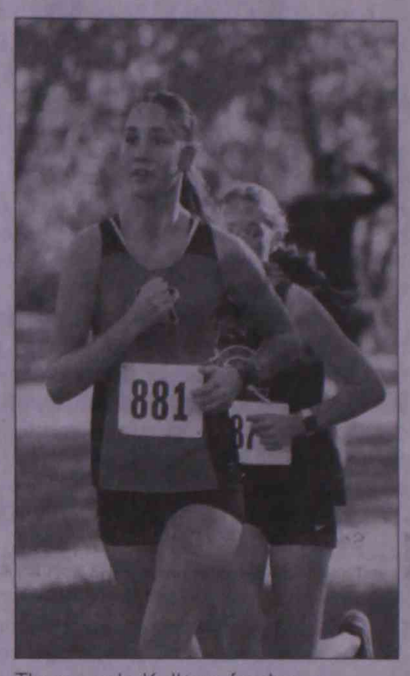
The Trojans return to action Saturday, Oct. 25, at their MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 2 Regional hosted by South Christian.



Thornapple Kellogg senior Madison Kietzman (left) and junior Peyton Hardy (second from left) are honored among the all-conference athletes at the end of the OK Gold Conference Championship meet at Riverside Park in Grand Rapids Wednesday, Oct. 15. **Photos by Brett Bremer**



Thornapple Kellogg sophomore Breanna Schut runs to a 17th-place time of 22 minutes 5.80 seconds at the OK Gold Conference Championship at Riverside Park in Grand Rapids Oct. 15.



Thornapple Kellogg freshman Parker Robinett rounds a final turn before the finish just ahead of teammates Wyatt Richardson and Benjamin Postma Wednesday, Oct. 15, during the OK Gold Conference Championship at Riverside Park in Grand Rapids

SYNOPSIS
PRAIRIEVILLE TOWNSHIP
Regular Meeting October 15, 2025

Called to order at 6:30 p.m.
Present: DeVries, Doster, Goebel, Pence
Agenda and Minutes approved
Commissioner's Report
Public comments were received.
Department Reports were received.
Approved: Payment of bills
Weed Assessments
Absentee Vote Counting Board
Public and Board comments were received.
Meeting adjourned. 7:35 p.m.

Submitted by:
Rod Goebel, Clerk

Maple Valley teams run well at Big 8 Conference Championship

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Lion leaders Tuesday, Oct. 14, both ran their second fastest time of the season, and overall the Maple Valley varsity boys' and girls' cross country teams performed well at the Big 8 Conference Championship they hosted.

The Maple Valley girls wrapped up a fifth-place finish in the conference with a fifth-place Tuesday finish.

Freshman Melanie Jones, pushing for a top ten spot just missed that mark while leading the Maple Valley girls. She placed 11th overall in 22 minutes 12.45 seconds.

"She gave it everything, just missing a personal record by three seconds," Lion head coach Tiffany Blakely said. "She ran a really solid race the whole time, and she even said she ran better than she thought she would."

The Lion team had an addition and a subtraction Tuesday. Senior Athena Morehouse got to compete for the first time this fall, although senior Ada Marie Blakely missed out on the race leaving the team still with four finishers,.

"Morehouse did exactly what I was hoping she would, placing between senior Izabelle Soper and sophomore Lydia Emerick," coach Blakely said. "We are looking beyond this race at the regional final and it improves our overall standing having Morehouse on the team.

Soper finished 23rd overall in 24:46.36. Morehouse was 29th in 25:43.28. After a tough race Saturday at the Greater Lansing Championship, Emerick bounced back to place 35th in 27:12.91.

Junior Tyler Curtis led the Maple Valley boys with a time of 19:25.38 that put him in 18th place overall.

"Curtis ran a very aggressive race, really pushing the pace for the first two miles to finish with his second fastest time ever," coach Blakely said.

The Lion boys' team did get five racers Tuesday. Junior Cameron Murray was the team's number two with a 26th-place time of 20:31.76.

Sophomores Grady Wilkes and Kelvin Davis both were just off their fastest times of the year. Wilkes placed 37th in 22:12.23 and Davis 41st in 22:53.94. It was just the second varsity cross country race ever for Davis.

Lion junior Quincy Page ran to a 45th-place time of 23:51.48.

The Lions were seventh in the final conference standings this fall.

Quincy won the boys' meet with 51 points ahead of Bronson 64, Union City 66, Concord 86, Stockbridge 134, Springport 151, Maple Valley 163 and Reading 205.

Union City senior Ben Gautsche ran his fastest race of the season, 16:55.95, to win it.

Concord took the girls' victory with 34 points ahead of Bronson 43, Union City 76, Stockbridge 125, Maple Valley 135, Springport 146, Quincy 152 and Reading 185.

Bronson senior Ashlynn Harris was the girls' meet champ with a time of 19:49.56.

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION REVIEW HEARING

The Barry County Road Commission will be holding a Natural Beauty Determination Review Hearing to hear support or objection of the abandonment of the Natural Beauty status for Engle Road. The review hearing will be held at the Irving Township Hall, 3425 Wing Road, Hastings, Michigan at 7 PM on November 10, 2025. If you are unable to attend please feel free to submit a response to the road commission up until November 7th. Additional information can be obtained by contacting the Barry County Road Commission at (269) 945-3449 or by email at jwelch@barrycrc.org.

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
BARRY COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. and JUDGE 25-30146-DE
Hon. William Doherty

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

Estate of George Lawrence Perse Jr. Date of birth: 07/24/1963.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, George L. Perse Jr., died 06/02/2025.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Cheri Ruzza, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 206 West Court Street, Ste. 302, Hastings, MI 49058 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: 10/20/25
Cheri Ruzza
6278 North 12th St.
Kalamazoo, MI 49009
269-365-1778

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.

City of Hastings
COUNTY OF BARRY, STATE OF MICHIGAN

ORDINANCE NO. 632

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 90 OF THE HASTINGS CODE OF 1970, AS AMENDED, BY AMENDING ARTICLE VII-C 420 E MILL PUD

THE CITY OF HASTINGS ORDAINS:

SECTION I.

Chapter 90 of the Code of Ordinances, City of Hastings, Michigan, is amended to amend Article VII-C as follows:

Article VII-C: 420 E MILL PUD

Sec. 90-730.13. - Zoning map.

The zoning ordinance of the City of Hastings is hereby amended by rezoning the following described lands from the D-1, Industrial District to the PUD, Planned Unit Development District, in accordance with the final development plan of the 420 E Mill Planned Unit Development, subject to all the terms and conditions of this division:

DESCRIPTION

ALL OF LOTS 330, 332, 333, AND 334 AND PART OF LOTS 329, 331, AND 335 AND PART OF VACATED PLATTED HANOVER STREET, AND PART OF VACATED PLATTED BOLTWOOD STREET, ALL IN THE ORIGINAL PLAT OF THE VILLAGE (NOW CITY) OF HASTINGS, BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS: COMMENCING AT THE NORTH ¼ CORNER OF SECTION 17, TOWN 3 NORTH, RANGE 8 WEST: THENCE S00°15'23"W, 1121.83 FEET ALONG THE NORTH-SOUTH ¼ LINE OF SAID SECTION 17 TO THE SOUTH LINE OF PLATTED MILL STREET; THENCE ALONG SAID SOUTH LINE N89°46'48"W, 534.08 FEET TO THE TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE S34°44'13"W, 359.13 FEET TO AN INTERMEDIATE TRAVERSE LINE OF THE NORTH BAND OF THE THORNAPPLE RIVER; THENCE ALONG SAID TRAVERSE LINE N50°51'15"W, 331.34 FEET; THENCE CONTINUING ALONG SAID TRAVERSE LINE N68°47'24"W, 82.56 FEET TO THE END OF SAID INTERMEDIATE TRAVERSE LINE; THENCE ALONG THE WEST LINE OF VACATED BOLTWOOD STREET N00°19'59"E, 58.15 FEET TO SAID SOUTH LINE OF MILL STREET; THENCE ALONG SAID SOUTH LINE S89°46'48"E, 538.24 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. INCLUDING LAND LYING BETWEEN SAID INTERMEDIATE TRAVERSE LINE AND THE WATERS OF THE THORNAPPLE RIVER, AS LIMITED BY THE SIDE LINES EXTENDED TO THE WATER EDGE. CONTAINING 1.95 ACRES OF LAND, MORE OR LESS TO SAID INTERMEDIATE TRAVERSE LINE, PLUS AS UNDETERMINED AND VARIABLE AREA BETWEEN SAID TRAVERSE LINE AND THE WATERS OF THE THORNAPPLE RIVER. SPLIT/COMBINED ON 01/13/2017 FROM 55-001-001-00.

