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THE HASTINGS BANNER

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Lake Odessa DDA to seek legal counsel in battle with township, county



Karen Banks (center left), Lake Odessa village president and member of the village's Downtown Development Authority board, discusses an issue with village clerk/treasurer Kathy Forman during the DDA's regular meeting Tuesday, Nov. 11, at the Page Memorial Building. **Photo by Dennis Mansfield**

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

The Village of Lake Odessa's Downtown Development Authority board isn't ready to just walk away from a potential legal fight with Ionia County and Odessa Township over the potential loss of captured property tax revenue.

The DDA board voted unanimously at its regular meeting Tuesday, Nov. 11, at the Page Memorial Building in Lake Odessa to authorize interim Village Manager Gregg Guetschow to research options for legal counsel. If hired by the DDA, the counsel would be asked to act as a consultant on whether the county and township legally have the ability to "opt out" of DDA and avoid any property taxes being captured by the DDA through its Tax Increment Financing, or TIF, plans.

The DDA board action comes after both the Ionia County Board of Commissioners and Odessa Township Board of Trustees voted to opt out of both the DDA's original TIF district established in 2005 and a second, smaller proposed TIF district, as well as rejecting a proposed compromise by DDA officials.

Under the compromise, Guetschow said the DDA would only capture property tax revenues within the TIF districts connected to any operational millages and agree to exempt those revenues resulting from specialty millages, such as levies for roads, senior services or fire protection.

"I think this revised proposal is reasonable," said Karen Banks, Lake Odessa village president and DDA board member.

But neither the county board nor township agreed to the compromise, with the Odessa Township board voting, 3-2, to reject the proposal at its Nov. 3 meeting.

"Both took the position to opt out entirely," Guetschow said.

According to Guetschow, county and township officials have taken that stance, believing they

See **LEGAL** on 4



American Legion Post 45 members prepare to fire a three-rifle volley during Tuesday's Veterans Day services. **Photos by Molly Macleod**

Hastings American Legion honors veterans at annual tribute

Molly Macleod
Editor

Dozens braved the cold in Hastings on Tuesday for a brief but poignant ceremony honoring our nation's veterans.

Each year, the Hastings American Legion Post 45 hosts a Veterans Day ceremony in Tyden Park. This year was no different, with Legion members, veterans, military families and friends gathering at the Veterans Memorial at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 11.

Originally known as Armistice Day, Veterans Day was established on Nov. 11, 1918, at the conclusion of World War I. In 1954, President Dwight Eisenhower renamed Armistice Day to Veterans Day and established the holiday that celebrates all American veterans.

Summer Robertson, a Navy veteran, spoke on the significance of Veterans Day on Tuesday. Robertson works as a veteran's navigator at the Barry County Community Mental Health Authority. She is also a member of the American Legion Post 45 in Hastings.

"To our older veterans, we thank you — not only for your service to this country, but for the example you continue to set. You've paved the way for generations of soldiers, sailors, Marines, guardsmen and guardians who followed your stories, your lessons, and your resilience. You remind us that service doesn't end at DD 214. It evolves into mentorship, community and legacy," Robertson said.

Robertson urged the community to reach out and support veterans.

"As our community, it is our duty—not just today, but every day—to make sure that no veteran feels forgotten or alone. Too many veterans who served still fight quiet battles at home."

She reminded veterans that they don't need to struggle alone.

"If you are a veteran struggling, please know you are not alone. And your community is here for you. Asking for help is a sign of strength, not weak-

See **HONORS** on 4

Memorial Christmas Tree in Hastings to honor lost loved ones

Molly Macleod
Editor

Locals can include their lost loved ones in the holiday season this year thanks to the initiative by one woman for the city to designate a "Memorial Christmas Tree."

Gail Lowe said her daughter's memory inspired her to petition the Hastings City Council to designate the tree.

"My daughter passed from breast cancer in 2013 — she lived in Orlando," she said. "She always loved to come and explore … she always loved the cities that I picked and enjoyed visiting but she had already passed by the time I moved to Hastings, and I always regret that she never got to see Hastings. So every time I would walk on the Riverwalk Trail, I'd be thinking, 'She would just so love it here.'"

Lowe started thinking about how she could memorialize her daughter in Hastings and include her in the holiday season.

"That's when the idea of the Memorial Christmas Tree came about. And I thought well, if I want to include her in our holiday festivities, there are probably other people who want to include their lost loved ones," Lowe said.

The City of Hastings designated the middle of three pine trees along the sidewalk on Boltwood Street near Thornapple Plaza, across from the library, as the Memorial

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PANTHERS CELEBRATE ONE WIN, CAN'T END PIRATES' DISTRICT STREAK
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Kara O'Hearn (left) stars as Catherine Donahue in the Thornapple Players' performances of "These Shining Lives" this weekend, Nov. 13-16. **Photos by Molly Macleod**



The Thornapple Players is performing "These Shining Lives," a docudrama based on the true story of the infamous "radium girls," Nov. 13-16.

Thornapple Players perform 'These Shining Lives' Nov. 13-16

Molly Macleod
Editor

The Thornapple Players is performing "These Shining Lives," a docudrama based on the true story of the infamous "radium girls," throughout the weekend.

Performances will be held at the Dennison Performing Arts Center starting tonight, Nov. 13, through Sunday, Nov. 16. Shows will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, with a 2 p.m. matinee slated for Sunday.

Written by Melanie Marnich, "These Shining Lives" tells the true story of the female workers at the Radium Dial Company in Ottawa, Ill. The play focuses on the danger and negligence these characters faced in the workplace as they unknowingly poisoned themselves while painting luminous watch dials. While a serious subject, the play delivers the women's struggle with spirit and energy.

The production is directed by Charlie Saulino and stars Kara O'Hearn as the lead character, Catherine Donohue.

Saulino said "These Shining Lives" is somewhat different from other shows the Players have done in recent years.

"I'm excited because first of all, for a small community theater, (we're) doing something that is less comedic, less of the kind of fun or bombastic crowd pleaser that pulls people in — this is less common," Saulino said. "And getting to do something that is more dramatic, that touches a little closer to people's hearts — that is sometimes a way of doing theater, or really any art, that just makes a person a little more proud, a little more excited to be a part of it."

He said the play explores the lives and relationships of the "radium girls," not just what happened to them.

"(Audience members) will see a woman's life as she builds friendships, see what it means to her family. It's really about meeting these people more than anything else. This really is a matter of getting to know them as they tell their story," Saulino said.

Saulino, a familiar face to the Thornapple Players stage, is spending his first production in the director's seat.

"It's been wonderful. Many of these are people that I've performed alongside with before. There's already been a trust that we've built up with each other from that. There's also been some people new to Thornapple Players, but also some people new to acting in general," Saulino said. "It's been great having a chance to be someone welcoming them to this group and to this process."

Saulino said he's grateful to be a part of the production.

"We have so many people coming with their own backgrounds, and everybody brought pieces of that into their characters and into the collaboration. It's great to be a part of a community like this," Saulino said.

Tickets for "These Shining Lives" are available for purchase now at ThornapplePlayers.org. Tickets cost $15.

The Thornapple Players, a Hastings nonprofit organization celebrating its 25th year, is already looking ahead to next year's 26th season with plans to present "Shrek" as the spring production and "Annie" as the fall musical. Keep an eye on the Thornapple Players' Facebook page for future updates.

Hundreds gather in Yankee Springs to honor veterans

Over 150 people braved the weather to attend the Yankee Springs Township Veterans Day Ceremony on Saturday, Nov. 8.

Township Supervisor Rob Heethuis welcomed the crowd before John R. Smith gave the invocation. Rob Geyer, a United States Army First Lieutenant, gave a history of "The Star-Spangled Banner," and the audience joined together to sing the patriotic song.

Next in the program, Dr. Tyler Veneman, owner of Yankee Springs Dental, spoke on the importance of veterans' history. Trustee Dave VanHouten, who served as a First Lieutenant in the Navy, spoke of the importance of young adults joining the armed forces.

Mick Lane sang two different songs appropriate for the tribute. Three veterans were honored with a Quilt of Valor from presenter Carol Ditkof.

The ceremony wrapped up with a three-rifle volley from American Legion Post 45 in Hastings, followed by two Hastings High School students, Garrett Sawyer and Owen Boge, playing "Taps" on their trumpets.

After the solemn tribute, the crowd gathered together for lunch and cookies provided by Curley Cone and the Gun Lake Women's Club. — *KTE*



Carol Ditkof (center) presents Quilts of Valor to three veterans during the Yankee Springs Township Veterans Day Ceremony on Saturday, Nov. 8. **Courtesy photo**

Community partners launch holiday season food drive

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

In response to ongoing community needs and in the spirit of giving, a group of businesses and other organizations in Lake Odessa recently launched a "Community Cupboard Food Drive."

According to Barry Hoven, a local business owner and founder of the Lakewood Area Small Business Alliance, the initiative is designed to stock local food pantries and provide support to families throughout the holiday season and into the new year.

The food drive is being coordinated by the LASBA, Sereni-tea, Lakewood Fitness, and Manna's Market.

"Together, we aim to ensure that no family faces the hardships of hunger alone," said Hoven, who has helped organize the food drive

"The true spirit of community is about caring beyond just the holidays," he added. "Our goal is to help families in need, now and into January 2025, creating a stronger, more compassionate Lakewood community."

Donation stations have been set up at Manna's Market and Lakewood Fitness. Community members are encouraged to bring non-perishable food, personal care items or monetary donations.

Hoven said the community food drive has gotten off to a "pretty good" start, with organizers already putting together about 50 packets of items for local families in need.

For more information or to get involved, persons may contact Manna's Market at mannasmarket.org or visit the Lakewood Small Business Alliance Facebook Page.



Hastings City Council approves hiring of assistant city manager

Molly Macleod
Editor

Members of the Hastings City Council voted during their regular meeting on Monday, Nov. 10, to approve the hiring of Hana Jaquays as the city's assistant manager. Jaquays will begin in her new role next month on Dec. 15.

Though the position is new to the City of Hastings, Jaquays is no stranger to the role of assistant city manager. She most recently served as assistant city manager in Walled Lake for the past two years.

Hastings City Manager Sarah Moyer-Cale said she interviewed four candidates for the position. Jaquays impressed her with her experience and communication skills.

"She is ready to take on a new role with varied responsibilities to develop her career further, and I feel she is exactly the right fit for the city," Moyer-Cale wrote in a memo to the city council.

As assistant city manager, Jaquays will assist Moyer-Cale with her duties as well as take on many of the duties from the soon-to-be-eliminated Director of Public Services position.

Moyer-Cale said that even though the assistant city manager role is a new position, the city's budget will be unaffected. The assistant city manager's wage scale is the same as what was budgeted for the Director of Public Services role, which is being eliminated.

Jaquays holds a master's degree in public administration and has experience in city operations, economic development and community engagement.

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Ionia County commissioners vote to slash MSU Extension budget by nearly 70%

Elisabeth Waldon
Special to The Banner

IONIA — In Ionia County, one of the top five counties in agricultural sales in Michigan, home to three agriculture companies and more than 500 youth participating in 38 local 4-H clubs, the once unthinkable has happened.

The Ionia County Board of Commissioners, earlier this month at a budget meeting, voted to slash funding for Michigan State University Extension by nearly 70%.

MSU Extension District 8 Director Bill Hendrian, who covers Ionia and Montcalm counties, had requested a budget of $142,148 for the 2026 fiscal year to be used as follows: $67,106 for the annual base assessment (which includes a part-time 4-H coordinator), $37,521 for an additional part-time 4-H coordinator (making a total of one full-time equivalent) and $37,521 for a part-time clerical support position.

Ionia County Administrator Chad Shaw and Finance Director Roxy Craton recommended that commissioners consider reducing MSU Extension funding to $104,627 instead.

However, commissioners unexpectedly voted 5-2 at a budget meeting on Oct. 15 to appropriate only $50,000 to MSU Extension — a 68% reduction — and to relocate the MSU Extension office from Ionia to the MSU Research Center in Clarksville, nearly half an hour south.

Vice Chairman Terence Frewen of Portland and commissioners Phil Hesche of Saranac, David Hodges of Belding, Gordon Kelley of Ionia and Scott Wirtz of Ionia voted "yes" while Chairman Jack Shattuck of Portland and Commissioner Larry Tiejema of Saranac voted "no."

As a result, the Oct. 28 regular county board meeting was standing room only and commissioners (with Kelley absent) heard more than two hours of public comment during the four-hour meeting, the majority of which came from concerned residents.

Frewen read aloud a prepared statement in which he thanked people for reaching out with their concerns and in which he also explained his support of the budget cut and responsible spending of taxpayer funds.

"Like many counties across Michigan, Ionia County is facing significant budget pressures going into 2026," Frewen said. "Rising costs for mandated services, such as law enforcement, courts, public health and infrastructure have forced us to look carefully at every department and partnership we fund."

