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A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS
Special section included with this edition

VOL. 171, NO. 45

THE HASTINGS BANNER

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF BARRY COUNTY SINCE 1856

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Organizations, residents brace for potential SNAP benefit delays



Many Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients face the possibility of not receiving their benefits in November and beyond. Hastings resident Cloe Oliver decided to take matters into her own hands by organizing a "porch pantry" at her Green Street home, a grassroots effort fueled by community donations. **Courtesy photo**

Jayson Bussa
Contributing Writer

The staff at the Barry County United Way and Volunteer Center is charged with anticipating the community's needs and filling gaps for residents who need support.

But in the current political climate, identifying those needs has become increasingly difficult.

With the federal government mired in its longest shutdown on record, many Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients face the possibility of not receiving their benefits in November and beyond. A recent federal court ruling ordered the administration to continue funding the program, but officials have since stated that only half of the benefits may be distributed and possibly delayed.

Each passing day brings a new development in this critical issue for food-insecure Americans.

"We're not seeing panic at this point, but I'm seeing people concerned and there is a lot of information out there," Lani Forbes, executive director of the Barry County United Way, told *The Banner*. "One moment they hear a judge rule they're going to have benefits and something else happens and now they might have 50%. People are concerned with what their food resources are going to be. But, I just love the fact that Barry County really steps up and steps in."

Forbes said her organization is mobilizing resources to meet local food needs, whatever they may be. This effort includes a new collaboration with the Barry Community Foundation, announced last week.

Together, the two organizations have launched an Emergency Funding Grant for Food Programs, allowing local food pantries to apply for financial assistance. The grant is designed to help them continue operations or handle increased demand resulting from the SNAP benefit pause.

"This is a critical time in our community and we understand that many local households could be facing food insecurities in the next few weeks and possibility unforeseeable

See **SNAP** on 5

Castleton Township fire and EMS millage renewals pass

Leila Wood
Contributing Writer

On Tuesday, Nov. 4, voters in Castleton Township approved three millage renewals to continue funding the local fire department and EMS service through 2029.

According to the unofficial election results posted by the Barry County Clerk's office Wednesday morning, all three millage renewals received just over 300 affirmative votes and a little more than 100 "no" votes.

It is estimated that the millages will bring in $42,424 for the fire department's housing and equipment needs and $101,819 for EMS, including $16,963 for housing and equipment and $84,856 for general operational costs in 2026.

Altogether, the three millages add up to 1.7 mills, which equates to $1.70 per $1,000.00 of taxable value for property owners.



Election inspectors (from left) Vickie Mingus, Vickie Reid and Valeta Norris assist a voter to prepare to cast a ballot in the election Tuesday, Nov. 4, while at the Castleton Township Hall. **Photo by Dennis Mansfield**

Barry ISD regional enhancement millage voted down

Jayson Bussa
Contributing Writer

Barry County voters rejected a regional enhancement millage proposal Tuesday that would have generated an estimated $1.49 million annually for the Barry Intermediate School District over the next decade.

More than 5,300 residents, just over 20% of eligible voters in the district, cast ballots in the election. The proposal failed with 2,858 "no" votes (53.77%) to 2,457 "yes" votes (46.23%).

"We are grateful to our voters and taxpayers for considering this request to invest in the needs which you helped us identify for our local schools," Barry ISD Superintendent Rich Franklin said in an email to *The Banner*. "Those needs are real, and they remain. We will continue to work on creative ways to help our schools in Delton and Hastings serve all of our students in regard to career and technical education, special education, and student behavior needs."

The Barry ISD, which provides support services for Delton Kellogg Schools and the Hastings Area School System, placed the proposal on the ballot following a community survey that sought input on priorities and funding uses. Survey results indicated that residents wanted the ISD to focus on student behavior, special education, and career and technical education.

Under the proposal, the ISD would have levied 1 mill for 10 years. A homeowner with a house

See **MILLAGE** on 4

Officials deem threat at TK Schools 'not credible'

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

Classes at Thornapple Kellogg High School got off to a rough start Monday morning, Nov. 3, with a threat resulting in a "shelter-in-place" order. Though, the threat was later determined to be "not credible," according to officials with the Barry County Sheriff's Office.

According to a message by Thornapple Kellogg Schools Superintendent Rob Pouch, a student reported a threat written on a bathroom stall at the high school at about 10:30 a.m. Monday.

"Within minutes, law enforcement was contacted and arrived on site, and the high school entered a shelter-in-place protocol, which kept students in classrooms and limited hallway movement and visitors from entering the building," Pouch stated. "Given the nature of the incident, our team acted promptly and safely to secure the building and communicate with all stakeholders."

In an effort to be "transparent as possible," Pouch added that members of the TKS Board of Education and parents were notified once basic details related to the situation were confirmed.

After an initial investigation

See **THREAT** on 4



Students at Thornapple Kellogg High School sheltered in place Monday morning after a student reported a threat written on a bathroom stall inside the high school. Law enforcement officials later determined the threat to be "not credible." **File photo**

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TK HOLDS LATE LEAD THIS TIME, KNOCKS OFF SAXONS
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A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS

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VETERANS DAY

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

VETERANS STAND DOWN & COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

Honoring Those Who Served — Together as One Community

Sunday, November 9, 2025
Hastings Elks Lodge #1965
102 E. Woodlawn Avenue • Hastings, MI

OPEN TO ALL: Veterans, families, and community members are welcome to attend.
Come together for a day of unity, appreciation, and remembrance.
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Community Breakfast Bar & Resource Fair / Veterans Stand Down

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM: Veterans Day Ceremony/ Live Music/Light Lunch
With gratitude to more than 80+ community sponsors and volunteers for making this celebration possible.
Together, we honor service.
Together, we strengthen community.
Together, we celebrate those who have given so much.

FREE for all Veterans both meal(s) & items at Standdown/Resource Fair



The Fort Custer National Honor Guard will present flags at the Delton Kellogg High School annual Veterans Day Tribute this Friday, Nov. 7. **File photo**

DK Schools honors local heroes through Veterans Day tribute on Friday

An annual tradition at Delton Kellogg High School is set to return on Friday, Nov. 7, as organizers seek to bring the community together to honor local veterans.

The Fort Custer National Honor Guard will perform a presentation of flags on Friday at 1:30 p.m. in the high school gymnasium. Will Eichelberger, an eight-year veteran of the U.S. Army, will serve as emcee for the event that will also include guest speakers include Mike Madill and Conner Peterson.

Madill, chaplain of Delton Memorial Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 422, is a DKHS graduate and member of the school's Class of 1983. He served in the Army on active duty and spent 28 years in the Michigan Air National Guard, which he retired from in 2019.

According to organizers, the Madill family has a deep history of military service, with Mike's great-great-grandfather reportedly serving in the Union Army during the Civil War, his great-grandfather serving in the Spanish-American War and one of his grandfathers serving in World War I.

Also, Madill's father served in the Korean War, and his brother, Tim, served in the U.S. Navy, while another brother, Steve, served in the Coast Guard and Air Force.

Peterson, a staff sergeant at the Battle Creek Air National Guard Base, works in vehicle maintenance as a heavy-duty equipment mechanic. He has served more than four years and has been deployed twice – last year to Saudi Arabia and this year to Qatar.

Also, in paying tribute to local veterans, the Delton Kellogg Elementary Chorus under the direction of Margaret Martin will be singing "I Love My Country" and "A Grateful Nation," with other musical numbers also set to be part of the event.

Also, the Delton High School Band, under the direction of Sara Knight, will be performing several songs throughout the presentation.

A moment of silence will be observed, followed by a band member playing "Taps."

Throughout the presentation, a looping slideshow will be displayed of veterans of the students, past and present. There are currently over 250 veterans represented.

Friday's event is open to the public and community members are encouraged to attend.

— Report courtesy Delton Kellogg Schools.

Elks to host Veterans Day ceremony, stand down this Sunday

Molly Macleod
Editor

The Hastings Elks Lodge No. 1965 is set to celebrate the Veterans Day holiday a couple days early.

The local Elks Lodge, located at 102 E. Woodlawn in Hastings, will host a Veterans Day ceremony on Sunday, Nov. 9, with the event also set to include a breakfast bar and resource fair. The resource fair, or "stand down," is returning for the first time in some years, say organizers. A grant from the Elks National Foundation (ENF) helped make the event a reality.

"It's been about seven to 10 years since we've done a stand down," said organizer Mary Rivett.

According to organizers, the breakfast bar and fair/stand down will be held from 9 a.m. to noon, with the ceremony slated

See **HOST** on 4

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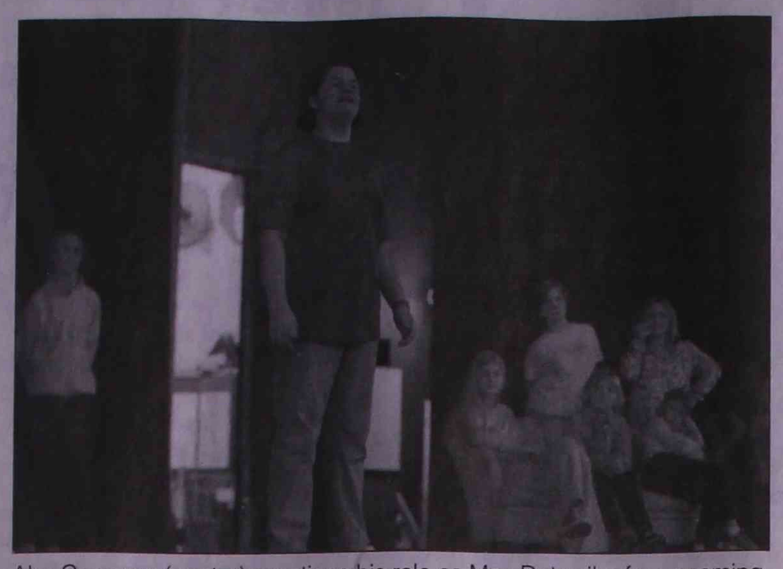
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Abe Carrasco (center) practices his role as Max Detweiler for upcoming performances of the youth edition of "The Sound of Music," with fellow Lakewood players Elli Larson, Evelyn Turkiela, Elizabeth Berry, Emmy Wakley, Joey Rogers and Luke Flohr. **Photos by Dennis Mansfield**



Aydyn Mote prepares for his role as Captain von Trapp, while on stage with his children, played by Joey Rogers, Sophia Hill, Luke Flohr, Molly McCaul and Joey Rogers during a practice Tuesday, Nov. 4.

Lakewood players set to perform youth version of 'The Sound of Music'

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

The Lakewood Public Schools players are preparing to bring a youth version of the iconic musical, "The Sound of Music," to the stage at Lakewood High School's Performing Arts Center on Friday through Sunday, Nov. 14-16.

"I have never directed this youth production, and I felt it would be a great fit for the students of Lakewood," said Amanda Smith, director and teacher at LPS. "It's beloved."

The original Sound of Music was the final collaboration between musical legends Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein in 1938, telling the inspirational story based on the memoir of Maria Augusta von Trapp.

Maria, an ebullient postulant, serves as governess to the seven children of the imperious Captain von Trapp, and works to bring music and joy to the household. But as the forces of Nazism take hold of Austria, the von Trapp family must make a moral decision.

In the "youth edition" for pre-high school students, the content has been edited to better suit younger attention spans, but all the elements that make this show a classic are still in place.

See **MUSIC** on 4

Special tribute in Delton Nov. 8 honors local veterans

Karen Turko-Ebright
Staff Writer

Veterans of foreign conflicts will be remembered at a special tribute hosted by the Delton Memorial Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 22 on Saturday, Nov. 8.

The tribute will begin at 2 p.m. at the VFW, with a chili dinner served at 4:30 p.m. That is slated to be followed by guest speakers and other tributes throughout the evening.

Post Commander Bruce Campbell said the VFW family and the public are all welcome to honor veterans during Saturday's tribute. Veterans eat for free and guests are asked to pay $7 for their meals, which include a soft drink and either pie and cake for dessert.

After dinner, post Chaplain Mike Madill will give the invocation and there will be a flag presentation by local Scout Troop No. 50 and Cub Scout Pack No. 3050. The scouts will also lead the Pledge of Allegiance, according to organizers.

David Stroner will add in his talents on the saxophone with a solo of the "Star-Spangled Banner," while Jani Stahl will provide patriotic music for the March of Services.

