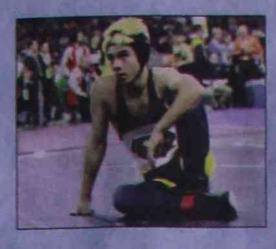


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VOL. 171, NO. 50

THE HASTINGS BANNER

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www.HastingsBanner.com Thursday, December 11, 2025 $1.50

'Lots of healing ahead but what a miracle'

Lake O man recovering from car-train accident

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

A Lake Odessa resident faces a long recovery after suffering a plethora of injuries as the result of a car-train accident Thursday afternoon, Dec. 4.

The Ionia County Sheriff's Office reported that deputies responded to reports of a "vehicle versus train crash" at about 4:40 p.m. on Dec. 4 near the intersection of Huddle Road and Jordan Lake Street in Odessa Township.

ICSO reports state that, according to a preliminary investigation of the crash, the Lake Odessa resident was driving a 1998 Honda Civic northbound on Huddle Road when his vehicle was struck by an eastbound train.

The local resident, later identified as 20-year-old Gavin Decker, was reported to be the lone occupant of the vehicle and was transported to Corewell Health Butterworth Hospital in Grand Rapids with "life-threatening injuries" after being extricated from the car. He currently remains in the hospital's intensive care unit.

"Some very serious injuries and a great save by our first-responders," said Sharon Rohrbacher, Odessa Township treasurer. "They had him extricated in 11 minutes.

"And he's sitting up in bed chatting," she added after visiting Decker in the hospital. "Lots of healing ahead but what a miracle."

A Facebook post by Michelle Huisman, whose daughter Emma Huisman "has been dating Gavin for a few years," listed Decker's injuries, which reportedly include a left occipital condyle fracture, fractured ribs on the left side, traumatic lung injuries, splenic laceration, injury to the pancreatic tail, and fractures of the left scapula, left hip and a toe on his left foot.

The Dec. 4 incident remains under investigation by the ICSO.

The ICSO officials were assisted at the accident scene by the Lake Odessa Police Department, Odessa Township Fire Department, Life EMS, Ionia County Central Dispatch, Corewell Health Aero Med Transport, and Reed & Hoppes Towing.



Gavin Decker, a 20-year-old from Lake Odessa, is facing a long recovery after being involved in a car-train accident last Thursday, Dec. 4. **Courtesy photo**



Santa Claus and The Grinch welcome a runner over the finish line during the Santa Dash 5K run on Saturday at the Hastings Jingle & Mingle. The race took off from the Barry Community Enrichment Center and ended at the Thornapple Plaza. **Photos by Jayson Bussa**

Hastings gets festive with annual Jingle & Mingle

Jayson Bussa
Contributing Writer

If you were hoping to wander through downtown Hastings over the weekend without slipping into the Christmas spirit, you didn't stand a chance.

The city burst to life with holiday cheer during the annual three-day Jingle & Mingle celebration. The schedule was packed: visits with Santa Claus, rides on the Holly Trolley and horse-drawn carriages, the lighting of the nativity scene on the lawn of the Barry County Courthouse and many more.

The event even had an opportunity to burn a few Christmas cookies off with the Santa Dash 5K, which fea-

See **JINGLE** on 2

With arrival of winter weather, officials urge caution when traveling

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

The first official day of winter on Dec. 21 may still be more than a week away, but Mother Nature has already had the Barry County Road Commission out and about clearing local roads at least a dozen times.

"Our guys are out there killing it," said Jake Welch, BCRC manager. "We've been out there more days than we haven't. That's definitely been the case."

According to Welch, the local road commission employs up to 18 "main blade" plow trucks to help clear roadways of snow and ice, as well as two smaller trucks. That's not to mention four trucks used as backups.

The BCRC has had a busy start to the 2025-26 season, having crews out even during the recent Thanksgiving Day holiday.

And, with more wintery weather hitting the area this week, Welch said officials are urging motorists to be cautious when traveling, especially when coming up on BCRC trucks that Welch described as "a 60-ton missile." When clearing roads, the plow trucks travel at speeds between 25 and 35 mph.

Welch added that plow trucks should be easy for motorists to spot and identify, with state, county and municipal trucks having been equipped with green-colored

See **WINTER** on 4

2025 Winter Sports Team Previews INSIDE

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Local resident Patricia Caudill interviews with the Lake Odessa Village Council for the village's top administrative post during a special meeting Monday, Dec. 8, at the Page Memorial Building. Council members interviewed a total of five candidates on Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 8-9. **Photo by Dennis Mansfield**

Lake Odessa council set to whittle down field for manager's post

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

The field of those hoping to be the next full-time manager for the Village of Lake Odessa could soon be whittled down from five to two – or maybe three – during an upcoming village council meeting on Monday, Dec. 15.

Members of the Lake Odessa Village Council hosted a pair of special meetings Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 8-9, at the Page Memorial Building to interview five of the 11 candidates who had applied for the village's top administrative post.

The interviews included at least two familiar faces, including former village council and Odessa Township Board of Trustees member Patricia Caudill.

The long-time Lake Odessa resident, who was among three candidates interviewed Monday night, currently serves on a contractual, part-time basis in the Office of Equity and Engagement for the City of Grand Rapids. She has held several roles for Grand Rapids in human resources and equity and engagement since 1993.

Another familiar face, at least to council members, was Mark Borden, a resident of Carson City and manager of the Village of Edmore since 2023. Borden previously interviewed for the Lake Odessa post during the council's hiring search in late 2024.

According to Lake Odessa officials, Borden served as city administrator in Carson City from 2008 to 2014 and has also held executive and managerial roles in businesses and organizations providing municipal engineering and planning, medical billing and higher education.

Other candidates interviewed during the two special meetings include:

Paul Back – Manager in Forsyth Township in the Upper Peninsula since April 2025. Prior employment includes executive and managerial roles in emergency management preparedness for public and private sector organizations.

Conner DeYoung – A resident of Ferrysburg. Program manager with the State of Michigan since 2017 and previously served the state as services specialist from 2013 to 2017, as well as a public safety officer with the Grand Haven Department of Public Safety from 2016 to 2020.

Susan Montenegro – Served as assistant city manager in Chelsea from 2024 to 2025, as city manager in Lathrup Village from 2022 to 2023, as city manager in Eaton Rapids in 2022, as city manager in Leslie from 2018 to 2022, and as assistant city manager and director of community development in Owosso from 2013 to 2018.

After the second set of interviews on Tuesday, council members agreed to wait and discuss which candidates they'd like to invite back for follow-up interviews, as well as to meet with village department heads, at the council's upcoming meeting at 7 p.m. on Dec. 15.

Lake Odessa 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.



On Wednesday, Dec. 3, the community gathered for a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the reopening of Calvin Hill Memorial Park in Middleville after the completion of major playground upgrades. Pictured at last week's ribbon cutting are (from left) Dr. Debbie Mulligan, Francie Tobin, Kim Martin, Shannon Maier, Middleville Director of Public Works JD Pennock, Village Council Trustee Robert Bishop, Village Manager Craig Stolsonburg and Dr. Craig Mulligan. **Courtesy photos**

Playground upgrades complete at Calvin Hill Memorial Park

The Village of Middleville recently announced the completion of major playground upgrades at Calvin Hill Memorial Park, bringing modern, safe, and engaging play opportunities to local families.

The $155,000 project was made possible through a $15,000 donation from Craig and Debbie Mulligan in honor of Craig's mother, Rita Mulligan, a longtime school social worker who served children and families in the community. The Village funded the remaining project cost.

The project marks a significant transformation for the park, according to village staff. Aging equipment—some of which had been in place for nearly 50 years—was removed, including original swing sets, stainless steel slides, a teeter-totter and the former merry-go-round. These features, while nostalgic, no longer met modern safety standards.

In their place, the Village installed an all-new suite of playground amenities designed to inspire creativity, physical activity and inclusive play. The centerpiece of the project is a treetop play structure featuring multiple climbing elements, slides and imaginative nature-themed play components. Additional improvements include modern swing sets with updated safety features, new park benches for families and caregivers and engineered wood fiber surfacing to enhance safety and accessibility.

Village Manager Craig Stolsonburg said he appreciates the community's support.

"Calvin Hill Park has been a beloved gathering place for decades, and these improvements honor that legacy while ensuring the park remains safe and exciting for the next generation," Stolsonburg said. "We are especially grateful to Craig and Debbie Mulligan for their meaningful contribution in honor of Rita, whose life's work focused on supporting children."

The new playground is now open to the public, offering an inviting and refreshed space for families to enjoy outdoor recreation. —*KTE*

First rabies-positive bat of 2025 detected in Barry County

Barry-Eaton District Health Department officials were recently notified that a bat found in Barry County has tested positive for rabies, according to a statement issued by the local agency on Tuesday, Dec. 9.

The bat, found in northern Barry County, reportedly is the first rabies-positive bat identified in the county in 2025.

According to health department officials, rabies is a deadly but preventable disease that can spread to people and pets through an infected or rabid animal's bites or scratches. However, bats are the most common way that people in Michigan come in contact with rabies.

The best defense against rabies is to make sure dogs, cats and ferrets stay up to date on their rabies vaccinations through a licensed veterinarian and limit contact with wildlife when outdoors.

If someone has been bitten or in contact with an animal believed to be exposed to or bitten by a bat, they are to immediately contact the BEDHD by calling 517-541-

See **RABIES** on 6



A group of kids bundled up to ride on a float for Expressions Dance Centre during the Hastings Rotary Club Christmas Parade, which marched through downtown Hastings during Saturday's Jingle & Mingle.



Dancers from Hastings-based dance studio Expressions Dance Centre took the stage at Thornapple Plaza on Saturday for some festive routines. The performances were part of this year's installment of the Hastings Jingle & Mingle.

JINGLE

Continued from Page 1

tured an entry fee of one unwrapped present to the Barry County United Way and Volunteer Center, which provides gifts for families in need during the holidays.

From Friday through Sunday, Jingle & Mingle delivered wall-to-wall festivities, nudging local residents into the home stretch of the holiday season just weeks before the big day.

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Barry County ..... $78/yr. or $14/mo
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The City of Hastings recently announced the unveiling of its first annual Citizens Academy, an eight-week program that allows participants to explore key local government functions, including public services, law enforcement, fire and emergency services, budgeting, revenue and more. **File photo by Hunter McLaren**

Hastings launches program giving residents up-close look at local government

Jayson Bussa
Contributing Writer

Local residents have an opportunity to learn the ins and outs of local government through a new program offered by the City of Hastings.

The city recently announced the unveiling of its first annual Citizens Academy, an eight-week program that allows participants to explore key local government functions, including public services, law enforcement, fire and emergency services, budgeting, revenue and more.

The program consists of one hour-and-a-half session per week. Each session is different, with several featuring interactive components and tours. It all culminates with a graduation ceremony in March.

"This is an effort to be more transparent and provide more information and interaction with the public, including furthering residents' understanding of what local government does and what services they provide," said Sarah Moyer-Cale, Hastings City Manager. "That sort of thing."

Moyer-Cale said that other municipalities offer similar programs, and Hastings looked to some of those models as a blueprint for shaping its inaugural academy.

"We have space available for 15; that's kind of what we're targeting, especially being new," Moyer-Cale said. "We don't know what it's going to be like, so we're starting with a smaller group just to make sure everyone can participate who is going to be involved."

Moyer-Cale said the city received seven applications on the first day, which was encouraging to see. Applications are being accepted until noon on January 5.

"I think that demonstrates residents are really interested in learning more about being a part of their local community," Moyer-Cale said. "That's great. With this being our first time, we'll continue to move forward with the feedback we get."

While the academy is aimed primarily at adults, Moyer-Cale said the city may also explore creating a similar program for kids and teens. All of it points toward the same goal: creating a more informed public that understands the functions and processes of local government.

"It's something I think a lot of people want to know about but don't have a lot of opportunity to," Moyer-Cale said. "We don't really teach about local government much in school. It's not something we always learn. … (The academy) fills that interest void and information void that a lot of people have. It also gives people a better understanding of how things work if they want to run for city council or want to join the planning commission or the Downtown Development Authority."

Anyone can apply to join the academy, but priority is given to Hastings residents. Applications are available at hastingsmi.gov.



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Managing risk at different stages of life

As an investor, you will always need to deal with risk of some kind. How can you manage the risk that accompanies the volatility of the financial markets? The answer depends somewhat on where you are in life.

When you're starting out … If you're early in your career, with perhaps four or five decades until you retire, you can likely afford to invest primarily for growth, which also means you'll be taking on a higher level of risk – because risk and reward are positively correlated. But, given your age, you will have time to overcome the market downturns that are both inevitable and a normal part of investing. Still, even at this stage, being over-aggressive can be costly.

When you're in the "middle stages" … At this time of your life, you're possibly well along in your career and working on at least a couple of financial goals, such as saving for retirement and your children's college education. You'll want to begin adjusting the balance in your portfolio between assets with higher growth and those with lower growth since there will be progressively less time to rebuild losses. You'll need to decide on the balance between risk and growth that's right for you.

When you're a few years from retirement … You may have already achieved some key goals – perhaps your children have finished college and you've paid off your mortgage. As a result, you may have more money available to put away for retirement. Growth still matters because your retirement could be 25 or 30 years long, and you'll need investments that can keep up with inflation. But you'll also need investments designed to help provide for your income needs in retirement and provide more stability. Also consider reducing your exposure to higher-risk investments and instead consider investing more in stable dividend-paying stocks, government and investment-grade bonds, and cash.

When you're retired … Once you're retired, you might think you should take no risks at all with substantial assets held in cash. However, you could spend two or three decades in retirement, so you may need some growth potential in your portfolio to stay ahead of inflation. A more balanced mix between equities and fixed income is generally appropriate. Establishing a withdrawal rate that's appropriate for your lifestyle and projected longevity can help reduce the risk of outliving your money. Of course, if there's an extended market downturn during any time of your retirement, you may want to temporarily lower your withdrawal rate.

Managing investment risk is a lifelong process that evolves with your goals, responsibilities and time horizon. While you'll look for balance among your investments based on your life stage, having a balanced and diversified portfolio doesn't fully protect against a loss. Still, aligning your strategy with your stage of life can help navigate market volatility and stay on track toward long-term success while avoiding emotional investment decisions. The key is staying informed and making intelligent choices that reflect your current income needs and future aspirations.

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

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Time of Dec. 11 special meeting pushed back to 7 p.m.

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

Those local residents showing up for a special meeting of the Odessa Township Board of Trustees originally set for 1 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 11, are going to have to wait – at least a handful of hours.

The special meeting Thursday was originally slated to allow township officials to meet with representatives of Wright Architects, the Grand Rapids-based firm contracted to assist the township in coming up with plans for a proposed new fire station.

Township Treasurer Sharon Rohrbacher said, however, the time of the meeting has been pushed back from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the township hall due to a scheduling conflict.