Frewen called the $50,000 allocation to MSU Extension "a compromise."

"The intent is not to end 4-H in Ionia County but to ensure that any funding model going forward is sustainable and shared with multiple partners," he said. "MSU Extension is a statewide organization with multiple funding sources — state, federal, grant and private. Many counties operate with smaller contributions by leveraging endowment funds, grants and shared regional staffing models. They are all options we are open to exploring. This budget conversation is not about whether 4-H matters; it absolutely does. It's about how we fund it responsibly in the face of competing needs."

The Daily News asked Shaw after Tuesday's meeting why Ionia County is in a difficult financial position, to which he cited multiple factors.

"State revenue sharing stayed level this year and with rising costs of operations as well as much needed infrastructure projects that continue to arise, such as technology, HVAC and aging buildings, we are operating on slim margins to a balanced budget," Shaw said. "Also, with the (federal) American Rescue Plan (Act) funds going away, we do not have that safety net anymore. County government is not designed for profit, so we rely heavily on state and federal funds in many departments and lately some of those funding units have either been cut or reallocated to other priority projects. Another factor is the Headlee Act, which decreases the mill revenues from property taxes each year.



Sophia Schrauben, this year's Ionia Free Fair queen and a longtime 4-H'er, tells the Ionia County Board of Commissioners on Tuesday, Oct. 28, how a nearly 70% cut to the Michigan State University Extension budget will hurt 4-H, along with multiple other programs. **Courtesy photo**

"We have managed to budget with fiscal conservancy here in the county for quite some time, which has allowed us to not have to make the drastic cuts you may have been seeing other government entities around the state have to make," Shaw added. "We have focused on ensuring we are allocating taxpayer funds on the services we provide the public. One of my top priorities as of late is ensuring departments are seeking out grants that can help offset local funds, and we have had great support from some of them in seeking grants out."

'THE CUT WOULD REALLY HURT US'

A few people spoke during public comment about negative experiences with 4-H or how people could simply look up information online instead of using services provided by MSU Extension, but the majority of comments were overwhelmingly in support of MSU Extension and 4-H, with many adults sharing how they learned leadership skills as 4-H'ers and are now enjoying watching their children go through 4-H.

Sophia Schrauben, this year's Ionia Free Fair queen and a longtime 4-H'er, was one of several young people to speak.

"4-H really is an amazing program," she said. "MSU is also amazing. It brings 4-H to us and many other things. The cut would really hurt us, only having $50,000 would really hurt us and the community. 4-H is already filled with so many volunteers and it provides so many volunteer opportunities. Having the funds to help support MSU Extension and 4-H would help much more than it would to cut those funds out."

Two employees of Herbruck's Poultry Ranch — Michigan's largest egg producer — shared how MSU Extension helped the Ionia County-based company amid a devastating outbreak of avian influenza; Herbruck's lost 6.5 million chickens due to the virus in the spring of 2024.

Amy Herbruck, community and public relations manager, recounted how MSU Extension provided mental health services for employees as well as training sessions for neighboring farmers, many of whom were unfamiliar with biosecurity measures.

"We still talk about it and get a little choked up thinking about it," she said of what Herbruck's experienced. "I really feel the education that MSU Extension provided was important and prevented the loss of more livestock in our area. We really appreciate them. And we do partner with MSU Extension and MSU in general for a lot of research, so we're here in support of them."

"In difficult times where science is hard to find, it's a very valid and reliable

See **BUDGET** on 4

Village receives 9 applications for manager's post

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

The Lake Odessa Village Council should soon move on to the next phase of its fourth consecutive hiring search to find its next full-time manager.

According to interim Manager Gregg Guetschow, nine potential candidates filed applications by the deadline at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 10. Guetschow said, however, two of the applications remain "incomplete," despite attempts to contact the candidates.

"I did not hear back from either of those," he added.

The number of applications received by the Nov. 10 deadline fell short of the total of 14 filed during the village's third and most recent search, which ended without a hire.

"It's not as good a response as I'd hoped it'd be," Guetschow said Tuesday.

The next step in the hiring search is scheduled to come at the village council's upcoming meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 17. Guetschow said council members will review and then select which applicants they'd like to interview at a time to be determined.

Guetschow added that portions of the review process by the council are likely to be held in executive or closed session, as several of the candidates requested confidentiality.

"We don't release the names … until we get confirmation they are interested in coming in for an interview," he said. "That's the process."

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

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

Trail board set to continue fight with Odessa Twp.

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

The war of words between the Jordan Lake Trail Board and the Odessa Township Board of Trustees seemingly isn't going to end any time soon, at least according to at least one member of the trail board.

Carrie Johnson, JLTB vice chairperson, said trail board members had contacted the Michigan Department of Natural Resources recently to see whether the township had the legal ability to withhold state grant funding as compensation for reported legal and title service fees.

"The DNR said no, they can't do that," Johnson said during the public comment portion of the township board's regular meeting Monday, Nov. 3. "They cannot without funds for legal fees."

JLTB members have repeatedly stated the township, which assisted the trail board to secure the grant in 2015, is improperly withholding about $10,000 that should go towards the construction of a proposed non-motorized trail through portions of the township and the Village of Lake Odessa.

"The (township) board has no right to withhold our $10,000," Johnson said. "None of this is legal.

"The community wants the money returned to the trail board."

Johnson also warned township board members the JLTB isn't going to call off its fight to reclaim the funds any time soon.

"We're going to keep coming until this is resolved," she added.

Johnson's comments come less than two months after the township board voted, 3-2, at its Sept. 8 meeting to reject a proposal by the JLTB for the township to pay half of the more than $9,900 that is reportedly being withheld from the trail board.

The split vote followed another 3-2 vote at the township board's Aug. 4 meeting, when board members voted to officially close out a decade-old grant from the MDNR for the construction of the proposed trail, as well as transfer any remaining funds to the township's general fund.

The JLTB had received state grants in 2015 from both the Michigan Department of Transportation and MDNR through the Village of Lake Odessa and township, respectively, with the goal of building a 1.5-mile non-motorized trail through the village and township.

To date, only a ⅓-mile portion of the trail has reportedly been completed. That was a section in Lake Odessa in 2023.

Further construction of the trail, originally set to cost an estimated $1.36 million, has been held up due to at least one property owner along the trail's proposed route along Jordan Lake not agreeing to a temporary easement, according to JLTB officials.



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Smart financial moves to make before year-end

As the year winds down, it's the perfect time to make some smart moves before the calendar flips to 2026. Think of it as a financial tune-up that could help with saving money and setting you up for success in the months ahead. Here are some things to consider.

• *Don't forget about required withdrawals.* If you're 73 or older, you'll need to take your required minimum distribution from traditional retirement accounts to avoid a 25% penalty on any amount you should have withdrawn but didn't. This rule also applies to some people who inherited retirement accounts, including certain Roth accounts.

• *Use your flexible spending money.* Got money sitting in a flexible spending account at work? Remember, these accounts follow a "use it or lose it" rule. Check with your HR department about your plan's specific deadlines for spending the money and submitting receipts. Whether it's that dental work you've been putting off or new prescription glasses you need, now's the time to use those funds before they disappear.

• *Boost your retirement savings.* Consider ramping up your pretax retirement contributions before year-end. Not only will this help your future self, but it might also reduce your current tax bill. If your workplace plan allows it, you can even set up automatic increases for next year so you won't have to remember to do it later.

• *Share the wealth through gifting.* In 2025, the current tax rules let you give family or friends up to $19,000 per person without affecting your lifetime gift tax exemption. Married couples can combine their allowances to give up to $38,000 per person. Plus, you can pay someone's tuition or medical bills directly without these payments counting against your gift limits at all.

• *Navigate new tax changes.* The recently passed One Big Beautiful Bill Act has made several tax provisions permanent, including lower individual tax rates and higher standard deductions. However, it also introduces new changes that might affect your situation. It's worth sitting down with a financial advisor or tax professional to understand how these updates impact your specific circumstances.

• *Examine your investments.* Take some time to review your investment portfolio. Ask yourself: Did your investments perform as expected this year? Do they still match your goals and comfort level with risk? You might need to rebalance things to get back on track.

• *Build up your emergency fund.* It's ideal to have enough cash saved to cover three to six months of living expenses in an easily accessible account. This safety net can prevent you from having to raid your retirement savings when unexpected expenses pop up.

• *Review your estate planning documents.* This is especially important if you've had major life changes like marriage, divorce or a new baby. Don't forget to check the beneficiary designations on all your bank and brokerage accounts as well as life insurance policies – these often override what's written in your will.

Taking care of these financial housekeeping tasks now can help you start the new year on solid ground.

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

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MEMORIAL

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Christmas Tree.

All are invited to decorate the tree with custom ornaments honoring lost loved ones starting one week before Thanksgiving, on Thursday, Nov. 20.

Ornament bulbs must be made of resin or metal — no glass is permitted.

"We're hoping that they will put the person's name, date of birth, date of passing, maybe a picture of the person, maybe cause of death, if they are comfortable with that, and then some little quote… and maybe have the family members' names on the back — or whatever the family chooses," Lowe said.

"It doesn't need to be anything fancy," Lowe added. "They can just paint it on (the ornament) themselves."

Ornaments must be taken down from the tree by the first week in January, Lowe said. Any ornaments left will be discarded.

Lowe said she plans for the Memorial Christmas Tree to be an annual tradition in Hastings.

"I hope that it will gather steam every year moving forward as people join," she said.

There is no cost to decorate the tree; all are welcome to do so.

Lowe said she is seeking help from a local woodworker who can craft and donate a sign to be placed in front of the tree.

Anyone interested in helping Lowe or with questions can reach out to Lowe at GAILPL09@gmail.com



Gail Lowe stands next to a city pine tree, which will soon transform into the Barry County Christmas Memorial Tree. Anyone can honor loved ones by decorating the tree starting Nov. 20. Courtesy photo

LEGAL

Continued from Page 1

have the option to opt out due to a sunset clause within the 2005 ordinance that established the DDA, which would have dissolved the DDA effectively at the end of this February. That deadline was extended to Dec. 31 by a vote of the village council during a special meeting Feb. 28.

"There's a dispute," Guetschow said, over the interpretation of the clause and whether its inclusion allows the county and township to opt out. "We don't believe that's the case.

"What this results in is a situation where lawyers may become involved to resolve this," he added. "There is an action you could take in recognition that you're going to spend dollars to capture dollars."

Another option would be for the village and DDA to simply let the county and township walk away from any agreement, Guetschow said. However, that would come at a cost. According to projections, the DDA would lose an estimated $700,000 in revenue over the next 30 years.

Prior to voting on Tuesday, Guetschow also cautioned DDA board members that there is no guaranteed outcome if the dispute went to mediation or to court. Nor could he give an estimate on what a legal fight might cost.

"I personally love a fight, but it's not my money," Guetschow said. "This could go on for a long time.

"It's not a slam dunk," he added. "Our attorney puts it at 50-50. I think our position is a little bit better than that."

DDA chairperson Sarah McGarry said it might be worth spending "a little bit of money and see where we're at," adding she believes at least the township is "expecting a fight."

"It seems to me we could at least do some preliminary consulting," Banks said. "We could change course later on."

The DDA's action comes less than a week before the Lake Odessa Village Council is set to host a public hearing and possibly act on a new DDA plan, including the creation of the second TIF district and the elimination of any sunset date, at its regular meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 17.

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.

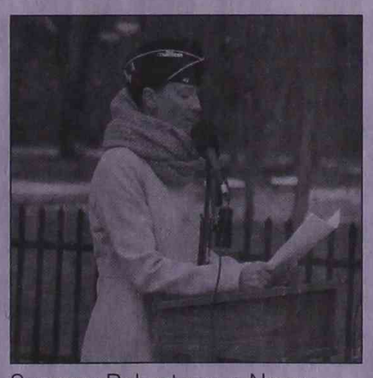
HONORS

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ness. We honor your courage."

Robertson pointed to the American Legion as a place for community for veterans.

"To all who have served and to those who continue to serve, we thank you. We honor you. And we stand beside you. Happy Veterans Day. May we all remember that freedom is not free. It's earned, protected and shared by those willing to serve," Robertson said.



Summer Robertson, a Navy veteran and veteran's navigator at Barry County Community Mental Health Authority, spoke during a Veterans Day ceremony hosted by the American Legion Post 45 on Tuesday, Nov. 11.

NEWSPAPER ADVERTISING DEADLINES

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BUDGET

Continued from Page 3

source of information at those Extension offices," added Herbruck's employee Max Pfund. "Their work is priceless. In a world that's getting further away from the food system and in a world that's getting further away from true science — not everything can be defined on ChatGPT — that Extension office goes a long way and really helps the community."

Chad Listerman, owner of C.L. Trucking & Excavating in Ionia, said based on how MSU Extension helped Herbruck's, that was enough for him to believe the county should continue to fund that agency.