More music plus commentary is set to continue with Mick Lane, followed by speakers Campbell, Delton post commander and Vietnam veteran, and featured guest speaker retired Col. Frank J. Walker, a native of Battle Creek who served in the U.S. Air Force and Air National Guard for 40 years.

"Col. Walker always has an amazing patriotic message and his presentation is fabulous. Our youth enjoy him as much as our adults," Campbell said. "He was also recently inducted into the Michigan Military and Veterans Hall of Honor.

"Colonel Walker also likes to stay around afterwards. We do an after-ceremony presentation of awards to the Scouts of America and their leaders."

There will be many memorable patriotic songs woven into the event. And, directly following the tribute will be an evening of karaoke that could wrap up around midnight, according to Campbell.

VFW Post No. 422 is located at 10353 Stoney Point Drive in Delton.

Suspects elude police after high-speed chase

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

Local law enforcement officials are still seeking to locate at least two suspects allegedly involved in a high-speed chase that included multiple vehicles during the early morning hours of Sunday, Nov. 2.

According to Undersheriff Kevin Erb of the Barry County Sheriff's Office, the chase started shortly before 5 a.m. on Sunday morning when a Hastings Police Department officer reported they were in pursuit of three vehicles near the Hastings Middle School, with one of the vehicles – a 2016 Dodge Ram 3500 pickup truck – being located by the Hastings High School.

The Hastings officer reportedly lost sight of the other fleeing vehicles near Broadway and Campground roads, but noticed taillights on Schultz Road and later found tire marks near the intersection with M-43.

With speeds reaching more than 100 mph at times, the pursuit continued into neighboring Kent County before another of the vehicles, a 2019 Dodge Durango reported stolen out of Ionia County, came to a stop after striking a deer near East B Avenue. The driver was reported to be seen fleeing the scene along the edge of a farm field and eluded a search of the area that included the use of a drone and K-9 units.

Police reports stated that the third vehicle, a 2022 Toyota Avalon sedan stolen out of Portage, has yet to be located by authorities, with the early-morning pursuit having included at least four law enforcement agencies – the HPD, BCSO, Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Office and the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety.

Erb said one suspect, the alleged driver of the Ram pickup truck, was identified, detained and later released.

The incident remains under investigation.

Township says 'no' to village DDA compromise in split vote

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

Despite a split vote, members of the Odessa Township Board of Trustees for a second time expressed their desire to opt out completely from an updated plan for the Village of Lake Odessa's Downtown Development Authority.

Township board members voted, 3-2, to reject a compromise proposed by village officials at their regular monthly meeting Monday, Nov. 3. That is after the board voted to opt out of the DDA plan entirely at its Oct. 6 meeting.

According to interim Village Manager Gregg Guetschow, the new proposal would have limited the DDA from "capturing" property tax revenue from its Tax Increment Financing, or TIF, district to only that levied through the township's operational millage, exempting any so-called specialty millages, such as those supporting fire protection or other services.

"When the DDA was created 20 years ago, you didn't have the specialty messages," Guetschow said, addressing the township board Monday night.

The vote comes as the Lake Odessa Village Council and the DDA board are working through the process to amend the 2005 ordinance that would allow for the expansion of the DDA's TIF plan, as well as the elimination of a sunset date, which calls for the DDA to effectively dissolve as of Dec. 31.

"Our intention is not to capture more revenue," Guetschow said of the proposed, updated DDA plan. "There isn't any really (in the expanded, second TIF district). It's a very little district and a lot of it is tax--exempt."

Guetschow added that the creation of the second TIF district is more to ensure the DDA has "the tools available" to address any future developments in the area.

After outlining the proposal, Guetschow also asked for the township board to reconsider its unanimous decision on Oct. 6 to opt out of the DDA plan entirely.

Gary Secor, Odessa Township supervisor, said he considered the DDA's compromise to be a "realistic proposal" and one "we should consider," allowing the different parties to work together "in good faith."

But, only Secor and Trustee Brad Barrone voted to support the proposal, with Treasurer Sharon Rohrbacher, Clerk Lisa Williams and Trustee Allan Baron II all voting against.

Secor called the split vote "dysfunctional" and "misguided," adding it could lead to an erosion of community support for township initiatives in the future, such as plans to fund the construction of a new fire station.

"I believe this decision will come back to bite us," he said.

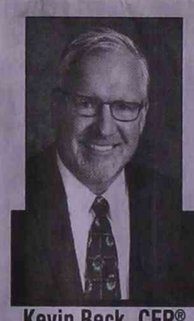
Sarah McGarry, DDA chairperson, also expressed her disappointment after Monday's township meeting.

"While we respect the (township) board's role, this decision lacks future thinking and limits opportunities for economic growth and revitalization in our community," McGarry stated. "The DDA listened carefully to concerns throughout this process, particularly regarding fire millage funding. In response, the proposal was revised to capture tax increments from only the township operating millage, ensuring fire department funding remained fully protected.

"This balanced approach supported community priorities while planning for Lake Odessa's long-term needs," she added. "A strong and vibrant business district benefits both the village and township by supporting property values, attracting new residents and investment, and strengthening the local economy."

Baron said, however, his vote shouldn't be taken as a refusal to support the DDA, but rather a desire to see the different parties negotiate a completely new agreement.

See **VOTE** on 4



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A financial roadmap for veterans entering civilian life

The transition from military to civilian life brings countless adjustments. It also marks a good time to review how you're taking charge of your financial future. Veteran Saves Week is Nov. 4-7 and an opportunity to focus on building financial confidence and creating a solid foundation for your new chapter.

Now in its second year, Veteran Saves Week centers around one core message: No matter where you are on your financial journey, small steps can lead to lasting change. Here are a few tips to help:

Understand the financial shift. If you've recently re-entered civilian life, it's important to identify any gaps between your income and expenses. A key part of this gap often comes from the loss of military allowances, such as the Basic Allowance for Housing and Basic Allowance for Subsistence. You may also lose commissary and exchange privileges where groceries and goods were purchased tax-free.

Health benefits represent another shift. While you received health care through TRICARE on active duty, you might be eligible for TRICARE for Life and Veterans Administration benefits, but you may still need to supplement this coverage with a group health care plan from your employer or purchase it independently.

Build a budget. Getting a clear picture of your finances helps you make informed decisions. Look at your monthly income, expenses and savings to understand your starting point.

One strategy you may find useful is the 50/30/20 rule. With this, you divide your monthly take-home pay into three parts: 50% for needs like housing, utilities, food and insurance, 30% for wants and 20% for savings and debt repayment.

Take essential financial steps. Your monthly budget should include building an emergency fund, paying down high-rate debt and saving for retirement. It may help to use budgeting apps that categorize expenses and identify areas where you can cut back when necessary.

Building an emergency fund becomes even more critical during transition. Aim for three to six months of cash savings to provide a safety net for living expenses while you establish your civilian career.

Don't overlooka the available retirement planning tools. Even if you will have a pension, you might consider putting money into an IRA, or a 401k if one is available to you through a new employer, or into stocks and bonds to keep building toward your long-term goals. It's also important to obtain a current Social Security statement since active-duty military pay FICA taxes.

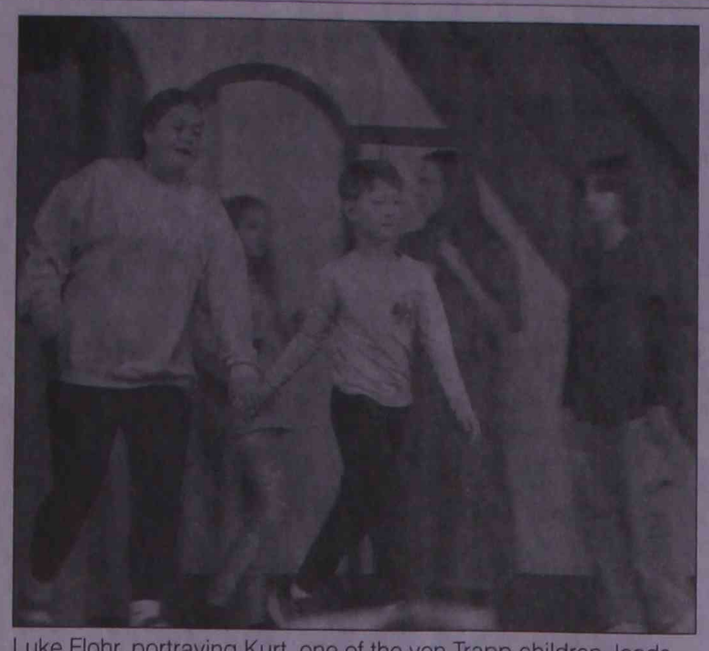
Leverage available resources. There are transition support programs through the military and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, which also offer debt relief programs and financial counseling services.

Consider connecting with a financial advisor who understands the unique challenges veterans face during and after transition. They can help you create a strategy that maximizes your benefits and helps position you for long-term success.

Move forward with confidence. As Veteran Saves Week reminds us, small steps lead to lasting change. Your service has prepared you to overcome challenges – financial planning is just another mission you're equipped to complete successfully.

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

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Luke Flohr, portraying Kurt, one of the von Trapp children, leads Maria Adilynn Schipper to dance "The Landler" during a rehearsal for the youth version of "The Sound of Music" on Tuesday, Nov. 4, at Lakewood High School's Performing Arts Center



Adilynn Schipper (Maria) and Joey Rogers (Brigitta von Trapp) take center stage during a rehearsal for the youth version of "The Sound of Music," with Brigitta telling Maria that she thinks her dad is in love with Maria. The Lakewood players are set for three performances of the iconic musical Nov. 14-16.

MUSIC

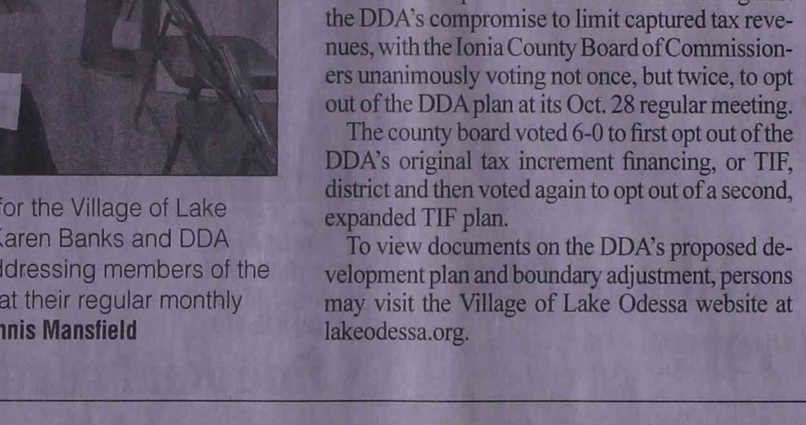
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According to Smith, the upcoming performances are set to include as many as 130 student actors, kindergarten through eighth grade, and 15 high school assistants.

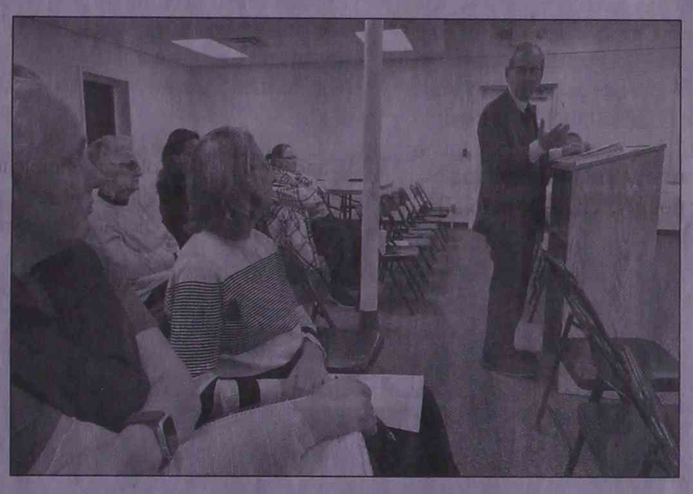
"These kids are working so hard to put on a great show," Smith added. "Family friendly, full of heart. Who doesn't love 'The Sound of Music?'"

The curtain is set to go up at 7 p.m. for the performances at the LHS auditorium on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 14-15, with the final performance on Sunday, Nov. 16, slated for 3 p.m.

Tickets may be purchased – $12 for adults, $10 for seniors (55 and over) and $8 for students K-12 – in advance online at www.onthestage.tickets/lakewood-drama or at the door for an additional $2.