Currently, the LOFD operates out of a pole-style building reportedly constructed in the late 1970s on First Street, just east of Fourth Avenue, in the Village of Lake Odessa.

Odessa Township officials believe that they already have a potential new home for the fire department, on property located adjacent to the township hall on M-50, just west of the Village of Lake Odessa.

In providing a study for construction of a new fire house, officials with Wright Architects stated the initial price tag could be as high as $12 million, if construction was to start in 2027. Though, township officials have since stated they hope to get that total down into the $8-10 million range.

Members of the township board have said they hope to have a bond proposal before township voters by the time of the August 2026 primary election.

Local music students present recital

Music students from the studio of Robert C. Oster will present a recital on Thursday, Dec. 18, at 7 p.m. at the Grace Lutheran Church in Hastings.

The program will feature solo vocal music from the mid-17th century through Broadway genres and organ selections from several time periods.

Singers performing at the Dec. 18 event are set to include Caledonia High School sophomore Sean Thompson and junior Lydia Shoesmith. Adult performers will feature Cindy Thelen of Lake Odessa and Mary Kuhlman of Hastings.

Also included will be Woodland homeschooler Debbie Harrison at organist.

The recital is open to the public free of charge. — *DM*

NOTICE

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

Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1931 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 JANUARY 8, 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.

Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by ADAM FARRAH, to FIGURE LENDING LLC, Mortgagee, dated June 8, 2022 and recorded June 14, 2022 in Instrument Number 2022-006702 Barry County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by MEB Loan Trust VIII, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Forty-Three Thousand Four Hundred Thirty-Two and 15/100 Dollars ($143,432.15).

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Barry County, Michigan at 1:00 PM on JANUARY 8, 2026.

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

Land Situated in the State of Michigan, County of Barry, Township of Hope.Parcel F2: Commencing at the West 1/4 post of Section 28, Town 2 North, Range 9 West; thence South 89 degrees 56 minutes 14 seconds East 1214.40 feet along the East and West 1/4 line of said Section 28; thence South 02 degrees 54 minutes 51 seconds West 233.04 feet; thence South 89 degrees 56 minutes 14 seconds East 220.00 feet to the true point of beginning; thence South 89 degrees 56 minutes 14 seconds East 373.08 feet; thence South 52 degrees 20 minutes 58 seconds West 364.29 feet; thence North 60 degrees 26 minutes 18 seconds West 35.79 feet; thence North 14 degrees 36 minutes 45 seconds West 212.14 feet to the point of beginningTogether with a non-exclusive private easement for ingress, egress and public utility purposes, 66 feet wide, described as: Beginning at a point on the East and West 1/4 line of Section 28. Town 2 North, Range 9 West, distant South 89 degrees 50 minutes 14 seconds East 2094.40 feet from the West 1/4 post of said Section 28, thence South 89 degrees 56 minutes 14 seconds East 66.08 feet along said 1/4 line; thence South 02 degrees 54 minutes 51 seconds West 881.91 feet; thence North 75 degrees 47 minutes 45 seconds West 67.30 feet; thence North 02 degrees 54 minutes 51 seconds East 865.45 feet to the point of beginning.Also together with a non-exclusive private easement for ingress, egress and public utility purposes, 66 feet wide, described as: Commencing at the West 1/4 post of Section 28, Town 2 North, Range 9 West; thence South 89 degrees 56 minutes 14 seconds East 2094.40 feet along the East and West 1/4 line of said Section 28: thence South 02 degrees 54 minutes 51 seconds West 233.04 feet to the true point of beginning; thence South 02 degrees 54 minutes 51 seconds West 66.08 feet; thence North 89 degrees 56 minutes 14 seconds West 317.09 feet; thence South 52 degrees 20 minutes 58 seconds West 283.59 feet; thence South 06 degrees 46 minutes 20 seconds West 206.14 feet; thence North 83 degrees 13 minutes 40 seconds West 66.00 feet; thence North 06 degrees 46 minutes 20 seconds East 233.86 feet; thence North 52 degrees 20 minutes 58 seconds East 335.48 feet; thence South 89 degrees 56 minutes 14 seconds East 340.87 feet to the point of beginning.

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

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.

Dated: November 27, 2025
File No. 25-004743
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400

(11-27)(12-18)

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 January 8, 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 INFORMATION: Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Mathew Hallifax and Shawnda Robinson, joint tenancy with full rights of survivorship, whose address is 1249 Boncher Boulevard, Hastings, Michigan 49058, as original Mortgagors, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Amerifirst Financial Corporation, being a mortgage dated May 28, 2021, and recorded on June 1, 2021 with Document Number 2021-007090, Barry County Records, State of Michigan and then assigned to Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC, as assignee as documented by an assignment dated March 29, 2024 and recorded on March 29, 2024 and given document number 2024-002088 in Barry County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of TWO HUNDRED THIRTY-SEVEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED EIGHT AND 57/100 DOLLARS ($237,508.57). Said premises are situated in the Township of Hastings, County of Barry, State of Michigan, and are described as: UNIT 19, OF SUMMERWYN ESTATES EAST CONDOMINIUMS, FORMERLY KNOWN AS, CREEKWOOD SITE CONDOMINIUMS, ACCORDING TO THE MASTER DEED RECORDED IN DOCUMENT NUMBER 1024069 AND AMENDMENTS, RECORDED IN 2016-010383 AND RE-RECORDED IN 2017-005529, AS AMENDED, BARRY COUNTY RECORDS, AND DESIGNATED AS BARRY COUNTY CONDOMINIUM SUBDIVISION PLAN NO. 13, TOGETHER WITH RIGHTS IN THE GENERAL COMMON ELEMENTS AND THE LIMITED COMMON ELEMENTS AS SHOWN ON THE MASTER DEED AND AS DESCRIBED IN ACT 59 OF THE PUBLIC ACTS OF 1978, AS AMENDED. Street Address: 1249 Boncher Boulevard, Hastings, Michigan 49058 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA § 600.3241a in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of the sale. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCLA § 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. THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. 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: November 27, 2025 For more information, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing: Robert A. Blumberg (P87490), Johnson, Blumberg, & Associates, LLC, 30 North LaSalle St., Suite 3650 Chicago, Illinois, 60602. Telephone: (312) 541-9710 File No.: MI 25 6821
(11-27)(12-18)

Committee announces 2025 ATHENA award recipient


Patty Woods

The Barry County ATHENA Committee recently announced that Patricia "Patty" Woods has been selected as the 2025 Barry County ATHENA Award recipient.

The ATHENA Award honors individuals who demonstrate professional excellence, provide impactful community service, and actively assist women in reaching their leadership potential.

Woods, a retired branch manager of Highpoint Community Bank, was chosen for her exceptional professional achievements, her lifelong commitment to community service and her deep dedication to empowering and mentoring women throughout Barry County, according to a release announcing Wood's selection.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Woods reportedly spent nearly 40 years serving the Barry County community through a range of volunteer roles. Her service includes the Hastings Rotary Club, Barry County United Way, Thornapple Plaza events, the Baum Surgical Center capital campaign, Serenity Village, Lakewood Choral Society, St. Rose Church, and many other local organizations and initiatives.

According to those who have worked alongside her, the list of community activities she is not involved in would be shorter than the list of those she supports.

"Patty gives tirelessly of herself and does so in such a positive, upbeat, and wonderful way," said Mark Kolanowski, president and CEO of Highpoint Community Bank. "I have known Patty a long time, and I've never seen her slow down.

"In retirement, she's actually kicked it into high gear. Everyone wants her involved in their organization because she makes everything – and everyone – better," he added.

Woods reportedly has also been a champion for women in Barry County, dedicating decades to helping women develop confidence, skills, and opportunities to reach their full leadership potential. From supporting women through the Friends of the Library book sales, to engaging with the Women's Giving Circle, to mentoring countless colleagues, she reportedly served as a guiding force for women at all stages of life and career.

"Patty's love and compassion for people make her an extraordinary leader," said Deb Button of Hodges Jewelry. "Nonprofit groups throughout Barry County have benefited from her accounting knowledge, organizational skills, and wholehearted enthusiasm. She takes great pride in using her talents to support others."

Woods has previously been honored with numerous recognitions, including the Hastings Rotary Red Rose Citation in 2015, the Rotary Hero Award in 2021, and the Barry Community Foundation Servant Heart Award in 2024. — *DM*

Legal advice offered at no cost to Barry County seniors

The Legal Services of South Central Michigan-Battle Creek office will conduct phone interviews for legal advice and possible representation, without charge, to interested Barry County seniors next week.

Those who wish to speak with an attorney should call 269-224-5040 between 9 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 17.

Legal Services of South Central Michigan-Battle Creek office is a nonprofit organization that provides legal assistance, representation and education to low-income people in Calhoun and Branch counties and seniors in Barry, Branch, Calhoun and St. Joseph counties. The agency seeks, through its board, staff, volunteers and pro bono attorneys, to ensure that its clients are given equal access to the justice system. The advice and counsel at the senior sites are funded primarily the CareWell Services Southwest through the Michigan Bureau of Aging, Community Living, and Supports under the Older Americans Act of 1965. — *MM*


The Barry County Road Commission has had a busy start to the 2025-26 season. Here, BCRC workers prepare a plow truck's blades ahead of Wednesday morning's winter storm. **Courtesy photos**


Barry County Road Commission trucks line up early Wednesday morning for a salt and sand fill-up.

WINTER

Continued from Page 1

flashing safety lights for about the last decade.

"Those green lights were a big deal for us," Welch said. "You'll pick up that green before any other color.

"That really gives a driver a heads up that something is happening on the road ahead," he added.

There's also another reason for motorists to be cautious when approaching a plow truck – a new state law requiring drivers to keep a distance of 200 feet, or about 12-13 car lengths, between their vehicle and a plow truck. The law was signed into effect in July.

Motorists ticketed for violating the new state law could face fines of up to $100.

During the winter season, Welch said BCRC drivers typically start their plowing routes about 4 a.m. and work shifts lasting between 10 and 16 hours.

"We find 4 a.m. is the sweet spot," he said, adding that crews were out as early as 3 a.m. Wednesday due to forecasts of snow and freezing rain.

Welch also said some crews are called in during nighttime hours to help clear primary roads, if and when necessary.

Then, there's also those who Welch called the unsung heroes of the BCRC – the road commission's five full-time mechanics.

"Being a mechanic might not be a glory job," Welch said. "(But) our mechanics do a fantastic job.

"They work their butts off to fix our trucks and keep our equipment up and running."

For more information on the BCRC, persons may visit the road commission's website at barrycrc.org.

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Local businesswoman seeks to uplift community, area nonprofits

Molly Macleod
Editor

Colleen Burke is more than your average Mary Kay consultant.

Since November 2023, Burke has been traveling throughout the area in her iconic pink Cadillac. Right away, the Dowling resident knew she wanted to have a greater impact on her community. A natural businesswoman, she decided to use her platform as a local Mary Kay consultant to help promote area nonprofits.

Her initiative fits well with the Mary Kay corporate model, Burke said. She took some of her inspiration from the Mary Kay Ash Foundation, which has been raising funds for cancer research and to end domestic violence.

"This company is real, real deal. And the way they have built their business, and it's a family-run business, and it's a Christian business, and it's an American business — the more I learn about what they're doing for their associates, and for the world in total, globally, and for women with the foundation and their sustainability…," Burke said.

She said she wants to uplift people in the community.

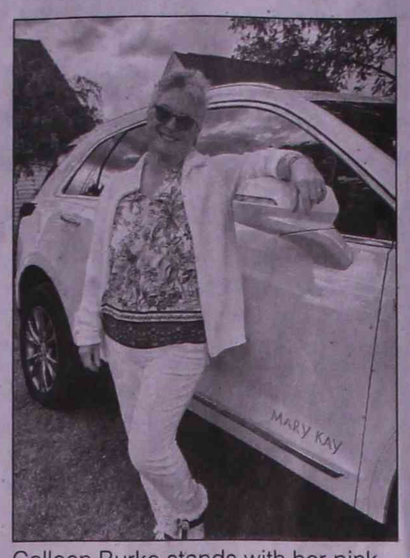
"People are not getting the uplift and the kudos that they are deserving for the amount of hard work that they're doing in the community," Burke said.

Burke is looking to use her business savviness and customer base to help promote the missions of area nonprofits.

"I just feel like it's in me to push this forward. It is a business, so there's a portion of it's that definitely — I have to treat it like a business. So I am thankful for and appreciate anyone who does make a purchase from me. But on the flip side, there's ways to make a purchase and make a difference — all in the same idea," Burke said.

Burke hopes to partner with local nonprofits to help further their missions. She gave the example of a nonprofit wanting to host a sock drive. Burke said she would help organize and promote the event, which she will also offer some of her products at. There would be no obligation to purchase from Burke at the fundraisers, she said.

"I'll tell everybody I know, and you tell everybody you know, and we'll set a date and a time, and we'll have them come, and when they come, they'll have them bring a pair of new socks for kids, and we'll put them in a basket. And when they do that, then they'll put their name on a ticket and put that in another basket. I'll give away a basket at the end of the event (filled with beauty products)," Burke said.



Colleen Burke stands with her pink Cadillac. Burke is looking to partner with area nonprofits to help further their missions. **Courtesy photo**

A portion of any proceeds Burke would make during such an event would be donated to the nonprofit she is helping, she said.

"It's a win, win, win. I win because I'm making some sales, but you're also getting some of it back. And then you're collecting a bunch of socks, because that's your deal," Burke said.

For nonprofits without access to a physical space for an event, Burke said she plans to set aside some of her monthly proceeds to donate to groups she partners with. She recently partnered with Camp Michawana, donating some of her proceeds after a two-month fundraiser for the camp.

Burke is also offering lectures on several different topics, ranging from the works of the Mary Kay Ash Foundation to how one can take care of their body. She also has plans for teen "Dress for Success" events and other health and wellness presentations.

Folks can keep up with Burke at her Facebook page, "Burke's MK VIP's." Or, they can contact her at 269-317-2197.


Hastings Public Library staff member Sharon Elzinga stands beside the library's Giving Tree, as Tess Allerding holds the official donation box. HPL is partnering again with the Barry County United Way as an official drop-off location for the Toys for Barry County Kids program. **Courtesy photo**

Library partners with local 'Toys for Barry County Kids' holiday drive

The Hastings Public Library is partnering once again with the Barry County United Way as an official drop-off location for the "Toys for Barry County Kids" program.

Community members are invited to stop in and select a child's holiday wish from the Library's Giving Tree, or drop off new, unwrapped toys any time before Thursday, Dec. 18.

Visitors may participate during the library's regular open hours throughout the season. Each tag on the Giving Tree includes a gift request from a local child, helping donors' shop with purpose and connect directly with the needs of families in the community.

For those who prefer a simpler way to give, the donation box includes an Amazon wish list link as well as a general list of highly requested items.