General Location: 328 E Mill St. This parcel contains approximately 2.152 acres. and;

The zoning ordinance of the City of Hastings is hereby amended by rezoning the following described lands from Royal Coach PUD to Planned Unit Development, in accordance with the final development plan of 420 E Mill Planned Unit Development, subject to all the terms and conditions of this division:

DESCRIPTION

ALL OF LOTS 322 THRU 328, LOTS 336 THRU 348, PART OF LOTS 329 AND 335, ALL OF THE BLANK LOTS LYING WEST OF LOT 348, SOUTH OF APPLE STREET AND NORTHERLY OF THE THORNAPPLE RIVER, AND PART OF VACATED HANOVER, EAST AND APPLE STREETS, ALL IN THE ORIGINAL PLAT OF THE VILLAGE (NOW CITY) OF HASTINGS, BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCING AT THE NORTH 1/4 POST OF SECTION 17, TOWN 3 NORTH, RANGE 8 WEST, HASTINGS TOWNSHIP, BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN; THENCE S00°15'25"W 1121.72 FEET ALONG THE NORTH-SOUTH 1/4 LINE OF SAID SECTION 17 TO THE SOUTH LINE OF PLATTED MILL STREET (SAID POINT LYING 1.39 FEET EAST OF AN IRON PIPE); THENCE S00°15'25"W, 499.60 FEET ALONG SAID 1/4 LINE TO AN INTERMEDIATE TRAVERSE LINE OF THE NORTH BANK OF THE THORNAPPLE RIVER; THENCE S70°55'22"W, 268.20 FEET ALONG SAID INTERMEDIATE TRAVERSE LINE; THENCE N72°46'49"W, 215 .56 FEET ALONG SAID INTERMEDIATE TRAVERSE LINE; THENCE N50o12'27"W, 358 .27 FEET TO THE END OF SAID INTERMEDIATE TRAVERSE LINE; THENCE N34 °44'13"E, 360 .42 FEET TO SAID SOUTH LINE OF MILL STREET; THENCE S89°46'48"E, 531.53 FEET ALONG SAID SOUTH LINE TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. INCLUDING ALL LAND LYING BETWEEN SAID INTERMEDIATE TRAVERSE LINE AND THE WATERS OF THE THORNAPPLE RIVER AS LIMITED BY THE SOUTHERLY EXTENSION OF THE SIDELINES. CONTAINING 7.71 ACRES OF LAND, MORE OR LESS, TO SAID INTERMEDIATE TRAVERSE LINE, PLUS AN UNDETERMINED AND VARIABLE AREA BETWEEN SAID TRAVERSE LINE AND THE WATERS OF THE THORNAPPLE RIVER.

General Location: 420 E Mill St. This parcel contains approximately 8.21 acres.

Sec. 90-730.14. - Development plan.

The rezoning of the above-described lands to the planned unit development district, in accordance with the final amended PUD plan of the 420 E Mill Planned Unit Development ("the development") is subject to all the following terms and conditions:

The 420 E Mill Planned Unit Development shall comply in all respects with the final PUD plan of the development. The final development plan has a date of July 23, 2025, as prepared by AR Engineering on behalf of Copper Rock Construction and includes the application for planned unit development rezoning, the PUD narrative, architectural elevation drawings of the proposed buildings and other materials submitted with the application, except to the extent that any such materials may be inconsistent with this division.

In the case of conflicts or discrepancies between any part of the final amended development plan and the terms of this division, this division shall control.

Sec. 90-730.15. - Permitted uses.

Only the principal and accessory uses noted below shall be allowed in the 420 E Mill PUD District:

(a) Building "A" consisting of eighteen (18) one-bedroom units, thirty (30) two-bedroom units, and three (3) three-bedroom units for an overall unit count of fifty-one (51).

(b) Building "B" consisting of nine (9) one-bedroom units, forty-two (42) two-bedroom units, and three (3) three-bedroom units for an overall unit count of fifty-four (54) units.

(c) Building "C" consisting of nine (9) one-bedroom units, nineteen (19) two-bedroom units, and two (2) three-bedroom units for an overall unit count of thirty (30) units.

(d) Building "D" Barry County Food and Arts Center consisting of parking lot areas to the west and northeast of building "D" consisting of 10,740 square feet with a Child Care Center and other uses consistent with this Article.

Sec. 90-730.16. - District Regulations.

The district regulations for the 420 E Mill PUD will be the same as A-1 (Sec. 90-394) with the following departures:

(a) Building front setback for multi-family buildings with more than four dwelling units is a minimum of 5 feet.

(b) The unit density is 24.5 units per acre of development area and multiple family buildings to exceed 24 units per building.

(c) Maximum building height is 40 feet.

(d) 30 feet building separation

Sec. 90-730.17. - Development requirements.

(1) *Street and access*.

(a) Ingress and egress shall be by way of three (3) driveways from Mill Street to the north.

(b) Pedestrian access will also be by the existing trestle bridge over the Thornapple River.

(2) *Utilities.* The uses shall be served by public water and sanitary sewer as approved by the director of public services for the City of Hastings.

(3) *Surface water drainage.* Stormwater management plan as approved by director of public services for the City of Hastings with review by the Department of Energy, Great Lakes, and Environment.

(4) *Open space*. Development will provide approximately 3.50 acres or 35% of open space on the site.

(5) *Preservation of natural area*. Placement of buildings, site improvements, and open space is largely respectful of wetlands, floodplain, Butler Creek, and the Thornapple River frontage.

(6) *Landscaping*. Landscaping shall be provided in compliance with Article XII and approved by administrative staff.

(7) *Lighting*. Lighting plans shall be approved by administrative staff.

(8) *Signs*. Signs for the 420 E Mill PUD shall comply with all regulations of article XI of the Hastings Zoning Ordinance as are applicable to the use.

(9) *Parking*. 259 parking spaces required, and 267 parking spaces will be provided.

(10) *Uses and development regulations not specified.* For all uses and development regulations not specified in this division, the requirements of the multifamily buildings shall use the requirements of the A-1 zone.

Sec. 90-730.18. - Findings.

The city council hereby determines that the final amended site plan and PUD zone for 420 E Mill project complies with the provisions of the Hastings Zoning Ordinance and promotes its intent and purposes. The council also finds that granting the PUD rezoning will result in a recognizable and substantial benefit to the users of the project and to the community and that the proposed type and density of use shall not result in a material increase in the need for public services, facilities and utilities, and shall not place a material burden upon the subject or surrounding land or property owners and occupants or the natural environment.

The council further finds that based on the design of the PUD, the proposed use is appropriate for the proposed location and is not likely to lead to a significant change in the uses master planned in the area adjacent to the 420 E Mill PUD. Also, the proposed development will not have a significant negative impact on the surrounding area and the proposed development will be under single ownership and control for completing the project in conformity with this article.

SECTION II.

If any article, section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this ordinance is, for any reason, held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct, and independent provision, and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance.

SECTION III.