Lakewood players Breanna Golden, Kylie LeVeque and Reagan Grables sit with director Amanda Smith and music director Laura Soule, as Smith works to block a scene for upcoming performances of the youth version of "The Sound of Music" set for Nov. 14-16.



Gregg Guetschow, interim manager for the Village of Lake Odessa, points to Village President Karen Banks and DDA chairperson Sarah McGarry, while addressing members of the Odessa Township Board of Trustees at their regular monthly meeting Monday, Nov. 3. **Photo by Dennis Mansfield**

VOTE

Continued from Page 3

"It doesn't work," Baron said, referring to the original 2005 agreement. "It doesn't work in modern times.

"(And) I don't think we're opposed to an agreement," he added. "We're opposed to just an updated agreement."

The township's vote was the second strike against the DDA's compromise to limit captured tax revenues, with the Ionia County Board of Commissioners unanimously voting not once, but twice, to opt out of the DDA plan at its Oct. 28 regular meeting.

The county board voted 6-0 to first opt out of the DDA's original tax increment financing, or TIF, district and then voted again to opt out of a second, expanded TIF plan.

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

THREAT

Continued from Page 1

by TKS and law enforcement officials, the shelter-in-place order was lifted at about noon.

"A student saw the threat and reported it to the school administration," said BCSO Undersheriff Kevin Erb. "The school was put into a shelter-in-place while law enforcement and school staff investigated the threat. It was deemed not credible and the shelter-in-place was lifted.

"We are still investigating, along with the school," Erb added.

According to Pouch's statement, the incident on Monday serves as an opportunity for families to talk with students about "the seriousness of making or writing threats, even as a joke or in frustration."

"Please know that the district takes every report of a threat seriously, with the safety of our students and staff as our top priority," the superintendent stated.

Pouch also warned about incorrect information that was posted, reporting that the situation at the high school occurred around 7:30 a.m. on Monday. He stated, "This information is inaccurate and refers to a completely separate incident" in downtown Middleville and was "unrelated to the school."

In his message, Pouch also thanked the district's administrative team, staff, students and their families, as well as law enforcement, for their "calm cooperation" and "continued support."

The incident at TKHS comes less than a week after staff and students at Lakewood Public Schools were told to stay home on Wednesday, Oct. 29, after the local school district closed its buildings in response to an alleged threat made late Tuesday night, Oct. 28.

In a statement posted on X, MSP officials reported they were advised that a Snapchat video was circulating involving a 40-year-old male from Holt and his 17-year-old son from Sunfield. The video allegedly depicted a weapon and included statements suggesting the student might take the weapon to school and cause harm to faculty.

MSP officials added that a search warrant was obtained and executed at the residence Wednesday morning, resulting in the seizure of weapons and electronic devices.

A report on the incident was set to be submitted to the Eaton County Prosecutor's Office for review, MSP officials stated. And, while the subjects were not taken into custody, they were reportedly cooperating with the investigation.

MILLAGE

Continued from Page 1

valued at $302,000, the county's median, would have paid about $12.58 per month, or $151 annually. Funds would have been distributed proportionately between Hastings and Delton Kellogg.

Despite the ISD's relatively low tax rate — 2.2791 mills, the lowest among intermediate school districts in neighboring counties — voters were not persuaded. Comparable ISD rates include Kalamazoo (7.2893), Calhoun (6.2057), Ionia (5.8671), and Kent (5.5684) counties.

In contrast, the Kent ISD, which supports Thornapple-Kellogg and many other districts, saw its own 10-year millage renewal pass easily on Tuesday.

HOST

Continued from Page 2

for 1 to 3 p.m. There is no cost to active-duty military members and veterans attending the event.

"We got a small grant to do (the stand down), so that's how it started, and then it just blossomed from there," Rivett said. "A stand down is kind of like a resource fair where there's different booths where (organizations) can share their resources on how to help veterans. A lot of veterans don't know which resources are where."

Representatives from the Barry County United Way, the Army National Guard, Clearstream Rehab & Nursing Center, Disabled American Veterans Chapter 139, the American Legion Post 45, Barry County Acts of Kindness, Navy recruiters and much more will be present during Sunday's stand down.

This year, the Elks used part of the ENF grant, supported by several community sponsors, to fund sweatshirts for local veterans.

"We tried to use our focus on things that veterans could use in the wintertime, as our season is changing," Rivett said. "So, we chose to do sweatshirts."

Thanks to community support, the Elks were able to fund 200 sweatshirts for local veterans.

"It has a saying on the front and then all the veterans' names are on the back," Rivett said.

Supporting local veterans and promoting community isn't anything new to the Elks.

Rivett said the Elks Lodge regularly hosts quarterly breakfasts, free to veterans and active-duty military members. She said organizers at first thought to combine the regular breakfast with the stand down — but the event grew from there.

"We just kind of combined them, and then it kept growing," she said. "We added a lunch, a veterans' ceremony at 1 o'clock, and then we added music in the afternoon as well."

Redbird and Colleen Acker will be at the event, performing live music. Organizers say there will be plenty of giveaways, as well.

Rivett commended the community for coming together to support veterans.

"The community collaboration — it isn't just the Elks. It was the Elks starting it, but the community has really come together to make the event super successful."

The event is open to the public.

NOTHIN' BUT A GOOD TIME



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Sen. Albert hosting Hastings office hours on Friday

State Sen. Thomas Albert has scheduled in-district office hours to meet with residents at two locations on Friday, Nov. 7.

The times and locations for the office hours are:

- 9:30-10:30 a.m. at Hastings City Hall, Council Chambers, 201 E. State St. in Hastings.
- 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Clippers Cafe, 1566 10th St. in Martin.


Sen. Thomas Albert

Office hours are open to district residents to talk about issues related to state government or to request assistance with a state issue. Priority will be given to constituents seeking to discuss issues that require privacy.

No appointment is necessary, but space may be limited at some locations. Local office hours in other parts of the 18th Senate District will be scheduled at a later date. The 18th District includes Barry County and portions of Allegan, Calhoun, Kalamazoo, Kent and Ionia counties.

Residents unable to attend office hours may contact Albert's Senate office via email at SenTAlbert@senate.michigan.gov, by calling 517-373-1734 or toll-free at 855-347-8018.

Visit Albert's website at SenatorThomasAlbert.com for more information. — *MM*

Concert to provide tribute to legendary performers

Patrons of the Hastings Performing Arts Center should get ready to rock during a high-energy tribute to two of the greatest piano-rock icons of all time, Billy Joel and Elton John, at 7 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 7.

Audiences will be treated to a dynamic, two-act performance, with the first half celebrating the music of Billy Joel and the second half honoring Elton John, all delivered by Colte Julian.

Julian, who has appeared as Jerry Lee Lewis in the national tour of Million Dollar Quartet, performs in full costume and character, bringing the charisma and showmanship of the two legendary artists to life.

"Colte Julian's charismatic presence and incredible talent make this show unforgettable," said Carol Svihl, HPAC administrative assistant. "His music connects with so many people, and audiences will feel every note."

The Nov. 7 concert is produced by the Friends of HPAC in partnership with the Thornapple Arts Council and the Hastings Area School System. Tickets are $10-15 and may be purchased online at hastings.ludus.com or by calling 269-818-2492.

The lobby and box office at the HPAC, located on West South Street in Hastings, will open at 6 p.m. the night of the show, with the auditorium doors set to open at 6:30 p.m. — *DM*

Civility makes life better for all

Dear Editor,

In the Oct. 23 Banner, Michigan Senator Thomas Albert stated, "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."

I am thankful, too. Responsible legislators ensure that government services are available to constituents, uninterrupted by politics.

In an earlier Banner, Michigan Representative Gina Johnsen, referring to the new budget, said, "This compromise was not everything we wanted, but it delivers real wins for Michigan families and small businesses."

When Michigan Republican legislators can use words like compromise and recognize they are elected to serve the people, not their party, there is hope for statesmanship.

The tone of the No Kings Rally, where I listened and marched, had no hatred or anger from either marchers or counter-protesters. It was a group of people marching as Americans, with fellow Americans, exercising their right as Americans to peaceably protest. The most inflammatory chant? "Trump must go."

Civility in our elected officials and toward our neighbors makes a better life for all of us.

Barbara St John
Hastings

Rep. Johnsen holding local office hours on Saturday

State Representative Gina Johnsen (R-Portland) this week announced that she will host in-district office hours on Saturday, Nov. 8, to meet with residents and discuss state and local issues that matter to her constituents.


Sen. Thomas Albert

Constituents are encouraged to stop by either location at their convenience:

- 9-10:30 a.m. at SoZo Coffee Roasting & MicroBakery, 576 North State Street, Ionia, MI 48846.
- Noon-1:30 p.m. at The Old Theater, 315 West Main Street, Lowell, MI 49331.

"These office hours are an opportunity for open and direct conversation," said Rep. Johnsen. "I look forward to hearing from residents about their ideas, concerns, and priorities for our district and our state."

No appointment is necessary to attend. Residents who are unable to join in person may contact Rep. Johnsen's office by phone or email for assistance with state-related matters.

Johnsen's office can be reached at 517-373-1796, or by emailing GinaJohnsen@house.mi.gov. — *MM*

Alumni board sets date for 2026 banquet

Members of the Hastings High School Alumni Association board recently announced that the association will host its annual banquet to be held on Aug. 29, 2026.

The year's banquet will be the 139th annual celebration of the graduates of Hastings High School.

According to the announcement, each year classes are honored in five-year increments based on graduation anniversary dates. Alumni of five years to 75 years will be honored.

The HHSA board is seeking representatives from the classes of 1951, 1956, 1961, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1991, 1996, and 2001. The banquet next fall will be the 50th reunion for the class of 1976 and this class normally participates in the planning and at the annual banquet.

HHSA officials stated the 2026 banquet is still in the early stages of planning, and the board is seeking the help and input of all class representatives. Class representatives from each honored year are encouraged to contact Merry Ossenheimer, the current HHSA president, by calling 269-948-8363 for additional information.

For more details about the HHSA, persons may also visit the association's Face at "Hastings High School Alumni Association Hastings Michigan" or the Hastings High School website, hassk12.org. — *DM*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

View Newspaper Group publications accept letters to the editor. Letters should refer to an article that has appeared within this publication or ary sister View Newspaper Group publication in the last 14 days or refer to a local event that has taken place in the last 30 days.

All writers must provide their full name, home address and phone number. All letters must be original and are subject to editing for clarity and liability. Letters may not exceed 250 words and writers may not submit more than one letter per 30-day period. View Newspaper Group reserves the right to withhold publication of any letter.

Election-related letters are limited to 150 words and endorsements are limited to no more than three per candidate, per election cycle. View Newspaper Group will not publish letters from candidates for elective office or their campaigns, form letters or letters sent to other publications. Election-related letters will not be published in the final two weeks before Election Day.

CLASSIFIEDS

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SNAP

Continued from Page 1

future," Forbes said in the announcement. "Our goal is to support the amazing programs that are already happening around Barry County as they see an influx in requests for assistance."

Eligible food pantries can apply for grants of up to $10,000, available until SNAP benefits are restored. Funds will be distributed as reimbursements upon submission of receipts and may only be used for food purchases.

To qualify, organizations must:

— Have IRS-recognized nonprofit status

— Have operated for at least one year

— Serve Barry County residents

— Be enrolled (or agree to enroll) in the 211 information system

— Report household demographic data for those served

Forbes expressed gratitude for the foundation's partnership and the community's ongoing cooperation.

"We are so thankful for the partnership with the Barry Community Foundation, especially during times of need like this," she said. "Both organizations have local boards who recognize the needs of our community and continue to do what is best for all in Barry County. We could not do this work without everyone involved and certainly not without the local food pantries, initiatives, community meals and food programming happening across our county. Thank you to all involved."

Questions or applications for funding can be directed to Forbes at 269-945-4010. Donations to the fund can be made by mail or dropped off at the Barry County United Way office, 231 S. Broadway, Hastings, MI 49058. Contributions are also accepted via Venmo at @barrycountyunitedway231.

Outside of organizations, some residents are stepping up to address potential gaps in assistance.

Hastings resident Cloe Oliver decided to take matters into her own hands by organizing a "porch pantry" at her Green Street home, a grassroots effort fueled by community donations.

"It really just started with anger over the withholding of federal food assistance and a Facebook post," Oliver said. "I knew SNAP benefits were being paused on November 1, and I knew that was going to hit some families hard. I'm solidly in the lower-middle class range myself, but I figured I could help as much as I was able. A few groceries, a hot meal, something."