"All donations stay right here in Barry County," said HPL staffer Sharon Elzinga, who organized the display. "When you donate a new, unwrapped toy, you are directly supporting local families – your friends and neighbors – during the holiday season."

For more information, persons may contact the library by calling 269-945-4263, via email at info@hastingspubliclibrary.org or visit the HPL website at hastingspubliclibrary.org. — *DM*

Nashville Christmas festival set for Dec. 13

Leila Wood
Contributing Writer

The Nashville Route 66 Business District is hosting its second annual "Christmas in the Village" festival on Saturday, Dec. 13.

The festivities will kick off the evening before on Friday, Dec. 12, with free Christmas light tours onboard the Barry County Transit Holly Trolley from 6 to 8 p.m.

Route 66 Business District and Nashville Village Council member Lori Courtney said during a recent council meeting that the trolley will be picking passengers up at Parady Park, in the heart of downtown Nashville.

Homes around town will be competing for the best lights display, and guests will get to take it all in from the trolley.

The first-place winner will receive $100, with the runner-up awarded $75 and the third-place honoree receiving $50.

Then, on Saturday, the festival will run from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Throughout the morning and afternoon, there will be crafts for people to make at Court-Side Screen Printing & Embroidery from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Fine Line Studios from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Good Time Pizza from noon to 3 p.m., and Edward Jones from 3-5 p.m.

The Putnam District Library will host a story time and make-and-take crafts from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and there will be games at Eaton Community Bank from 1 to 3 p.m., a coloring contest and letters to Santa at Busy Bees from 2 to 4 p.m., and a Christmas Market at Two or Three Together from noon to 4 p.m.

There will also be a chili lunch and cookie decorating at Nashville United Methodist Church from 2 to 4 p.m., and the Bread Basket will be giving away free hot cocoa or peppermint mocha with any purchase.

In Parady Park, there will be a Christmas tree decorating contest to raise money for Nashville's semiquincentennial festival set for July 11, 2026.

People may view the trees and vote for their favorite from Dec. 6 through 20. And, from 4 to 5 p.m. on Dec 13, there will be s'mores and hot cocoa available in the park.

After voting has concluded, awards will be given for the Most Festive Tree, People's Choice and Christmas Classic.

Trees will be available to purchase for $40 each after the end of the competition.

The Nashville Michigan Area Historical Society, located just south of Parady Park, will also be open during the Christmas in the Village celebration.

Historical Society members will be selling raffle tickets for a handmade quilt, quilted wall hanging and a Yeti cooler with two insulated tumblers that will be given away during the semiquincentennial festival in July.

The Christmas Parade, which has been a local tradition for many years, will start at 6 p.m., and then from 6:30 to 8 p.m., the evening will wrap up at the Castleton-Maple Grove-Nashville Fire Station with music, refreshments and a visit from Santa Claus.

Wind band, choral society present joint Christmas concert

The Thornapple Wind Band and the Lakewood Area Choral Society will combine their talents to present "A Festive Christmas Celebration" on Sunday, Dec. 14, at 3 p.m., at the Hastings Performing Arts Center.

The ensembles, performing together for the first time, will perform separately, as well as combining to present an instrumental and choral Christmas music collaboration.

The band will be under the direction of Joan Bosserd-Schroeder, while the choir will be led by Robert Oster.

The concert will open with the Cedar Creek Brass Ensemble from within the wind band performing "We Three Kings Take Five" arranged by the choral society's accompanist, Ethan Holmes. The wind band will continue with performances of "On This Day Earth Shall Ring" by Gustav Holst, featuring trumpeters Tim Scobey and Carrie Carl, followed by "Diminished Minor Alterations (Christmas Through the Looking Glass)," arranged by David Lovrien. The choral society's opening set includes "Have a Very Merry Christmas Day," by Jill Gallina, "Away In a Manger," arranged by Howard Helvey, featuring cellist, Rachel Burcz, and a partner song combining "Angels Watching Over Me" and "All Through the Night," arranged by Joel Raney.

The band's second set opens with a setting of "Celtic Holy Night," arranged by Robert W. Smith. This will be followed by the ever-popular "Sleigh Ride" by Leroy Anderson and "Dashing Through the Snow," based on the traditional carol, "Jingle Bells," arranged by Richard Saucedo. The choral society will continue with "It's Beginning To Look Like Christmas," arranged by Mark Hayes, and "This Holy Night," by Mary MacDonald, featuring alto, Sheryl Haveman, soprano, Cindy Olson, and cellist, Rachel Burcz. The choir will conclude the set with "O Holy Night," arranged by Robert Oster, featuring Hastings High School graduates and current music education and voice majors at Michigan State University, Hannah Bancroft, soprano, and Connor Lindsey, tenor.

Along with the two sets of performers, the audience will also be asked to lend its talents to the joint holiday concert during a performance of "The Twelve Days of Christmas." Audience members' sections will be assigned one of the days in this opportunity to add their voices to the Christmas music festivity. The band and choir will sing Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus" from "Messiah," and will conclude the concert with "A Festive Christmas Celebration," arranged by John Moss, Audrey Snyder and Robert Oster, featuring the traditional Christmas carols "I Saw Three Ships," "Ding Dong Merrily On High," "Deck the Hall," and "We Wish You a Merry Christmas."

The doors to the performance hall on South Street in Hastings will open at 2:30 p.m. on Dec. 14 and, in lieu of tickets, a freewill offering will be taken. — *DM*

Board of County Road Commissioners
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The Barry County Road Commission will hold a Public Hearing on its proposed 2026 Budget. The hearing will be held at the Commission Room located at 1725 West M-43 Highway, Hastings, Michigan at 6 :45 A.M. on December 31, 2025. A copy of the proposed budget is available for inspection at the Road Commission office.

HASTINGS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Professional Events

Tim Zimmerman/King's Brass | Friday, 12/19/25 | 7:00 pm

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

Other Events

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

Happy Holidays!



Michigan communities will soon benefit from the addition of 50 state troopers who graduated from the 149th Trooper Recruit School last month. **Courtesy photo**

MSP welcomes 50 new troopers to its ranks

Michigan communities will soon benefit from the addition of 50 state troopers who graduated from the 149th Trooper Recruit School last month.

During the recent ceremony in Lansing, Col. James F. Grady II, MSP director, administered the "Oath of Office" to the graduates who begin their assignments at MSP posts by the end of November.

"I am grateful for your dedication to our state and I want you to know that I have your back," said Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. "I truly believe there is no greater calling than public service and the career you have chosen shows you are willing to make a real difference in people's lives."

The 149th Trooper Recruit School began on July 6 at the MSP Training Academy in Dimondale. Recruits received training in patrol techniques and crime investigation, report writing, ethics, cultural diversity and implicit bias, decision making, leadership, first aid, criminal law, crime scene processing, firearms, water safety, defensive tactics and precision driving.

"As director of the Michigan State Police, it gives me immense pride to know that over the last 20 weeks, our training staff have prepared these recruits with the skills necessary to be competent and safe troopers and instilled in them the leadership and critical decision-making skills needed to ensure their success in modern policing," said Grady. "I look forward to seeing the impactful and positive work these 50 troopers will do in communities across our state, as we work to build a Michigan where everyone feels safe and secure."

Trooper James Freund was elected class orator by his fellow recruits and spoke on behalf of the graduating class at the ceremony.

And, prior to the ceremony, other troopers receiving honors included: Trooper Michael Cosenza, Outstanding Performance Award; Trooper Canon Rose, Team Building Award; Trooper Julion McCray, Physical Fitness Award; Trooper Brad Renwick, Academic Achievement Award; Trooper Nicholas Smith, Marksmanship Award; and Tpr. Zachery Sackett received the Sgt. Matt Rogers Driving Excellence Award.

Including the 50 graduates of the 149th Trooper Recruit School, there are about 1,145 troopers assigned statewide, and a total of 1,835 enlisted members in the MSP.

The MSP is actively recruiting for future trooper recruit schools, including the 151st Lateral Trooper Recruit School and 152nd Trooper Recruit School slated to begin January of 2026.

Individuals interested in learning more should visit michigan.gov/MSPjobs or information on how to apply. — *DM*

ASK DR. UNIVERSE

Leaving your mark

Why do we have fingerprints?
—Kaylen, 11, N.C.

Dear Kaylen,

I use my paws for all kinds of things. That's how I adjust my microscope, set up my microphone for a podcast and write answers to science questions. But most cats don't do those things. Maybe that's why cats don't have fingerprints like yours.

I asked my friend Katherine Corn about that. She's an evolutionary functional morphologist. She studies how animal bodies evolved to do all kinds of jobs. She's the director of Washington State University's museum of vertebrate zoology.

Scientists think there are two big reasons for fingerprints: dexterity and grip.

"We can't really discriminate which one is more important," Corn said. "But people are working on this, which is exciting."

Dexterity is the way you use muscles in your hands to make small, precise movements. That's how you write, type or use a game controller. It's also called fine motor control.

To make those exact movements, you take in data and make little adjustments. That data comes from what you see and hear. It comes from what you feel and how you sense your body in space.

If you're gaming, you adjust your hand movements based on things you see and hear in the game and in the real world. You feel the controller. You can tell how your fingers and hands are moving. Your brain uses all that information to tune your movements.

Your sense of touch works because your skin has tiny touch sensors. They're called Meissner's corpuscles. They help you feel different textures. Primates like monkeys and apes have lots of these. Humans are among the apes with the most.

"Humans—*Homo sapiens*—have like a zillion of these mechanoreceptors," Corn said. "And our mechanoreceptors are really big."

Scientists think the ridges of your fingerprints act like little levers. As you touch something, those ridges push on touch sensors. That gives your brain lots of information about what you touched.

It's possible that this dexterity evolved as primates began eating more fruit. Being able to feel subtle textures would have helped them figure out if fruit was ripe.

Grip is how you hang onto things. To do that well, your fingers need to be moist but not sloppy. If your skin is too dry, it won't flex right. If it's too wet, you'll lose friction and slip off.

The ridges of your fingerprints are like tiny furrows or channels that move moisture. Those ridges spread your sweat around, so your skin is flexible but not too slippery.

Fingerprints also help grip rough surfaces because the ridges lock in with the bumps and grooves on the surface. Some animals do this super well. It's how geckoes cling to smooth surfaces like glass with their mega-ridged feet.

"We can't crawl up a window," Corn said. "But the same principle applies that we create little friction sets on a rough surface."

Animals usually don't evolve traits that do just one thing. Fingerprints helped early humans succeed in a few ways, so those fingerprints stuck around.

That's why human fetuses form fingerprints way before they're born. The unique pattern of ridges happens because of genes, the density of the fluid inside the uterus and how the fetus moves around while the ridges form.

It's a clever adaptation that gives humans a hand up on the competition.

— *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.

PIERCE CEDAR CREEK INSTITUTE EVENTS

— DEC. 11-18 —

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-Dec.31 — Dec. 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.

Mondays, Dec. 1-Jan. 26 — Seed-cleaning drop-in, 11-4 p.m. Stay warm indoors and work with your hands this winter. A seed-cleaning station is set up with everything you need to get started. Tea, coffee and snacks are free. Drop in on Mondays through Jan. 26 anytime between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. in the Education Building to get started.

Sunday, Dec. 14 — Holiday Brunch, Music and Art. Brunch seatings: 11:15 a.m. and 1 p.m. Concert: 12:15-1 p.m. Join the Institute in celebrating the holiday season. Delight in festive menu selections and seasonal music by the Kalamazoo Concert Brass. Explore the Institute and enjoy the current exhibit by Chelsea Bivens. Bivens will be available for conversations throughout the day. Member adults pay $24 for registration; member children (ages 6-12) can register for $14. Non-member adults will pay $30; non-member children can register for $18. Children 5 and under can attend for no cost.

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

HASTINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY SCHEDULE

No library card is required for library programs and activities.

Participants in the Tiny Art Show can start creating their items this week, using canvases provided by the library or using their own 4-by-4-inch square materials that can be displayed on tiny easels. Tiny works of art must be turned into to the library by Friday, Jan. 9.

Thursday, Dec. 11 – Movie Memories and Milestones watches a 1940 film telling the story of the Roth family, who live a life in a small Alpine village until they are divided by the Nazi regime, and a friend is caught up in the turmoil. 5 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 12 – Friday Storytime, 10:30 a.m.

Monday, Dec. 15 – Crafting Passions, 10 a.m.; Lego Club, 4 p.m.; Tiny Art Show canvas pick-up while supplies last (all ages).

Tuesday, Dec. 16 – Baby Café, 10 a.m.; mahjong, 2 p.m.; chess club, 5 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 17 – Itsy Bitsy Book Club, 10:30 a.m.; Writers' Night, 6:30 p.m.

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

Worship Together

...at the church of your choice~
Weekly schedules of Hastings area churches available for your convenience...

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NEWSPAPER ADVERTISING DEADLINES

AD-VISOR & CHRONICLE
Monday at 4 p.m.

BATTLE CREEK **SHOPPER NEWS**
Monday at 5 p.m.

THE HASTINGS **BANNER**
Tuesday at Noon

THE **REMINDER**
Wednesday at Noon

THE **SUN** AND **NEWS**
Wednesday at Noon

VIEW Newspaper Group
mihomepaper.com

RABIES

Continued from Page 2

2641 as soon as possible. The law requires all animal bites to be reported to local animal control and the local health department.

Also, if someone may have been exposed to a bat, BEDHD officials stated that the person should not let the bat go. Instead, the bat should be safely captured for testing by contacting the local health department. Information on how to collect a bat safely may be found online at youtube.com/watch?v=NNw6hkFEtOk.

If the bat is unavailable for testing, BEDHD officials state that treatment will be recommended to prevent rabies. If the bat is tested and does not have rabies, treatment is not needed.

BEDHD does not provide preventative treatment for rabies, so individuals should contact a healthcare provider for options.

For more information, persons may visit online michigan.gov/Rabies. Or to speak to the BEDHD Communicable Disease nurse, individuals may call 517-541-2641. For after-hours, weekend and holiday emergencies, call 517-541-2683.

And to contact local animal control officials, persons may 269-948-4805 for Barry County and 517-543-5755 in Eaton County. — *DM*

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

Drive-in service comes to Hastings

DAVID W. MILLER
Special to The Banner

Drive-ins truly boomed after World War II. Rising rates of car ownership, the boom of entrepreneurial businesses and the construction of new highways made eating in the car a modern family ritual. By the late 1940s and 1950s, the carhop-served drive-in had become an icon of American youth culture. Families gathered under glowing lights for root beer and hamburgers while teenagers cruised the main streets in chrome-trimmed Chevrolets, parking at their favorite curb to talk and play music from dashboard radios. Chains that defined the genre—most notably BK Root Beer and Dog N Suds—would later appear in Hastings, but the movement began locally with a restaurant that captured the town's spirit.