All ordinances or part of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION IV

This ordinance shall become effective upon its adoption and publication as provided by City Charter.

Moved by Member Brehm, with support by Member Resseguie, that Ordinance No. 632 be adopted as read.

YEAS: Barlow, Bergeron, Brehm, Devroy, McLean, Resseguie, Rocha, Stenzelbarton and Tossava

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Adoption Date: October 13, 2025

Effective Date: October 24, 2025

First Reading: September 29, 2025

Second Reading: October 13, 2025

CITY OF HASTINGS
Linda Perin
City Clerk

CERTIFICATE

The undersigned, being the duly qualified and acting Clerk of the City of Hastings, Michigan, does hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of an Ordinance adopted by the Hastings City Council, of the City of Hastings, at a regular meeting of the City Council on the 13th day of October 2025, at which meeting a quorum was present and remained throughout, and that the original of said Ordinance is on file in the records of the City of Hastings. I further certify that the meeting was conducted, and public notice was given pursuant to and in compliance with Act No. 267, Public Acts of Michigan of 1976, as amended, and that minutes were kept and will be or have been made available as required thereby.

Linda Perin
City Clerk

Local divers amazing at MISCA Meet; Slagel wins, Yarger third

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The only girls to surpass the 400-point mark at the state finals in 2024 were the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 1 and Division 3 state champions.

Grand Rapids Gators' junior Lydia Slagel put herself on that level over the weekend at the MISCA Meet at the Holland Community Aquatic Center.

Taking on 32 of the state's best high school divers, Slagel took the championship in the diving event with a new personal and team record score of 406.25 points in an 11-dive competition.

Slagel was fourth at the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 1 Girls' Swimming and Diving Finals as a junior in 2024. She was the only girls to score more than 400 points at the 2025 MISCA Meet.

Kalamazoo Central senior, another state medalist from Division 1 a year ago, was second with a score of 387.80 points and Delton Kellogg/Hastings sophomore Aubrey Yarger, the MHSAA L.P. Division 2 diving state champion from 2024, was third with a score of 374.65 points.

Slagel and Yarger were the lone representatives for their teams at the annual late-season gathering of the top varsity girls' from across the state.

Diving regionals this season are set for Nov. 13. Yarger is working to compete in the MHSAA Division 2 Diving Regional at Northview Nov. 13, and Slagel in the Division 1 Diving Regional in Hudsonville.

The girls and their teammates have their respective conference meets on the slate before regionals. Yarger and the Delton Kellogg/Hastings girls will be a part of the Southwestern and Central Michigan Swim Conference Championships Nov. 7-8 hosted by Harper Creek High School.

Slagel and the Gators, the Thornapple Kellogg, Hopkins, West Michigan Aviation Academy and West Catholic co-op, will be a part of the OK Conference East Division Championships that same weekend.



Grand Rapids Gators junior Lydia Slagel celebrates her championship in the diving competition at the MISCA Meet in Holland over the weekend with diving coach Todd Bates. **Photo provided**

Many Panthers reaching their peak as regional race nears

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

A trio of Panthers in the varsity scoring group set new personal records, and eight guys overall ran their best time yet, at the Kalamazoo Christian Invitational Saturday.

The Delton Kellogg boys were seventh in a field of 14 teams at the race. The Delton Kellogg girls' team didn't have enough runners for a team score, but had a trio of new personal records set too.

Delton Kellogg sophomores Jace Hilton and Ayden Jones improved their personal records in the boys' race. Hilton placed 38th in 18 minutes 36.87 seconds. Jones was 45th in 19:04.13.

Junior Jack Favreau set a PR while finishing in the seventh spot for the DK boys. He was 86th overall in 20:38.03.

Junior Landon Madden led the Delton Kellogg boys with a time of 17:41.21 which put him 20th overall. DK senior Nick Muday was 30th in 18:13.52.

Freshman Malachi Allersma was the DK team's number five with a 52nd-place time of 19:22.91. DK sophomore Joseph McCoy was 69th in 19:56.02.

Hackett Catholic Prep senior Marek Butkiewicz was the day's individual champion on the boys' side with a time of 15:20.14. Three Oaks River Valley freshman Mason Rogers was the runner-up in 16:14.70 and his senior teammate Landon Rogers placed third in 16:29.33. Hackett senior Sean Siems placed fourth in 16:37.46.

The Kalamazoo Homeschool Sports team won the boys' meet with 66 points ahead of South Christian 86, Covenant Christian 117, Schoolcraft 129, Hackett Catholic Prep 136, Three Oaks River Valley 149, Delton Kellogg 171, Union City 178, Grand Rapids Union 206, Watervliet 228, Bridgman 258 and Kalamazoo Christian 339.

A South Christian team ranked fourth in the state in Division 2 dominated the girls' race with six of the first seven finishers and just 19 points overall.

South Christian sophomore Tiffany DeMaagd won the girls' race in 18:53.22. Hackett Catholic Prep senior Emma Riker was second in 19:33.79. The next five finishers were South Christian girls – including four freshmen.

Delton Kellogg was led by senior Elli Timmerman who placed 83rd in 24:59.21.

The other three Panthers finished within about 15 seconds of each other with new personal records. Junior Evelynn Courneya was 93rd in 25:23.17. Freshman Olivia Vincent was 95th in 25:34.77. Junior Makayla Lutz placed 96th in 25:37.76.

Covenant Christian was second in the girls' team standings with 67 points ahead of Hackett Catholic Prep 77, Kalamazoo Homeschool Sports 109, Bridgman 126, Watervliet 185, Union City 191, Three Oaks River Valley 236, Schoolcraft 255 and Grand Rapids Union 298.

The Delton Kellogg teams will head to Allendale Saturday for their MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 3 Regional. The girls' race takes off at 10 a.m. and the boys run at 11:00. Division 4 races will also be held during the morning session in Allendale with Division 1 and 2 regional races in the afternoon.

Lakewood will host the Barry County Meet Monday, Oct. 27, at Lakewood High School.

Vikes have some of their best runs of the season at league championship

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Lakewood junior Kaden Rohrbacher set a new personal record to place 11th at the Capital Area Activities Conference White Division Championship Wednesday, Oct. 15, in Charlotte.

Rohrbacher traversed the course at the Country Mill Orchard and Cider Mill in 17 minutes 33.9 seconds. He bested his previous PR by a little over 20 seconds.

He was one of two Viking guys to run his fastest race of the season Wednesday. Sophomore Dakota Harmer turned in a new PR of 20:08.1 to place 38th.

The Lakewood girls' team had four runners run their fastest race of the season.

The Lakewood boys were fifth in the days' standings and the girls were seventh.

Lansing Catholic won both boys and girls' championships on the day.

The Cougars took the boys' meet with 24 points ahead of Portland 50, Ionia 78, Olivet 100, Lakewood 124, Charlotte 144 and Lansing Sexton 219.

Portland senior Andrew Feldpausch won the boys' race in 16:30.8 and he was one of six guys to finish in less than 17 minutes. Lansing Catholic had the next three finishers and six Cougars were among the top ten.

Senior Lucas Gates led the way for Lansing Catholic with a runner-up time of 16:39.5.

Junior Bryce Goodemoot was the Vikings' number two with a time of 18:52.4. Sophomore Ethan Langmaack placed 36th in 19:48.9. The fifth scorer for Lakewood was sophomore Gibson Yeiter who clocked in 54th with a time of 21:41.7.

Lansing Catholic won the girls' meet with 26 points ahead of Olivet 57, Charlotte 79, Ionia 108, Eaton Rapids 137, Portland 141 and Lakewood 199.

Sophomore Heidi Carter improved her personal record to 24:10l9 to lead the Lakewood ladies. She was 45th overall. Viking senior Emma Tidd turned in her best time of the fall at 25:44.6 to place 55th.