"About budget cuts, if my team at my company came to me this passionate, I would really have to consider about making the right decision," Listerman told commissioners. "I think that this board is probably old enough and bright enough to go back and find the minimal amount of money, and today that kind of money is not a lot of money.

"Someone said you can go on the internet," he added. "You sure can. I don't wanna go on the internet. I'd like to come to your office and have a conversation because it's all about people. I think (the amount of money involved) is peanuts. If you don't invest in the people and you take away jobs, that's really what it's about, not taking away people's jobs and keeping a community.

"There's many positive things and there's a lot of leaders that went through 4-H and came from small farms," he noted. "Small farms are gone now. It's very difficult for me to find people to work for me. I look at small farms, they're gone. I look at 4-H, I look at FFA and I look at leaders in this room who have raised so many kids and helped make them into leaders."

Sunni Haglund, the 4-H coordinator for Montcalm County, was among those present.

"I think it's a sad, sick joke that we say we are the best kept secret in the county," she observed. "We need to do a better job of getting our services out there. Without MSU Extension in Montcalm County, there would be no 4-H in Montcalm County. I feel like it would be a huge disservice to this county (Ionia) to not have the ability to provide those resources for those who would like to utilize them."

Shawn Frisbie has been Ionia County's 4-H coordinator since mid-2023. She has lived in Ionia County all her life and is a third-generation 4-H'er.

"The county board's unexpected vote to slash funding for MSU Extension is disappointing, as part of Extension 4-H plays a vital role in youth development, leadership and agricultural education," Frisbie told the Daily News after Tuesday's meeting. "Cutting this funding could limit opportunities for young people to gain practical skills and community involvement, which in turn could hurt the county's future workforce and civic engagement. Programs like 4-H often have long-term benefits that extend well beyond their immediate costs."

FUNDING MISREPRESENTED?

Phillip Hesche, a detective-sergeant for the Ionia County Sheriff's Office, attended Tuesday's meeting in a personal capacity. He shared how he's spent much of his adult life mentoring youth without being funded by taxpayer dollars.

"I really believe the message here has been twisted, that the county is looking to cut 4-H and that's not true," Hesche said. "MSU is shedding positions. I think if people are worried about 4-H being cut, they have to take those concerns to MSU. I think you need to go to your legislators, I think you need to talk to MSU and ask them how they are allocating their money. I think it's really disingenuous of MSU to spin it that if local counties won't pay this money, then the 4-H programs are going to be cut."

Hesche referenced an Oct. 22 article in the Lansing State Journal, which detailed how MSU was eliminating 99 positions from the university as part of budget cuts, including several executive roles, support staff and faculty and academic staff. In May, MSU announced plans to reduce general fund spending by $85 million by next year. The cuts come despite MSU announcing its second-largest fall enrollment this year.

Separately, 94 MSU Extension staff lost their jobs this summer due to cuts to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education (SNAP-Ed), a federal program meant to educate low-income families about healthy lifestyles, according to the Lansing State Journal.

Hendrian briefly responded to Hesche's claims during public comment by noting, "Separate budget for MSU, separate budget for MSU Extension. They're unrelated. The funding of MSU Extension was not represented correctly today, there's a lot of confusion. We are a separate line item. We are not funded by the MSU budget, we are not part of that."

'WE ARE A PARTNER'

Hendrian told commissioners he was taken aback by their vote to slash funding and relocate the MSU Extension office, noting that he's tried to attend county board meetings and be available to county officials. He said the proposed reduction to $104,627 would have still resulted in the loss of a part-time clerical support position in his office, but they would have tried to make that work.

"The $50,000 puts us into a conundrum," he said. "It's not enough to fund a whole position. I'm always happy to come up with creative solutions, and I'm always willing to talk, but I have to be asked. If we're not given the opportunity, we're not going to be able to come up with creative solutions. It caught me off guard when the board took that action last week."

Hendrian noted that the first youth agent in Ionia County was appointed in 1917 in what began with the national Smith-Lever Act, which provided federal funding for cooperative extension work; that program eventually led to MSU Extension.

"We are a partner," Hendrian said. "I want to work with the county to continue that experience of Extension that's lasted for over 100 years."

Hendrian recounted just a few of the many phone calls he recently received in his office, including a disabled vet asking for help in paying property taxes after he had trouble with Veterans Affairs and a call from another veteran who was buying a home and needed guidance through the system. These came along with calls asking questions about land leases, gardening, invasive species, being evicted from a home, first-time homebuyer classes, financial counseling, fruit tree spraying, pumpkins and avian influenza.

"Every single one of those messages, I was able to refer them to someone within Extension, even the veterans," Hendrian said. "We have veterans outreach and we have home ownership counselors who are certified by MSHDA. That's what we do and a lot of the time that's not seen.

"I'm asking you to reconsider the actions that you took," Hendrian told commissioners.

'WE NEED A COUNTY EXTENSION'

Hodges, who voted "yes" to the MSU Extension cuts, said he's always wrestling with what he thinks are overlapping programs offered by that agency and other agencies.

"We never talked about 4-H, but yet we had 50 people show up about 4-H, so somebody is telling people that 4-H is getting cut," Hodges noted. "In our budget meetings, at no time was 4-H ever talked about cutting. Our employees in this county are getting a 2% increase in their salaries, that's all we can afford in this county. Unfortunately, this board has to make some really tough decisions. We have to choose what's most valuable for the people of this county. We don't have millages. Montcalm County has a lot of millages. We're pretty lean here."

"When the budget goes down to $50,000, what that does is it leaves not even enough to fund a 4-H position," Hendrian responded. "There's no funding for that."

"I think everybody's gotta understand that the only thing that we've gotta provide on this board is essential services: Cops, courts, a health department," Commissioner Heshe said.

Hesche referenced some numbers Hendrian provided last year, which Hesche claimed proved that MSU Extension only helped about half of 1% of county residents.

"Kinda waste of money. I'm just saying," Hesche declared.

Hesche also mentioned MSU letting go of its own employees.

"So why should we be real concerned if they're letting you guys go?" he asked.

Hendrian responded that Hesche's numbers aren't accurate about the number of residents that MSU Extension serves, and he added that the employees Hesche is referring to were let go due to the SNAP-Ed program being federally defunded.

Tiejema, who voted "no" to the MSU Extension budget cut, shared how when he first moved from Grand Rapids to Ionia County, he had difficulty growing string beans in his new garden. He went to the county Extension office and they were able to help him with a simple solution.

"We need a county Extension in this county," Tiejema said. "I'm sold on 4-H and county Extension. It's only a $50,000 difference."

Shattuck, who also voted "no" to the budget cut, said he originally became a commissioner to advocate for agricultural issues.

"I am going to go on advocating for that," he said. "I'd hate to lose that program. We're in a very tough situation up here."

Commissioners agreed, without taking a vote, to revisit the MSU Extension budget at a Finance Committee, which was scheduled for 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 5. All county board meetings are open to the public.

Kiwanis honors young citizens

Hastings elementary school and middle school teachers have selected students to be honored as citizens of the month by the Kiwanis Club of Hastings.

Students are selected by their teachers for reasons such as excellent citizenship, attitude, conduct, academics, character, service, leadership and sportsmanship.

The citizens of the month for October (with parents' names in parentheses) include:

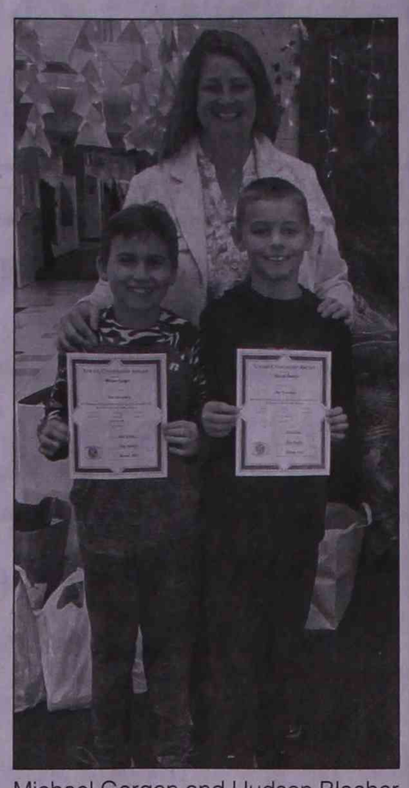
Central – Zoe Betz (student of Christian and Heather Betz).

Northeastern – Brooks Courtright (student of Michael and Andrea Courtright) and Ollie Tripp (student of Skyler and Lauren Tripp).

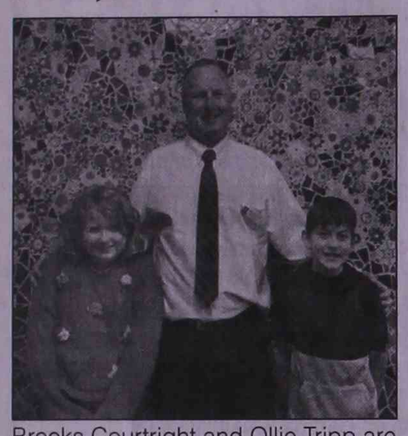
Southeastern – Heidi Pollet (student of Peter and Christina Pollet) and Lauren Battles (student of Amanda Rodriguez).

Star – Michael Gergen (student of Matthew and Casey Gergen) and Hudson Blocher (student of Nick and Emily Blocher).

Hastings Middle School — Sixth graders Reese Wendt (student of Terry and Debbie Wendt) and Andre Ortiz (student of Julio and Ashley Ortiz); Colt Lewis (student of Scott and Nicole Lewis) and Olivia Jorgensen (student of Justin and Ashley Jorgensen) and eighth graders Kinley Beadle (student of Nichola Beadle and Karen Dimond) and Davis Wattles (student of Tadd and Tangie Wattles). — *Hastings Area School System*



Michael Gergen and Hudson Blocher are Star Elementary's October Kiwanis Citizens of the Month.



Brooks Courtright and Ollie Tripp are Northeastern Elementary's Citizens of the Month.



Zoe Betz was honored as Central Elementary's Citizen of the Month. **Courtesy photos**



Southeastern's Citizens of the Month for October are Heidi Pollet and Lauren Battles.



Several Hastings middle schoolers were recently named citizens of the month. They include sixth graders Reese Wendt and Andre Ortiz; seventh graders Colt Lewis and Olivia Jorgensen and eighth graders Kinley Beadle and Davis Wattles.



The annual St. Rose Christmas bazaar is taking on a new look and name this year, titled "Bows and Boughs Christmas Craft Show." The show will be held Friday through Sunday, Nov. 21-23, in the church's basement. **Courtesy photo**

St. Rose annual bazaar takes on new look

After many years, the organizers and volunteers of St. Rose of Lima Church's Christmas bazaar are passing the torch, reimagining the annual event. This year's three-day sale takes on a new look and a new name, titled "Bows and Boughs Christmas Craft Show."

The sale is slated for Friday, Nov. 21, through Sunday, Nov. 23. On Friday, the show will be open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; on Saturday, it will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and on Sunday, it will be open from 1 to 4 p.m.

Shoppers can peruse Christmas decorations for inside and outdoor use, fresh wreaths and garland, snowman kits, wrapping paper kits with bows, handmade mittens, hats, sweaters, ornaments, hand-crafted wooden benches, goat's milk soap, candles and more. There will be some special items on display, too, including beekeepers' honey, kitchen towels, trivets and dishcloths.

Organizers say shoppers can find all kinds of great gifts for the holidays.

All proceeds from the show will benefit church projects.

The craft show will be held in the basement of St. Rose Church, 805 S. Jefferson Street in Hastings.

For more information, contact Julie Lajoye at 616-723-5937. — *MM*

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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.

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LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

Education needs support from voters and politicians

Dear Editor,

The Nov. 4 Barry ISD ballot issue was for "funding for (1) student behavioral needs, (2) area career and technical education programs, including for vocational training purposes, and (3) the education of students with a disability."

This was on the ballot as a result of a community survey asking for public feedback on how the ISD is doing and where to improve learning and career opportunities for students — the proposal spoke directly to the needs as expressed by the community affected in our county. Voters said no in spite of knowing the need is there. With only 20% of registered voters determining this, shame on the 80% who didn't bother to weigh in.

Why did this millage lose? Probably because our economy is increasingly uncertain, even though the last election put people in power who promised to fix the economy. One of those electeds is John Moolenaar. So, for those who are as disappointed as I am over the millage defeat, please write this congressman and urge him to restore posthaste the education cuts of the current administration.

Some Barry County voters who live within the Kent ISD will benefit from a similar millage, where they narrowly voted in favor of a Regional Enhancement Millage proposal.

I'm asking you (1) to write John Moolenaar today, urging him to support education funding, and (2) to get out and vote in higher numbers every time the polls are open. Don't let your apathy be the death of democracy and good local programs.