The first drive-in restaurant in Hastings was the Saxon Drive-In, located at 1569 South Hanover Street. It opened in the late 1950s under the ownership of Richard and Lilly Eckles, who introduced the city's first full carhop service at a time when eating in the automobile was still a novelty. The Saxon was perfectly named: Its title drew on the pride of the Hastings High School "Saxons," creating an immediate link to the community's youth. Ownership later passed to George L. Meyers, then to Nyla Jean Pierce Stanton, and finally to Frank and Anita Misak. The restaurant became a social hub for Hastings teenagers throughout the late 1950s and 1960s. Its "famous onion rings," shakes, and burgers served on metal trays remain a fond memory for those who came of age in that era. Friday nights often saw the lot filled with cars from every corner of Barry County, their radios tuned to the same rock-and-roll station, creating a communal rhythm that defined Hastings' adolescence.

By the end of that decade, the drive-in idea had grown beyond local entrepreneurs. The next to appear was the BK Root Beer Stand on South Hanover Street, listed in the 1959 Hastings City Directory and operated by Richard and Marilyn Mudd Jr. Later, it was owned and operated by Bernard and Sandra Peck, who maintained its popularity through the 1960s. Part of a Midwestern chain that had originated with founders Bergerson and Kenefick in the 1940s, the BK Root Beer Stand offered a familiar menu of coney dogs, hamburgers, fries and root beer served in frosted mugs. The smell of hot oil and the sound of glass mugs clinking on car trays became a soundtrack to summer evenings. For many Hastings families, a stop at BK after a ball game or a Sunday drive was both affordable and festive—a symbol of postwar prosperity and freedom. The stand's presence also marked the city's entry into the broader regional network of drive-in culture stretching across Michigan and Indiana.

The most enduring of Hastings' drive-ins was Dog N Suds, built in 1964 by Richard Johnson at the junction of M-37 and M-43 (Green Street) on the west side of town. Dog N Suds had started in Champaign, Illinois, in 1953 and expanded rapidly through the Midwest, its beagle mascot and foaming mugs of root beer becoming a roadside signature. The Hastings location soon changed hands: sold to Ronald Beyers in February 1965, then to Tom and Beverly Moss in July 1976, and finally to Tyler Guernsey, who operated it from 1986 through the early 1990s. A *Hastings Banner* advertisement from Feb. 6, 1969, confirms the stand's strong presence at mid-century. Patrons recall the carhops in bright uniforms, the sizzle of burgers, and the unmistakable root beer scent that lingered in the warm evening air. Dog N Suds outlasted most Michigan locations and was, by all accounts, the second-to-last operating Dog N Suds in the state when it finally closed. Its decline came not from lack of loyalty but from the re-routing of M-37 and M-43, which diverted the steady flow of motorists that had sustained it. When the highway moved, so did its customers, and the building was eventually demolished—ending a 30-year chapter in Hastings' roadside history.

Another name drifts through community memory—Rose's Roost—a small, family-run drive-in that locals recall fondly but which has not yet appeared in surviving directories or newspaper archives. Dan Rose managed the Roost on the outskirts of town during in the 1970s, one of many independent eateries that brightened Michigan's highways before corporate fast-food franchises arrived. Its absence from official records gives it a touch of mystery, an invitation for residents to search their photo albums and scrapbooks for any surviving evidence of its brief life.

By the mid-1960s, Hastings could boast at least four distinct drive-ins—the Saxon Drive-In, the BK Root Beer Stand, Dog N Suds, and Rose's Roost—each reflecting a different expression of the era. The Saxon introduced the town to the novelty of carhop dining and became the gathering spot for its youth. The BK Root Beer Stand tied Hastings to the regional root-beer movement that defined the Midwest's taste for summer refreshment. Dog N Suds, arriving last, connected Hastings to a national chain whose red-and-white signage symbolized postwar optimism. Rose's Roost represented the independent spirit of the small-town entrepreneur, the kind of family venture that dotted Michigan's two-lane roads from Detroit to Grand Rapids. Together, they formed a vivid picture of Hastings in transition—a town embracing modernity while still grounded in neighborly familiarity.



The Saxon Drive-in 1950

The first drive-in restaurant in Hastings was the Saxon Drive-In, located at 1569 South Hanover Street. It opened in the late 1950s. Courtesy photos



Many local high schoolers found summer jobs as carhops at area drive-ins.

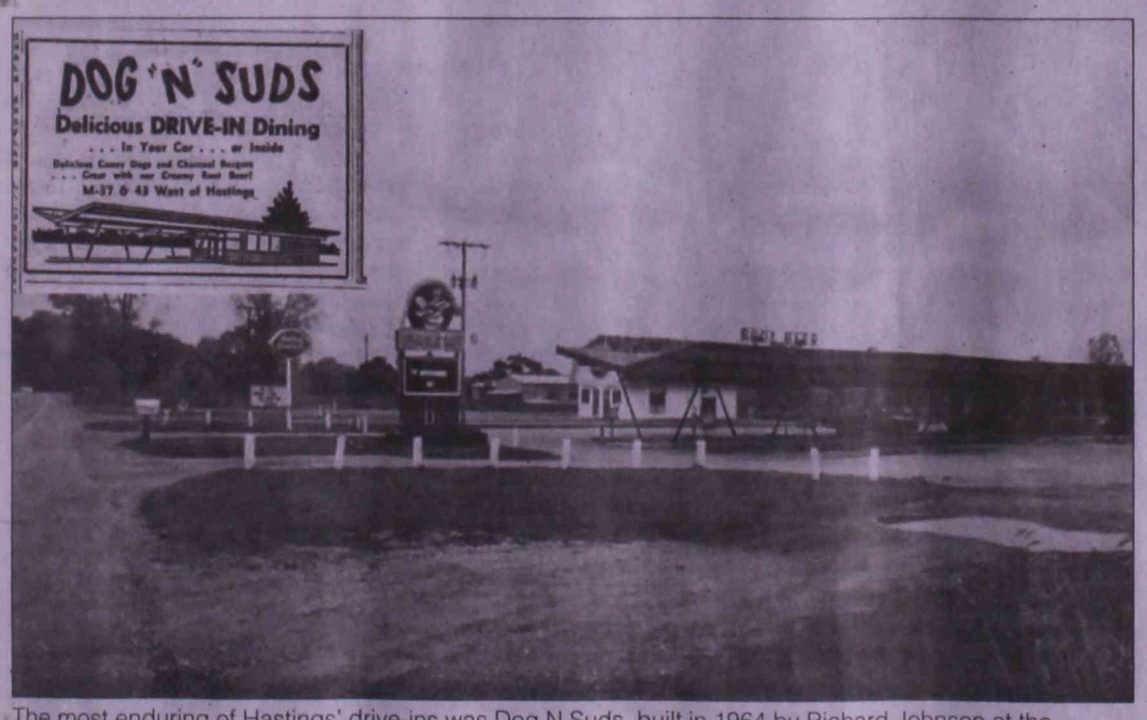
These drive-ins did more than serve food; they recorded the story of social change. In the 1950s, cars were still a luxury for many families, and the idea of dining in them spoke to convenience, privacy and status. The drive-in made teenagers customers in their own right—something new in American business. In Hastings, as across the country, that shift reshaped both social habits and local economies. High schoolers found summer jobs as carhops: Brenda Trick, Barb Rathbun, Sue Manning, Sheree Beduhn, Carla Townsend, Bonita Crawley and several others among them. Over 300 Members of Hastings History Group on Facebook reminisced about those years, and they mentioned more than the food.

Carol Rose posted: "Oh, the car-hop stories we could tell! The pandemonium when the after-Note crowd showed up on Saturday night. Our little white shirts with the giant Dog n Suds logo on the back. The coin dispensers that we wore on our belts. It was my first job beyond baby-sitting.… Our starting salary, if I recall was the grand sum of 50¢ an hour. Plus tips. Memories indeed!"

By the 1970s, changing tastes and the rise of fast-food chains began to erode the drive-in tradition. Curb trays gave way to paper sacks, and neon lights yielded to backlit plastic signs. In Hastings, the change was gradual; the Dog N Suds endured into the 1990s, long after similar stands in nearby towns had vanished. Yet the memory of those earlier days remains remarkably strong. The BK Root Beer Stand, the Saxon Drive-In, and even the elusive Rose's Roost linger in the collective memory of the community—symbols of an age when progress was personal and pleasure simple. They speak to a time when the hum of idling engines and the sparkle of soda bubbles embodied a nation's confidence in the future.

For Hastings, the drive-ins of the mid-20th century were more than roadside attractions; they were extensions of home. They offered a place to meet friends, celebrate small victories, and take part in the broader American story of mobility and optimism. Though the buildings have disappeared, their spirit endures in recollections passed from one generation to the next. For those who lived it, the image remains clear: a summer night on South Hanover Street, a tray balanced on the window of a '57 Chevy, and the taste of root beer served icy cold beneath a canopy of neon light. That was the moment when drive-in service came to Hastings—a small-town reflection of a great American age.

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



The most enduring of Hastings' drive-ins was Dog N Suds, built in 1964 by Richard Johnson at the junction of M-37 and M-43 (Green Street) on the west side of town.



This pre-1960 photo shows the BK Root Beer drive-in on S. Hanover St. in Hastings.



Rose's Roost was a small, family-run drive-in that locals recall fondly but which has not yet appeared in surviving directories or newspaper archives.

DK working towards being really tough with full line-up

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Still working towards full strength, the Delton Kellogg varsity wrestling team took on some tough challenges in the opening week of the 2025-26 season.

The Panthers were bested in a couple Southwestern Athletic Conference duals with No. 5 Martin and No. 9 Gobles Wednesday and then were back in action at their own DK Invitational Saturday.

The DK team finished second to Howard City Tri County at Saturday's tournament as the Vikings pulled out a 42-38 win in the final dual of the day. Both teams were 4-0 heading into the match-up.

"There is a lot of great competition, which is exactly what we need," Delton Kellogg head coach Dan Phillips said. "We work so that we can wrestle this great competition and compete. That is what we did. We competed."

Tri County got pins at 165 pounds and 175 pounds, and then earned its other 30 points with the help of five voids in the Delton Kellogg line-up. DK wrestlers won seven of the nine contested weight classes in the dual, and Phillips is excited for what his team will look like in the next few weeks as guys settle into weight classes and the Panthers are able to fill all 14 flights.

Griffyn Harmon at 157 pounds, Mitchell Swift at 285, Brandon Nieuwenhuis at 106, Kayle McLellan at 126 Alec Sinkler at 132 and Evan Stampfler at 144 all won by pin for Delton Kellogg. Teammate Mason Ferris at 215 pounds was in control throughout a 9-0 major decision at 215 pounds.

Sinkler, Stampfler, McLellan, Harmon, Ferris and Swift were all 5-0 for the day for DK.

"We wrestled solid. We beat the other four teams. We won those matches, and we wrestled solid. The nice thing is, every match we wrestle, every dual, someone new stands out," Phillips said.

Delton Kellogg defeated Parchment 66-6, Ionia 48-35, Paw Paw 66-6 and Lawrence 60-12.

There are some studs back in the line-up for sure. Swift is a two-time state medalist who was third in Division 4's 285-pound weight class at the MHSAA Individual State Finals last season. Stampfler, now a sophomore, was a state qualifier last year too, and the DK team had the sophomore Ferris and junior Mendon Phillips finish as regional qualifiers last February.

Another youngster, the freshman Nieuwenhuis, is one guy that coach Phillips feels like has really stepped up here at the start of the season. Nieuwenhuis had just one middle school wrestling season in before hitting the varsity line-up to start this season.

"We wrestled our first duals. We're always apprehensive about having freshmen in the varsity line-up," coach Phillips said. "He's the only freshman we have in the varsity line-up right now. We wrestled Martin and Gobles, and against Martin, against a pretty quality wrestler, he went three periods. Six minutes. Toe to toe. That really convinced me he needed to be a part of the varsity line-up. It was either send him to a JV tournament last night or take him with us, and that match convinced us he needed to be with the varsity.

"Today he showed it. The fight was tremendous. He never gives up out there. He's tenacious. And as you can see, the boys love him."

Nieuwenhuis was on his back in the first period of his match with Tri County's Jacob Hulbert, and trailed 7-0 quickly. Nieuwenhuis recovered, scored a two-point reversal and then earned the pin all. It all took just 68 seconds.

That pin had DK up 22-18 on the Vikings midway through what was the de facto championship match at the invitational. DK got three more pins the rest of the way, but forfeited four weight classes.

"The rest of the team stood out too. There were a lot of guys who stepped up in that match," coach Phillips said. "That is the best we have wrestled so far. Tri County is a tough wrestling team. We wrestled them tough."



Delton Kellogg 106-pounder Brandon Nieuwenhuis looks for an opening during the first period of his mach with Tri County's Jacob Hulbert Saturday at the DK Invitational. Nieuwenhuis scored a pin and was 4-1 for the day.



Delton Kellogg's Kayle McLellan closes in on a pin of Tri County's Jordon Compagnari during the third period of their 126-pound match Saturday in the final dual of the Delton Kellogg Invitational. McLellan was one of six DK wrestlers with an individual 5-0 record for the day. The DK team finished as the tournament runner-up to the Tri County Vikings. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

Heavyweights battle off backs to boost Scots over Trojans

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

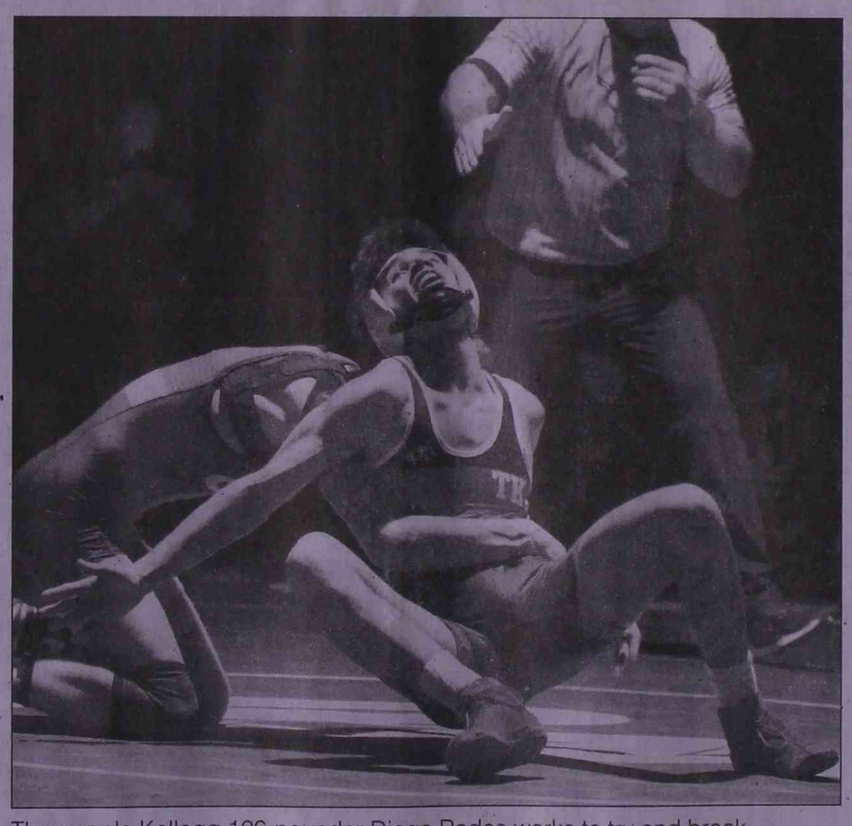
The Trojan heavyweights started out on top on the scoreboard, but the Fighting Scots finished on top on the mat at the end of the three-team meet at Caledonia High School Wednesday.