The Viking team got a personal record of 29:35.5 from junior Laurelye Carter who was 72nd. Viking senior Marci Nurenberg ran her fastest race of the season to place 75th in 31:14.1. Jayda Miller was the Vikings' number five with an 80th-place time of 35:55.7.

Olivet sophomore Tiya Feldpausch won the girls' race in 18:17.4. Eaton Rapids sophomore Remie Ellis was the runner-up in 18:23.7. Lansing Catholic junior Grace Wonch was third in 18:30.5.

The Cougar team had the next three finishers behind Wonch, and there were seven Cougars among the top 12 finishers overall.

HOPE TOWNSHIP
BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLL
CLOVERDALE, WILKINSON, JONES (MUD) LAKES
AQUATIC PLANT CONTROL SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DIST. 2025-2

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

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Township Supervisor and Assessor have prepared and filed in the office of the Township Clerk for public examination a special assessment roll covering all properties within the Cloverdale, Wilkinson, Jones (Mud) Lakes Aquatic Plant Control Special Assessment District No. 2025-2 benefited by the proposed aquatic plant control project. The roll has been prepared for the purpose of assessing the costs of the project within the aforesaid special assessment district, which district is more particularly shown on the plans on file with the Township Clerk. The costs of the project are as shown on the estimate of costs on file with the Township Clerk at the Township Hall, 5463 S M-43 Hwy, Hastings, Michigan. The project cost is $300,000, which is the amount to be collected by special assessment. The amount assessed against each property in the district will be $340.00 per year for front lots and $110.00 per year for back lots. If extra funds are available at the end of the term of the special assessment, the Township Board reserves the right to levy an assessment of a lesser amount in the final year or to authorize the carry-over of surplus funds to a new special assessment district. The term of the special assessment will be five years, 2026 through 2030 inclusive.

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

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township Board will meet at the Hope Township Hall, 5463 S M-43 Hwy, Hastings, MI on October 28, 2025 at 6:30 p.m., for the purpose of reviewing the special assessment roll, hearing any objections thereto and confirming the roll as submitted or revised or amended.

The roll may be examined at the office of the Township Clerk during regular business days until the time of the hearing and may further be examined at the hearing. Any person objecting to the assessment roll shall file his/her objections in writing with the Township Clerk before the close of the hearing or within such other time as the Township Board may grant.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that appearance and protest at the hearing in the special assessment proceedings is required in order to appeal the amount of the special assessment to the Michigan Tax Tribunal. An owner or party in interest, or his or her agent, may appear at the hearing to protest the special assessment in writing, or may file his/her appearance and protest by letter before the hearing, and in that event, appearance at the public hearing shall not be required.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that after the public hearing, the Township Board may confirm the roll as submitted or as revised or amended; may provide by resolution for payment of special assessments with interest; may provide by resolution for payment of special assessments in full before a date certain; and may provide by resolution for such other matters as are permitted by law with regard to special assessment for aquatic plant control projects.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that if a special assessment is confirmed at or following the above public hearing, a property owner or any person having in interest in the real property specially assessed may file a written appeal of the special assessment with the Michigan Tax Tribunal within 30 days after confirmation of the special assessment roll.

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

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

PRAIRIEVILLE TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
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 13, 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 Planning Commission's consideration by emailing or mailing those comments to the Planning Commission 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 property owner, Gregory Koning, 28484 62nd Ave, Lawton, MI, 49065 for a Special Land Use/Site Plan Review to allow for an accessory building on vacant property and failing to meet the size and locational requirements pursuant to provisions in Section 4.20"Residential Accessory Buildings" of the Prairieville Township Zoning Ordinance. The subject site is 11240 S Oak Dr, Delton, MI, 49046, parcel number 08-12-240-042-01. The subject site is currently zoned R2- Medium Density Residential.
2. Such other business as may properly come before the Planning Commission

The Prairieville Township Planning Commission and Township Board reserve the right to make changes in the above-mentioned proposed amendment(s) at or following the public hearing.

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 PLANNING COMMISSION
By: Fritz Bork, Chairperson
Prairieville Township Hall
11015 S. Norris Rd.
Delton, Michigan 49046

Randall makes it three conference championships in three seasons

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Hastings junior Caroline Randall won the Interstate-8 Athletic Conference Championship for the third time Thursday, Oct. 16, at Harper Creek High School.

Randall ran to a winning time of 18 minutes 22.18 seconds for the Hastings varsity girls' cross country team. No one else in the conference was even close. Parma Western sophomore Bridget Fullerton was the runner-up in 19:46.68.

The Saxon junior has won all eight Interstate-8 Athletic Conference races she has competed in over the past three seasons. Now sights are set on getting back to the state finals. Hastings will compete in its MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 2 Regional at South Christian High School Saturday morning.

Randall has been a medalist at the MHSAA L.P. Division 2 State Finals in each of her first two varsity seasons.

As a team, the Hastings girls and the Hastings boys both placed sixth Thursday at the conference championship meet in Battle Creek.

The Harper Creek girls won a team championship with 56 points outscoring Parma Western 64, Marshall 74, Coldwater 116, Pennfield 119, Hastings 127 and Jackson Northwest 162.

The Saxon girls' team had three of its seven scoring runners set new personal best times and two others who ran their fastest race of this season. Freshman Emerson Leary had her fastest race yet placing 21st in 22:46.38. She got closer to the front in each of the three conference races this year placing 28th at the first conference jamboree and 23rd at the second.

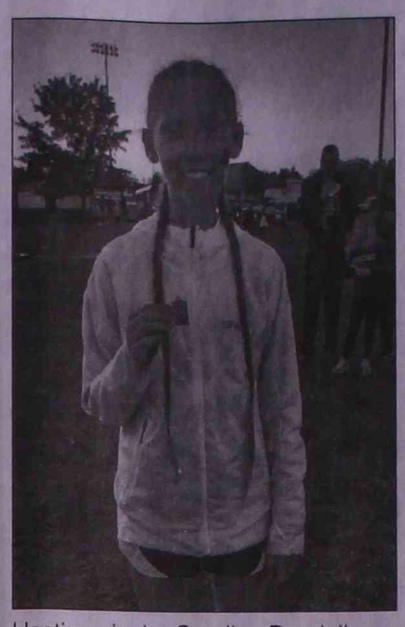
Junior Chloe Pirtle ran her fastest race of the season placing 36th in 24:04.04. Two more Saxon juniors, Lilianna Enyart and Sucel Peral both set new personal records. Enyart was 43rd in 25:17.76 and Peral 44th in 25:28.06.

Senior Maddie Elzinga was the Saxons' number six in 45th place and junior Alexa DeCamp ran her fastest race of the fall to place 53rd.

All seven conference schools were represented in the top eight of the girls' race. Marshall sophomore Alaina Dillon was third in 19:55.89. Harper Creek senior Julia Faber placed fourth in 19:57.27. Parma Wester was the only team with two in the top eight as junior Natalie Kuhl was fifth in 20:08.85.

Things didn't sort out that way in the boys' race as Parma Western, the team ranked fifth in the state in Division 2, won with just 24 points. Although only seven count in the team scoring, there were eight Parma Western runners among the first 12 finishers.

Marshall junior Abraham McHugh won the race in a personal record time of 15:33.88. Western senior Edison Lopeman was second in 15:51.16. Western also had junior Ryan Good third in 16:01.98 and freshman Logan Cristian fourth in 16:04.58.



Hastings junior Caroline Randall celebrates winning the Interstate-8 Athletic Conference girls' cross country championship for the third consecutive season Thursday at Harper Creek High School in Battle Creek. **Photo provided**

Harper Creek junior Christian Ayres was fifth in 16:21.16 and his senior teammate Cooper Gardner placed sixth in 16:39.84. The next four guys across the finish line were from Western.

Harper Creek was second in the day's team standings with 60 points ahead of Marshall 75, Coldwater 87, Northwest 142, Hastings 171 and Pennfield 184.