Oliver planned nine easy meals and created a sign-up list. What began as a modest attempt to help a few families quickly grew into a porch full of donations. Within a week, she had collected enough to assemble 73 meal kits, along with hygiene products, baby food, and formula.

"I've been restocking it as people take things," she said. "My helpers and I also took nearly 40 meal kits and other supplies down to The Shack in Delton this last weekend, and I will continue to supply them as long as I am able. It's never been about handouts. It's about neighbors taking care of each other, doing what we can, where we are, with what we've got. If people in power won't take care of our communities, then we'll do it ourselves."

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Heather Ann Woodhams, born at Corewell Health Pennock on September 25, 2025 to Charlotte Woodhams and Victor Woodhams of Delton.

*****

Jersey Lou Dull, born at Corewell Health Pennock on September 26, 2025 to Alysha Hoffman and Terry Dull of Hastings.

*****

Grace Hause, born at Corewell Health Pennock on September 28, 2025 to Lindsey Spurlock and Cody Hause of Bellevue.

*****

Ty Harn, born at Corewell Health Pennock on October 9, 2025 to Rose Lambert and Christopher Harn of Hastings.

*****

Ellie Jade Chilton, born at Corewell Health Pennock on October 10, 2025 to Emilie Chilton and Hunter Chilton of Hickory Corners.

*****

Daniel Hause, born at Corewell Health Pennock on October 13, 2025 to Allera Keller and David Hause of Battle Creek.

*****

Colton John Cochran, born at Corewell Health Pennock on October 19, 2025 to Sarah Ogden and Riley Cochran of Delton.

*****

Robert Dean Shepherd, born at Corewell Health Pennock on October 20, 2025 to Cooper Stonehouse and Jackson Shepherd of Hastings.

Blood drive set for Nov. 11

Versiti-Blood Center of Michigan is partnering with local churches to host a blood drive at Holy Family Catholic Parish on Kraft Avenue in Caledonia on Tuesday, Nov. 11, from 1 to 6:30 p.m.

According to organizers, the goal for the upcoming blood drive is 55 pints. The blood drive is open to the public and anyone 17 or older is eligible to donate blood. Persons 16 years of age are also eligible to donate with parental permission.

If interested in donating blood, persons may sign up online at versiti.org/ccc or call chairperson Char Mello at 616-901-2803.

Persons interested in donating blood are encouraged to make an appointment is preferred, though walk-ins are welcome as schedule allows. — *DM*

HASTINGS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Professional Events

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

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

Jewel Helton Eckstrom



Jewel Helton Eckstrom, of Naples, FL, formerly Louisville, KY and Lake Odessa, MI, died peacefully on October 29, 2025. Born in Louisville, she carried a lifelong love of learning and community.

She earned a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Louisville in 1953. In 1955, she married William (Bill) Eckstrom. Jewel loved teaching children for 20 years. She and Bill established the William and Jewel Eckstrom Future Teacher Scholarship in 1987 to encourage outstanding, young people to become classroom teachers.

A devoted community leader, Jewel was active in Delta Kappa Gamma, P.E.O., and the Chi Omega Alumni Association. She served as a charter member of the Lake Odessa Area Historical Society and held leadership roles in the Lake Odessa Women's Club, Lake Odessa Study Club, Pennock Hospital Guild #20 and was a member of the Woodland Women's Study Club. She and Bill have been members of the Central United Methodist Church for 69 years.

Jewel retired from teaching in 1991. She and Bill split time between Michigan and Naples until making Naples their permanent home. She enjoyed reading, genealogy, golf, watercolor painting, the arts, and travel.

She is survived by her husband, William (Bill) Eckstrom; four children, Jeff Eckstrom (Becky), Lisa Vanderlinden (Ron), Suzanne Dailey (Dan), and Tom Eckstrom (Lynda), seven grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. Jewel's warmth and dedication will be deeply missed.

A celebration of Jewel's life is being planned.

Thank you for keeping us in your thoughts; condolences may be sent to: jeweleckst@aol.com or 7900 Arlington Circle #507, Naples, FL 43113.

Thomas LaVerne (Tom) Johnson



Thomas LaVerne (Tom) Johnson, CPA, age 84, passed away peacefully on November 1, 2025, in Hastings, MI. A devoted husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and respected community leader, Tom's life was marked by perseverance, service, and a deep commitment to others.

Born on March 24, 1941, in Muskegon, MI, Tom's humble beginnings shaped his resilient character. From picking strawberries, to selling frozen treats to setting bowling pins, he worked from age 10 on for a better life. At the age of 17, he left home and enlisted in the United States Navy. He served for four years in the Pacific Basin, earning his GED and completing his service as a Corpsman. "The Navy saved my life," he often said—a testament to how those formative years instilled in him a sense of discipline and purpose.

After completing his military service and utilizing the GI Bill, Tom pursued higher education with unwavering determination. While raising a young son and working multiple full-time jobs in Muskegon, he started classes at Muskegon Business College. Moving into married housing, he earned a Bachelor's of Business Administration and after which a Master's of Business Administration in 1970 from Western Michigan University. His journey after leaving home at 17 to becoming a Certified Public Accountant is a powerful example of grit and self-reliance.

Tom began his professional career working for accounting firms in Detroit and Grand Rapids before settling in Hastings in 1971. Here, he founded his own accounting firm in 1976 and quickly became a trusted advisor to individuals and businesses throughout the region. Known for his integrity and dedication to his clients, Tom built lasting relationships that extended far beyond balance sheets.

A passionate advocate for community development and youth advancement, Tom was an active member of the Hastings Rotary Club since 1971, receiving the Red Rose in 2013. He served as program chair for many years and took great pride in bringing engaging speakers to meetings—an endeavor that reflected both his curiosity and commitment to civic enrichment. Rotarians knew that he never left a meeting without asking the speaker at least one probing question.

Tom was also a generous philanthropist who supported numerous local causes. His giving focused especially on children's education and opportunities for advancement—values rooted deeply in his own life story.

Above all else, Tom cherished his family. He is survived by his beloved wife, Kaye (née Widmayer); his sons, Dr. Marc Johnson (Angela nèe Weller) and Bradley Johnson, CPA (Tammy Snook); six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. Affectionately known as "Papa Tom," he held a special place in the hearts of his grandchildren and extended family members including the McKay family.

He was preceded in death by his brothers and sister as well as his daughter-in-law, Karin Johnson (née Gibson).

In lieu of a memorial service, anybody who would like to pay their respects should do so at the Rotary Trees of Remembrance memorial site at Charlton Park. "Anytime you need to talk, just come talk to the trees, I'm a good listener", he stated.

Memorial donations can be made to the Hastings Education Enrichment Foundation (HEEF) Brad & Karin Johnson scholarship fund at 232 W. Grand Street, Hastings, MI 49058.

Tom Johnson leaves behind not only a legacy of professional excellence but also one of compassion, generosity, and unwavering devotion to family and community. May his memory bring comfort to those who knew him and inspiration to all who hear his story.

ASK DR. UNIVERSE

Cats always land on their feet

How do cats climb?

Jake, 7, Wis.

Dear Jake,

Sometimes, when I'm working on a tricky question, I scale the tree outside my office. It helps me focus.

I asked my friend Steve Lampa how cats like me do that. He teaches small animal anatomy in the College of Veterinary Medicine at Washington State University.

He told me it's all about a beefy backside and razor-sharp claws.

"First cats jump and propel themselves with their rump and hind limbs," Lampa said. "Then they anchor with their claws—which are like grappling hooks. Domestic cats actually have sharper claws than their wild counterparts."

The jumping part of the climb involves powerful muscles, especially the largest rump muscle called the gluteus medius.

It also relies on strong legs and joints. A cat's hip joint is a ball-and-socket joint—just like yours. It moves in different directions. Its knee joint, also called the stifle, is a hinge joint—also like yours. It moves back and forth.

But you don't have sharp, retractable claws on the ends of your fingers.

Neither do dogs. Their claws poke out all the time. That's why they tippy-tap on the floor when they walk. That scratching and tapping dulls their claws. That's OK because wild dogs hunt together. Their big weapon is teamwork.

Cats hunt alone. Keeping their claws tucked inside the paw makes them quieter and stealthier. Plus, it protects those claws and keeps them super sharp. When a cat wants to extend its claws, it uses connective tissues—tendons and ligaments—to push them out.

That claw is perfect for sinking into prey—or into a tree as they shimmy up.

Coming down is a lot harder.

"They can't use their claws going down," Lampa said. "A lot of times, you see them basically running down so they don't roll. But they have this ability to right their body, which is a very odd thing."

A cat climbing down uses its flexible spine and long tail for balance.

And then there's that righting reflex. It's why people say a cat always lands on its feet.

A falling cat uses its senses and brain to figure out where it is in space. Then it twists its body. The top half rotates one way, and the bottom half goes the other way—while the cat pulls in its front paws. That makes its head and chest turn faster than its hind end. At just the right time, it stretches out those front paws and tucks the back ones to quickly turn its rump. That's how a cat sticks the landing.

Physicists call that "reducing the moment of inertia" and "conserving angular momentum."

Sharp, retractable claws, strong muscles and joints, and flexibility are all adaptations. They help cats climb to survey for food or danger.

I guess being feline has its ups and downs.

— Dr. Universe

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

HASTINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY SCHEDULE

No library card is required for library programs and activities.

Thursday, Nov. 6 – Movie Memories and Milestones watches a 1948 film starring Joan Fontaine and Louis Jordan, 5 p.m. Based on the novella "A Letter from an Unknown Woman" (1922) by Stefan Zweig, a pianist is about to flee from a duel before receiving a letter from a woman he cannot remember who may hold the key to his downfall.

Friday, Nov. 7 – Friday Storytime, 10:30 a.m.

Saturday, Nov. 8 – Sensory Hour (grades K-5), 10 a.m.; Sensory Hour (grades 6-12), 11 a.m.; Sensory Hour (adults), noon.

Monday, Nov. 10 – Crafting Passions, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 11 – Baby Café, 10 a.m.; mahjong, 2 p.m.; Make Your Own Lip Balm, 3:30 p.m.; chess club, 5 p.m.; Lift Every Voice Book Club discusses "Looking for Your Lost Bird" by Yvette Melanson, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 12 – Itsy Bitsy Book Club, 10:30 a.m.; Holiday Fused Glass Class (registration and supply fee required), 6 p.m.

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

PIERCE CEDAR CREEK INSTITUTE EVENTS

— NOV. 6-13 —

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

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.

Nov. 1-30 — Nov. Storybook Walk: "Forest Bright, Forest Night" by Jennifer Ward, illustrated by Jamichael Henterly. Many animals call the forest their home, but how do they learn to coexist? Some animals are awake during the day, and some are nocturnal. Compare these two groups of animals that live amongst the trees. The Storybook Walk is free and self-guided on the purple and green trails.

Nov. 3-Jan. 1 — Whose Track is That? Check out the tracks of the Institute's most frequent visitors. Pierce Cedar Creek Institute is home to many species of mammals. Can you follow their tracks? Whose Track is That? is free and self-guided on the green trail.

Thursday, Nov. 6 — Playdates in the Play Space (ages 6 and under with an adult), 10-11 a.m. Every season is outdoor season. Bring your little ones to explore nature through free play, activities, books and more. This program is designed for children and their accompanying caregivers. Please plan to attend and engage with your child in this program. Parents are asked to register their children for the free program online.

Sunday, Nov. 9 — Holiday Gift Show, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. More than 25 local artists will have a range of items for sale, and Institute members will receive 15% off their purchases in the gift shop. Admission to the Gift Show is free and open to the public.

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

Worship Together

...at the church of your choice~

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

A LEGACY RENEWED: Revitalizing State Street

DAVID W. MILLER
Special to The Banner



At the turn of the 20th century, Hastings' State Street was still a zig-zagging dirt path cut through stumps and brush, topped only with a thin layer of coarse gravel. **Courtesy photos**

Hastings' State Street between Boltwood and Broadway hasn't always been known for its present-day amenities—fireplaces, outdoor dining areas, new flower beds, hanging baskets, shade sails and pedestals designed for public art. The current streetscape, completed in 2024 at a cost of $3.5 million, stands as the product of collaboration between the Downtown Development Authority, the City Planning Commission, and the City Council. It represents a recommitment to making the very heart of our city a place to gather, linger and enjoy.