The Caledonia varsity wrestling team finished off the first night of the 2025-26 season by scoring a 41-37 win over the visiting Thornapple Kellogg squad.

Thornapple Kellogg had a 37-29 lead with two bouts to go. Caledonia 215-pounder Xavier Stewart and 285-pounder Ky Spencer both faced significant point deficits in the first period, but rallied for pins that turned the dual into a Fighting Scot victory.

Spencer clinched the win by pinning TK's Abram Dutcher 3 minutes and 33 seconds into the 285-pound match. Dutcher built a 7-0 lead early in the first period, holding Spencer down for four nearfall points, and led 7-2 at the end of the period.

"I was just doing what I know best, sticking to the basics," Spencer said. "I caught him there. He tried to throw me in a headlock. I slipped under it, and my coaches coached me up real nice … I kind of just flow. When I get out there on the mat I'm not really 100 percent sure what I'm doing. I just flow and resort to what I know, all that hard work."



Thornapple Kellogg 126-pounder Diego Rodas works to try and break free from the grasp of Caledonia's Max Schnurstein under the spotlight at Caledonia High School Wednesday, Dec. 3, during the opening night of varsity wrestling competition in Michigan. Caledonia took a 41-37 win over the TK team in the final dual of a three-team tri that also included a Grand Ledge squad that beat both the Scots and Trojans. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

Caledonia led the dual 23-15 at the midway point after opening at 106 pounds. Quick pins from TK's Gabe Gosselin at 144 pounds and Griffin Grummet at 157 pushed the Trojans into the lead, and they were in front until that final bout.

Spencer said Stewart really got the crowd and their teammates into the match with his big win at 215 pounds, and he was happy to get the chance to carry that momentum through to the win. Stewart, another sophomore, fell behind TK junior Brody Hammer 6-2 in the opening period. Hammer had Stewart on his back for three nearfall points. The two came out of the second period tied 8-8, and Stewart managed a take down midway through the third period and pinned Hammer at the 5:03 mark.

"Honestly, it was a perfect learning situation where they didn't have to lose to learn. It is exactly what we have been preaching to them: 0-0 after the first period is great," Caledonia head coach Shawn Veitch said in regards to his heavyweights. "They are great athletes. Everybody is fresh in the first period. If we can just beat them up a little bit, tire them down and then let our athleticism win as the match goes on. Gosh, we dug ourselves some holes didn't we, but hats off to them.

"Our whole phrase this year is mental and physical toughness. We will not break mentally, and we are going to break people physically. I was so proud that even though they got down they didn't mentally break and stuck to the game plan."

The Scots should be tough at the top this winter as they also have junior Luke Kowatch there to compete at the 215-pound and 285-pound flights with Stewart and Spencer.

Kowatch got to compete Wednesday too, taking on the defending Division 1 285-pound state champion, Logan Tollison, from Grand Ledge in the Scots' opener at what turned into a three-team meet. Tollison pinned Kowatch in the middle of the first period of their match.

Grand Ledge was tough all around defeating Thornapple Kellogg 62-16 and then the Scots 42-29.

In that backyard dual between Caledonia and TK, the Fighting Scots got pins from Caleb VanLaan at 106 pounds, Escher Reeder at 132, Robert Restau at 144 and Caden Nostrant at 175 pounds as well as at those two heavyweight spots.

Caledonia's other points came thanks to an 18-1 technical fall by Max Schnurstein at 126 pounds.

The Scots had to forfeit the 120-pound weight class to TK's Daniel Nieboer, but coach Veitch said he expects that hole to be filled once guys start settling into their proper weight classes.

TK also got pins in the dual from Garrett Grummet at 113 pounds and Jackson Smith at 190. Ethan Strait got a couple of third period take downs to finish off a 20-14 win over the Scots' Shawn Restau in the 138-pound match. TK's Blake Bossenberger rode the Scots' Koleson Reeder through the third period of their 165-pound match to hold onto an 8-2 major decision.

Garett Grummet at 113 and Griffin Grummet at 157 scored pins for TK in its contest with Grand Ledge, and the Trojan team also got a 16-5 major decision from Cam Peter in the 175-pound weight class.

The Trojans and Scots will be together again Saturday, Dec. 13, at the Kent County Classic hosted by East Kentwood High School.

Thornapple Kellogg spent last Saturday, Dec. 6, at the Grandville Challenge getting championships from Smith at 190 pounds, Hammer at 215 and Bossenberger at 165. Griffin Grummet was the runner-up at 157, and Diego Rodas at 126, Max Knowles at 150 and Debo Robinson at 190 each placed third.

TK was set to head to visit Plainwell for a quad Wednesday, Dec. 10.

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
BARRY COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. and JUDGE 2025-30281-DE
William M. Doherty

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

Estate of David Lane Miller. Date of birth: 02/21/1972.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, David Lane Miller, died 10/22/2025.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Donald G. Miller, Jr., 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: 12/02/2025
Nathan E. Tagg P68994
202 South Broadway
Hastings, MI 49058
269-948-2900
Donald G. Miller Jr.
2868 Wood School Road
Middleville, MI 49333
269-908-1966

Trileaf Corp

The Towers, LLC proposes to build a 199-foot self-support communications tower at the approx. vicinity of 3247 Bender Road, Middleville, Barry County, MI 49333. Lat: 42-41-59.76, Long: -85-29-20.5. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Trileaf Corp, Charles Hotchkiss, c.hotchkiss@trileaf.com, 1515 Des Peres Road, Suite 200, St. Louis, MO 63131. 314-997-6111.

2025 Winter SPORTS Preview

Young Saxon squad looking to gel, improve during early schedule

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Saxons want to be at their best at the end of the season, and hope that carries on into the future.

The Hastings varsity boys' basketball team has a mostly young crew looking to improve on last year's four wins and be ready to compete come state tournament time – if not well before.

The squad has a strong group of leaders back in senior forward Dan Jensen, junior guards Jack Webb and Quincy Brown.

Webb averaged 8 points, 3.2 rebounds and 2 steals per game last season while shooting about 35 percent from behind the three-point line. A natural scorer, he'll handle point guard duties a little more often than the Saxons would really like as sophomore guard Trevin Russell recovers from an injury sustained during the football season.

Jensen is a guy who makes all the hustle plays a team needs and has been praised as a tremendous leader by every varsity coach he has had.

Russell is one of the key newcomers for this squad along with fellow sophomore Jason Jimenez, a tall, athletic center who'll grow into a key piece quickly.

"We will have some speed and length to move and defend the ball," Hastings head coach Jess Webb said. "We have good shooters around the perimeter and guards that can attack space. We have good young leadership and we're getting better at communication on both sides of the ball."

He loves his team's ceiling, and is excited that a lot of the guys on the roster will have two full varsity seasons together. Coach Webb said the guys are working on building up their strength and also working on playing together as a group.

The Saxons fell in a couple non-conference ballgames to open the season last week, against Greenville and Charlotte. They were bested 37-25 at Plainwell Tuesday, Dec. 9, and are now 0-3 overall this season.

Hastings be home to take on Hopkins in game two of a doubleheader with the girls Friday, Dec. 12.

The Interstate-8 Athletic Conference season starts before the holiday break with Harper Creek coming to Hastings Dec. 16 and the Saxons going to Parma Western Dec. 18.

Coach Webb said he expects Harper Creek to be one of the top teams in the conference this winter along with Pennfield and Coldwater.

"Our goal is to be playing our best basketball come the end of February," coach Webb said. "We will have a lot of growth from now until then and if we can get and stay healthy we will be fun to watch and will win some basketball."

He said he is looking forward to a January 23 non-conference contest with visiting Okemos as a barometer for his team's progress. The Okemos boys won 17 games a year ago.

"If we can compete with them, we will be able to compete with anyone," he said.

From there, the Saxons start the second swing through the conference schedule and coach Webb said this group is really hoping to start adding championships to the banner in the high school gym. There hasn't been much of that since head coach Don Schils stepped aside following the 2012-13 season, but Schils has never been too far from the program. Coach Webb is excited to officially add him as a varsity assistant this winter.



Junior guard Jack Webb is a returning honorable mention all-conference performer in the Interstate-8 Athletic Conference for the Saxons this winter. Webb averaged 8 points and 3.2 rebounds per game on the varsity as a sophomore. **File photo by Brett Bremer**

Big I-8 duals come early on in Saxon wrestling schedule

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Saxons have got to be ready to go this season.

The first two Interstate-8 Athletic Conference duals are a couple of the biggest ones of the season. The Hastings varsity wrestling team was set to host Harper Creek Wednesday, Dec. 10, to open the conference season and will be on the road at Jackson Northwest Jan. 7 for the first conference dual after the holiday break.

Winning those two duals would be a big boost in the Hastings varsity wrestling team's effort to defend its conference championship from a year ago.

The Saxons certainly have some guys who should be up to speed from the get-go. Sophomore Hunter Sutfin placed fourth at the MHSAA Division 1 Individual State Finals a year ago having put together one of the best seasons ever by a Saxon freshman. He had 51 wins.

"Hunter is a leader in our line-up, and a great worker in the room. Looking forward to continued success from him," Hastings head coach Jason Slaughter said.

Slaughter is in his fifth season leading the Saxon program.

The group of returnees also includes regional qualifiers from last season Reyd Zoerman and Liam Renner. Renner, a junior at 144 pounds, won 36 matches a year ago. Zoerman was another talented freshman for the Saxons last season compiling 41 wins.

The returning senior group includes Matthew Shults, a three-year varsity starter who won 34 matches a year ago; Aiden Armstrong who is a returning captain; and Reese Hammond and Isaac Lilley.

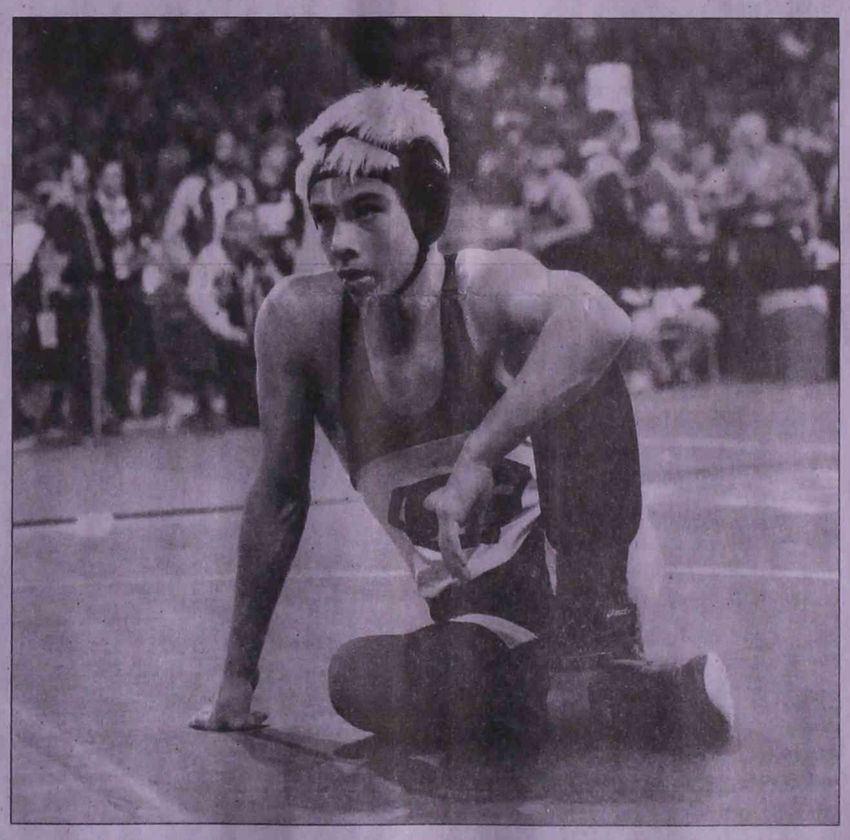
Slaughter said there is a big freshman group in the program this season with a few new wrestlers who will add good depth to the team. It'll be a young team for the most part with the majority of grapplers freshmen and sophomores.

Overall, he calls it a hard-working group with solid attitudes.

"We have a lot of wrestlers who are really bought in to improving and working hard," Slaughter added. "The season is off to a good start with guys bringing a lot of energy and hard work to the room. We look to continue to be competitive in aiming for the top of the I-8 as well as advancing in the post season. One of our goals is to be the best conditioned team out of all the teams we wrestle."

The Saxons have been in good

See **DUALS** on 11



Hunter Sutfin earned a state medal as a freshman wrestling for the Saxon varsity and is back to help lead the Saxons chase for more state medals and another Interstate-8 Athletic Conference championship this winter. **File photo by Brett Bremer**

Saxons looking forward to more girls' duals with a full line-up

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Girls' wrestling is still growing in the state of Michigan, and the Saxons are excited for the next steps forward.

The Michigan High School Athletic Association will offer district and regional team championships for the first time this winter in girls' wrestling, and the Hastings varsity girls' wrestling team should be competitive with a handful of talented girls back boosted by some freshmen with solid wrestling experience already.

The group of returnees for head coach Mike Goggins and assistant Erin Slaughter is led by two-time state placer Dezarae Mathis. She placed eighth in the 115-pound weight class at last year's Individual State Finals and is back for her senior season.

The Saxon squad also brings back regional qualifiers in sophomore Nani Farrell and senior Chloe Aiken from a year ago as well as senior Sara Baker who won 20 matches.

That Saxon squad from a year ago went 5-1 in duals, won multiple invitationals and had three state qualifiers overall.

"We plan to be competitive everywhere we go," coach Slaughter said of this season. "We are excited that MHSAA is offering a district and regional team championship for girls this season for the first time ever. We are also excited to have a full line up as the girls get more opportunities to wrestle in duals during the week this year."

New to wrestling, senior Ashlyn Bailey is helping to fill a hole in the line-up. The strong group of incoming freshmen to the program includes Riley Furrow, London Hammond, Abby Frazer and Autumn Mayack.

The youngsters have fared well already. Hastings was one of eight schools at the Lakewood Lady Vikes' Jamboree last Wednesday, Dec. 3. The Saxon team was a part of 20 matches on the night and scored 15 victories. Furrow, Jayda Villareal, Mathis, Farrell, Frazer and Morgan Casselman won two matches each. Baker and Mayack both won once.