The Saxon boys' team had six of its seven scoring runners turn in their top time of the season, and four of those were new PRs. The only one not at top speed was the leader, sophomore Tanner Krzysik, who placed 31st in 18:57.16.

Sophomore Alex Timmers was right behind him at the end with a PR of 19:03.92 that put him in 32nd place.

Saxon junior Caleb Kramer placed 42nd in a PR of 19:44.69. Saxon sophomore Parker Erb had his fastest time of the season at 20:04.56 to place 47th.

Saxon seniors Carter Krzysik and Spencer Crozier both improved their personal records. Carter came in 55th in 20:48.53. Crozier was 58th in 21:01.80. The Saxon boys' number seven was freshman Ryan Harris who moved his PR to 21:39.68 to place 63rd.

The Saxons will follow up their regional run Saturday by heading to Lakewood High School Monday for the annual Barry County Meet with Thornapple Kellogg, Hastings, Delton Kellogg, Maple Valley and the host Vikings.

Saxons bested by three foes at TK Quad, push Defenders to three sets

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Sparta swept through its three opponents at the Thornapple Kellogg Quad in Middleville Thursday, pulling out two tough sets against the host Trojans to finish the day as the top team.

The Hastings girls were bested in their three matches in Middleville.

The Trojans closed the day with a 25-16, 25-14 win over the visiting Saxons.

Hastings opened the evening of volleyball with a tough three-set loss to Tri-Unity Christian by the scores of 25-11, 21-25, 25-23.

The Saxons picked up their play in the second set against the Tri-Unity Christian girls. A solid run on the serve of Allison Tefft pushed Hastings to a 17-13 lead midway through the second set.

Tri-Unity went on an early run in set three to push a 4-4 tie to an 8-4 lead. The Saxons kept battling back. The Defenders got their lead to 16-9, but then the Saxons were able to go on a run on the serve of Kyla Brown. A kill by Bella Friddle and a Brown ace were big parts of the rally that got the Saxons within 16-15 before the Defenders righting things during a time-out.

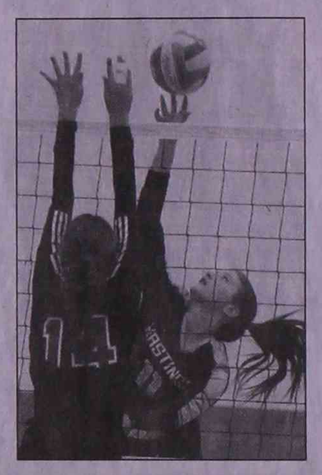
Kills by Isabella Perez and Olivia Friddle for the Saxons kept the set close late, but the Defenders eventually finished off the two-point win in the third set.

Sparta bested the Saxons 25-17, 25-19 in their match-up.

Sparta's win over the host Trojans was by the scores of 26-24, 26-24. TK beat the Tri-Unity Christian girls 25-12, 25-17.

Sparta completed its 3-0 day with a 25-21, 25-18 win over Tri-Unity Christian.

The Hastings girls head to Parma Western for the Interstate-8 Athletic Conference Tournament Saturday. Volleyball starts at 9 a.m.



Saxon outside hitter Isabella Perez (11) rises up to hit an attack against Tri Unity Christian Thursday during a quad a Thornapple Kellogg High School in Middleville Thursday. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

DK/HHS girls first in five events during dual with Marshall Redhawks

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Aubrey Yarger followed up an impressive finish at the MISCA Meet by winning the diving competition in a Southwestern and Central Michigan Swim Conference (SCC) dual with Marshall for the Delton Kellogg/Hastings varsity girls' swimming and diving team.

It was a really good day for DK/Hastings sprinter Lilly Randall too, who won the 50-yard freestyle and scored a runner-up finish in the 100-yard freestyle.

Despite their best efforts, and a number of new personal records set across the team in Marshall Tuesday, the host Redhawks took a 95-70 conference win.

Yarger won the diving competition with a score of 241.25 points. Yarger was just coming off a third-place finish at the MISCA Meet in Holland over the weekend where she competed against 32 of the state's top divers. Her DK/Hastings teammate Jillian Brandli added a third-place score of 159.15 Tuesday, finishing just behind Marshall's Lexi Spencer.

Randall won the 50-yard freestyle for the DK/Hastings team in 28.11 seconds, and she scored a runner-up time of 1 minute 1.09 seconds which is a new season best. Marshall's Claire Thomas won that 100 freestyle in 1:00.29. Randall was eight hundredths of a second ahead of her nearest competitor, Marshall's Maria Dent, in the 50 freestyle.

The DK/Hastings team closed out the evening getting the first place points in the final three events. Shiloh Crandall turned in a personal best time of 1:41.01 to take first in the 100-yard backstroke. Kassidy Peake was first in the 100-yard breaststroke in 1:43.48. The DK/Hastings team of Petra Foster, Brandli, Peake and Crandall took first in the 400-yard freestyle relay with a time of 5:18.20.

The DK/Hastings girls have another dual at home against SCC foe Coldwater this evening, Oct. 23, at 6 p.m.

HOPE TOWNSHIP ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

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

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Hope Township Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a meeting and public hearing on Thursday, November 13th, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the Hope Township Hall, 5463 South M-43, Hastings, Michigan 49058, within the Township, to consider the following variance request:

Michael Lennon is requesting relief from Sections 8.4, 10.2, 10.18, 16.6, and 19.3 of the Hope Township Zoning Ordinance for the construction of a covered deck attached to an existing nonconforming single-family dwelling on a nonconforming lot of record located at 9288 Lakeview Drive, Delton, MI 49046 (parcel number 08-07-340-022-00). If granted, the variance request would allow the covered deck to encroach twenty-six (26) feet into the required lakefront setback (described in detail below). The Hope Township Zoning Ordinance requires that buildings and structures be set back fifty (50) feet from the front (lakefront) lot line on lots in the RL, Residential Lake zoning district, which can be reduced by fifty (50) percent on lawfully nonconforming lots, except that a structure shall not be any closer to a lakeshore than a straight line connecting the nearest building on each side of the lot. Further, covered decks are allowed to project eight (8) feet into the required setback. In this case, the straight line results in a required setback of ninety (90) feet. Thus, a variance has been requested.

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

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

HOPE TOWNSHIP ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
Hope Township Hall
5463 South M-43
Hastings, Michigan 49058
(269) 948-2464

HOPE TOWNSHIP
BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLL
WALL LAKE AQUATIC PLANT CONTROL SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DIST. 2025-1

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

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Township Supervisor and Assessor have prepared and filed in the office of the Township Clerk for public examination a special assessment roll covering all properties within the Wall Lake Aquatic Plant Control Special Assessment District No. 2025-1 benefited by the proposed aquatic plant control project. The roll has been prepared for the purpose of assessing the costs of the project within the aforesaid special assessment district, which district is more particularly shown on the plans on file with the Township Clerk. The costs of the project are as shown on the estimate of costs on file with the Township Clerk at the Township Hall, 5463 S M-43 Hwy, Hastings, Michigan. The project cost is $150,000, which is the amount to be collected by special assessment, less any costs that will be off-set by carry over of surplus funds from the expiring special assessment district. The amount assessed against each property in the district will be $70 per year for front lots and $30 per year for back lots. If extra funds are available at the end of the term of the special assessment, the Township Board reserves the right to levy an assessment of a lesser amount in the final year or to authorize the carry-over of surplus funds to a new special assessment district. The term of the special assessment will be five years, 2026 through 2030 inclusive.

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

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township Board will meet at the Hope Township Hall, 5463 S M-43 Hwy, Hastings, MI on Tuesday, October 28, 2025 at 6:30 p.m., for the purpose of reviewing the special assessment roll, hearing any objections thereto and confirming the roll as submitted or revised or amended.