As this week's "Turning Back the Pages" will show, today's revitalization continues a long tradition of shaping and reshaping State Street—the focal point of Hastings life for more than a century.

A RUGGED ROADWAY

At the turn of the 20th century, State Street was already recognized as the "focal point for community activities," yet in practice, it was still closer to a pioneer trail than a modern roadway. A visitor in 1907 would have found a zig-zagging dirt path cut through stumps and brush, topped only with a thin layer of coarse gravel.

Conditions depended entirely on the weather. On dry days, dust rose in thick clouds, coating storefronts and choking passersby. Merchants found it a constant nuisance, as goods on display quickly gathered grime. When the rains came, the street fared no better. Water pooled in low spots, horses slogged through muddy trenches and wagons cut deep ruts across the surface.

On particularly busy days, the combination of dust, grit, and smoke from horses and wagons produced what residents bluntly described as "air pollution." Early city leaders tried to manage the problem. During hot weather, sprinkler wagons were sent out to spray the street in an effort to keep the dust down. The idea was sound, but the solution proved fleeting; within hours, the street dried, and the dust clouds returned.

Residents sometimes took matters into their own hands. It was common to see homeowners tossing buckets of water across the roadway in front of their property, hoping to provide a temporary respite.

THE ASHES EXPERIMENT OF 1885

One particularly embarrassing attempt at improving the dust problem occurred in 1885, when alderman Allen Jones proposed a novel solution. Convinced that spent wood ashes—referred to locally as "ashtray refuse"—would bind the loose dirt and reduce dust, Jones arranged to have the ashes spread the full length of State Street.

At first, the experiment may have looked promising. But after several heavy rains, the ashes turned into a gray, slimy mess that clung to boots, wagon wheels and horse hooves alike. The situation quickly went from inconvenient to intolerable. Merchants complained, residents fumed, and the council was forced to reverse course. The ashes were scraped away, and gravel was once again spread over the surface.

THE 1907 BRICK PAVING

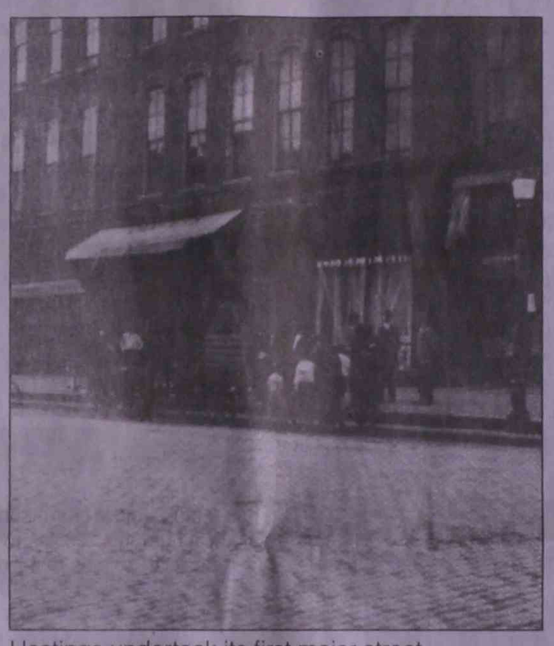
The answer finally came in 1907, when Hastings undertook its first major street improvement project: the conversion of State Street into a brick roadway. The effort was spearheaded by Dr. George W. Lowery, a local physician elected mayor in 1906. Lowery recognized both the practical and symbolic importance of giving Hastings a modern, durable downtown thoroughfare.

Laying brick was no small task. The process involved grading the street bed, setting a sand base, and then carefully fitting heavy paving bricks by hand, each one locked into place by craftsmen whose work would stand the test of time. For downtown Hastings, it was nothing short of transformational.

The project brought with it a sense of civic pride. Hastings merchants could now welcome customers without apology for the conditions underfoot, and residents found the downtown area more pleasant to visit. The brick paving was a visible marker of progress.

SEVEN DECADES OF SERVICE

For more than 50 years, brick defined the look and feel of downtown Hastings. The surface endured constant traffic—horse-drawn wagons at first, then increasingly automobiles and delivery trucks—yet it held up remarkably well. Generations of residents



Hastings undertook its first major street improvement project in 1907 — the conversion of State Street into a brick roadway.

grew accustomed to the distinctive sound of wheels and footsteps on brick, a sound that gave State Street its own rhythm.

The brickwork required maintenance, of course. Bricks loosened over time and needed resetting, and uneven surfaces had to be patched. But on the whole, the durability of the brick far surpassed expectations. By the mid-20th century, Hastings could boast that its downtown had a roadbed built to last, thanks to the foresight of earlier leaders.

Still, the postwar years brought new challenges. Automobiles had become dominant, and with them came demands for smoother, quieter and faster roads. Bricks, though sturdy, created a rougher ride for cars compared to asphalt or concrete. Maintenance costs began to weigh on city budgets, and by the 1950s, civic leaders debated whether modernization required bidding farewell to the bricks that had served so faithfully.

1962: THE TRANSITION TO TARMAC

The decision came in 1962, when the city removed the bricks from State Street and replaced them with modern tarmac. To some, it was a practical improvement—easier on cars, easier to maintain and reflective of the streamlined look of the era. To others, it marked the loss of a defining feature of Hastings' downtown character.

Photographs from the time show the transition in progress: workers prying up bricks, trucks hauling them away and smooth asphalt being poured in their place. For residents who had grown up with the sound and feel of brick beneath their feet, it was the end of an era.

Only one small stretch of original brick paving was spared. On North Church Street, just north of State Street between the Miller Real Estate office and the theater mall, a short block was preserved. Today, it serves as the last tangible link to Hastings' great brick-paving project of 1907. Visitors walking there can still feel the uneven sturdiness of the original surface, much as their grandparents and great-grandparents once did. The plaque reads:

"This block of brick paving is the only extant portion of Hastings' first major street improvement project, completed in 1907 as the result of the initiative of Dr. George W. Lowery, elected mayor in 1906. The fine condition of this surface after seven decades of constant usage testifies to the excellent workmanship of the craftsmen responsible for its construction."

THE 2024 STREETSCAPE

Six decades after the switch to tarmac, State Street has once again been transformed—this time not simply as a roadway, but as a full-fledged community space. The 2024 improvement project, with its $3.5 million price tag, represents a collaboration of civic institutions and a shared vision for downtown.

The modern streetscape offers much more than a driving surface. Fireplaces invite visitors to pause even on cool evenings. Flower beds, pots and hanging baskets provide bursts of color in every season. Shade sails make summer afternoons more comfortable, while pedestals for public art turn the street into an open-air gallery. Outdoor dining areas encourage shoppers to linger, adding vitality to the mix of retail and restaurants that line the block.

In every sense, the new design seeks to blend beauty with function, honoring the role of State Street not just as a means of passage, but as the living heart of Hastings.

A CENTURY OF CONTINUITY

From dust and mud to brick, from tarmac to meter-free parking, and now to flower-strewn promenades, State Street has mirrored the growth of Hastings itself. Each transformation has reflected the needs of the time: durability in 1907, efficiency in 1962, accessibility in 1986 and community in 2024.

What endures is the recognition that the central street of Hastings must always be more than a stretch of pavement. It is a stage for parades, a marketplace for merchants, a gathering place for neighbors and a symbol of civic pride.

The recent improvements are but the latest chapter in a story that began with stumps and brush and has carried Hastings into a new century of downtown life. And if history teaches anything, it is that every investment in State Street—whether brick, tarmac or today's carefully designed streetscape—has left Hastings stronger, more welcoming and better prepared for the future.

Sources: "History of Hastings on the Thornapple," Paul Moore (2018); "City of Hastings 1871-1971," pg. 28.

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



State Street in Hastings in 1907 when bricks were being laid.



The 2024 streetscape project added fireplaces, outdoor dining areas, new flower beds, hanging baskets, shade sails and pedestals designed for public art.

Saxons win their way into District Semifinals

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Hastings closed the 2025 regular season with a win and opened the 2025 postseason with a win.

The Saxons defeated Allegan in the opening round of the MHSAA Division 2 State Tournament for the second year in a row by outscoring the Tigers in four sets in the district opener hosted by Wayland Union High School Monday. Hastings won by the scores of 25-21, 20-25, 25-23, 25-18.

"It was a big night for several of our players. We had a number of long rallies that had me a bit concerned at times; however, the team really rallied and displayed an outstanding amount of effort," Hastings first-year head coach Alexis Mast said.

Senior libero Josalyn Russell had a big night with 35 digs and five assists. Mast said making quick adjustments to picking up tips off the block has been something the team overall had struggled with this fall, even to the point of wanting to limit the block to avoid any late misdirection. But Russell was locked in Monday according to her coach picking up numerous tips inside the ten-foot-line.

Junior Bella Friddle had 11 kills and junior Gabby Juskewicz added ten. Senior Olivia Friddle had seven kills.

"Having those three locked in was a huge part of our success," Mast said. "The offense was anchored by junior [setter] Hannah Sorenson, whose hustle kept us in rhythm despite a number of out-of-system passes."

Sorenson had 20 assists and added five kills herself.

Hastings was set to face Otsego in the MHSAA Division 2 District Semifinals back at Wayland Wednesday evening. Lakewood and Hopkins were set to meet in the second semifinal of the day Wednesday, after the Hopkins girls bested the district hosts from Wayland in their opener Monday. The district final is planned for 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 6.

The Saxons closed the regular season with a quad at home. They were downed 25-19, 23-25, 25-18 by Belding and 25-13, 25-17 by Ionia before closing the evening with a 25-12, 25-20 win over Portland St. Patrick. Even though they were the most lopsided scores of the night, the Saxons played well in the loss to Ionia too.

Mast said that win over the Shamrocks was a much needed confidence boost. The Saxons went throughout the Interstate-8 Athletic Conference season this fall without earning a conference victory. There were moments where the Saxon coach really saw her team's potential fulfilled in strong sets with Marshall and Harper Creek, but the squad couldn't find the consistently strong play it needed to knock off a conference foe.

The Saxon head coach is looking forward to continuing to help the Hastings girls shift their culture and to expect more even in a tough I-8 slate. That goes for all the Saxons, not just the volleyball players, she said.

"I have a handful of players that have really shown up in the past couple weeks," Mast said at the end of the quad. "Kyla [Brown] is a good example. She gets really frustrated with herself, and she gets frustrated when she is sacrificing her body for balls and we don't get them back over, but once somebody starts doing that its a sign the buy-in is there. We see great moments. We see flashes of this amazing team. I wish they would believe, and believe like I believe that they can do that every time."

Russell got after it on Thursday too, and it carried into Monday.



The Saxons' Josalyn Russell, Bella Friddle, Riley Gurtowsky, Hannah Sorenson and Gabby Juskewicz celebrate a powerful kill by Friddle during their win over the Portland St. Patrick girls at their quad at Hastings High School Thursday, Oct. 30. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

Vikings avenge one loss at league tourney, but Ionia wins

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

In a season full of hills and valleys, with more valleys than the Vikings are used to, Saturday, Oct. 25, was a good day for the Lakewood varsity volleyball team to be at its best.

The Lakewood girls had their string of 22 straight conference championships officially snapped by the Ionia Bulldogs at the Capital Area Activities Conference White Division Tournament at Lakewood High School.

The Vikings opened the day with a win over over Eaton Rapids, gave the league champions from Ionia a battle in the semifinals and then avenged an earlier loss to Portland in the match for third at the conference tournament.

Lakewood pulled out a 28-26 win in the first set against Portland and then took set two 25-10.

Viking senior setter Emma Duffy had nine assists, eight digs and six kills. Sophomore middle Johanna Duits had a team-high ten kills to go with four blocks. Junior libero Hayden Bump had a team-high ten digs. Junior setter Camyla Copelin had eight assists. Senior defensive specialist Peyton Federau chipped in nine digs and two aces. Junior defensive specialist Ashlynn Frizzell had a team-high three aces.

"It just felt good to come out and we just played volleyball," Lakewood senior setter Emma Duffy said of that rematch with Portland. "We were talking. We went at them. And we took care of business pretty easily. I think that kind of gave us a little morale boost. We've been putting in work. We were kind of bad in the beginning, and we're figuring it out and getting things better. Even that match against Ionia we competed hard. We let some things go, with some runs and everything, but for the most part we're figuring out how to get back to playing aggressive, with confidence and going right at teams."