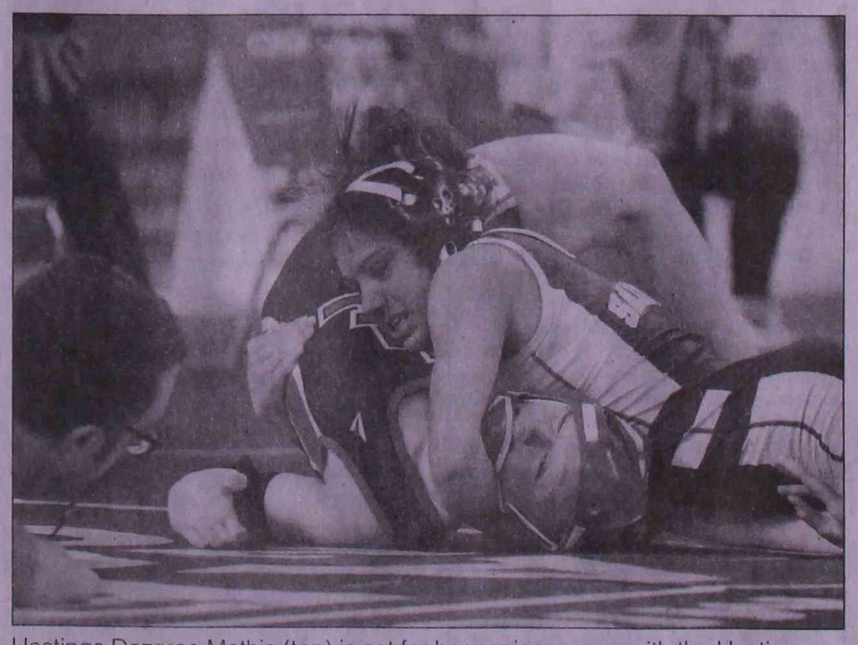
Harper Creek and Marshall are the only two other Interstate-8 Athletic Conference schools with significant girls' programs at this point. The Saxons were set to see how they stacked up against the Beavers at home Wednesday, Dec. 10. The Saxons head to the Grayling Invite Friday, Dec. 12.

They will host their own Saxon girls' invitational Jan. 24 this season.

Hastings won its first invitational of the season Friday, Dec. 5, taking the title at the Bangor Invitational with the help of five individual championships and six other girls among the top four at their weight class.

The Saxons closed the Friday evening event with 194.5 points. Otsego was a distant second with 126 points ahead of Harper Creek 110, Hudsonville Unity Christian 102 and Niles 91 in the top five at the 20-team meet.

Frazer at 145 pounds, Mayack at 140, Mathis at 120, Furrow at 110 and Baker at 135 all won flight championships. Bailey placed second at 235 pounds. Alexia Owen at 190, Isabella Strimback at 105, and Casselman at 120 'B' were all third.



Hastings Dezarae Mathis (top) is set for her senior season with the Hastings varsity girls' wrestling team returning as a two-time state medalist. **File photo by Brett Bremer**

HHS teams reloading after senior-fueled championships last season

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

It's something of a rebuilding year for the Hastings varsity boys' and girls' bowling teams.

A senior-filled Hastings boys' team placed fifth at regionals a year ago, but freshman Andrew Barton stood out and earned a spot in the MHSAA Division 2 Boys' Bowling Singles Finals.

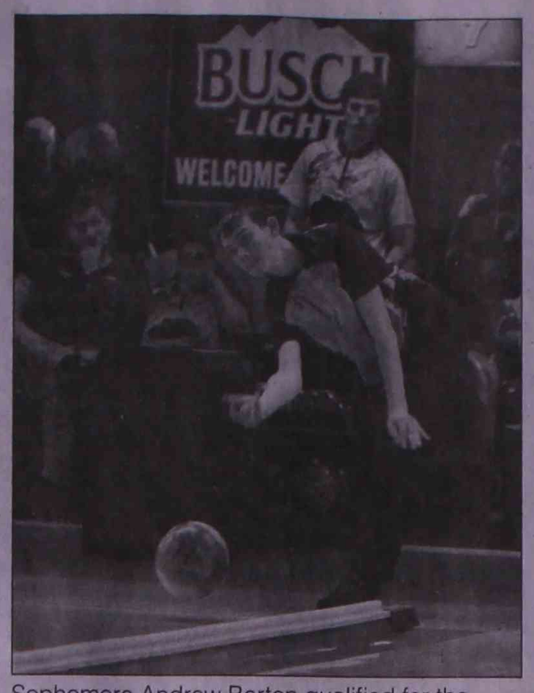
The Saxon boys' squad also brings back sophomore Dakota Cole and junior Brody Mix from that regional team from last winter.

Barton capped off his freshman season by placing 46th in qualifying rounds at the state finals.

He is already off to a solid start this year. He rolled games of 230 and 202 as the Saxons took a win at Jackson Parma Western Tuesday afternoon.

The Saxons won that opening Interstate-8 Athletic Conference dual by a 23-7 tally. Mix had a high-game of 181 and also rolled a 163. Junior Owen Boge stepped up to earn two points for the team with games of 191 and 199. Cole rolled a 137. Aiden Hook chipped in a 188 to earn a point for the Saxons.

Parma Western topped the Hastings girls 28-2 in the match. Megan Ramey earned the two Saxon points with her games of 164 and 149. Khloe Baker and Misha Haskins just missed out on earning points for the Saxon girls in the regular games.



Sophomore Andrew Barton qualified for the MHSAA Division 2 Boys' Bowling Singles Finals as a freshman last winter. **File photos by Brett Bremer**



Senior Megan Ramey was the lone underclassmen to compete in the regional singles finals for the Hastings girls' team that won a regional championships at the end of the 2024-25 season and is back to lead the program this winter.

Hastings girls' coach Deanna Rhodes said the girls' team is still working to add some Saxons to its roster, and those interested should check in for information at the athletic office.

The Hastings girls won a regional championship a year ago in Division 2 with a senior filled roster. Ramey, now a senior, is the only girl who rolled in the regional singles competition a year ago for Hastings who wasn't a senior at the time.

That 2024-25 Saxon girls team placed 14th in the qualifying round at the D2 State Finals.

The Hastings boys shared the 2024-25 Interstate-8 Athletic Conference championship with Pennfield, the first ever conference bowling title for the Saxon boys' program.

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 January 8, 2026. 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): Helen Grace Caldwell, an unmarried person, Roque Corpuz and Nora Corpuz, a married couple, all as joint tenants with rights of survivorship

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

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Select Portfolio Servicing, Inc.

Date of Mortgage: August 19, 2023

Date of Mortgage Recording: August 29, 2023

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $186,791.03

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Johnstown, Barry County, Michigan, and described as: PARCEL 1: LOT 14 OF SHADY SHORES, ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN LIBER 3 OF PLATS, ON PAGE 29, BEING A PART OF THE WEST 1/2 OF THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 15, TOWN 1 NORTH, RANGE 8 WEST.

PARCEL 2: LOT NO. 13 OF SHADY SHORES, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, RECORDED IN LIBER 3, OF PLATS, ON PAGE 29, IN THE OFFICE OF THE REGISTER OF DEEDS FOR BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN, BEING A PART OF THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 15, TOWN 1 NORTH, RANGE 8 WEST, JOHNSON TOWNSHIP, BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN.

Common street address (if any): 12125 Winans Rd, Dowling, MI 49050-8818

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 27, 2025

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

1578197
(11-27)(12-18)

Saxons hope to add postseason success to I-8 success this season

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Saxons made it five Interstate-8 Athletic Conference championships in a row with its victory at the end of the 2024-25 season, and they are focused on making it six this season.

The Hastings varsity competitive cheer team will open defense of its conference title by playing host to the first I-8 Jamboree of the season Jan. 7 at Hastings High School.

The Saxons are hoping to score even better this winter and have the chance to advance through the state tournament for a bit. Hastings was seventh at its tough Division 2 district tournament a year ago finishing about 60 points behind the teams battling for that fourth and final regional qualifying spot.

There are reasons to be hopeful that scores can go higher.

"The team is extremely strong in stunting," Hastings head coach Linsey Jacinto said. "They have been in the weight room, and we are looking forward to a strong confident round three. They have also been working on gymnastics, and we are planning higher pointed skills in round two. In round one, we are focused on performance, and that wow factor."

Leading the list of returnees for the Saxon squad are four cheerleaders who

See **SUCCESS** on 11



Gracie Wilson is back as a base for her senior season with the Saxon varsity competitive cheer team. Wilson is one of a few returning all-conference athletes for the Hastings girls this season as they chase a sixth straight Interstate-8 Athletic Conference championship. **File photo by Brett Bremer**

Healthy seniors hoping to give Hastings hoops a boost

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

It's not just some underclassmen that the Saxons are excited to be adding to the court this winter.

The Hastings varsity girls' basketball team welcomes back senior center Ava Noteboom and her cousin, senior guard Olivia Friddle, who both missed most or all of last season with knee injuries.

They're just a small part of a big list of returnees for the Saxon team this fall that will be looking to improve on an 8-15 from a year ago under head coach Ben Wilson.

The squad also brings back senior guards Maddie Peake and Kaylee Dahms, senior forwards Ashlyn Bailey, Lakaya Evans and Bayley Smith and Olivia's sister, junior guard Bella Friddle.

Olivia Friddle has been a part of the Saxon varsity since her freshman season. She injured a knee during the winter of her sophomore season, playing both basketball and wrestling for the Saxons at that time.

Peake was the team's second leading scorer a year ago and one of her team's top three-point shooters. She spent half of her sophomore campaign on the Saxon varsity as well.

"This team will have plenty of speed and athletic ability in the backcourt plus experienced post players that played a lot of basketball last year," coach Wilson said. "Our kids are going to play hard, and compete every game."

Youngsters adding their talents to the varsity roster this winter include junior center Tenleigh Nichols, junior guard Naomi Cook and sophomore guards Ashlynn Goldsworthy and Lilly Mcfarlan.

With the newcomers, the returnees and a few key losses to graduation last spring both in the paint and the back-court the Saxons do have some shuffling to do in their rotations.

"While we bring back lots of experience we have several players that will be playing new roles and positions on this year's team," Wilson said. "We have had a great start to the season, and our players are really responding to new opportunities that are presented to them."

The Saxons had their first opportunity to test themselves on the court Tuesday with a non-conference ballgame against Plainwell at Hastings High School. The Saxons are home again Friday, Dec. 12, to take on Hopkins. The Interstate-8 Athletic Conference season starts Dec. 16 at Harper Creek.

See next page



Senior guard Maddie Peake is the top returning scorer for the Saxon varsity girls' basketball team this year. She finished number two on the squad as a junior. **File photo by Brett Bremer**

Saxon boys set to swim without DK or TK teammates

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Saxons are on their own in the pool this winter.

After rolling through its first two decades as a co-op with Thornapple Kellogg and then Delton Kellogg, the Hastings varsity boys' swimming and diving team will be made up entirely of Hastings Saxons for the 2025-26 season.

There are challenges and benefits with that. There is a smaller pool to pull student-athletes from, but the team will also compete in Division 3 for MHSAA state competitions. That means state qualifying times aren't quite as tough as in Division 1 and Division 2 where the team has competed in the past.

Not that D3 is easy. For one example, the time needed to qualify for the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Boys' Swimming and Diving Finals in Division 1 in the 100-yard freestyle is 49.49 seconds. The D3 state qualifying time is 51.29. If a swimmer hits the state qualifying time in a varsity meet any time during the season they earn a spot in the state finals.

Hastings head coach Andrea Jackson, in her second year leading the program, said she has a few guys who will be pushing to reach those D3 state qualifying times by the end of the season. The program also brings back Todd Bates as diving coach.

Leading the list of returnees for the Saxons in the pool are juniors Caleb Kramer and Cruize Rathburn, sophomore Richard Fritz and seniors Colton Baker, Gavin Bagley and Reese Hammond.



Senior Caleb Kramer is one of three returning guys for the Hastings varsity boys' swimming and diving team who had a top 16 finish at last season's Southwestern and Central Michigan Swim Conference Championships. For the first time this season, Hastings will not be a co-op with students from Delton Kellogg or Thornapple Kellogg. **File photo by Brett Bremer**

Kramer and Baker placed 12th and 13th respectively at the Southwestern and Central Michigan Swim Conference Championships last season. Jackson said she expects Baker to contribute as a diver and in the breaststroke some this season.

Hammond had one of the other top performances by a returning swimmer at last year's conference meet placing 11th in the 500-yard freestyle.

Bagley should contribute in the backstroke and the freestyle this season. Rathburn is a freestyle swimmer and a diver. Jackson said she sees Fritz contributing in all the strokes. The team is also excited to add Slovakian exchange student Miki Macharik.

Looking at the group, coach Jackson said she sees some strong swimmers with good experience and a great team atmosphere. Numbers are still a bit of an issue overall, and the guys are working on being able to contribute in a variety of strokes.

One of the coach's big goals is "continuing to build the team morale and atmosphere to convince other students to join. More specifically for this season, our goals are shooting for state cut times with being a Division 3 school now. We are trying to achieve state cut times for Caleb, Reese, and potentially Gavin."

She said Baker will be working to qualify for regionals as a diver again this season too.

The SCC will be tough again with strong squads from Plainwell and Otsego as usual. Plainwell finished on top at the SCC Championships a year ago, more than 16 points ahead of the rival Trojans. Both teams had a number of underclassmen contribute to top 25 finishes at the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 3 Boys' Swimming and Diving Finals back in March.

Plainwell was set to host the annual SCC Relays to open the season Wednesday, Dec. 10. Hastings jumps right into the toughest part of the conference slate facing Otsego in Hastings Dec. 16 and then going to Plainwell for a dual Jan. 6.

The annual Hastings Relays are set for Jan. 17 this season.

Continued from previous page

"There is reason to be really excited about the potential for this team. Our team plays hard and will look to consistently improve as we go through our schedule, with our ultimate goal to be playing our best basketball going into the districts in the first week of March," coach Wilson said. "We have a tough schedule in both the conference and non-conference this year that will challenge our team and prepare us hopefully for a run at the end of the season."

Coach Wilson said he expects Parma Western and Marshall to be the top contenders for a conference championship this winter. The Saxons get their first shot at Parma Western on the road Dec. 18. That will be the final contest for the Saxons before the holiday break.

SUCCESS

Continued from Page 10

were among I-8 award winners last season. Senior base Gracie Wilson, senior base/flyer Jaden Marble and junior base Harlie James were all all-conference honorees last season, and also back is senior base Esther King who was honorable mention all-conference as a junior.