The roll may be examined at the office of the Township Clerk during regular business days of regular business days until the time of the hearing and may further be examined at the hearing. Any person objecting to the assessment roll shall file his/her objections in writing with the Township Clerk before the close of the hearing or within such other time as the Township Board may grant.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that appearance and protest at the hearing in the special assessment proceedings is required in order to appeal the amount of the special assessment to the Michigan Tax Tribunal. An owner or party in interest, or his or her agent, may appear at the hearing to protest the special assessment in writing, or may file his/her appearance and protest by letter before the hearing, and in that event, appearance at the public hearing shall not be required.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that after the public hearing, the Township Board may confirm the roll as submitted or as revised or amended; may provide by resolution for payment of special assessments with interest; may provide by resolution for payment of special assessments in full before a date certain; and may provide by resolution for such other matters as are permitted by law with regard to special assessment for aquatic plant control projects.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that if a special assessment is confirmed at or following the above public hearing, a property owner or any person having in interest in the real property specially assessed may file a written appeal of the special assessment with the Michigan Tax Tribunal within 30 days after confirmation of the special assessment roll.

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

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

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)

GO ONLINE TO HASTINGSBANNER.COM

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)

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 November 20, 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): Kellie J. Etterman and David J. Etterman, wife and husband Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender`s successors and assigns Date of mortgage: April 27, 2022 Recorded on May 3, 2022, in Document No. 2022-005054, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: Two Hundred Twenty Thousand Seventy-Seven and 65/100 Dollars ($220,077.65) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Barry County, and described as: Lot 122, Misty Ridge No. 5, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Liber 6 of Plats, Page 66, Barry County Records. Commonly known as 884 View Pointe 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. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale will be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee, or the Mortgagee's attorney. 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. Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC Mortgagee/ Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400

1575528
(10-23)(11-13)

Saxons find offense is their best defense at Coldwater

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Ballgames for the Barry County varsity football teams were also nail-biters, or they very much weren't in week eight of the 2025 season.

Hastings held on for a three-point win at Coldwater. Thornapple Kellogg held on for a one-point win over Holland Christian. Maple Valley lost out by three on a late field goal against Quincy.

Delton Kellogg and Lakewood were both beaten convincingly by a couple of the top teams from their conferences.

That leaves Hastings and Thornapple Kellogg as the most likely playoff teams from the area this season. They have a little more regular season work to do. Hastings closes the regular season at home taking on Wayland Friday.

It has been a tough fall for the 2-6 Wildcats, who count a week three loss to Thornapple Kellogg among their six defeats this season.

The Thornapple Kellogg team is home for the third week in a row, trying to earn enough playoff points to get a home playoff game. The Trojans will take on a 2-6 Wyoming squad.

The Saxon and Trojan teams are both in Division 3 this fall, and the top 32 teams in playoff points in each of the eight divisions qualify for the MHSAA postseason. Hastings is currently 13th among Division 3 squads and TK sits 25th.

Lakewood is on the edge in the Division 5 standings, currently 35th in the playoff point standings, about three and a half points behind the last of the playoff qualifying teams. The Vikings would need a win over Ionia and for things to shake out their way to get into the postseason. The rival Bulldogs are winless coming into their contest with the 3-5 Vikings at Unity Field Friday.

Delton Kellogg will go on the road to take on Parchment to close out the regular season Friday. Maple Valley will take part in the new Big 8/Southwest 10 crossover in week nine with a home game against Cassopolis Friday in Nashville. Delton Kellogg, Parchment, Maple Valley and Cassopolis are all 2-6 overall this season.

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

Hastings 40, Coldwater 37

Hastings had a lead as large as 15 points in the second quarter, but Coldwater kept responding.

In the end, the Saxon varsity football team's offense proved the best defense against the Cardinals in Hastings' 40-37 Interstate-8 Athletic Conference win in Coldwater Friday.

Coldwater scored on a 38-yard touchdown pass from Dracyn Foster to Dayton Ennis two minutes and 20 seconds into the fourth quarter. A two-point pass from Foster to Evan Lewis had Coldwater within three points.



Lakewood quarterback Max Thrun gets behind sophomore center Cole Lehman on a first-half play at Olivet Friday as the Eagles' Caleb Waffle (30) lines up across from Viking left guard Briggs Schelter (60) and left tackle Garrett Lehman (70).

The Saxons fell on the Cardinals' ensuing kick-off at their own 17-yard-line and never let Coldwater get its hands on the football again.

Hastings quarterback Mason Tossava scrambled for a first down on a fourth-and-four play from the Saxon 26 to really get things going. It turned into an 18-play drive that ate up all of the 9:40 that was left on the clock after the Cardinals' final touchdown. Once the Cardinals spent their timeouts, the Saxons converted a fourth down run inside the Cardinal ten for a first down. They ended the victory with Tossava kneeling down at the Cardinal five.

"On the last drive, we decided that in order to win the game, we had to keep the ball and run the clock. It was fun to see our boys just grind it out," Hastings head coach Jamie Murphy said.

Hastings (7-2, 5-1 in the Interstate 8) rushed for 336 yards in the ballgame. Coldwater (6-2, 3-2) passed for 305 yards. With that final knee by Tossava, the Saxons wound up outgaining the Cardinals 425 yards to 424 overall.

Tyler Frazer led the Saxon ground-game with 12 rushes for 127 yards and two touchdowns. Trevin Russell rushed 21 times for 110 yards and a score. Jonah Hamp had 13 carries for 46 yards. Cardale Winebrenner rushed eight times for 41 yards.

Tossava was a perfect 3-for-3 throwing the football for 89 yards and two touchdowns. Russell had two touchdown receptions covering a total of 72 yards. Frazer had a 17-yard catch.

Foster powered the Cardinal offense going 20-of-33 passing for 305 yards and three touchdowns. Bennett McDonald had a team-high eight receptions for 108 yards. Ennis and Lewis both had four catches, and Ennis scored twice. Foster also rushed ten times for 47 yards and two scores.

"Coldwater has some serious weapons," Murphy said. "Their QB could really spin the ball and put it in tight spaces. He is only a junior, so we get the pleasure of seeing him for a third season.

"They did a nice job on defense, slowing us down."

The Saxons weren't slowed too much. Frazer had a one-yard touchdown run and Tossava connected with Russell for a 35-yard touchdown pass to help get the Saxons in front 14-0 in the first quarter.

Things were back and forth from there. Hastings had its biggest lead at 22-7 following an 18-yard touchdown run by Frazer and a two-point run from Frazer in the second quarter, but the Cardinals pulled within 22-15 at the half.

Tossava tossed a 37-yard touchdown pass to Russell for the first score of the second half and Winebrenner had a ten-yard touchdown run for the Saxons in the third quarter. Russell tallied the Saxons' final points on an 11-yard TD run in the fourth quarter that had Hastings up 40-29 at the time.

Russell had seven total tackles for the Saxons and Spencer Wilkins had six. Trapper Reigler finished with three tackles including a sack and two tackles for loss.