Lorraine Lindsey Delton

HASTINGS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Professional Events

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

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 | 3:00 pm

OBITUARIES

VIEW OBITUARIES ONLINE. HASTINGSBANNER.COM

Douglas John Cole



Douglas "Doug" John Cole, age 66, passed away on November 7, 2025. Doug was born in Kalamazoo, MI, the son of Gordon and Helen (Bartenan) Cole. He was a proud graduate of Hastings High School and went on to earn his bachelor's degree in Computer Science from Grand Valley State University.

Doug's career path was varied and reflected his adaptability and dedication. He worked for Lifesavers producing mints and gum, later managed servers for ADP, and most recently served as a shuttle bus driver for Trinitas.

A lifelong sports fan, Doug loved watching University of Michigan football and basketball, as well as cheering on the Detroit Lions, Tigers, and Pistons. He enjoyed playing golf, catching episodes of American Pickers, and was a faithful attendee of Grand Rapids First Church.

Doug was preceded in death by his parents, Gordon and Helen Cole; his brother, Daniel Cole; and his niece, Chelsea Cole.

He is survived by his brothers, Greg (Vicki Rusticus-Cole) and Joe (Cheryl) Cole, along with several nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held on Saturday, Nov. 22, 2025, at noon, with visitation one hour prior, at Girrbach Funeral Home, 328 S. Broadway, Hastings, MI 49058. A luncheon will follow at the funeral home, with interment at Riverside Cemetery.

Memorial contributions can be made to Haven of Hope - 9659 Thompson Rd, Lake Odessa, MI 48849, or a charity of choice.

Arrangements are entrusted to Girrbach Funeral Home. To share a memory or leave a condolence, please visit www.girrbachfuneralhome.net.

PIERCE CEDAR CREEK INSTITUTE EVENTS

— NOV. 13-20 —

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

Oct. 1-Apr. 1 — 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.

Friday, Nov. 14 — Science Storytime at the Hastings Public Library (ages 6 and under with an adult), 10:30 a.m. Learn about science through the power of books. Join Hastings Public Library's youth librarian and Institute employees as they share their favorite books, activities and crafts with little learners. These programs will take place outdoors as weather permits. Organizers ask participants to dress for the weather and the season. This program is free — no registration is required.

Tuesday, Nov. 18 — Nature Book Club, 10 a.m. November's meeting focuses on "Life and Death of the Great Lakes" by Dan Egan. This non-fiction book talks about the importance of the Great Lakes and the presence they bring to a hopeful future for our planet, and about the impact they have on the communities and ecosystems around them. Those who have not read the book are invited to join in the discussion. Nature Book Club is a free program; participants are asked to register ahead of time online.

Wednesday, Nov. 19 — The Feast of Home: Barry County (in partnership with B. Healthy Barry County and Michigan Agriculture Advancement) — Growing Our Local Food Community, 6 p.m. Celebrate the flavors, farms and food stories of Barry County. Dinner starts at 6 p.m. and costs $50 per person. The free program is scheduled for 7:15 p.m., followed by free dessert and conversation at 8 p.m.

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

GO ONLINE TO HASTINGSBANNER.COM

Worship Together

...at the church of your choice~

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ASK DR. UNIVERSE

Bad behavior

Why do some humans like to do bad things? Is it the thrill or were they always born bad?

— Leonel, 14, Texas

Dear Leonel,

I've met some naughty cats. I've also known some misunderstood ones.

I asked my friend Chris Barry why humans are sometimes like that, too. He's a psychologist at Washington State University.

He told me we're talking about behaviors that don't align with social norms. They give most people bad feelings. That's like feeling uncomfortable when someone does something violent or mean.

Sometimes those behaviors come from the person's nature, or temperament. Sometimes they happen because the person enjoys taking risks. Or maybe they struggle to think before they act.

It could be all those things, even within the same person. Plus, temperament, thrill-seeking and impulse control all have to do with how someone's brain works.

One big factor is how old the person is when the behavior starts. If they're super young, that's a clue it might be related to temperament. It may continue when they grow up.

If the behavior starts during adolescence, it might be temporary. People sometimes take more risks during those years. They usually stop as they mature.

Sometimes "bad" behaviors tell us something else. Maybe the person is unhappy, afraid or hurt. Maybe they don't know how to say that. So, it comes out in their behavior.

It's complicated because humans are complex animals.

Barry told me empathy is a big part of human behavior. That's the ability to understand and share someone else's feelings.

"We start to demonstrate empathy from a very young age, even within the first two years of life," he said. "It doesn't have to be full-blown empathy, like how adults empathize with friends who are going through a tough time. It's just being responsive to the distress of other people."

Empathy is seeing someone cry and feeling bad for them. Or watching someone get hurt and understanding how bad they feel.

How much empathy a person feels is a spectrum. Some people respond strongly to other people's feelings. Some people have a hard time connecting with other people's emotions. Most people are somewhere in between.

People with low empathy may not connect their behavior with how it makes other people feel.

But feeling empathy isn't the only option. People can also think empathetically. They can learn to imagine another person's perspective—even if they don't connect with their emotions.

People can also learn to maximize their executive function. That's how we manage our time and goals. It's also how we check our impulses and think through decisions. That's easy for some people and harder for others. But everyone can get better at it with practice.

That's why we need caregivers and experts to teach us those empathy and social-emotional skills. It works best if that learning starts when we're small. That gives us a long time to practice being thoughtful humans—or cats.

— 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. 13 – Movie Memories and Milestones watches a 1928 film based on John H. Byron's play, "The Last Warning," 5 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 14 – Friday Storytime, 10:30 a.m.; Family Movie Night: "Dog Man," 4 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 15 – Warhammer and Dungeons & Dragons, 10 a.m.

Monday, Nov. 17 – Crafting Passions, 10 a.m.; Lego Club, 4 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 18 – Baby Café, 10 a.m.; mahjong, 2 p.m.; chess club, 5 p.m.

Nov. 18-Dec. 2 – Big Library Read global e-book club reading program. Connect with readers around the world by reading the same e-book through the Libby digital collection. "The Village Beyond the Mist" by Sachiko Kashiwaba is available in Libby with no waitlists or holds from Nov. 18-Dec. 2.

Wednesday, Nov. 19 – Itsy Bitsy Book Club, 10:30 a.m.

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

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
BARRY COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. and JUDGE 25-30245

Estate of Haley L. Seidl. Date of birth: 12/17/1982.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Haley L. Seidl, died 08/27/2025.

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

Date: 11/07/2025

Robert L. Longstreet P53546
607 N. Broadway
Hastings, MI 49058

Marianne D. Seidl
1970 Nashville Rd.
Hastings, MI 49058
(269) 938-8348

STATE OF MICHIGAN
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT - FAMILY DIVISION
BARRY COUNTY
PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING REGARDING PETITION FOR NAME CHANGE
CASE NO. and JUDGE 25-30211-NC
WILLIAM M. DOHERTY

TO ALL PERSONS, including Scott John H. Erskine whose address is unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:

TAKE NOTICE: Autumn Breanna Marie Collins has filed a petition for name change.

A name change hearing will be held on 12/03/2025 at 2:00 p.m. at 206 W. Court St., Ste. 302, Hastings, MI 49058 before Judge William M. Doherty to change the name of: Autumn Breanna Marie Collins to Aurora Phoenix Mae Hawkins; minor child.

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

Blacksmiths and farriers in Hastings

DAVID W. MILLER
Special to The Banner

"Horse and buggy days may be gone forever. But there are more ponies and horses in Barry County now than there ever were in the days when the horse was the chief means of transportation." That observation, made decades after automobiles replaced the family buggy, reminds us that while the role of the horse has changed, the care it requires has not.

In every small town of Michigan's past, the blacksmith shop was once as familiar as the general store or the church. The ring of hammer on anvil and the smell of coal smoke signaled the center of work that kept wagons rolling, plows cutting and horses sound. Blacksmiths forged and repaired tools, wagon wheels, and hardware, while farriers—often overlapping in skill—focused on the hooves of horses, trimming and shoeing them so they could endure the rigors of farm, forest or battlefield.

Though rooted in centuries of tradition, the work of a farrier continued into modern times. Drew Anderson of Dowling was one such craftsman, and his story ties Hastings to both global and local history. Anderson began his career in 1941 as a member of the U.S. Army Cavalry. Stationed in China and Burma during World War II, he shod mules that carried supplies across treacherous terrain as part of Merrill's Marauders, the famed infantry unit led by Brig. Gen. Frank Merrill in the China-Burma-India theater. Before returning home, he even taught Chinese soldiers the skill of shoeing mules.

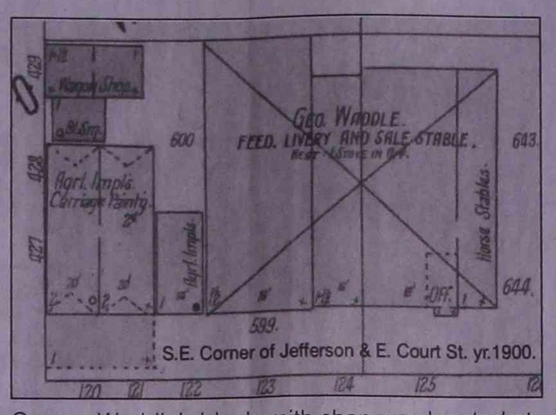
When Anderson left the service, he never expected to shoe another horse. Raised near Lubbock, Texas, his plan was to farm, but marriage to a Dowling native, Jean Hunt, brought him to Michigan. Farming proved less profitable than he hoped, while horse owners still needed reliable farriers. By 1959, Anderson had made it his life's work. Later, from a 1973 white Datsun pickup, he ran a portable business, carefully scheduling his stops so he could serve multiple horse owners in the same area on a single trip. "Nobody would want to pay the price I'd have to charge if I had to drive 50 miles for one horse," he explained.

His knowledge of horses' needs came from both long practice and plain sense. Unless a horse was being shown or ridden regularly, Anderson noted, it often needed shoes only on its front hooves. Those front feet carry about 65 percent of a horse's weight and nearly all of the rider's. Shoes, he explained, must be reset every eight to 10 weeks, since a horse grows a new hoof wall each year. Wild horses wear their hooves naturally through constant movement; domestic horses, confined and ridden, depend on the farrier to prevent lameness.

Anderson never romanticized his trade.

"40 years ago, horses had to work like horses. They weren't playthings like they are now," he said, noting that few, if any, horses were still used for plowing. He discouraged young people from taking it up as an occupation. With no unemployment insurance and constant physical risk, farriery was, in his words, "a risky occupation." Still, he valued the independence the work gave him. He never had to watch the clock, working "by the horse" rather than by the hour, and he carried a deep respect for the strength and spirit of the animals that had outlasted the plow, the car, and the machine.

At the height of his career, Drew Anderson was shoeing nearly a thousand horses a year, traveling between 10,000 and 15,000 miles annually to reach his clients. He retired in 1986, but the trade did not end with him. His son, Scott Anderson, returning from a tour of duty with the U.S. Air Force in 1973, had joined his father fulltime and carried on the work. For the next half-century, the Anderson name remained synonymous with farriery in Barry County.



George Waddle's blacksmith shop was located at the corner of Jefferson and Court streets in 1900.
Courtesy photos

Scott describes the demands with the same candor as his father.

"It takes about an hour and a half to shoe the average horse, and on a good day, I can manage about six. Every so often, I'll meet a frightened horse, and then it takes longer. You have to win his confidence first, otherwise the risk of an accident is too great."

Though he now calls himself "partially retired," Scott still serves a dozen local clients. Out of loyalty to them, and to the vanishing trade itself, he continues the work with the same steadiness that defined his father's career.

The world has changed since the days when Hastings' blacksmith shops were crowded with farm teams and draft horses, but the craft of the farrier remains a living link to that era. Drew Anderson's life and Scott Anderson's persistence remind us that while the tools have shifted—from a forge and bellows to a pickup truck and rasp—the skill and dedication remain the same. Out of devotion to their clients and pride in their work, the Andersons have kept alive one of Hastings' oldest callings.

And in this way, their story circles back to Hastings' earliest days, when turn-of-the-century blacksmiths set up shop along E. Court and Jefferson Street. Among them were men like George Waddle, who was hammering out horseshoes in Hastings as late as 1900; Hiram Topping, whose shop stood near the courthouse square; and John Rounds, remembered in local directories as both blacksmith and wagon maker. These men served the growing town in its pioneer years, when the blacksmith's forge was as necessary as the mill or the livery. Few traces of those shops remain today, yet the Andersons' work carries forward the same tradition—meeting the needs of horse and rider with strength, precision, and respect. Their legacy reminds us that while time and technology have moved on, the echo of hammer and anvil still resounds quietly in Hastings' history.

Sources: Consultation with the Anderson family; Enquirer & News, (BCE.) Sun. Jul. 26, 1959, pg. 23; Ibid. BCE. Sun. May 8, 1966, pg. 9; Ibid. BCE. May 3, 1979, pg. 23; Photo of Anvil by Emiliano Milli Scarsi, (Facebook, Dec. 1922).