Lakewood went to five sets with both Portland and Ionia during the conference regular season. Ionia followed up its win at the tournament over the Vikings Saturday by knocking off Lansing Catholic in the tournament championship match to finish off an undefeated conference season.

"We had pretty much everyone back rolling," Lakewood head coach Brooke Francisco said. "Things seemed to be flowing very well. We executed a very positive game-plan. The girls were disciplined and they just took care of business. The girls knew they wanted some revenge. They knew they needed the revenge. As frustrating as it was playing right after we lost to Ionia, I think there was still a little chip on their shoulder of 'we lost to them earlier and we will not going to lose to them again. I think it was a great learning point too that we have gotten better this season. As up and down and injury prone and people being gone for different things, I think that was an eye-opener of okay we can be this good."

The match between the Bulldogs and Vikings went a full three sets Saturday at the tournament. Lakewood took the opening set 25-19, but the Bulldogs rallied for 25-13, 15-12 wins to get into the championship match where they defeated Lansing Catholic to finish off an undefeated CAAC White season.

Duits had 13 kills for the Vikings against Ionia. Duffy had 19 assists and five kills. Bump had a team-leading 20 digs. Copelin added eight digs and six assists. Sophomore Lilly Martin had three aces and Federau hit two.

"We came out guns a blazing the first set. The second set we kind of let up a little bit. The third set went back and forth, back and forth," Francisco said.

"We played the best we played I would say almost all season, and it just wasn't our day," she added.

Lakewood opened the conference tournament with a 25-14, 25-15 win over Eaton Rapids. Duits had seven kills in that one, fellow sophomore middle Ahlanna Thomas had six and Copelin had six. Duffy put up nine assists and Copelin had seven. Bump led the team in digs with eight and Federau had six. Matti Aldrich had a team-high two aces.

"One thing we have been saying as a team is we need to be better with emotional stuff," Duffy said. "We just need to talk more. When things aren't going well, we tend to fall into ourselves a little bit. We're focusing on a group on each other and lifting each other up and giving more feedback. I think we've all done a really good job of lifting our voices up.

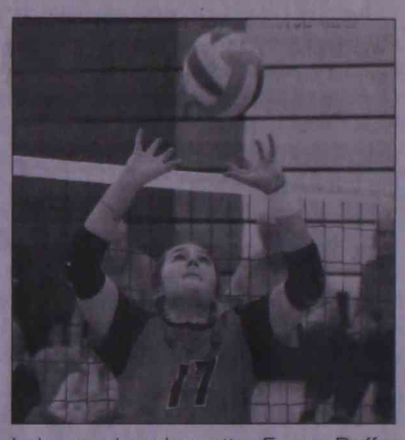
"I think ... Camyla Copelin has done a good job of trying to step up in that role a little bit. She more leads by her actions. She is more of a quiet presence. I think she has been talking and voicing her opinions more, which I think is great. She is the next setter in this program when I leave. She's going to be taking the reigns from here. She is really coming into her own and it is really helping us."

Duits had five blocks throughout the day and Thomas had three. Between injury, illness and other things the Vikings have rarely been at full strength this season. Having their sophomore towers in the middle together again Saturday was certainly beneficial.

Lakewood was set to start the MHSAA Division 2 state tournament in the district semifinals at Wayland Wednesday, Nov. 5, taking on Hopkins who defeated Wayland in an opening round match Monday. The Lakewood team will be attempting to win its first district championship since 2022 this week.

"We shift our mindsets. Everything that has happened form this point back is irrelevant kind of," Duffy said. "We're just going forward. Eyes on the prize. Get through the first round of districts, take care of business and then come back the next day focusing on the same things – just doing what we can to play our game no matter who our opponent is."

The Vikings missed Copelin and Duits Tuesday, Oct. 25. Suddenly not at full strength once again, the Vikings closed out the regular season falling to Harper Creek, Forest Hills Northern and Tecumseh at the Harper Creek Quad in Battle Creek.



Lakewood senior setter Emma Duffy puts a pass up during her team's contest with Tecumseh at the Harper Creek Quad Tuesday, Oct. 28, to close out the 2025 regular season. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

Notice of Foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Barry County, starting promptly at 01:00 PM on December 04, 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): Stevie J. Foreman, a single man Original Mortgagee: United States of America acting through the Rural Housing Service or successor agency, United States Department of Agriculture Date of mortgage: May 31, 2018 Recorded on June 07, 2018, Recording Instrument # 2018-005554. Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Thirty-Three Thousand Five Hundred Twenty-Seven and 72/100 Dollars ($133,527.72) Mortgaged premises: LAND SITUATED IN BARRY TOWNSHIP, BARRY COUNTY, A PARCEL IN THE EAST 1/2 OF THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 28, TOWN 1 NORTH, RANGE 9 WEST, DESCRIBED AS: COMMENCING AT A POINT 10 CHAINS 56 LINKS NORTH OF THE CENTER OF SAID SECTION 28; THENCE NORTH 80.04 FEET; THENCE WEST 12 RODS; THENCE SOUTH 80.04 FEET; THENCE EAST 12 RODS TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING. Commonly known as 14400 Kellogg School Road Hickory Corners MI 49060 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall 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 property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 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. ALAW 5404 Cypress Center Drive, Suite 300, Tampa, FL 33609 (813) 221-4743 25-012209 (11-06)(11-27)

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
BARRY COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. and JUDGE 25-30246-DE
Hon. William Doherty

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

Estate of Randy Elwood Barnum. Date of birth: 4-10-55.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Randy Elwood Barnum, died 10-7-25.

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

Date: 10/31/25
David H. Tripp P29290
202 South Broadway
Hastings, MI 49058
269-948-2900
Robert D. Barnum
6465 E. Center Road
Hastings, MI 49058

TK holds late lead this time, knocks off Saxons

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Thornapple Kellogg junior lineman Brody Hammer rushed to the end of the handshake line for some extra hugs grabbing Hastings' Trapper Reigler, Mason Tossava and others.

With shoulder pads still wrapped in jerseys on the turf and the Baum Stadium at Johnson Field stands clearing out, Hastings' Jonah Hamp got a quick embrace from Thornapple Kellogg sophomore Zeke Webster.

There are 13 miles of road between Thornapple Kellogg High School in Middleville and Hastings High School, and for the second time during the 2025 varsity football season there was just one score between the two teams in the end. Thornapple Kellogg (7-3) avenged a two-point August loss to the Saxons (7-3) in Middleville by scoring a 28-20 victory in Hastings in the MHSAA Division 3 District Semifinals Friday, Oct. 31.

Thornapple Kellogg senior fullback Debo Robinson and Hastings senior running back Cardale Winebrenner took a second for a photo with each other. They'd just spent two hours knocking the snot out of everybody that got in their way – including each other.

"That was fun to watch. This is by far Cardale's best game of the season, both sides of the ball. He had just a whale of a game," Saxon head coach Jamie Murphy said. "I was really impressed with him. We're going to miss him a lot next year. He has shown a ton of leadership for our young guys in the backfield. We didn't have much experience in the backfield, so he was the guy.

"He demands a lot out of them. He goes hard in practice, and doesn't let kids take it easy in practice. And that reflects in the game. There is a certain expectation when you're on the varsity. It's a little bit different than when you're playing freshmen or JV, and that is reflected in practice every day. He did a great job of holding that standard."

While the Saxon seniors see their time as varsity football players come to an end. TK seniors will be playing in a district final for the first time.

Thornapple Kellogg senior center Jake Welch Jr. said there wasn't too much difference between the Trojans' early season match-up with the Saxons and Friday night's playoff opener.

"Our defense was a big part of this," Welch said. "We were able to get a couple stops. Last time, I don't know if we stopped them. Maybe we stopped them once. We didn't have any mistakes. We didn't have that fumble on the goal-line. So, it was amazing. Even though we turnover the ball [on downs in the fourth quarter], our defense goes out and gets an interception and we get to celebrate, and we're playing Lowell! I'm excited."

The Trojans will go to Lowell (8-2) Friday, Nov. 7, to play for a district championship as the Red Arrows knocked off Coldwater 49-14 in the district's other semifinal contest Oct. 31.

"It's always a chess match," Thornapple Kellogg head coach Jeff Dock said. "They did a great job of adjusting, then trying to find what is working. Then it turns into a slugfest. Just like coach Murphy said last time. It is great for both communities, a super physical football game. They're going to feel it. We're going to feel it. It just so happens we came out on top this time. Super ecstatic for our kids, our community, everyone. It is awesome.

Robinson had two-yard and 14-yard touchdown runs in the first quarter in Hastings as the Trojans built a 14-0 lead. TK never trailed.

Winebrenner eventually scored on a 13-yard run and then followed up with a two-point conversion run to get the Saxons within 20-14 of the Trojans 13 seconds before halftime. Hastings tied the ballgame on a 71-yard touchdown run by Hamp 53 seconds into the second half.

Trojan senior Zach Eldridge scored what proved to be the game-winning touchdown on a seven-yard run with 4:17 to go in the third quarter. He took a pitch out to the right, made sure he got the first down and then weaved through traffic to the end zone. A Robinson two-point run provided the final points of the game.

Pressure from the Trojans' defensive front in a couple of rare passing situations for the Saxons helped TK hold that eight-point lead for the final 16 minutes. TK junior Logan Goggins came through the line to reject a Tossava pass attempt on a fourth-and-7 from the TK 22-yard-line early in the fourth.

The Saxon defense finally stopped a TK drive that lasted more than six minutes by stuffing a run at the Hastings 23-yard-line with 4:21 to go.

Just like in the first match-up in Middleville, Hastings headed towards the TK end zone as the clock was ticking down. The Saxons moved the ball from their own 23 quickly to midfield, converted on a fourth-and-two run by Tyler Frazer to the TK 40, responded to a TK defensive timeout by coming out in the shotgun formation instead of the Wing-T and getting a 12-yard pass for a first down from Tossava to Frazer.

Hastings had the ball first-and-ten at the TK 28-yard-line with 59 seconds to go. A fumble in the backfield forced the Saxons to use their final time out though; a second down pass missed its mark; and then Tossava rolled left on third-and-12 from the TK 30. With rushers coming his way he fired a pass down field that was intercepted by Thornapple Kellogg's Camden Peter.

Hamp, the intended receiver on the play, hauled down Peter with the help of Frazer and then laid on the turf an extra beat. Momentarily, Robinson hustled over to grab his left arm and Frazer grabbed his right, and they helped him to his feet.

Trojan junior quarterback Micah Dock only needed to kneel down once in the victory formation to erase the rest of the clock.

Robinson was the workhorse for the Trojan offense, behind a stellar effort from the TK offensive line. He rushed 17 times for 138 yards and the two touchdowns.

"Our offensive line did a nice hob. The kid is special," coach Dock said. "He runs incredibly hard. It's hard for one guy to bring him down, and he is consistently breaking tackles." Coach Murphy said his team certainly won't miss facing him next season.

TK also got a couple big bursts from Malachi VanEngen who closed the night with seven rushes for 122 yards and a touchdown. He scored on a 74-yard run in the second quarter to answer the Saxons' first touchdown. Eldridge closed the night with six caries for 48 yards for TK.

"Tonight was an everyone night … Debo did amazing. All of our A backs did amazing," Welch said, "Zach and Malachi they were great. Our wide receivers didn't get thrown the ball much, but we didn't need to. They did their job blocking. Our quarterback made his reads correctly. It was a great night all around.

"The offensive line was on fire the entire night. Everything was going right. Everything. It means the quarterbacks reads are easier, the ball carriers can run better. Everything is good when the O-line blocks."

It was a similar effort on the other side. Winebrenner had a team-high 21 carries for 71 yards and a touchdown. Hamp had 16 carries for 170 yards and hit a couple big ones. Hamp tallied the Saxons' first points on a 51-yard touchdown run a minute and a half into the second quarter that pulled his team within 14-6.

Coach Dock said there isn't anything easier about facing the Saxons' Wing-T attack for the second time in a season, even if his guys did learn a little something from the first match-up.

"They're really good over there. They run their offense well. They've got a great coaching staff. They find the holes. They find what to do, and it stresses us big time."



Hastings kick returner Jonah Hamp is swarmed by Trojans including Preston Gummo (right) and AJ Dutcher (72), Jack Smith (20), Logan Goggins (71) and Brody Hammer (68) as teammate Grady Reed tries to help him out of the pile during their MHSAA Division 3 District Semifinal in Hastings Friday, Oct. 31.