Schoolcraft 60, Delton Kellogg 0

Schoolcraft clinched the outright Southwestern Athletic Conference Valley Division championship with a 60-0 win over the visiting Delton Kellogg varsity football team

See next page

FOOTBALL

LOCAL STANDINGS	W	L	PLAYOFF POINTS
Hastings	6	2	56
Thornapple Kellogg	5	3	49.125
Lakewood	3	5	32.125
Maple Valley	2	6	18.375
Delton Kellogg	2	6	17.5

INTERSTATE-8 ATHLETIC CONFERENCE	W	L	CONFERENCE WINS	CONFERENCE LOSSES
Harper Creek	7	1	5	0
Hastings	6	2	5	1
Coldwater	6	2	3	2
Marshall	3	5	2	3
Jackson Northwest	3	5	2	3
Parma Western	2	6	1	4
Pennfield	2	6	0	5

OK Black	W	L	CONFERENCE Wins	CONFERENCE Losses
Grand Rapids Catholic Central	8	0	5	0
East Grand Rapids	6	2	4	1
Thornapple Kellogg	5	3	3	2
Northview	5	3	2	3
Holland Christian	4	4	1	4
Ottawa Hills	0	8	0	5

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

CAPITAL AREA ACTIVITIES CONFERENCE WHITE	W	L	CONFERENCE WINS	CONFERENCE LOSSES
Portland	8	0	7	0
Olivet	7	1	6	1
Charlotte	5	3	5	2
Lansing Sexton	5	3	5	2
Lakewood	3	5	2	4
Lansing Catholic	2	6	2	5
Eaton Rapids	1	7	1	6
Ionia	0	8	0	6

SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE VALLEY	W	L	CONFERENCE WINS	CONFERENCE LOSSES
Schoolcraft	7	1	5	0
Lawton	6	2	4	1
Coloma	4	4	2	3
Galesburg-Augusta	4	4	2	3
Delton Kellogg	2	6	2	3
Saugatuck	2	6	0	5

Continued from previous page

Friday.

The Eagles (7-1 overall, 5-0 SAC Valley) were as dominant as the final scoreboard showed.

With a big opening kick-off return and a pair of Delton Kellogg fumbles, the Eagles started each of their first three drives of the football game in Panther territory. Each of those first three drives ended in the end zone.

The Eagles didn't run a play on their own half of the 50 until their fourth possession, when they picked off a Delton Kellogg pass at their own 45. That drive too ended in the end zone.

The Panthers lost two more fumbles in the first half, and punted once.

It was a 40-0 halftime lead for the hosts.

DK falls to 2-6 overall and closes SAC Valley play at 2-3.

Eagle quarterback Jack DeVries threw three touchdown passes in the first half and five in the ballgame. He flipped the ball forward for a ten-yard TD to Drew Enright at the end of their team's first possession of the ballgame. He also had 29-yard and 28-yard touchdown passes to Brayden Boyes in the second quarter.

Eagle running back TJ Luteyn had TD runs of 18 and 7 yards and full back Evan Feller had a one-yard TD dive in the first half.

Jack DeVries added two more touchdown passes in the second half. He connected on a 54-yard score with Enright in the third quarter and tossed a 33-yard touchdown pass to Langston Richardson in the fourth.

The Eagles closed out the ballgame with an eight-yard TD run by back-up quarterback Parker Luteyn.

It was a tough evening for the Panthers all around as they were outgained 450 yards to 76. DK quarterback Tucker Tack was limited to 3-of-13 passing for 33 yards. The Eagles intercepted him twice.

Thornapple Kellogg 22, Holland Christian 21

Thornapple Kellogg has as many as five regular season wins for the first time since 2018 thanks to a 22-21 win over visiting Holland Christian in OK Black Conference play Friday in Middleville.

The Maroons had a 21-10 lead with 5:41 to play in the third quarter, but TK rallied to get into the end zone two more times the rest of the way while shutting out the Maroon offense.

Quarterback Micah Dock had a one-yard touchdown run with 18 seconds to go in the third quarter to get TK within 21-16.

The TK defense forced a three-and-out and the Trojan offense headed right back for the end zone across the first half of the fourth quarter. Zach Eldridge had one big conversion on a third-down run and another on a 25-yard pass from Dock that kept the chains moving. Debo Robinson plowed into the end zone on a 25-yard run with 6:10 to go to put TK up 22-21. A two-point pass fell incomplete, leaving the Trojans' susceptible to a Maroon game-winning field goal attempt.

That chance never materialized for the Maroons. They got close though. Holland Christian moved the ball for a first-and-ten at the TK 24-yard-line, but with a minute and a half to go Brekin Mcwhinney and Preston Gummo teamed up to sack Maroon quarterback Will Grant. On the next play, second-and-16, TK defensive back Camden Peter intercepted a pass up the Maroon sideline to effectively seal the TK win.

It was the second straight season the Trojans and Maroons have played a one-point ballgame that came down to the closing seconds. The Maroons took a one-point win in Holland a year ago. TK bounced back to win its final two games of 2024, and the Trojans are now 5-3 overall this season and 3-2 in the OK Black Conference.

Thornapple Kellogg led Friday 7-0 after scoring on its first possession of the ballgame. A big pass from Dock to Eldridge put TK into Cougar territory, but a flag for an illegal block kept the play from being a touchdown. On the next snap, Dock lofted a 29-yard touchdown pass to Elliott Neff in the right side of the end zone. Mason Chivis hit the extra-point kick.

The Maroons evened the score at 7-7 with two minutes to go in the first half. They started a possession just beyond midfield after an interception. Wide receiver Simon Grotenhuis made a juggling catch in the back of the end zone on third-and-goal from the four on a pass from Grant for the touchdown, and the extra-point kick was good.

A quick two-minute drive got TK as far as the Maroon seven-yard-line before the half, and Chivis booted a 27-yard field goal to put TK in front 10-7 at the half.

The Maroon charge in the second half started when TK fumbled on the third snap of the second half. Holland Christian recovered at the Trojan 29-yard-line. On the very next play, Grant scrambled 29 yards to the end zone. The extra-point was good to put Holland Christian in front 14-7 two minutes into the second half.

The TK offense turned the ball over on downs at the Maroon 39 a couple minutes later, and Holland Christian added to its lead with 5:41 to go in the third quarter as Grant and Grotenhuis hooked up again. A pump fake by Grant and an out-and-up from Grotenhuis had the Maroon wideout open behind the TK defense for a 31-yard touchdown reception. An extra-point made it 21-10.

Olivet 42, Lakewood 14

Olivet pushed a 14-0 halftime lead to 42-14 in the second half against the visiting Lakewood varsity football team in Capital Area Activities Conference White Division action Friday.

The Vikings marched right down the field on their opening drive of the ballgame, but lost a fumble at the Eagle ten-yard-line, and the Viking defense never had much luck in slowing down the Olivet offensive attack.

Olivet sophomore quarterback Reece Critchlow was 11-of-18 passing for 136 yards, a touchdown, and an interception. He also rushed for a score.

Eagle senior back Ty Evert led the Olivet offense on the ground with 17 carries for 133 yards and two scores. Senior Teegan Otto had two catches for 29 yards and a touchdown. Senior Jack Masters had a team-high four receptions for 41 yards.

Lakewood sophomore quarterback Max Thrun was 10-of-20 passing for 194 yards. Senior running back Carter Stewart had 14 rushes for 71 yards. Each guy had a rushing touchdown.

The Eagles close out the CAAC White season at 6-1 with their only loss to the undefeated league champions from Portland. Olivet is 7-1 overall. Lakewood is now 2-4 in the CAAC White and 3-5 overall this season.

Olivet led 21-0 in the third quarter when the Lakewood offense finally broke through. Thrun connected on a 55-yard pass to receiver Jermaine Webb, and running back Carter Stewart followed up with a five-yard touchdown run on the next play.

The celebration didn't last long for the Vikings though as Caleb Waffle snagged a high-bouncing on-side kick attempt by Lakewood out of the air at the 50-yard-line and returned it for a touchdown.

Webb had two big catches in the game covering 106 yards.

It was 42-7 in the fourth quarter until, Thrun added a seven-yard touchdown run in the closing moments. Webb also had a 51-yard reception on that drive to help set up the score.

Michael Goodemoot and Jacob Everett tied for the Viking team lead in tackles with nine each. Senior Lucas Steward had an interception late in the first half to help keep his team in striking distance at the time.

Quincy 17, Maple Valley 14

They Lions were behind. They were ahead. They were tied. For an instant they were sure they were headed to overtime. And then the Orioles were celebrating.

Quincy's varsity football team got a 22-yard field goal from junior Noah Rufenacht with three seconds to go and closed out the Big 8 Conference season with a 17-14 win at Maple Valley High School Friday.