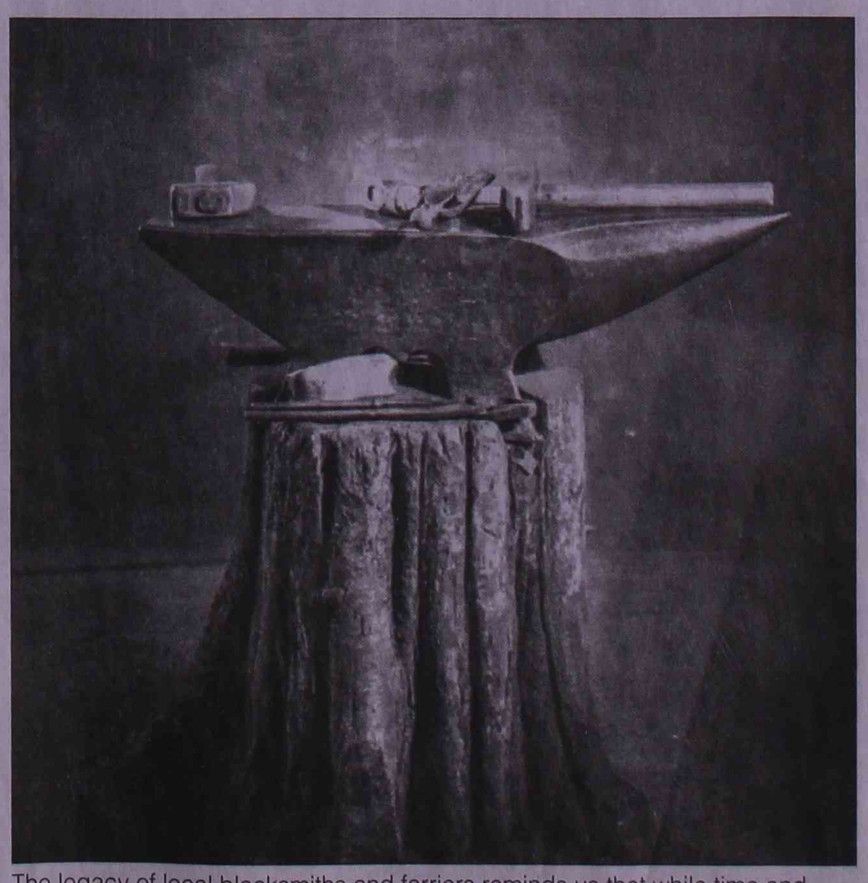
David Miller is a moderator for the "Hastings History" Facebook group.



At the height of his career, Drew Anderson was shoeing nearly a thousand horses a year, traveling between 10,000 and 15,000 miles annually to reach his clients.



The world has changed since the days when Hastings' blacksmith shops were crowded with farm teams and draft horses, but the craft of the farrier remains a living link to that era.



The legacy of local blacksmiths and farriers reminds us that while time and technology have moved on, the echo of hammer and anvil still resounds quietly in Hastings' history.

Sluggish start too much for TK to overcome at Lowell

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The football was on the ground too often.

Penalty flags were on the ground too often.

Lowell quarterback Logan Dawson wasn't on the ground soon enough often enough.

The Thornapple Kellogg varsity football team fell into a 21-0 hole in the first half, battled back to within a touchdown a couple of times in the second half and eventually fell to the host Red Arrows 28-21 in the MHSAA Division 3 District Final inside Red Arrow Memorial Stadium Friday, Nov. 7.

Lowell (8-2), a district champion for the first time since 2016, will host Zeeland West in an MHSAA Division 3 Regional Final Nov. 14. It wasn't the prettiest of victories, but the Red Arrows will take it.

"We didn't execute well. We didn't block the right people. Way too many penalties at crucial times, and then next thing you know we would shoot ourselves in the foot again," coach Dock said. "You can't beat anyone, let alone playoff football, doing that stuff. Unfortunately, we come out and this reminded me very much of the East Grand Rapids game where we laid an egg in the first half and we came out in the second half. Unfortunately, that's exactly what we did. We laid an egg in the first half and then we came out and we competed our tails off in the second half.

"Super proud of them. They responded super well, and they did exactly what I asked and they were awesome in the second half."

Friday was an evening where both teams offered up more opportunities to their opponent than they would have liked.

TK fumbled away the opening kickoff and the Trojan offense moved the ball forward just 15 yards in the first half before one final run as the half ended netted a first down.

The Lowell punting unit had a pass fall incomplete on a fake attempt in its own end early in the third quarter, and then a bad snap on the next drive result in a hurried, blocked punt. TK turned the short field into a touchdown both times. TK could have used one more gaff by the Red Arrows, but it never came.

Dawson rushed 33 times for 120 yards, rushed for three touchdowns and threw for one more. It was preferable for the Trojans to have him throwing the ball. He was just 2-of-7 passing for 15 yards.

Dawson was shifty in the backfield to find running lanes and avoid defenders, and proved powerful enough to break away or keep moving forward once hands were on him.

"They're big, and number two (Dawson) is a special player. He is really good," coach Dock said.

His touchdown runs were all short ones. An eight-yard TD run and a two-yard TD run in the opening quarter had his team up 14-0. He fired an 11-yard TD pass to Crue Huisman in the end zone with 12 seconds left in the first half to make it 21-0 at the break.



Thornapple Kellogg's Blake Bossenberger (23) works to try and get Lowell quarterback Logan Dawson to the ground during the first half of their MHSAA Division 3 District Final inside Red Arrow Stadium in Lowell Friday. **Photos by Brett Bremer**



Thornapple Kellogg varsity football team members sing the school fight song with their Christmas clad classmates in the Trojan student section following the team's 28-21 loss to Lowell in the MHSAA Division 3 District Final at Red Arrow Stadium in Lowell Friday, Nov. 7.



Thornapple Kellogg senior back Malachi VanEngen takes a pitch around the left side during the first half of the MHSAA Division 3 District Final at Lowell Friday.

The powerful Lowell line helped the squads other hard-running backs succeed too. Mitchell Eikey had 12 carries for 63 yards and Marek Pullen had 12 carries for 48 yards.

"We made several small adjustments, but we started playing ball," coach Dock said. "We flew to the ball, and we tackled well, and we played physical. All that stuff was really, really awesome in the second half."

TK got within 21-14 thanks to the Red Arrows' special teams' mishaps with a four-yard TD run by senior fullback Debo Robinson and a one-yard TD run by junior quarterback Micah Dock.

It wasn't the quite the final nail in the Trojans' season, but the Red Arrows were nearly there once they put together a 63-yard touchdown drive that ate up a little over six and a half minutes in the fourth quarter. Dawson notched his third rushing touchdown on a two-yard run with 3:49 to go in the game. The Red Arrows led 28-14.

TK got a five-yard Robinson TD run with 2:31 to play in the game to make it a one score game.

Of all people, Dawson fell on the loose, on-side kick attempt by TK. The Red Arrow offense then moved the ball just well enough, with the help of a couple flags against the TK defense, to eat up the rest of the clock.

"The second half, when we came out of the locker room, Micah said, 'competitive greatness' right out of the huddle," TK junior lineman AJ Dutcher said. "That is one of our core values and everybody needed to go, and we all knew it. We jumped the gun and we almost had it."

Still, the Trojans close out one of their best seasons in the lifetime of most of their players. TK finishes with a 7-4 record. It is just the second time in the past 15 seasons that the Trojans have won seven games.

Dutcher said it was a great group of leaders in this TK senior class.

"They were perfect all summer," Dutcher said. "It was just consistency, consistency, consistency. They worked on us. I feel like they built the juniors for next year, to be ready to lead as seniors and lead it all."

The roster included 11 seniors this fall including most of the Trojans' key ball-carriers. Robinson had a team-high 12 rushes for 57 yards in the ballgame. Malachi VanEngen added four carries for 23 yards and Zach Eldridge had six rushes for 16 yards. VanEngen also had an 11-yard reception.

"We don't have very many seniors, but super proud of them. They're a big reason why we're here, in regards to some key components, but we have a lot of juniors coming back. I think we have a lot still left in the tank. We'll see how that goes. Any time you can get here and get playoff experience and extra practice, all of that stuff is really good. It is just a matter of carrying over the momentum into the offseason and carrying it over into the fall.

"And learning from the mistakes. We've got to be way more disciplined."

PRAIRIEVILLE TOWNSHIP ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

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

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing will be held on December 3, 2025 commencing at 7:00 p.m. at the Prairieville Township Hall, 10115 S. Norris Rd., Delton MI, 49046 within the Township, as required under the provisions of the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act and the Zoning Ordinance for the Township.

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

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

1. A request from property owner Don Porter, 11246 Long Point Dr, Plainwell, MI 49080 for a variance to allow for the construction of a deck on a single family dwelling that fails to meet setbacks, pursuant to sections 4.24 "Waterfront Lots" and 4.41"Schedule of Lot, Yard and Area Requirements" of the Prairieville Township Zoning Ordinance. The subject site is located at 11246 Long Point Dr, Plainwell, MI 49080. Parcel #08-12-290-021-00 and is currently zoned R2, Medium Residential.

2. Such other business as may properly come before the Zoning Board of Appeals.

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

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

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

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF BARRY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
FILE NO. N/A

In the matter of the Lorraine G. Boer Trust. Date of birth: July 10, 1932.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Lorraine G. Boer died September 24, 2025 There is no personal representative of the decedent's estate to whom Letters of Authority have been issued.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the Trust will be forever barred unless presented to Tamara L. Loud Trustee of the Lorraine G. Boer Trust, under a Trust Agreement dated April 25, 1994, as amended, within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: 11/10/2025
Miller Johnson
John T. McFarland P65580
45 Ottawa Avenue, SW, Suite 1100
P.O. Box 306
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49501-0306
(616) 831-1700
Tamara L. Loud
6307 N. Noffke Drive
Caledonia, MI 49316
(517) 490-5940

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
BARRY COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. and JUDGE 25-30248-DE

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

Estate of Richard C. Martin. Date of birth: April 23, 1965.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Richard C. Martin, died September 19, 2025.

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

Charles S. Ofstein P76256
211 E. Water St., Ste. 401
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007
(269) 343-2106

Brenda Martin
1060 Colonial Trail
Kalamazoo, Michigan 490098
(269) 762-0645

Slagel conference diving champ for third time in three tries



Grand Rapids Gators senior Jenna Robinett swims the freestyle leg of the 200-yard individual medley during the 'B' Final race Saturday at the OK Conference East Division Championship held at the CERC in Hastings.

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Two seasons. Two championships. Zero defeats.

The Caledonia varsity girls' swimming and diving team rolled through its second undefeated season in the OK Conference East Division by winning Saturday's conference championship meet at the Community Education and Recreation Center in Hastings by 61 points over runner-up Ottawa Hills Saturday.

Caledonia senior Sophie Gaylord and Wayland senior Laney Wolf were the top two performers in the conference for the day with Gaylord a victor in all four events she participated in. Caledonia had five of the top ten scorers at the meet and seven all-conference honorees overall - a list that included senior Aliya Van Hofwegen, junior Mya VanderZwaag, sophomore Amelia McCann, freshman Caitlyn Morris, sophomore Lily Klein and freshman Kailey Hall.

While the Fighting Scots have never been beaten in the team standings, Thornapple Kellogg junior Lydia Slagel performing for the Grand Rapids Gators has never been bested at the conference championships in the diving event. An all-state diver in Division 1 last year, Slagel won a conference title for the third time with an overall score of 437.65 points. She beat her nearest competitor by more than 80 points over the course of the 11-dive competition.

"I think it went really well. I am really happy with how it went. I know there were some dives that I could have done better, but we just go back to the drawing board and you learn from your mistakes and you just make them better."

She was really happy with her forward 2-1/2 somersault in the tuck position dive during Friday's prelim's and her reverse 1-1/2 somersault in the pike position during Saturday's finals.

Her conference championship scores have climbed over the years. She won the OK Rainbow tier II Conference championship as a freshman with a score of 378.70 points. Her point total was up to 393.80 in the renamed OK Conference East Division Championship last fall as a sophomore.

"I have put in the work. I come into practice every day ready to do everything that I can do to get better. I will do everything to get better, and it has paid off," Slagel said.

"Mechanically, I am a lot better ... and diving takes a lot of mental strength," she added. "Before I wasn't as confident. Now, I'm a lot more confident because I do three to six of everything per day. I know for a fact that I am going to be able to make the dive."

Divers from around the state will compete in regional meets this week. Slagel will be a part of the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 1 Diving Regional hosted by Hudsonville. The D1 MHSAA L.P. State Finals will be held Nov. 21-22 at Oakland University.

Caledonia remains a co-op with South Christian and Lowell student-athletes. The Grand Rapids Gators co-op with Thornapple Kellogg, Hopkins, West Michigan Aviation Academy and West Catholic girls placed fifth on the day as a team, tying Grand Rapids Union for fifth in the final overall conference standings.