The group of girls back for the Saxons also includes senior base Addie Carey, senior flyer Hope Carly, senior back spot Claudia Minch, senior back spot Hayle Rivera, senior flyer Liv Trick, junior flyer Audrey Aicken, junior base Abby Hall, junior flyer Zikarra Warner, sophomore base Zoe Carter, sophomore base/back spot Annabelle Kuck and sophomore back spot Rebecca Snyder.

The team is adding senior base Jasmine Elliott and senior base/back spot Jordan Ward this winter, freshman base Haley Miles, freshman back spot Alyssa Olin and exchange student Francesca Pinonni who is working as a base.

Of the things coach Jacinto really has her team working to improve, precision and floor mobility in round one stands out.

"Other than that, we're just cleaning and improving every day," Jacinto said.

"The team has set high goals for their season, and are working to earn them. First up is our sixth straight I-8 Championship. After that, place in districts and regionals."

She added that the Saxons are really working to make their fans proud this winter.

Harper Creek and Jackson Northwest are the two I-8 squads most likely to push the Saxons for a conference championship this season.

Hastings will get its first test on the mat Dec. 20 at the Maple Valley Invitational.

DUALS

Continued from Page 9

shape so far. They opened their season on their home mats with a 78-6 win over Ravenna and a 61-12 win over Lansing Everett Dec. 3. Josh Roberts, Mason Baker, Sutfin, Zoerman, Lilley, Renner, Aden Armstrong, Logan Smith, Jace Acker and Shults had two wins each in those duals.

Hastings was back in action at the Greenville Duals Saturday and finished a 4-1 day as the runner-up behind the host Yellow Jackets.

The Saxons defeated Petoskey 64-9, Belding 53-21, Hamilton 71-12 and Caledonia 42-32. Greenville bested the Saxons 41-32 in their match-up.

Sutfin, Reece Laws and Acker were all 5-0 throughout the day for Hastings. Zoerman and Lilley were both 4-0, and Renner and Shults were 4-1. Roberts and Karson Gray had three wins apiece.

STATE OF MICHIGAN
JUDICIAL DISTRICT
5TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
BARRY COUNTY
ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION/ POSTING AND NOTICE OF ACTION
CASE NO. and JUDGE
25-416-CH

Court Address: 206 W. Court St., Suite 202, Hastings, MI 49058
Court telephone no.: 269-945-1404
Plaintiff's name
Jody Pietenpol Jennings
Plaintiff's Attorney
Steven G. Storrs (P80557)
202 S. Broadway
Hastings, MI 49058
26-945-2242
v
Defendant
Deborah L. Hop
Address Unknown

IT IS ORDERED:

1. You are being sued in this court by the plaintiff to Quiet Title. You must file your answer or take other action permitted by law in this court at the court address above on or before December 11, 2025. If you fail to do so, a default judgment may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint filed in this case.

2. A copy of this order shall be published once each week in Hastings Banner for three consecutive weeks, and proof of publication shall be filed in this court.

3. Plaintiff shall post a copy of this order in the courthouse, for three continuous weeks, and shall file proof of posting in this court.

Nov. 19, 2025
Judge Vickie L. Alspaugh P12572

GO ONLINE TO HASTINGSBANNER.COM

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the Circuit Court in Barry County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on January 8, 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. Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Tyler Jezuit, a single man Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Rocket Mortgage, LLC, its successors and assigns Foreclosing Assignee: Rocket Mortgage, LLC, FKA Quicken Loans, LLC Date of Mortgage: October 21, 2024 Date of Mortgage Recording: October 25, 2024 Amount claimed due on mortgage on the date of notice: $195,013.52 Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in the City of Hastings, Barry County, Michigan, and are described as: THE NORTH 58 FEET OFF AND FROM THE NORTH SIDE OF THE SOUTH ONE-HALF OF LOTS 1012 AND 1013, PLAT OF THE CITY OF HASTINGS, ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN LIBER 1 OF PLATS, PAGE 1, BARRY COUNTY RECORDS. Commonly Known as: 610 S Park St., Hastings, MI 49058 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or upon the expiration of the notice required by MCL 600.3241a(c), whichever is later; or unless MCL 600.3240(16) applies. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention Purchaser: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee for any reason. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest, and 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 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: 11/27/2025 Potestivo & Associates, P.C. 251 Diversion Street, Rochester, MI 48307 248-853-4400 321634

(11-27)(12-18)

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 18, 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): Michael Jerome Charbonneau Jr., a single man

Original Mortgagee: Lake Michigan Credit Union

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): None

Date of Mortgage: February 23, 2024

Date of Mortgage Recording: February 29, 2024

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $84,137.82

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Charter Township of Rutland, Barry County, Michigan, and described as: Lot(s) 59 and 60 and the West 1/2 of Lot 61 of Plat of Al-Gon-Quin Estates according to the plat thereof recorded in Liber 4 of Plats, Page 22 of Barry County Records

Common street address (if any): 2182 Ottawa Trl, Hastings, MI 49058-8905

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 20, 2025

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

1577755
(11-20)(12-11)

Trojans' Lloyd puts in 25 to beat Lakewood as offenses awaken

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Trojans were thrilled to get their first 'W.'

The Vikings were pleased with the effort and improvements.

Both teams were just happy to be putting the ball in the basket.

The Thornapple Kellogg varsity boys' basketball team got its first victory of the 2025-26 season outscoring visiting Lakewood 67-64 in Middleville Thursday.

TK trailed by as many as nine points in the first half, but rallied to get within 34-33 by the half. That was already one more point than the Trojans scored in their season opener against Plainwell two nights earlier. Lakewood head coach Jason Solgat was pleased with the point total after his team scored 42 in its season-opener at Belding and averaged between 35 and 40 points per game last season.

Thornapple Kellogg senior guard Ben Lloyd attacked the basket and scooped a shot up for a bucket that put TK in front 56-54 45 seconds into the fourth quarter, and the Trojans held a slim lead the rest of the night.

Lloyd made a habit of getting to the rim and led all scorers with 27 points even after picking up three quick fouls in the first five and a half minutes of the game. Being conscious of that foul trouble throughout the night didn't slow Lloyd down any on the offensive end.

"I'd come off screens and it just felt like taking it was the right idea," Lloyd said. "And all the foul calls, I just knew that if I took it I'm either getting a foul or making the bucket."

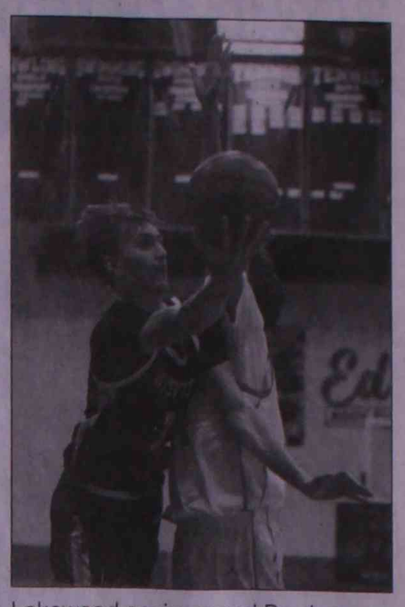
He said his team had a great practice Wednesday and played with more confidence and had better ball-movement Thursday.

"We have to do a little better job of either helping off of it or cutting him off," Lakewood assistant coach Chad Pleiness said. "We already talked about that a little after Tuesday, and now it is just a little bit better. We'll get there. We haven't played a lot of man either. We've been a zone team for many years and now we have the athletes, we have the depth and hopefully a little more basketball I.Q. and we're able to execute that a little bit better. As we get into it, we'll be much better at it."

With Lloyd off the court for a bit between the end of the first quarter and the start of the second, Lakewood grew a lead as large as 27-18. A few points from senior forward Trey Hilton and a three from Lloyd were part of a quick 10-0 run that got the Trojans back in the ballgame.



Thornapple Kellogg senior guard Ben Lloyd gets to the rim as Lakewood sophomore guard Skyler Oberlin tries to chase him down from behind and teammates Bryer Poll and Max Thrun look on. Lloyd had a game-high 27 points in a TK win in Middleville Thursday. **Photos by Brett Bremer**



Lakewood senior guard Bradyn Johnson attacks the basket during a non-conference contest at Thornapple Kellogg High School in Middleville Thursday, Dec. 4.

Lakewood was inhibited a bit by foul trouble too both amongst its array of bigs and senior guard Ethan Matthews and Braydn Johnson. Senior center Hollis Poll fouled out eventually and junior center Jameson Tichvon finished the night with four fouls.

"Lakewood is a lot bigger than we have been in the past," Solgat said. "Coming into this game we really wanted to pick apart the middle of that lane there. We knew we could, and we started to right away. We would just hit the seams and pick them apart in the middle. You start losing your big presence in that middle there and your game plan changes completely.

"Defensively, because of foul trouble we had to jump out of the press. The press was doing great damage there. Your game plan completely changes on the fly and you're calling audibles. The kids grinded through it. We asked them to show up better than what they did against Belding the other night, and they did what we want. You never want to lose, but you're happy to see what we just saw."

Lakewood had three guys in double figures. Johnson, a newcomer to the Viking program in his first varsity action, led his team with 12 points. Junior guard Remington Horstman and sophomore center Bryer Poll had 10 points apiece.

TK had a lead of as many as nine points in the third quarter, but the Vikings surged to get within 52-50 heading into the fourth quarter. Sophomore guard Skyler Oberlin hit a three-pointer to get Lakewood within 65-64 with 53 seconds left. Lloyd hit a couple free throws a few seconds later to bump the TK lead to 67-64, and then the Vikings stayed alive with TK missing four consecutive free throws.

Lakewood inbounded the ball with the length of the court to go with 5.6 seconds left. Oberlin got the ball ahead to Matthews in the offensive end, but Matthews slipped down to the floor approaching the three-point line but managed to recover to get a decent shot off that came up just short.

"He is frustrated, and I said, 'hey the fact that you got off the ground and put up that shot told me you have a lot of grit, because a lot of kids would just fall on the ground and bury their head in the hardwood. The kid got up and fired it."

Senior guard Zay Boafo added 10 points for TK, junior guard Andrew Johnson had 9 and senior forward Trey Hilton finished with 8.

The points kept coming for Lakewood Friday night as the Vikings played their third game of the week, but they gave up too many in a 96-58 loss to visiting Pennfield (2-2).

Lakewood, now 0-3, starts the Capital Area Activities Conference season Friday at Ionia.

Thornapple Kellogg went to Forest Hills Eastern (1-2) Tuesday and scored a 61-31 win Tuesday evening and the Trojans are now 2-1. The Trojans will be home tonight, Dec. 11, against Forest Hills Central.

Lakewood wrestling topples trio of ranked teams in first week

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Lakewood varsity wrestling team opened the 2025-26 season with a couple of victories at the Montrose Tri Wednesday evening including an upset of the host Rams and then went a perfect 5-0 Saturday at the Cadillac dual tournament.

Lakewood took care of old Greater Lansing Activities Conference rival Leslie 48-24 and then knocked off host Montrose 33-31 at Montrose. Lakewood entered the season ranked sixth in the state in Division 3 and Montrose came in ranked fourth. The Vikings' sweep Saturday included wins over a Rockford team ranked sixth in the state in Division 1 and an Ogemaw Heights team ranked ninth in D3.

Sophomore 106-pounder Dakota Harmer finished off the two-point Viking win over the Montrose Rams by scoring a 15-6 major decision against Bryson Briggs in the 106-pound bout. Montrose held a 31-29 lead heading into that final match of the night.

Lakewood won eight of the 14 flights in that dual with the Rams. Vincent Stamm at 138 pounds, Owen Prowdley at 190 and Jacob Everett at 215 each scored pins for the Lakewood team in that dual. Stephen Aldrich scored a 5-0 Viking victory at 120 pounds over Montrose's Freddy Priest. Olivet Johnson pulled out a 10-6 win for Lakewood over Ivin Perior at 132 pounds. Bryce Goodemoot got an 11-5 win for the Vikings at 144 pounds over Jayden Mead.

That string of three straight wins by Johnson, Stamm and Goodemoot had Lakewood in front 15-10. Montrose took the lead at the midway point of the dual with Noah Szwed scoring a pin at 150 pounds. Szwed is the one returning state medalist this winter for the Rams.

The teams were back and forth from there through the final seven bouts. Bryson Boucher, last year's state runner-up at 150 pounds in Division 3, put the Vikings back in front with a 7-5 win over Montrose's Gauge Vincke at 157 pounds.

Montrose won by DQ at 165 pounds and got six more points thanks to a pin from Joey Gilnski at 175 pounds. Lakewood got the pins at 190 and 215 and then Montrose jumped back in front in the penultimate bout with Owen Perior tallying a 5-3 win over Lakewood's Levi Pyrzinski at 285 pounds.

Lakewood got pins from Harmer (106 pounds), Austin Rohrbacher (113), Stephen Aldrich (120), Johnson (132), Vincent Risk (175) and Prowdley (190) in the win over Leslie. Everett won by technical fall at 285 in that one, Pyrzinski won a decision at 215 and Boucher won by major decision at 157.

At Cadillac Saturday, Lakewood defeated Bay City Western 59-12, Cadillac 46-29, Midland Dow 67-12, Ogemaw Heights 41-31 and Rockford 42-36.

The win over Rockford, which fell to eighth in the D1 rankings following the defeat, came down to the final bout. Aldrich pinned the Rams' Grayson Sterk with six seconds left in the first period to snap a 36-36 tie.

That win over Rockford also included pins for the Vikings from Goodemoot at 144 pounds, Chase Livermore at 165, Risk at 175, Prowdley at 215, Harmer at 106 and a forfeit win by Boucher at 157.

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 January 8, 2026. 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): Michael J Charbonneau Jr, an unmarried man

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: February 24, 2020

Date of Mortgage Recording: February 28, 2020

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $193,135.86

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Charter Township of Rutland, Barry County, Michigan, and described as: Lot (s) 59 and 60 and the West 1/2 of Lot 61 of Plat of Al-Gon-Quin Estates according to the plat thereof recorded in Liber 4 of Plats, Page 22 of Barry County Records.

Common street address (if any): 2182 Ottawa Trl, Hastings, MI 49058-8905

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 20, 2025

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

1577753
(11-20)(12-11)

CITY OF HASTINGS
County of Barry, State of Michigan
ORDINANCE NO. 634
AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND DIVISION 2-111-66, ARTICLE II, OF CHAPTER 2 OF THE HASTINGS CODE OF 1970 TO ESTABLISH MODIFY THE APPOINTIVE CITY OFFICERS

THE CITY OF HASTINGS ORDAINS:

Section 1. Amendment and Restatement of Chapter 2, Article 2-111 Sections 2-66 of Chapter 2, "DIVISION 2-111 OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES, Sec 2-66 Appointive City Officers, is hereby amended and restated in their entirety to read as follows:

Sec 2-66 Appointive City Officers

The appointive officers of the city shall be the city manager, deputy city manager, the city clerk/treasurer, the city attorney, the police chief, the fire chief, the city assessor, or such other appointive offices as the council may create from time to time in accordance with law.