Maple Valley took a 14-6 lead in the second half thanks to a 24-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Darren Carpenter to wide receiver Kelvin Davis and a 16-yard touchdown run by back Tyrese Robinson El.

But all of a sudden, the Lion defense couldn't slow down running back Noah Kelley and the Oriole rushing attack in the fourth quarter. The Orioles followed up Robinson El's touchdown, which came with 3:23 to play, by driving 50 yards on five Kelley rushes for a touchdown. He carried the ball into the end zone from five yards out with 2:18 to go, and a two-point conversion pass tied the game at 14-14. Quincy started the drive by returning a squibbed Lion kick-off 15 yards to the 50.

A dropped pass and a couple of short runs had the Lions punting with a minute and a half to go, and six more runs from Kelley moved the ball from the Quincy 47-yard-line to the Lion six where the Orioles faced a third-and-goal with 14.1 seconds left on the clock.

The Orioles finally altered the script with no timeouts left. Quarterback JJ Wright, instead of putting the ball in Kelley's belly, dropped back to pass and right away the rush was on him. Lion senior linebacker Jackson Burpee hauled him down in the backfield as the clock ticked down, and Wright heaved the ball forward in desperation. A sack would have kept the clock running and likely resulted in overtime tied 14-14, but some how, some way officials ruled that they could see a sliver of air between Wright's knees and the blades of grass near the south end zone when he let go of the pass.

There were still 6.3 seconds left for a fourth down field goal to break the Lions' hearts.

Kelley's breakout fourth quarter was just the capper on a great night for the Oriole back. He had 42 carries for 237 yards overall.

Maple Valley closes out Big 8 Conference

See **SAXONS** on 14



Quincy sophomore running back Noah Kelley squirts through the line as Maple Valley senior linebacker Jackson Burpee (6) makes a lunging attempt to bring him down during the second half at Maple Valley High School Friday.



Maple Valley senior running back Tyrese Robinson El weaves his way through the Quincy defense on a second-half run Friday. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

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BEACON HEALTH SYSTEM

DK girls make it back-to-back SAC Central titles and get tourney win

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Panthers capped off an undefeated run to their second straight Southwestern Athletic Conference (SAC) Central Division championship with a quick three-set win at Holland Black River Oct. 14.

They avenged an early season loss to Constantine by beating the Falcons in the championship match at the Constantine Invitational Saturday.

The SAC crossover against the other two champions from the conference didn't go quite the way the Delton Kellogg varsity volleyball team wanted at Kalamazoo Christian High School Tuesday though.

The Panthers fell 25-13, 25-22 to the Southwestern Athletic Conference Valley Division champion Comets and then were bested 25-21, 25-17 by the SAC Lakeshore champions from South Haven. All three teams ran through their divisions of the SAC undefeated this fall. The Comets entered the night ranked seventh in the state in Division 3.

DK head coach Erin Thornton said it was a low-key celebration following the SAC Central championship-clinching win at Black River, but the big tournament win in Constantine brought out their enthusiasm. The Panther not only bested SAC foe Constantine there in the finals of the tournament, but also took down SAC Central rival Galesburg-Augusta in three sets in the semifinals 8-25, 25-20, 18-16. That was the second meeting of the day between the Rams and Panthers who split two sets 25-21, 22-25 earlier in the tournament.

"We got our revenge on Constantine. They were the only SAC team that beat us in regular play this year. That we felt pretty good about. It was a great game, very tough," Thornton said.

South Haven and Delton Kellogg also met in August, at the Coloma Early Bird Invitational where the South Haven girls took a two sets to one win. It was soon after that tournament that the Panthers really started to sort things out. Senior Jalin Lyons moved into the libero spot and sophomore Rylee Forman took on an all-around role which included the unfamiliar task of playing in the front row. The Panthers also added exchange student Clara Sanchez-Palenia since then.

Thornton has been pleased with the switch at libero.

"[Lyons] has really been great picking up what goes over the block. A lot of teams are getting it right over the block from their outsides. She is great at coming in and picking those up," Thornton said. "The challenge I'll say is Rylee all the way around. She hasn't played all the way around. Trying to get her comfortable at the net has been the biggest challenge with that movement."

"She has been doing well. She knows the game. She studies the game. So, she knows what she is doing out there. She came and told me at the beginning of the season if you don't need me at libero and you need me somewhere else, put me where you want. That led me to evolving some ideas. Having her on the right side, she gets up on a high block even though she is probably one of the shortest on the team. I am excited to see, as a sophomore, to see her grown the next few years. I am really excited."

The DK coach was happy with how her girls passed overall on Tuesday in the two losses, but said a big key to advancing in the state tournament in a couple weeks will be continuing to improve the block so those back row passers don't have to work quite so hard. Senior Izzie Wendland distributed the ball well throughout the night.

"They're tough teams, but we weren't at our best tonight," Thornton said after her team was bested in the two crossover matches.

"There were some good things," she added. "Laana [Hooker] had some blocks. Sophie [Ferris] had some kills. They played smart at times."

By smart she meant they were moving around the court well, running routes properly to be in position. While digs were tough to come by, Thornton was pretty pleased with her team's serve receive against the Comets and Rams.

Set two against the Comets was a battle. The Comets took set one 25-11. In set two the Panthers led as late as 21-20 with Foreman, Hooker and Ferris getting some good swings in at the net. A couple serve receive errors and a big block by the Comets' Eliana Keller finished off the hosts' 25-22 win in set two.

The DK girls on the night had a tough time slowing down Keller and the South Haven's big hitter Charlotte Knox when they got their opportunities.

An ace by Ferris late in set one against South Haven had the DK girls within 18-17, but the Rams won the next five points to take control of the set. Set two turned at a similar moment. A block in the middle by Hooker had DK within 17-16, but the Rams put together a six-point run from there and went on to the win.

The DK girls are off now until a trip to Climax-Scotts Oct. 28.



Delton Kellogg sophomore Rylee Foreman sets up for a serve during her team's match with South Haven at the SAC Crossover event hosted by Kalamazoo Christian High School Tuesday. **Photos by Brett Bremer**



Delton Kellogg senior setter Izzie Wendland puts a pass up as senior libero Jalin Lyons looks on during their match against Kalamazoo Christian Tuesday. The Comets hosted the three SAC division champions and were 2-0 on the day with wins over the DK girls and South Haven.

SAXONS

Continued from Page 13

play with a 1-6 league mark and is now 2-6 overall on the season. Quincy improves to 5-3 overall and 3-3 in the Big 8.

Kelley gave the Orioles a 6-0 lead with a 12-yard touchdown run with 35 seconds to go in the opening quarter. Quincy held that lead into the second half.

Maple Valley went in front with Davis' touchdown catch with 3:34 to go in the third quarter and a Davis extra-point kick. Davis also booted the extra-point after Robinson El's fourth quarter touchdown.

Robinson El closed the night with nine rushes for 45 yards. Carpenter had seven carries for 42 yards. Carpenter was 1-of-7 passing for 24 yards and one interception. Eli Wright was 2-of-6 passing for the Lions for nine yards and one interception.

The Quincy quarterback, JJ Wright, was 5-of-13 passing for 46 yards and one interception.

Davis had an interception and Nolan Hoefler recovered a fumble for the Lions. Kaiden Meyers led the Maple Valley defense with 13 tackles. Robinson El had 12 tackles including two sacks. Alex Shepard finished with nine tackles.

Andrew Dunn had the two interceptions for the Quincy defense, and Ethan Pearson led their team with nine tackles. Kaden Cutler added eight.

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- **Student behavioral programs**
- **Special education**
- **Career and technical education**

The REM request comes out of a District-wide survey in which local residents urged more action in those three areas. The REM would raise $1.49 million annually, allowing member districts—with parent input—to target and invest dollars in specific programs that address those needs. Funds would be distributed fairly and proportionately across all public schools that are part of the ISD.

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