Caledonia won with an overall score of 526 points Saturday ahead of Ottawa Hills 465, Wayland 341, Catholic Central 318, Grand Rapids Gators 151 and Grand Rapids Union 126.

Gators sophomore Mckenna Hawks was seventh in the 200-yard individual medley with a time of 2 minutes 32.94 seconds and freshman Mara Raak placed sixth in the 100-yard breaststroke in 1:19.04. Those were the other two top-eight, individual medal-winning performances for their team.

Senior Jenna Robinett, Raak, Hawks and sophomore Eloise Nichols placed fifth in the 200-yard medley relay and that same foursome was fifth in the 200-yard freestyle relay. The team of senior Devon Barnhill, sophomore Scarlett Hilzey, freshman Adelaide Nydam and freshman Leyna Kursch was sixth in the 400-yard freestyle relay.

The top 16 in each event scored for their team. Robinett and Nichols both finished in the top 16 in the 100-yard butterfly. Robinett was 13th in a personal best time of 1:25.05. Nichols improved her personal best to 1:34.93 to finish 16th. Robinett placed 14th in the 200-yard individual medley with a time of 3:06.67. Nichols swam a personal best time of 2:27.32 to place 16th in the 200-yard freestyle.

Nydam swam to a 14th-place time of 33.75 in the 50-yard freestyle. Raak added a personal best swim of 6:47.52 to finish 14th in the 500-yard freestyle.

Caledonia girls were better than the Division 1 state qualifying time in all three relay races at the conference championship and Gaylord and VanderZwaag had times good enough for spots in the D1 Finals in individual victories.

Gaylord won the 100-yard backstroke in 57.74 seconds and the 100-yard butterfly in 57.68 Saturday. Teammate Van Hofwegen was the 100-yard butterfly runner-up in 1 minute 3.90 seconds. And as far in front as Gaylord was, Van Hofwegen was still more than two seconds ahead of her nearest competitor.

Gaylord, Van Hofwegen, VanderZwaag and Morris won the 200-yard freestyle relay in 1:49.46. VanderZwaag, Hall, McCann and Gaylord won the 200-yard individual medley in 1:39.6 breaking a ten-year-old pool and conference record in that race set by Grand Rapids Catholic Central in what was formerly known as the OK Rainbow Conference Tier II. Caledonia made its return to the conference in 2024 after a few seasons competing in the OK Red Conference with the biggest schools in the Grand Rapids area.

VanderZwaag won the 100-yard breaststroke in 1:08.60 beating her nearest competitor by more than four and a half seconds.

Van Hofwegen, McCann, Hall and Morris had a runner-up time of 3:46.90 in the 400-yard freestyle relay, finishing just behind the Wayland foursome of Sybil Williamson, Kaeli Whip, Stella VanWyk and Wolf who finished in 3:45.93.

Wolf was the conference champ in the 200-yard individual medley in 2:11.42 with VanderZwaag the runner-up in that one with a time of 2:15.02. In the 500-yard freestyle, Wolf won in 5:18.66 with McCann second in 5:31.50. Wolf and her Wildcat teammates were second to the Fighting Scots in the 200-yard freestyle relay, about three and a half seconds back.

Van Hofwegen won the 50-yard freestyle in 25.57, and teammates Morris and Hall were third and fourth in that race. It wasn't the only race the Scots were especially dominant in. Gaylord won the 100 butterfly with Van Hofwegen second, sophomore Chloe Kerkstra fifth and senior Lena Gesing eighth.

McCann also had a runner-up time of 2:00.82 in the 200-yard freestyle.

The other two champions on the day set personal bests in freestyle races. Ottawa Hills junior Rowen Heethuis won the 200-yard freestyle in 2:00.04. Catholic Central senior Mae Braun took the 100 freestyle in 55.27.



Grand Rapids Gators junior Lydia Slagel with her All-America consideration certificate following her third straight conference championship performance in the diving event Saturday during the OK Conference East Division Championship at the Community Education and Recreation Center in Hastings. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

Dozen personal bests for DK/Hastings girls at SCC Championship

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Delton Kellogg/Hastings varsity girls swam to 12 new personal records and a new team record in the 200-yard freestyle relay Nov. 7-8 at the Southwestern and Central Michigan Conference Championship hosted by Harper Creek High School in Battle Creek.

DK/Hastings head coach Carl Schoessel said nearly every girl on the team had big time drops throughout the course of the two-day meet.

The team of Aubrey Yarger, Annabelle Kuck, Lilly Randall and Petra Foster raced to a time of 1 minute 58.42 seconds in the 200-yard freestyle relay, which put them eighth in the A Final of the race. They trimmed about a third of a second off of their own team record in the race from a year ago.

Harper Creek took the day's championship with 527 points ahead of Plainwell 318, Sturgis 311, Marshall 301, South Haven 287, Otsego 277, Allegan 165 and Delton Kellogg/Hastings 121.

Randall had two top ten individual finishes at the meet. She was eighth in the 50-yard freestyle with a time of 28.19 seconds and she finished tenth in the 100-yard freestyle in 1:02.28.

The top finish of the meet came from Yarger who was upset by Otsego's Millie Shattuck in the diving competition. Shattuck put up a score of 389.60 to Yarger's 381.80 over the course of 11 dives. Shattuck, a senior, improved her conference meet score by more than 80 points from last year.

Yarger will be a part of the MHSAA Division 2 Diving Regional this evening, Nov. 13, at Northview High School. She was the D2 state champion a year ago.

DK/Hastings' Annabelle Kuck improved her personal best time in the 100-yard butterfly to 1:08.45 to place sixth in that race. She was also 11th in the 200-yard individual medley with a time of 2:42.73.

Foster also had a 16th-place finish for the team in the 500-yard freestyle with a time of 6:47.83.

Randall, Foster, Kuck and Yarger teamed up to place tenth in the 200-yard medley relay with a time of 2:17.54.

Other team members who were part of relay team which placed for DK/Hastings were Sofia Trejo Arias, Jillian Brandli, Selena Corona, Shiloh Crandall, Kassidy Peake, Lylah Quick and Jayda Villarreal.

City of Hastings

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING NORTH RIDGE ESTATES CONDOMINIUMS PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT AND FINAL SITE PLAN APPROVAL

The Planning Commission for the City of Hastings will hold a Public Hearing for the purpose of hearing written and/or oral comments from the public concerning North Ridge Estates Condominiums Planned Unit Development and final site plan approval for property located at 1700 N. Jefferson Street Block parcel #08-55-155-000-00. The Planning Commission will review and consider final site plan approval for the development and construction of eight (8) three (3) unit attached residential site condominiums, three (3) four (4) unit attached residential site condominiums, and one (1) two (2) unit attached residential site condominium. The public hearing will be held at **7:00 PM on Monday December 1, 2025**, in the City Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall, 201 East State Street, Hastings, Michigan 49058.



A copy of the proposed site plan and map are available for public inspection from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM Monday through Friday at the Office of the Community Development Director, 201 East State Street, Hastings, Michigan 49058. Questions or comments can be directed to Dan King, Community Development Director, at 269.945.2468 or dking@hastingsmi.gov.

The City will provide necessary reasonable aids and services upon five days' notice to the City Clerk at 269.945.2468 or TDD call relay services 800.649.3777.

Linda Perin
City Clerk

Panthers celebrate one win, can't end Pirates' district streak

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Rylee Foreman has some hops.

And the Delton Kellogg girls earned one more night of volleyball.

Delton Kellogg senior Clara Sanchez-Palenia fired an ace for match-point at the end of a 3-1 Panther victory over Saranac in the MHSAA Division 3 District Semifinals at Delton Kellogg High School Wednesday. As the ace hit the floor and the celebration exploded, Foreman spun around and went to jump into Sananchez-Palenia's arms. She nearly went right over the top of her.

Before long, Panther seniors Jalin Lyons and Izzie Wendland were slapping the Panthers' sticker on the bracket on the north wall of the gymnasium to mark their place against No. 7-ranked Pewamo-Westphalia in the district final, which the Pirates ended up winning in three sets Friday, Nov. 7.

It wasn't the start to the night that the Panthers were hoping for in the semifinal win, but they got the finish they wanted. Saranac won the opening set 28-26 and then built a 20-9 lead in set number two. A miraculous 11-point run by the Panthers evened the set at 20-20, and the Panthers eventually won it 25-22 to even the match score at one set apiece.

Foreman has more than fantastic leaping ability.

"Rylee Foreman has an amazing sense of when to lock in and turn it on," Delton Kellogg head coach Erin Thornton said. "When she is in, it just goes. We had a time-out not too far before that. I just told them. This is your gym. This is your house. It's win or go home. I'm like, we're already home. Let's stay here and keep playing. So, it was just that little extra to make it real. You're just playing another game, and you know eh, if we lose no big deal.

"No, this is it. If you lose you're done. So there was that little push. We couldn't have done it without all of those girls. It was absolutely amazing. It feels really good."

That time-out came with the Saranac girls leading set two 19-8. A kill by sophomore middle Sophia Ferris got DK a point, then a Panther attack flew long and it was 20-9. Redhawk defensive specialist Lylah Stoutjesdyk stepped back to serve for her team. DK got some good back row defense from senior libero Jalin Lyons and junior Claire Barker, a couple stuffs at the net from junior Laana Hooker and Foreman at the net, and eventually a Redhawk was in the net to make it 20-10.

Foreman went to the service line and was there until the match was tied. Saranac hit an attack into the net. Lyons picked up a dumped ball over the net, got it up to the setter senior Izzie Wendland and Hooker hammered a kill. Wendland tipped a kill over following a dig by Barker. Another Redhawk attack went into the net and then another, and the hits kept coming for DK. Saranac called a time-out at 20-15 and then another at 20-20 before finally breaking the string.

The Redhawks did move in front 22-20, but DK rallied again. Saranac wasn't able to handle a string of wicked serves from DK senior Clara Sanchez-Palenia. She capped off the 25-22 win in set two with an ace.

Sanchez-Palenia closed out the fourth and final set with another outstanding service run that took her team from a 19-14 lead to the victory.



Delton's Izzie Wendland sets the ball for teammate Laana Hooker during their MHSAA Division 3 District Final against Pewamo-Westphalia at Delton Kellogg High School Friday. **Photo by Perry Hardin**



Delton Kellogg's Clara Sanchez-Palenia bump sets a Pewamo-Westphalia serve during the third game of the MHSAA Division 3 District Final at Delton Kellogg High School Friday. **Photo by Perry Hardin**

From there, the Delton Kellogg girls rolled to 25-13, 25-14 wins in sets three and four in front of a rowdy home student-section all decked out in black to match their girls' uniforms.

Thornton was expecting the home crowd to help in the district final against Pewamo-Westphalia. She said it certainly did in the semifinal.

"100 percent," Thornton said. "Those, mostly football players, have been with us through the whole season. Having that extra noise around has led us to here, and all right, noisy gym, no problem."

The Pirates proved just too talented though Friday in the district final, outscoring the Delton Kellogg girls 25-19, 25-14, 25-19 for their fifth consecutive district championship.

Set number one was tied 11-11 and DK was within 17-14 before the Pirates started to pull away a bit.

Delton responded by taking a quick 7-2 lead in set number two, but the Pirates rallied with a 13-point run that put them in front 15-7. Set three went a bit like set one, with the two teams tied 11-11 before the Pirates built a small lead and then extended it for the victory.

Pewamo-Westphalia bested Maple Valley in three sets in the first district semifinal match of the evening in Delton last Wednesday. The Pirates have since defeated Morley-Stanwood in the regional semifinals and will face North Muskegon in the MHSAA Division 3 Regional Final at White Cloud High School tonight, Nov. 13.



Delton Kellogg junior middle Laana Hooker goes up to slow down an attack by Saranac's Alyssa Ricket during the MHSAA Division 3 District Semifinal at Delton Kellogg High School Wednesday, Nov. 12. **Photo by Brett Bremer**



The Delton Kellogg varsity volleyball team celebrates after seniors Jalin Lyons and Izzie Wendland slap their sticker on the MHSAA Division 3 District bracket on the wall in the Delton Kellogg High School gymnasium Wednesday, Nov. 5, following their win over Saranac in the district semifinals. **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 1:00 PM, on December 11, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Kathleen McCully and Jasvinder Kaler, wife and husband

Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Lake Michigan Credit Union

Date of Mortgage: January 22, 2019

Date of Mortgage Recording: January 28, 2019

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $193,001.45

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Village of Middleville, Barry County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 109, Misty Ridge No. 5, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Liber 6 of Plats, Page 66, Barry County Records

Common street address (if any): 711 View Pointe Dr, Middleville, MI 49333-9368

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.