Hastings senior running back Cardale Winebrenner stretches the ball across the goal-line for a two-point conversion late in the first half of the Saxons' MHSAA Division 3 District Semifinal against Thornapple Kellogg inside Baum Stadium at Johnson Field Friday, Oct. 31. **Photos by Brett Bremer**



Dressed up for Halloween, the Hastings High School marching band enters Baum Stadium at Johnson Field before the start of the Saxon varsity football team's MHSAA Division 3 District Semifinal contest against Thornapple Kellogg Friday, Oct. 31. The Thornapple Kellogg team took a 28-20 win over the host Saxons.

Quarterback Micah Dock was 2-for-3 passing for 30 yard for TK. He was intercepted once, by Hamp, on the final play of the first half. Tossava closed the game for Hastings 4-of-8 passing for 68 yards.

"They're a good football team. We knew it," Murphy said. "They had a couple nice outside plays that gave us trouble in the first half, and we seemed to shut that down, but you shut down one thing and they go to another thing. They had nice combinations coming back in the second half and we had a hard time stopping them, and they did really, really well on defense."

"They were being very disciplined, and staying home and doing what they had to do," he added. "They kept a couple guys on the fullback and made it hard to run our inside trap. They stayed outside when we were running the fullback inside, and they stayed disciplined and stayed home. That does make it more challenging."

Peter led the TK defense with nine tackles. Hammer had eight tackles and Lucas Ploeg had six. Elliot Neff, Jack Smith, AJ Dutcher and Preston Gummo had five tackles apiece.

Tyce Richardson led Hastings in tackles with six. Frazer and Spencer Wilkins had five tackles each and Reigler added four.

Frazer missed some time throughout the night with an injury, another hit to an already thin stable of varsity regulars for the Saxons. A lot of varsity football teams are beat up around the state come November, and Hastings was no exception. The Saxons were without starting running back Trevin Russell, starting center Seth Arnold and stand-out cornerback Jack Webb. Russell and Arnold were both two-way starters.



Hastings' Spencer Wilkins hauls in a pass and is brought down by Thornapple Kellogg's Elliott Neff during their MHSAA Division 3 District Semifinal in Hastings Friday, Oct. 31.

Public Hearing
HASTINGS CHARTER TOWNSHIP
Proposed 2026 Budget

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on Tuesday November 11 at 6:30 pm at the Township Hall at 885 River Road, Hastings, the Board of Trustees will hold a Public Hearing on the proposed 2024 Township General Fund, Library and Sewer Fund Budgets as part of its regular meeting. The Board may not adopt the proposed 2026 budgets until after the public hearing.

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

A copy of the proposed budget, including the proposed property tax millage rate, will be available for inspection after November 8th by appointment with the Clerk.

David J Olson, Clerk
269-948-9690 office

Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the township clerk at least seven (7) days in advance of the hearing.

This notice posted in compliance with PA 267 of 1976 as amended (Open Meetings Act) MCLA41.72a(2)(3) and with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).



Madden, a little faster, places 50th in second run at MIS

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Delton Kellogg junior Landon Madden ran his fastest time ever at the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 3 Cross Country Finals at Michigan International Speedway (MIS) in Brooklyn Saturday, Nov. 1.

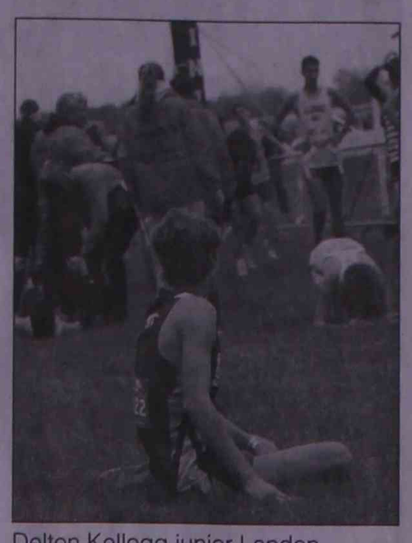
Madden improved his personal record time to 16 minutes 32.7 seconds to place 50th at the state finals in a field of 256 runners. He beat his previous best time from this season by 21 seconds, and he was 8.7 seconds faster and six places better as a junior than he was as a sophomore at the finals.

He set the Delton Kellogg program's MIS course record as a sophomore with a PR run of 16:41.4 which put him in 56th place last fall, and improved that record again too.

Madden, the 2025 Barry County champion, was 17.1 seconds behind the last of the 30 state medalists in the boys' D3 race. Charlevoix junior Hunter Eaton won the competition with a time of 15:30.80. Central Montcalm senior Gage Hoffman ran a personal record time of 15:33.80 to finish as the runner-up. In all, 11 guys finished the race in less than 16 minutes.

That top 11 included a couple Southwestern Athletic Conference guys. Holland Black River junior Jonas Ballard, the conference runner-up, was seventh in 15:44.50 and Saugatuck junior Marcus Silva placed ninth in 15:56.50 with both guys running new personal record times.

Eaton led the Charlevoix boys to the team state title too with just 12 points separating the top three teams. Charlevoix won with 131 points ahead of Lansing Catholic 138, Lumen Christi 143, Ithaca 165, Saugatuck 170, Jonesville 222, Black River 296, Central Montcalm 301, Benzie Central 327 and Hart 330 in the top ten.



Delton Kellogg junior Landon Madden composes himself on the grass in the chute after setting a new personal record time of 16 minutes 32.70 seconds to place 50th in the Division 3 boys' race during the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Cross Country Finals at Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn Saturday, Nov. 1.



Delton Kellogg junior Landon Madden races with the crowd past the mile and a half marker during the Division 3 boys' race at the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Cross Country Finals Saturday at Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

Jackson Lumen Christi junior Samantha Schroeder won the Division 3 girls' race in 18:07.00. Leslie senior Hailey Creisher was the runner-up in 18:11.20 and Blissfield senior Hope Miller was the runner-up in 18:17.50.

Runners from just outside the Barry County are helped fill out the top ten with Pewamo-Westphalia junior Alyssa Kramer fourth, Olivet sophomore Tiya Feldpausch fifth, Lansing Catholic sophomore Josie Bishop sixth and Lansing Catholic junior Grace Wonch seventh.

The Lansing Catholic girls' team had four among the 30 medalists and won the team state title with 69 points. Pewamo-Westphalia as second with 179 points ahead of Saugatuck 189, Lumen Christi 233, Blissfield 235, Hart 249, McBain 246, Traverse City St. Francis 291, Olivet 291 and Calvin Christian 297.

Jones experiences first state championship race at MIS

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Maple Valley freshman Melanie Jones closed out her first cross country season ever with a 135th-place finish at the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 4 Cross Country Finals Saturday at Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn.

Jones hit the finish line in 22 minutes 30.40 seconds.

She was one of 238 finishers in the D4 girls' race Saturday morning, the first of eight championship races (four divisions of girls and four divisions of boys) throughout the day at MIS.

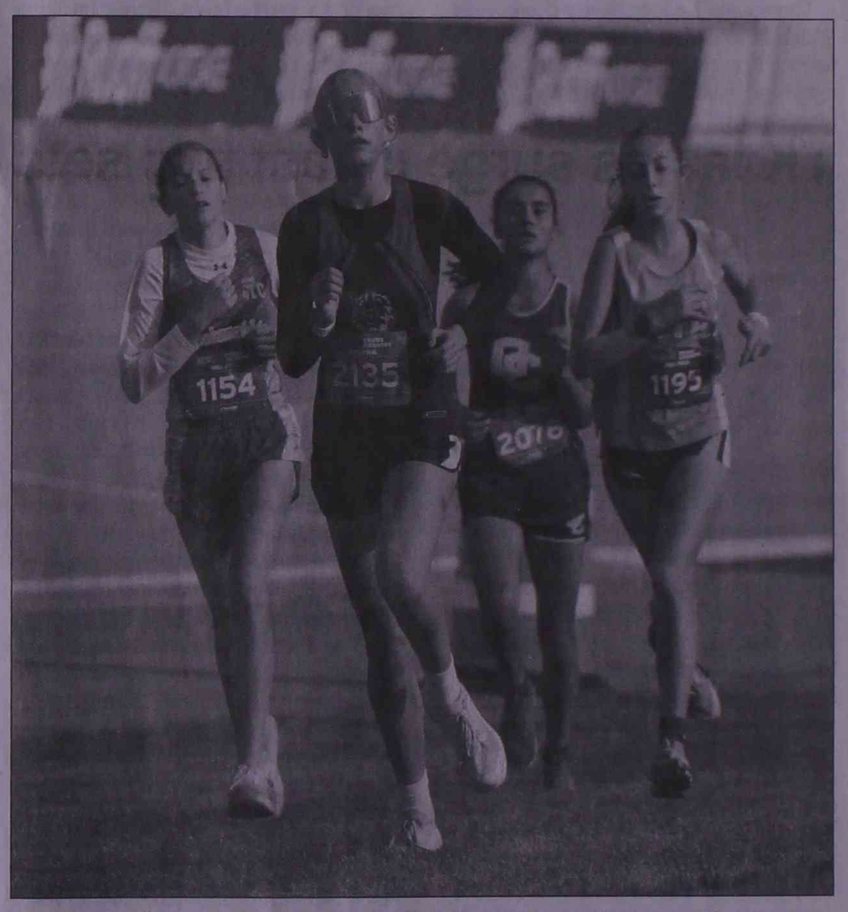
Lion head coach Tiffany Blakely said she felt that Jones handled her first state finals race with a lot of maturity.

"Despite being wowed by how big the event was, she said she was excited to be a part of it and relaxed going into the race. The game plan was to go into this race with her gaining experience racing at this level and I felt that we met the goals we set.

"She was able to self analyze the race and point out where she had some difficulty and what she would do differently next time. Lots of that was her getting boxed in by other runners and trying to work her way out of the different groups. She was a little upset by her finishing time, but we talked that while it wasn't what she had hoped for, her mile splits were not that far off. There was a bit of a slow down between one and two miles, but she actually ran her third mile faster than the second.

"Most of all she wanted to have fun and enjoy the race experience. Judging by the smile on her face throughout this whole event, I say she accomplished that as well."

Whitmore Lake junior Kaylie Livingston won the race in 18:30.70 and led her team to the state championship. The Whitmore Lake girls finished the meet with 140 points ahead of runner-up Hillsdale Academy with 158. Gobles junior Libby Smith was the individual runner-up in 18:36.10.



Maple Valley freshman Melanie Jones (2135) is at the front of a pack of freshmen that includes Breckenridge's Maezee Humm (1154), Auburn Hills Oakland Christian's Yadhira Thomassen (2078) and Grand Traverse Academy's Autumn Patrzik (1195) at the end of the Division 4 girls' race Saturday during the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Cross Country Finals at Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

Hackett Catholic Prep senior Emma Riker ran a PR of 18:44.90 to place third.

Buckley was third in the team standings with 168 points ahead of Hackett Catholic Prep 174, Grand Traverse Academy 193, Maple City Glen Lake 216, Gobles 244, Concord 260, Martin 302 and Petoskey St. Michael 303 in the top ten.

The Big 8 Conference girls' champions from Concord were eighth as a team with a pair of girls finishing among the 30 state medalists.

Jones finished in a pack of D4 freshmen. She was one of five ninth graders to place between 134th and 138th overall. Kingston's Norah Kiley was the fastest D4 freshman on the day placing fifth in 19:11.60.

Hackett Catholic Prep senior Marek Butkiewicz won the Division 4 boys' race in 15:27.00. Harbor Beach senior Brody Karg was second in 15:37.60. There was a group of five guys who finished in less than 16 minutes.

Holland Calvary Christian won the team championship with 110 points ahead of Maple City Glen Lake 131, Hillsdale Academy 158, Petoskey St. Michael 202, Royal Oak Shrine 205, Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart 231, Hackett Catholic Prep 255, Breckenridge 278, Whitmore Lake 286 and Three Oaks River Valley 339 in the top ten.