All appointive administrative officers of the city, with the exception of the city attorney and city manager, shall be appointed by the city manager, by and with the advice and approval of the council.

Section 2. Repeal. All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed.

Section 3. Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective upon its adoption and publication as provided by the City Charter.

Moved by Rocha, with support by McLean, that Ordinance No. 634 be adopted as read.

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Adoption Date: December 8, 2025

Effective Date: December 19, 2025

First Reading: November 24, 2025

Second Reading: December 8, 2025

CITY OF HASTINGS
By: Linda Perin
City Clerk

CERTIFICATE

The undersigned, being the duly qualified and acting Clerk of the City of Hastings, Michigan, does hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of an Ordinance adopted by the City Council of the City of Hastings, at a regular meeting of the City Council on December 8, 2025, at which meeting a quorum was present and remained throughout, and that the original of said Ordinance is on file in the records of the City of Hastings. I further certify that the meeting was conducted, and public notice was given pursuant to and in compliance with Act No. 267, Public Acts of Michigan of 1976, as amended, and that minutes were kept and will be or have been made available thereby.

CITY OF HASTINGS Dated: 12/09/2025
By: Linda Perin
City Clerk

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

In the Matter of Nolan R. Hudson and Joan K. Hudson Trust. Date of birth: Nolan R. Hudson - 06/02/1937.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Nolan R. Hudson, surviving Trustee, died November 18, 2025 leaving the above Trust in full force and effect. Creditors of the decedent or against the Trust are notified that all claims against the decedent or trust will be forever barred unless presented to Katherine Reichley, Trustee, within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: December 8, 2025

Rhoades McKee PC
Stephanie S. Fekkes P43549
607 North Broadway, Suite A
Hastings, MI 49058
(269) 945-1921

Katherine Reichley
c/o Rhoades McKee
607 North Broadway, Suite A
Hastings, MI 49058
(269) 945-1921

DK boys go up big early in back-to-back victories

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Delton Kellogg varsity boys' basketball team started the Southwestern Athletic Conference Central Division season with a 57-32 win over the visiting Rats Friday.

The Panthers and Rats have split their conference series in each of the past two seasons, and the Delton Kellogg boys knocked off the Black River boys on their way to a district finals appearance a year ago.

Delton Kellogg led from the start Friday running out to a 32-10 lead in the first half.

Guard Grady Matteson drilled seven 3-pointers and led all scorers with 31 points for Delton Kellogg

Jarno Wiebenga had 12 points and Tyler Howland six for the Panthers.

Delton Kellogg is now 2-1 overall this season. The Panthers will continue the SAC Central season at home against Gobles Friday, Dec. 12.

The Panthers got win number two on the season Tuesday toppling Bridgman 48-44 at Delton Kellogg High School.

It was a quick start for Delton Kellogg again as it led 16-6 after one quarter and 29-17 at the half.

It was still a ten-point Delton Kellogg lead with a minute and a half to play before Bridgman really started to chip away at the advantage.

Matteson had 16 points going six-of-six at the free throw line. Wiebenga chipped in 11 points, Howland had seven and Keegan Hill added six.

Ethan Stine hit three 3-pointers in the fourth quarter, and five overall for the night, and led the Bees with 17 points. Ty Adams added 11 points and Sam Fenech nine in the loss.



Delton Kellogg's Jarno Wiebenga (23) leans toward the hoop between Black River's Melvin Thomas (24) and Elijah Wykes (5) during the first half in Delton. **Photos by Perry Hardin**



The Panthers' Gabe Smoczynski (12) scoops the ball under the outstretched arm of Black River sophomore Bryan Steenwyk (30) during their SAC Central match-up Friday at Delton Kellogg High School.

Trojans win handily over Hawks in girls' hoops opener

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

A young Forest Hills Eastern team was not prepared for what the Thornapple Kellogg varsity girls' basketball team had to throw at it in the season opener Tuesday in Middleville.

The Trojans took a 62-35 win over the visiting Hawks.

The TK defense threw so much pressure at the Hawks that even TK head coach Brandi James thought her girls were going a little too hard. But that was really her only complaint.

"Everybody played a decent amount, which shows the depth of our bench. We didn't have a lag when we went to our bench depth. They were staying right with the starters I think," James said. "I would love to have a better full-court man. I wasn't happy with how messy that looked. We just have some cleaning up to do.

"They're a very solid team and they are hungry to play a full-court man. With our depth I want to give that to them … we need to emphasize getting the steal off the pass rather than off the dribble. We're hungry to pick a pocket when we need to just make her pick up her dribble and then get the pass for the steal. That is just lessons to be learned. Film will help teach them that."

For the most part, the TK did everything it wants to do this season other than a few early fouls from that eagerness on defense.

The Trojans took advantage of their athleticism both defensively and offensively. They created turnovers and found players for open lay-ups ahead in transition. They got the ball to junior Reece Ritsema and senior McKenna Hoebeke in the paint. There were flashes of brilliance from freshman guard Kathleen Kaboos. Junior point guard Addy Henry handled that spot well enough against the Hawks to give sophomore Taylor Lloyd the opportunity to be the scorer she can be.

Lloyd led all scorers with 18 points. Ritsema finished with 14 points. Kaboos closed the ballgame with nine points and junior Ellie Harmon had eight.

Ritsema was her usual dominant self on the glass, and sophomore guard Amya Gater had a great game rebounding the basketball for TK too as well as being a terror at the top of the Trojan press.

TK went on a 17-0 run after the teams traded buckets to start, and the Trojans led 17-4 after one quarter. The lead was double figures for the rest of the night. TK led 32-18 at the half.

Forest Hills Eastern has a roster without a senior, five juniors, three sophomores and three freshmen.

Junior Raena Scully led the Hawks with ten points. Freshman Maddie Brown had seven and sophomore Kylie Konwinski finished with six points.

Thornapple Kellogg is slated to visit Forest Hills Central tonight, Dec. 11.

The OK Gold Conference season starts for the Trojans Dec. 16 at home against Wyoming. The Wolves took two from TK last season as both teams were battling for spots in the middle of the conference standings. It's a match-up the Trojans are really looking forward to being successful in.



Thornapple Kellogg sophomore guard Taylor Lloyd (top) works to wrangle the basketball as Forest Hills Eastern sophomore guard Kaylee Konwinski goes down near mid-court during the first half Tuesday in Middleville. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

Stampfler has one of Panthers' top scoring nights ever in opening win

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Addie Stampfler was ready for the season.

The Delton Kellogg senior guard poured in 32 points as the Delton Kellogg varsity girls' basketball team scored a 55-23 win at Bloomingdale Tuesday to start the 2025-26 campaign.

Stampfler's 32 points is the second highest point total in the history of DK girls' basketball, matching a Lexi Parsons ballgame in 2019 and surpassed only by a 40-point night from Melinda Bromley in 1984. Stampfler had 17 points in the first quarter as DK shot out to a 24-6 lead.

Clara Sanchez added six points for the Panthers and Jalin Lyons and Izzie Wendland led an outstanding defensive effort with six steals each.

"We came out and played well from the start," Delton Kellogg head coach Kevin Lillibridge said. "We were late on closeouts and that cost us with Bloomingdale scoring 18 of their 23 points from 3-point shots.

"It was a good first game for us with eight different players scoring, with five of those players playing in their first varsity game ever. We have a few upperclassmen with experience and a lot of younger players, so having a game where everyone can feel success is a good thing for us early in the season. I'm expecting we continue to build on this game and grow throughout the season with some tough match-ups coming up."

The DK girls have a tough one at home against a 2-0 Gobles team Friday, in game one of a doubleheader with the boys. The Panthers head to Saugatuck next Friday, Dec. 19. Those are the first two Southwestern Athletic Conference Central Division ballgames of the season.

Plainwell scores first 15 points in non-conference win over Hastings girls

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Plainwell took a 58-29 win over the Hastings varsity girls' basketball team in the season opener at Hastings High School Tuesday.

The Trojans raced out to a 15-0 lead and held the advantage about there throughout the evening. It was 30-15 at the half.

Hastings had the lead down to 12 at one point in the third quarter, but Saxon head coach Ben Wilson said the Plainwell girls responded with a few big baskets and made free throws to stretch the lead back out.

"It was our first game, several kids playing new spots, and new roles," Wilson said. "It took us a quarter to get comfortable with what we were doing on both sides of the floor, but by that time Plainwell had capitalized on our mistakes."

He added that the squad isolated some things to work on for Friday night's home date with Hopkins. The girls will take on the Vikings in game one of a doubleheader with the boys.

"It's a long season and we are looking forward to the growth we are going to see," Wilson said.

The Saxons start the Interstate-8 Athletic Conference season next week with ballgames at Harper Creek Tuesday, Dec. 16 and Parma Western Thursday, Dec. 18.

KNOW SOMETHING INTERESTING?

We'd love to hear about it!

Email
mmacleod@mihomepaper.com

THE HASTINGS BANNER
VIEW

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
BARRY COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. and JUDGE 25-30284-DE

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

Estate of Laura Ellen Smith. Date of birth: Sept. 15, 1949.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Laura Ellen Smith, died November 18, 2025.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Korbin C. Otto, 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: December 3, 2025

Eric E. Brandt (P52007)
PO Box 141635
Grand Rapids, MI 49514-1635
616-784-3443
Korbin C. Otto
1545 Summer Ridge Dr.
Kalamazoo, MI 49009
616-309-7781

STATE OF MICHIGAN
JUDICIAL DISTRICT
5TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
BARRY COUNTY
ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION/ POSTING AND NOTICE OF ACTION
CASE NO. and JUDGE
25-416-CH

Court Address: 206 W. Court St., Suite 202, Hastings, MI 49058
Court telephone no.: 269-945-1404
Plaintiff's name
Jody Pietenpol Jennings
Plaintiff's Attorney
Steven G. Storrs (P80557)
202 S. Broadway
Hastings, MI 49058
26-945-2242

v

Defendant
Thomas A. Hop
Address Unknown

IT IS ORDERED:

1. You are being sued in this court by the plaintiff to Quiet Title. You must file your answer or take other action permitted by law in this court at the court address above on or before December 11, 2025. If you fail to do so, a default judgment may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint filed in this case.

2. A copy of this order shall be published once each week in Hastings Banner for three consecutive weeks, and proof of publication shall be filed in this court.

3. Plaintiff shall post a copy of this order in the courthouse, for three continuous weeks, and shall file proof of posting in this court.

Nov. 19, 2025
Judge Vickie L. Alspaugh P12572

AGRICULTURE Today

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Michigan wheat growers break per-acre yield record



At 90 bushels per acre, Michigan's average wheat yield was much higher than the 2025 national average of 54.9 bushels per acre. **Photo by the Michigan Wheat Program**

The Michigan Wheat Program is celebrating the state's wheat growers who produced a record-setting bushel-per-acre statewide yield for the red and white soft winter wheat 2025 harvest.

Figures released by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service show that Michigan wheat farmers produced an average of 90 bushels per acre, the nation's fourth-highest yield per acre among all types of wheat grown.

Among states that grow winter wheat — which is Michigan's strength — the Great Lakes State had the second-highest yields behind only Idaho.

"This 90 bushel-per-acre-yield edges out our 2016 record of 89 bushels per acre," said Jeffery Krohn, the Owendale farmer who chairs the nine-member Michigan Wheat Program Board of Directors and is a Huron County Farm Bureau member.

Michigan's average wheat yield was in the mid-70 bushel per acre range for many years, according to Krohn, who said the board of the Michigan Wheat Program has been funding research to make a difference in yields across the state.

"While weather is always a factor in farming, we believe that growers are picking up the new varieties from the MSU wheat breeding program and embracing the high-management techniques research supported by the Michigan Wheat Program, which has been investing for 14 years in projects to increase yield and decrease quality issues," Krohn said.

Michigan's total wheat harvest in 2025 was 44.1 million bushels, with 70% of that being soft red winter wheat and 30% soft white winter wheat. At 90 bushels per acre, the state's average wheat yield was much higher than the 2025 national average of 54.9 bushels per acre.

"Weather alone cannot account for the strong trend upward we're seeing in Michigan wheat yields, and it's exciting to see and be a part of," said Jody Pollok-Newsom, executive director of the Michigan Wheat Program.

A commodity check-off, the Michigan Wheat Program is funded by nearly 8,000 farmers who grow wheat in 50 of Michigan's 83 counties. For more information about Michigan's wheat industry and summaries of wheat research, visit miwheat.org. — *Michigan Farm Bureau*

Barns across county display area's rich farming history



Passersby traveling throughout Barry County can find a historic farm at just about every corner. Many area resIdents have grown used to the backdrop of aging barns, often adorned with historical markers. This barn on Coats Grove Road denotes the historic farm of George Washington Coats, who helped settle Coats Grove in Woodland Township with his wife, Abby, and five children in 1876. Today, one of Coats' great-great-great-great-grandchildren operates the farm. More information about the farm can be found at maplelawnfarm1876.com. **Photo by Molly Macleod**

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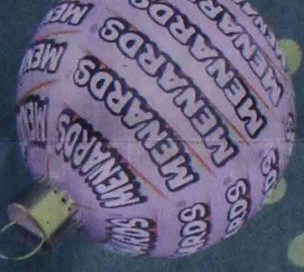
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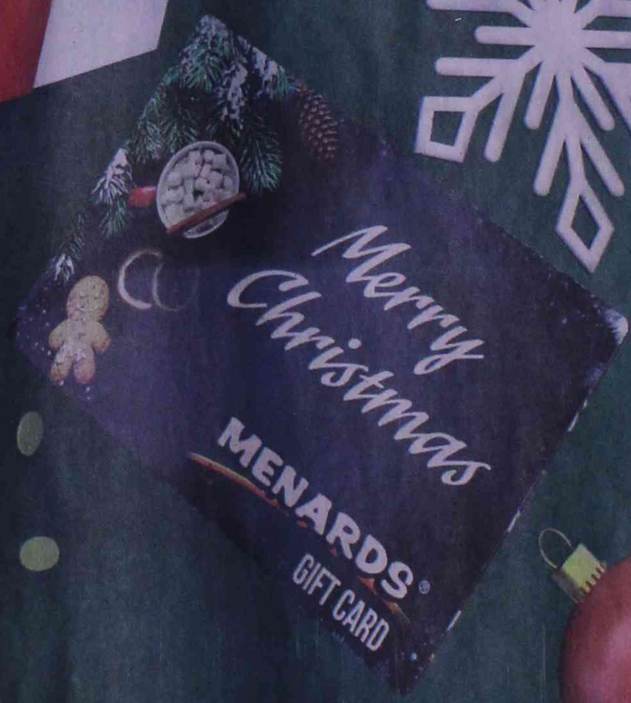
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Reminder: Take full advantage of your remaining 2025 health insurance benefits before they expire on December 31.

618 W. State Street, Hastings

*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 12/31/25.

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