Date of notice: November 13, 2025

Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515

1577274 (11-13)(12-04)

SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - BARRY COUNTY

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 49c of the State Housing Development Authority Act of 1966, 1966 PA 346, MCL 125.1449c, 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 December 11, 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): Paige Rozell-Clouse and Logan Clouse, husband and wife as joint tenants with right of survivorship Original Mortgagee: Neighborhood Loans, Inc. Date of mortgage: March 15, 2024 Recorded on March 19, 2024, in Document No. 2024-001819, and re-recorded via Affidavit of Correction on November 4, 2025, in Document No. 2025-009371, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Michigan State Housing Development Authority Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Eighty-Five Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety-Nine and 44/100 Dollars ($185,999.44) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Barry County, and described as: Lot 5, Block 22, Lincoln Park Addition to the City of Hastings, according to the recorded plat thereof, recorded in Liber 1 of Plats, Page 55, Barry County Records Commonly known as 612 W Clinton St, Hastings, MI 49058 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 125.1449v, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 125.1449v(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. 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. Michigan State Housing Development Authority Mortgagee/ Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400

1577388
(11-13)(12-04)

Highly ranked P-W squad bests Lions in volleyball district semifinals

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

It was a tough draw for the Maple Valley varsity volleyball team.

The Lions were bested in the MHSAA Division 3 District Semifinals at Delton Kellogg High School Wednesday, Nov. 5, in three sets by No. 7-ranked Pewamo-Westphalia. The Pirates won by the scores of 25-7, 25-16, 25-10.

Pewamo-Westphalia went on to take down Delton Kellogg in Friday night's district championship game.

The Lions and Pirates met in districts in 2024 too.

"Our goal was to perform better than last year, and we did indeed do that," Maple Valley head coach Timara Wehr said.

"Our girls played their hearts out," she added, "and that's all we could have asked for."

Maddie Trowbridge had two kills and seven digs for the Lions. Freshman Lilly Rosin added a kill and four digs.

Junior Audrey Burpee fired two aces and had a team-high ten digs. Senior Storey Jonca chipped in two aces.

Pewamo-Westphalia won the MHSAA Division 3 State Championship in 2022 and has been to at least the quarterfinal round of the state tournament in each of the past four seasons.

Postseason run by Vikings ends in regional semifinals

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Lakewood head coach Brooke Francisco felt like her girls were underdogs in winning a district championship.

The unranked Vikings landing in a regional tournament with three of the top five ranked teams in the state in Division 2 didn't change that feeling any, and the Vikings also didn't help themselves early on in their MHSAA Division 2 Regional Semifinal against No. 4 ranked Grand Rapids Catholic Central at South Christian High School Tuesday.

Not the start to the match or the end to the season the Lakewood girls were hoping for. But they made the Cougars work to finish them off. Catholic Central advanced to tonight's (Nov. 13) regional final against No. 3 Grand Rapids Christian with a 25-10, 25-10, 28-26 win over the Lakewood ladies.

"There were a lot of nerves," Francisco said. "We beat the odds of winning a district right, so now we've got the high energy and the nerves of playing in a regional. We haven't done this in a few years, so a lot of these kids haven't been in an atmosphere like this."

She said her girls' certainly wanted to win, but the nerves combined with that want took them out of the things they wanted to focus on and accomplish early on.

The Cougars' success came from the very start as sophomore setter Cece Rybicki took advantage of her full compliment of weapons. She put a pass up to senior middle Maddie Ostrander to get the first point. She fired a pass up for senior outside hitter Evy Koops on the left side that the Vikings kept alive, and then Rybicki put an assist up for senior hitter Sophia Berger on the right to clinch the second point. Koops got a block in the middle of the net and then a kill from the left pin. Berger put down another kill down from the right.

Poof, it was 5-0. Eventually, the Cougars had a 12-1 lead.

Set two started similarly. The Cougars had leads of 3-0, then 7-2, and then a run in the middle of the set upped a 13-7 lead to 18-7.

Lakewood finally settled in to start set three. Sophomore middle Johanna Duits and freshman Zoey Schmitt teamed up for a block on Ostrander to get the Vikings' the serve on the first point, the defense kept a couple balls alive, junior setter Camyla Copelin assisted sophomore Ahlana Thomas for a kill. Soon Lakewood led 5-0 and the Cougars were calling for a time-out.

Senior setter Emma Duffy, the Vikings' leader, set up Copelin for a couple of kills. Copelin fired a couple of aces. Duits kept finding holes with attacks from the middle. The Cougars sprayed a few attacks wide of the court. Lakewood had a lead up to 17-8 as a dig from senior Eva Stowell led to an assist from Copelin and a Duits kill.

"We were just playing volleyball," Francisco said. "I feel like there was so much thinking the first two sets, and just individuals worrying about themselves more than worrying about the team. I think that third set they really came out and played for each other, and played for the team and with each other. They were able to get in system a little bit more and run our offense, which makes a really big difference."

Catholic Central righted the ship eventually. Koops had a service run that took the Cougars from down 17-9 to within 17-16. The Cougars finally caught the Vikings on an ace by Berger at 21-21. The two were back and forth from there.

Lakewood had a shot at set-point up 24-23, but the Cougars went right to Koop when they had to have points. She put down kills for her team's 23rd, 25th and 26th points. She had another swing that Lakewood junior libero Hayden Bump manged to keep form the floor, but the Vikings couldn't take advantage as the Cougar lead went to 27-26. Ostrander put one final Cougar attack off the block to the floor from the middle to clinch the victory for her team.

Copelin had a team-high ten kills for the Vikings. Thomas had seven kills and Duits finished with six kills.

Grand Rapids Christian defeated No. 5 Holland Christian in the first regional semifinal of the evening Tuesday 25-15, 25-23, 24-26, 25-23.

"I think Grand Rapids Christian will give them a run for their money," Francisco said. "I think this will be a good regional final. They both work very hard, and they both have a good match-up. They have size. They have strength. They have power. I think it will be a good match-up."

While the Vikings have a couple of talented, growing middles and some crafty outside hitters, they were undersized as a whole this season – especially against teams the caliber of those at the regional.

"They're hitting over us. We're doing all we can while not getting many touches off the net. Pretty much any team from here on out you'll get to regionals, quarters and they're going to have that size and that power.

There were some tweaks here and there to try and make up for that. Thomas moved from the middle for a turn in the third set and had a couple nice swings from the left pin trying to avoid the teeth of the Cougars' block.

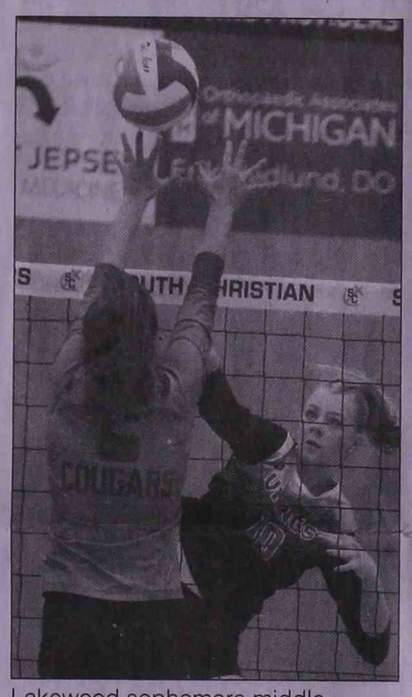
It's the final varsity match for Viking seniors Duffy, Peyton Federau, Stowell and Matti Aldrich. As usual, its a strong group of senior leaders heading out of the gym for the Vikings with some youngsters looking to step up behind them.

Francisco said getting back to the level where the Lakewood program expects to win regional championships starts with the youth.

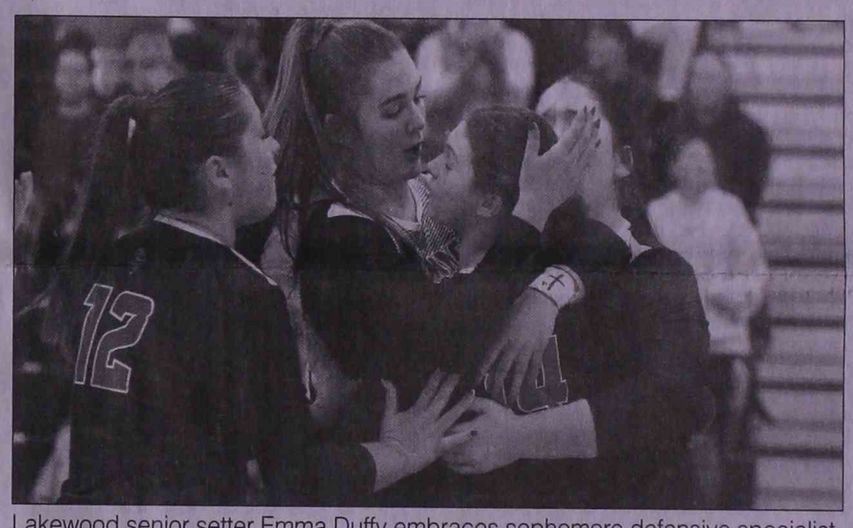
"I think I have some pretty young kids that have that passion and desire to want to be good, and it's just about seeing them put in that time to be good," she said.



Lakewood junior libero Hayden Bump lunges forward to pass a Catholic Central attack during the opening set of the MHSAA Division 2 Regional Semifinal at South Christian High School Tuesday.



Lakewood sophomore middle Johanna Duits gets an attack over the fingertips of senior Grand Rapids Catholic Central blocker Ella Thomas during the second set of their MHSAA Division 2 Regional Semifinal at South Christian High School in Byron Center Tuesday.



Lakewood senior setter Emma Duffy embraces sophomore defensive specialist Kendall Bond after she serves up an ace with teammates Camyla Copelin (12) and Peyton Federau (back) there to celebrate too in the third set of their MHSAA Division 2 Regional Semifinal against Grand Rapids Catholic Central Tuesday at South Christian High School in Byron Center. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

Otsego knocks Saxon spikers out of state tourney in district semi's

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Hastings got one victory, but fell to the Otsego varsity volleyball team in the MHSAA Division 2 District Semifinal at Wayland Union High School Wednesday, Nov. 5.

The Bulldogs took a 25-9, 25-8, 25-11 win over the Saxons.

The Saxons were within 10-6 in the first set and still battling at 15-9, but then the Bulldogs really took off.

Junior Brooke Smalldon led her team on a ten-point run to close out the set, serving the final nine points. She hit four straight aces to get her team to 21-9, and she had one more ace before the set was up.

The Bulldogs shot out early to a 12-2 lead in set two as the Saxons' passing struggles continued.

Hastings started set three with some moxie. They were within 11-9, but the Bulldogs put together another surge to go up 19-9 before the Saxons' scored again.

The Bulldogs were downed in three sets 25-18, 25-23, 25-18 by the Lakewood girls Thursday, Nov. 6, back in Wayland.

RUTLAND CHARTER TOWNSHIP
BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN
NOTICE OF PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT AT DECEMBER 3, 2025 MEETING

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

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE the Rutland Charter Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing at its regular meeting on December 3, 2025, which begins at 7:00 p.m. at the Rutland Charter Township Hall located at 2461 Heath Road, within the Charter Township of Rutland, Barry County, Michigan. The item(s) to be considered at this public hearing are as follows:

1. § 220-5-3.P of the Rutland Charter Township Code (in Article V of the Rutland Charter Township Zoning Ordinance) pertaining to winery land uses as special land uses in CR Country Residential District is proposed to be amended with respect to the uses and activities accessory to such land uses and the limitations thereon.

The Rutland Charter Township Code, Master Plan, and the tentative text of the above-referenced proposed zoning text amendment(s), may be examined by contacting the Rutland Charter Township Clerk at the Township Hall during regular business hours on regular business days maintained by the Township offices from and after the publication of this Notice and until and including the day of the hearing/meeting, and further may be examined at the hearing/meeting.

The Planning Commission reserves the right to modify the proposed amendment(s) at or following the hearing/meeting and to make its recommendations accordingly to the Township Board.

Rutland Charter Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services at the meeting/hearing to individuals with disabilities, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed materials being considered, upon reasonable notice to the Township. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Township Clerk as designated below.

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

City of Hastings

Full-Time

Cashier Position Available

The City of Hastings is seeking a full-time Cashier/Accounts Receivable Clerk to serve in the Finance Department. Primary duties include processing incoming transactions, answering the telephone, and responding to inquiries regarding tax payments, sewer bills, and other related information. The successful candidate will have experience in cash handling in an office setting, with proven communication, organization, and attention to detail. Please review the job description for more descriptive requirements and expectations.

Salary range $19.87 – $24.22 per hour, DOQ with benefits. To apply, send a completed employment application and resume to Linda Perin, Finance Director, by email at lperin@hastingsmi.gov or by mail or in person to 201 E. State St, Hastings, MI 49058. Position open until filled, but applicants are strongly encouraged to apply by 4:00 pm on November 26, 2025.