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

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NOTICE TO THE RESIDENTS OF BARRY COUNTY
Notice is hereby given that the Barry County Planning Commissionwill conduct a public hearing for the following:
Case Number: SP-15-2025 – Kearsarge Solar LLC (Applicant; Roy Wymer (Property Owner)
Location: 817 E Brogan Rd, Hastings, in Section 8 of Baltimore Township.
Purpose: Requesting a special use permit to construct a Principal use Solar Energy System, in the RR (Rural Residential) zoning district, per Article 23, Section 2370, of the Barry County Zoning Ordinance 2008, as amended.
MEETING DATE: November 24, 2025. TIME: 7:00 PM. PLACE: Tyden Center Community Room, 121 South Church Street, Hastings, Michigan 49058
Site inspections of the above described properties will be completed by the Planning Commission members before the hearing. Interested persons desiring to present their views upon an appeal, either verbally or in writing, will be given the opportunity to be heard at the above mentioned place and time.
Any written response may be mailed to the address listed below, faxed to (269) 948-4820, or emailed to Barry County Planning Director Jeff Keesler at jkeesler@barry-county.org.
The special use applications are available for public inspection at the Barry County Planning Department, 220 West State Street, Hastings, Michigan 49058, during the hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday - Friday. Please call the Barry County Planning Department at (269) 945-1290 for further information.
The County of Barry will provide necessary auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/ hearing upon ten (10) days notice to the County of Barry. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the County of Barry by writing or call the following: Eric Zuzga, County Administrator, 220 West State Street, Hastings, Michigan 49058, (269) 945-1284.

Sarah VanDenburg, Barry County Clerk

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Randall runs to elite finish, third state medal, at D2 Finals

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Hastings junior Caroline Randall was all-state in each of her first two varsity cross country seasons.

That was always the goal, but as a junior this fall she went from the kind of runner expecting a state medal to the kind that can count on one hand the number of runners to finish ahead of her at the state finals.

Randall placed fourth in the Division 2 girls' race during the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Cross Country Finals Saturday at Michigan International Speedway (MIS) in Brooklyn. She finished a race in less than 18 minutes for the second time as she hit the finish line in 17 minutes 49.60 seconds.

"I rested my legs and locked in on my nutrition and stuff like that, and it kind of made a big difference," Randall said.

"I got out kind of like I thought I should, meaning the right pace, and I was like hey I recognize these girls. These girls finish in the top ten. We kind of had a little back, and I just kind of sat in behind them a little bit. That is kind of nice. It is kind of mentally easier not to lead. I just felt really good the whole way."

Otsego senior Emma Hoffman got out in front from the start and set a Division 2 girls' course record at MIS with a winning time of 16:50.10. Gaylord senior Katie Berkshire was second at 17:03.00. Hoffman had twice previously been a state runner-up.

Randall said that when Ludington freshman Eliza Schwass took off a little bit at the start of the final 1,000 meters, she figured she could stick with her. They cleared the pack to finish third and fourth. Schwass clocked in third in 17:44.00.

"I knew what place I was in. I knew I was top five. I knew this is where I want to be, so it was a good day," Randall said.

Randall was already the fastest Saxon cross country runner ever. Her previous best time on the MIS course came last fall as she placed 20th in 18:36.8. She was more than 47 seconds faster this time around. She said she was more focused on her place Saturday than her time, but in the end she was really happy to run a sub-18 minute race on "a legit course."

She had finished just one race before in less than 18 minutes, at this season's Otsego Bulldog Invitational which they've learned was a bit short of a 5K.

"She was in a good place today," Collins said. "She was really ready and focused, and just tuned in to running a great race. She was off a little bit last week (at regionals) and just slept right, ate right, got her self in the right spot and she just believed that she could do it. And she did."

Coach Collins said he believed a top five finish at the finals was possible from the start of the season. Randall said she had that goal early on, but with some struggles here and there and an unsatisfactory, to her, finish at regionals she said her confidence in a top, top finish at the finals waned a bit.

When they got to MIS Friday to walk the course, Collins laid it out plainly and said fourth looked like the place to be based on previous times and performances against the top competitors.

"I kind of scouted it out, and said you beat her, you beat here, you're not touching Emma [Hoffman], new course record for D2 that is pretty impressive, but so she believed it and performed well. She raced really well," Collins said. "They were all battling for third. She looked great."

Randall said coach Collins was exceptionally supportive this fall, and her Saxon teammates were great as well. She was happy to see the program numbers bump up a bit.

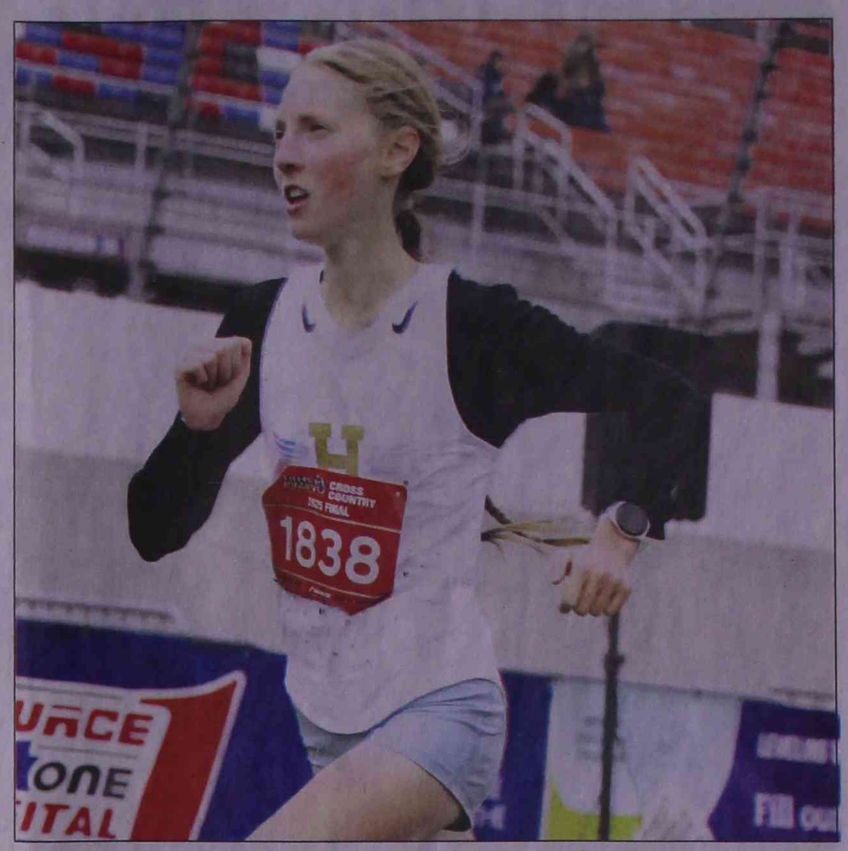
Holland Christian was fastest among the Division 2 girls' teams Saturday at MIS. The Maroons won the team state title with 113 points beating out Otsego 119, Grand Rapids Christian 155, South Christian 203, Goodrich 241, Cadillac 247, Pinckney 274, DeWitt 294, Linden 332 and East Grand Rapids 333 in the top ten.

Whitehall junior Robert Jazwinski III took the boys' Division 2 championship with a time of 15:07.10. East Grand Rapids senior Jonah Workman was the runner-up in 15:12.10 and Alma senior Thomas Larson set his PR at 15:20.90 to place third. The top 29 runners in the D2 boys' race all finished in less than 16 minutes with the last of the 30 state medalists clocking in at 16:00.30.

Parma Western senior Edison Lopeman was tenth in 15:37.50 and Marshall junior Abraham McHugh 14th in 15:49.40. The I-8 was also represented by Parma Western junior Ryan Good (21st) and Harper Creek junior Christian Ayres (22nd) on the D2 boys' medal stand.

Flint Powers Catholic beat out East Grand Rapids at the top of the boys' standings 98 to 106. Alma was third with 161 points ahead of Parma Western 171, Grand Rapids Christian 252, Holland Christian 271, Allendale 274, Forest Hills Eastern 300, Otsego 305 and Pinckney 343 in the top ten.

Only 13 girls were faster than Randall all day long across the four division at MIS. The other ten were in the D1 girls' race. Ann Arbor Pioneer sophomore Natasza Dudek won that D1 girls' race by nearly a minute earning a new MIS course record time of 16:09.50. Okemos sophomore Rachel Smith was a distant second in that race in 17:04.70.



Hastings junior Carline Randall nears the finish line at the end of the Division 2 girls' race during the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Cross Country Finals at Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn Saturday, Nov. 1. Randall placed fourth in with a time of 17 minutes 49.60 seconds. **Photos by Brett Bremer**


Hastings junior Caroline Randall smiles from the medal stand after placing fourth in the Division 2 girls' race at the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Cross Country Finals Saturday, Nov. 1, at Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn. Randall is now a three-time cross country state medalist.

TK ladies surge in last two sets of regular season finale

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Senior libero Alexa Eden followed the floating ball towards her bench and watched it hit the floor between the sideline and the coaching staff.

She spun to meet her leaping, smiling, shouting teammates in the middle of the court.

The Thornapple Kellogg varsity volleyball team celebrates senior night in Middleville with the team's third consecutive victory over Wayland Wednesday. TK closed September with a four-set win over the Wildcats in Wayland and close October with a five-set win.

"This streak is really fun," Eden said.

TK head coach Haley Grams said the match followed what has kind of been her girls' script for the season: a strong start, a little lull and then the will to fight back in the end. TK took the opening set 25-18 and then the Wildcats surged for 25-23, 26-24 wins in sets two and three. TK kept its night going with fairly convincing 25-20 win in set number four and a 15-11 win in the deciding fifth set, leading that final one basically from start to finish.

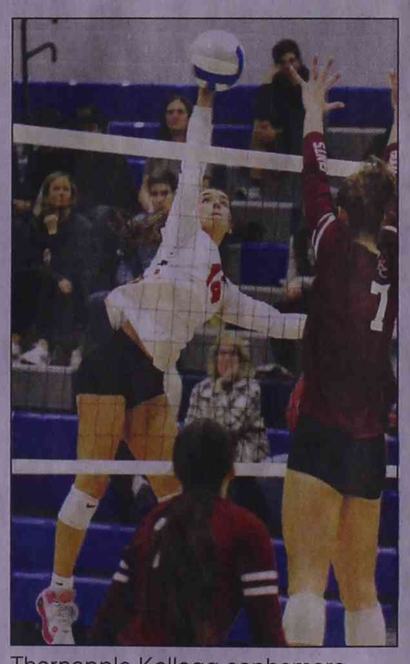
"It was awesome. It was super exciting. It was hard. It was kind of the best thing I could ask for," TK senior outside hitter McKenna Hoebeke said. "We won and it was super intense. We all really enjoyed it, probably more than a blow-out.

TK had one shot at a set point in set three, but the Wildcats rallied to close out the win. TK shot out to a 7-2 lead in set number four though. The lead ballooned to as many as eight points a couple of times. Grams said there weren't any tactical changes in that fourth set.

"I don't know what clicked, but I'm glad it did when it did," Grams said.

The Trojans couldn't get things to click Monday though as they were bested in three sets by the Kalamazoo Central girls in the opening round of the MHSAA Division 1 District at Plainwell High School. The Maroons. The Trojans fought, rallied and hustled but just couldn't overcome the Maroons' size advantage at the net as Kalamazoo Central took a 25-13, 25-16, 25-19 victory to earn a spot in the district semifinals Nov. 5 against host Plainwell. Caledonia and Gull Lake were set to meet in the district's other semifinal contest Wednesday with a district final set for Thursday evening, Nov. 6.

Hoebeke and junior Reece Ritsema were TK's top hitters all season long, but a lot of girls have gotten into the act of swinging hard and that continued in that win over Wayland last week.


Thornapple Kellogg sophomore Anna Romph hits an attack against Kalamazoo Central during the MHSAA Division 1 District opener at Plainwell High School Monday.

"We started hitting, and then we dominoed, and then other people starting hitting," Hoebeke said. "Once we get a really strong kill, the whole team just gets infected and thinks 'hey, we could all do that.' It starts getting our energy up and then the hits come."

In set five, TK got out to an 8-3 lead. The Wildcats got as close as 12-10 late, but senior Paige Abshagen desperately saved a ball from hitting the floor and in the process shot a ball over the net that found a whole in the Wayland defense. Senior Maria Piccione followed up with an ace to make it 14-10, and TK soon finished off the win.

"We really started trusting each other," Eden said. "We really wanted to win. That's what we wanted to do."

"I think we have really grown and bonded as a team," she added. "That really helps. We're also celebrating way more as a team. Our points are really good and long, and we've improved energy-wise."

It's the third straight win for the TK girls over the Wildcats as they won in five sets in Wayland last October. TK closed the OK Gold Conference season with a 6-6 record.

This TK senior group also includes Ava Zellmer, who had some solid moments on the right side for the Trojans against the Wildcats. Grams said this group of seniors has been huge for the TK program.

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