Lakewood ladies sweep Otsego to end little district drought

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

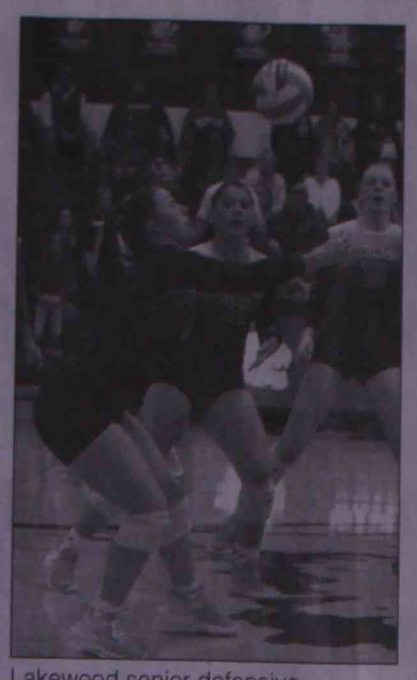
There have most definitely been tears at the end of the past couple district tournaments for the Lakewood varsity volleyball team.

There were some more of those tears Thursday night in the Wayland Union High School gymnasium, but this time they were the good kind of tears. And this time it's not the end for the Vikings.

Lakewood swept through three sets against Otsego in the MHSAA Division 2 District Final, winning by the scores of 25-18, 25-23, 25-18, for its first district championship since 2022. There are programs for which that wouldn't feel like such a long drought. Lakewood isn't one of those programs.

As the initial celebration settled down and the Vikings awaited their district championship medals and trophies, Viking senior setter Emma Duffy spent some time with her face buried in her hands being embraced by a teammate or two. After getting her district medal from athletic direction Matt Aldrich, she certainly left some tears on the shoulder of head coach Brooke Francisco's khaki blazer.

"I was a ball girl for a long time in the Lakewood volleyball program," Duits said. "We went to Kellogg Arena every year. We were really good. That is the expectation. You go and you win a district. You go and you win a regional. And you get to Kellogg Arena and you see how far you can get.



Lakewood senior defensive specialist Matti Aldrich steps up to pass an Otsego serve as teammates Camyla Copelin and Johanna Duits look on during the MHSAA Division 2 District Final at Wayland Union High School Thursday.



Lakewood junior Jorja Kutch embraces emotional senior teammate Emma Duffy while the rest of the Vikings celebrate clinching a 3-0 win over Otsego in the MHSAA Division 3 District Final at Wayland Union High School Thursday.
Photos by Brett Bremer

"My freshman year was the last time that we won a district title. We lost in regional finals. Then we fell short in district finals, and last season also, and this was something I really wanted to do my senior year. I wanted to get that title back, because that is something I never really got to play for myself. It was amazing. We came out here and we swept them. That is amazing. We are playing the best Lakewood volleyball that we have played all season right now. I am so proud of us and I am just so happy that it happened."

Duffy tied for the team lead in kills with nine.

"She is a true-in-heart Lakewood volleyball girl. She ball-girled for us, was a phenomenal ball girl. She worked her way up," Francisco said. "We haven't won districts since she was a freshman. She knew we wanted this. We look at the district as soon as it is posted, and the teams we saw we were like we can do this. This has been our end goal.

"But we finally have everybody, and I think their relationships are finally coming together. It is a little late, but now is the time and it looked really good. I think Emma feels that too. She knows they worked hard and earned it."

Sophomore Johanna Duits tied Duffy for the team lead with nine kills. Fellow sophomore Ahlana Thomas had eight kills. Junior setter Camyla Copelin had six kills. Duffy and Copelin led the Vikings in assists, a couple more girls in a long line of talented setters for Lakewood. Copelin said Duffy's confidence and knowledge on the court has helped build her as a player.

"Freshmen year, I came in knowing I was going to get a lot of playing time," Duffy said. "I would get in our league, because we handled our league pretty easy back then. I knew that and I knew I was going to get better in practice. I knew watching all the older girls. I had Skylar Bump and Abby Pickard ahead of me. They're really great, and I owe a lot to them as role models just watching them. I know Skylar was here tonight. I know Abby is playing right now in college. They're just great role models for me and I kind of got to have a front row seat for that. That is something that was really special for me. And I think that really got me to how I am today, my attitude as a setter, and my role as a leader on the court."

It's the first district championship for the rest of the roster including fellow seniors Matti Aldrich, Peyton Federau and Eva Stowell.

"It's crazy. It's a crazy feeling," said Copelin.

"Honestly, it could have been our last game. Everyone put everything out on the line. We didn't let their warm-ups get in the way whatsoever."

"They were hitting pretty good," she added. "They have some huge hitters, and our team is under-sized, but we didn't let that bother us. We knew we were going to go win."

It's also the first district championship for Francisco as head coach of the program she won a state championship with as a player in 2012. She is in her second season leading the Viking varsity.

Lakewood assistant coach Chelsea Brehm, a former all-state player herself for Lakewood, said Thursday's victory was equal parts the effort of the girls on the court and the effort Francisco put in to have the girls throughly prepared for everything they would see happening on the other side of the court against the towering Bulldog squad.

Lakewood had some adversity throughout the season with illness, injury and absences, but on Thursday all the adversity seemed to be on the other side of the court. The Vikings basically led each set from start to finish.

"They executed very well," Francisco said. "It was just about finding the gaps in their defense when we could. Knowing they're big, we either had to go high and swing off hands or you had to find the holes, and they did one or the other. That is how we scored. We didn't have many scores where they didn't touch the ball. I mean, they're big and they're up. It was finding those holes and going at it."

A Copelin service run with a couple of kills by Duffy took the Viking lead from 19-17 to 24-18 late in set one.

Otsego had a couple moments leading by a point or two in the middle of set two, but a block by Thomas and freshman outside hitter Zoey Schmitt evened the set at 13-13 and then Federau went on a service run that took the Vikings to a 20-13 lead. Copelin had a couple kills, and everything the Bulldogs tried the Vikings had an answer for. Bulldog junior setter Maddy Littel tried a second-ball dump 19-13 during that stretch, but the Vikings kept the ball off the floor and Duffy answered with one of her own that found an opening.

The Bulldogs rallied to get within 24-23 late before the Vikings took the win. Set three was all Lakewood. Bulldog head coach Dani Littel called her first timeout with her team down 5-1, and then tried a second one down 13-5. That second time, she had her girls just stay out on the floor and the Bulldog players worked to try and figure things out themselves.

As good as the attack was for Lakewood and finding some holes, the stellar defensive effort by the Vikings stole the show with junior libero Hayden Bump, Copelin, Duffy, Federau, Aldrich, Stowell, and everyone really, going this way and that to keep the ball up.

"They worked very hard," Francisco said. "You could tell when they walked on this court that they were not going to lose. They refused to lose. They frustrated Otsego, because they couldn't find a kill because we were digging everything. Even if it wasn't a pretty dig, everybody was hustling just to keep the ball in play and give us another opportunity to score."

The win earned the Vikings another opportunity to play more volleyball this fall in the MHSAA Division 2 Regional Semifinals at South Christian High School Tuesday, Nov. 11, where they were set to take on Grand Rapids Catholic Central.

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY. ATTN PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT: Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA236, 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 P.M., on January 15, 2026. 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 SALE: Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Elizabeth Lonergan, the Mortgagor(s), and Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems Inc., as nominee for AmeriFirst Financial Corporation, the original Mortgagee, dated August 23, 2013, and recorded on August 27, 2013, as Instrument No. 2013-010429, in Barry County Records, Michigan, and last assigned to Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC, the Foreclosing Assignee, as documented by an Assignment of Mortgage dated August 2, 2019, and recorded on August 5, 2019, as Instrument No. 2019-007290, in Barry County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due and owing as of the date of this Notice, the sum of Fifty-Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy and 46/100 U.S. Dollars ($57,970.46). Said premise is situated at 718 Powell Rd, Hastings, MI 49058, in the Township of Hastings, Barry County, Michigan, and is described as: THE LAND REFERRED TO IN THIS INSTRUMENT, SITUATED IN THE TOWNSHIP OF HASTINGS, COUNTY OF BARRY, STATE OF MICHIGAN, IS DESCRIBED AS: COMMENCING AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SECTION 16, TOWN 3 NORTH, RANGE 8 WEST, HASTINGS TOWNSHIP, BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN; THENCE NORTH 1473.70 FEET ALONG THE EAST LINE OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4 OF SAID SECTION TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 53 MINUTES 05 SECONDS WEST, 200.00 FEET PARALLEL WITH THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID SECTION; THENCE NORTH 171.72 FEET PARALLEL WITH THE SAID EAST LINE; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 00 MINUTES EAST, 200.03 FEET TO THE EAST LINE; THENCE SOUTH 174.81 FEET ALONG THE SAID EAST LINE TO PLACE OF BEGINNING. ALSO: COMMENCING AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SECTION 16, TOWN 3 NORTH, RANGE 8 WEST; THENCE NORTH 1409.78 FEET ALONG THE EAST LINE OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4 OF SAID SECTION TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 30 MINUTES WEST, 200.01 FEET; THENCE NORTH 65.26 FEET PARALLEL WITH SAID EAST LINE; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 53 MINUTES 05 SECONDS EAST, 200.00 FEET PARALLEL WITH THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID SECTION; THENCE SOUTH 63.92 FEET ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID SECTION TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING. The redemption period shall be six (6) months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. Pursuant to Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, if the property is sold at foreclosure sale the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder under MCLA 600.3278 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. Dated: 11/05/2025 For More Information, please call: Quintairos, Prieto, Wood & Boyer, P.A. Attorneys for Servicer 255 South Orange Avenue, Suite 900 Orlando, Florida 32801 (855) 287-0240 Matter No. MI-010396-25

(11-13)(12-04)

SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - BARRY COUNTY
Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Barry County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on November 20, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Kellie J. Etterman and David J. Etterman, wife and husband Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender`s successors and assigns Date of mortgage: April 27, 2022 Recorded on May 3, 2022, in Document No. 2022-005054, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: Two Hundred Twenty Thousand Seventy-Seven and 65/100 Dollars ($220,077.65) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Barry County, and described as: Lot 122, Misty Ridge No. 5, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Liber 6 of Plats, Page 66, Barry County Records. Commonly known as 884 View Pointe Dr, Middleville, MI 49333 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale will be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee, or the Mortgagee's attorney. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC Mortgagee/ Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400

1575528
(10-23)(11-13)

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)

AGRICULTURE Today

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Hastings FFA members honored at 98th National FFA Convention

Two individuals from Hastings were recognized with the highest honors awarded by the National FFA Organization during the 98th National FFA Convention & Expo late last month in Indianapolis.

Kaylie Carl, a member of the Hastings FFA Chapter, received her American FFA Degree, the highest degree achievable in the National FFA Organization. This honor is earned by less than 1% of FFA members nationwide.

The degree recognizes members who have demonstrated the highest level of commitment to FFA and made significant accomplishments in their supervised agricultural experiences (SAEs), leadership development, and community service.

Carl has been an active FFA member for nine years, participating in leadership contests, community events, and running for state office. Her SAE focused on diversified livestock production, where she raised and exhibited market lambs, dairy feeders, and a beef steer through her Hill n Dale 4-H Club. Beyond her projects, she has given back to the program by coaching, mentoring younger members, and staying involved with the Hastings FFA Chapter after graduation.

Receiving her American Degree was a meaningful milestone for Carl. It marked the last time she would wear her blue corduroy FFA jacket.

For Carl, FFA has always been more than an organization; it's a family legacy. She is a third-generation FFA member, following in the footsteps of her family's deep involvement in agriculture and agricultural education. Continuing that legacy, she hopes to one day become an agriculture teacher herself.

To earn the American Degree, FFA members must have received both their State and Chapter Degrees, invested and earned substantial income through their SAEs and completed at least 50 hours of community service while demonstrating outstanding leadership abilities. Carl's dedication to agricultural education, her community, and helping others grow in the FFA organization helped her meet and exceed these requirements.

Spencer White of Hastings Area Schools also received the Honorary American FFA Degree. This award is presented to individuals who have provided exceptional service to agriculture, agricultural education, and the FFA organization. Recipients are nominated in recognition of their dedication, leadership, and significant contributions to FFA's mission of developing students' potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success.

White serves as the National FFA Band Director, leading student musicians from across the country who perform during sessions and events at the National FFA Convention. His commitment to agricultural education and student leadership through music has made a lasting impact on the National FFA Band and the members he directs each year. — *Hastings Area School System*



Spencer White of Hastings Area Schools directs the National FFA Band at last month's convention. White received the Honorary American FFA Degree.



Hastings FFA Chapter member Kaylie Carl (center) stands with friends and family after receiving her American FFA Degree. **Courtesy photos**

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*With $260 payment to start, a total of $2930 will be financed at 19.90% APR on approved credit for 48-months. Additional upgrades and other financing options are available. Terms are subject to change without notice and other restrictions may apply. Please see office for details. Offers expire 11/30/25.

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