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THE HASTINGS BANNER

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Village council selects two for second interviews



Mark Borden shakes hands with Trustee Neena Rush and other members of the Lake Odessa Village Council after her interview for the village's top administrative post during a special meeting Tuesday, Dec. 9, at the Page Memorial Building. **Photos by Dennis Mansfield**

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

And then there were only two.

Members of the Lake Odessa Village Council voted unanimously, 7-0, to bring back two candidates for the open full-time manager's position for a second round of interviews at their regular meeting Monday, Dec. 15.

Council members hosted a first round of interviews during special meetings Dec. 8-9 to discuss the position with five of the 11 applicants seeking to be the village's next manager.

The field was whittled down with Monday's vote to schedule a second round of interviews on Tuesday, Jan. 6, at 5 p.m. The motion also included a "fallback" date of Thursday, Jan. 8. The candidates will also meet individually with village department heads, with council members requesting the department heads to also sit in on interviews in the evening at the Page Memorial Building.

The two finalists will be familiar, as they include former village council member Patricia Caudill and Mark Borden, the current manager for the Village of Edmore, who previously interviewed for the position during one of the council's previous hiring searches in late 2024.

Caudill is a long-time Lake Odessa resident and, besides serving on the village council, served on the Odessa Township Board of Trustees. She currently is employed 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.

Council Trustee Ben DeJong said, coming into Monday's meeting, he had Caudill ranked as his No. 3 pick.

"She has the knowledge of the village, which I appreciate," DeJong said. "She interviewed really well."

DeJong added he also appreciated the quality of questions Caudill asked council members during her interview.

"I liked the dialogue," he said. "I like it to go back and forth."

Caudill was the top choice for fel-

See **INTERVIEWS** on 2

DK Marching Band plays in Pearl Harbor Memorial Parade



Members of the Delton Kellogg High School Marching Band pose for a photo at Pearl Harbor. **Photos by Jamie Brown**



Delton Kellogg Marching Band members visited the Nu'uanu Pali Lookout on Oahu.

Members of the Delton Kellogg High School Marching Band were able to escape the cold of Michigan's December while honoring our nation's veterans in Hawaii earlier this month.

After a nearly 20-hour journey, the 67 students and chaperones with the Delton Kellogg Marching Band arrived in Honolulu late on Friday, Dec. 5. They were greeted by their local guide, along with leis and a pizza party. After an early-morning breakfast on Saturday and a ride on a double-decker open-air bus, they arrived at Pearl Harbor.

The group toured the USS Missouri, where the "Instrument of Surrender" was signed on Sept. 2, 1945, officially ending World War II. The group stuck around to perform at Forward Pier before taking a ferry ride to the USS Arizona Memorial, which serves as an underwater tomb to over 1,100 soldiers and Marines who lost their lives on that fateful day on Dec. 7, 1941.

After some free time on Sunday morning, the band headed to Fort DeRussy to rehearse with the Pacific Marine Band and participate in the Pearl Harbor Memorial Parade Opening Ceremony. The parade immediately followed, a one-mile march

See **PARADE** on 4

Commissioners offer additional financial support to BEDHD to mitigate Barry County fee increases

Molly Macleod
Editor

Members of the Barry County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously on Tuesday, Dec. 16, to allocate up to $76,000 next year to the Barry-Eaton District Health Department. The additional funds will help mitigate rising fees for Barry County residents who utilize the health department's services.

"Really, what this process does is it allows us to limit the amount of fee increases our residents are paying," said Barry County Administrator Eric Zuzga during Tuesday's Board of Commissioners meeting.

The contract between the county and BEDHD will allow for Barry County residents to not feel the full impact of rate hikes being put in place by BEDHD, which services both Barry County and Eaton County.

Earlier this year, the BEDHD board voted to approve a total of 50% fee increases in 2026. Fees were increased by 20% on Oct. 1, and an additional 30% increase is slated to take effect on Jan. 1, 2026. Barry County residents will not have to pay the additional 30% increase in fees next year, thanks to the contract between the county and BEDHD.

Funds from the $76,000 allocation will be disseminated quarterly throughout 2026. BEDHD will pay the county back what it can as

See **SUPPORT** on 2

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HASTINGS LADIES WIN THEIR SECOND TOURNAMENT TITLE IN TWO TRIES
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Mariners frequenting the Historic Charlton Park boat launch on Thornapple Lake could soon have a smoother ride, thanks in part to a $150,000 Michigan Department of Natural Resources Passport grant awarded to Barry County this month. **Photo by Molly Macleod**

Barry County awarded $150K for Charlton Park boat ramp improvements

Molly Macleod
Editor

Mariners frequenting the Historic Charlton Park boat launch on Thornapple Lake could soon have a smoother ride, thanks in part to a $150,000 Michigan Department of Natural Resources Passport grant awarded to Barry County this month.

Barry County was one of 15 communities selected by the DNR to receive funds in this round of awards. In total, $1,920,100 was awarded to Michigan public recreation projects this month.

Selected projects were scored and selected from a field of 57 grant applications seeking a total of $7.2 million in funding.

With the announcement of this year's recipients, the Recreation Passport grant program has awarded a total of $22.3 million statewide.

Though the grant helps inch the boat ramp project at Charlton Park closer

See **RAMP** on 4

INTERVIEWS

Continued from Page 1

low Trustee Martha Yoder, who said she liked the candidate's experience in human resources and self-proclaimed management style.

"She talked about being a collaborative manager. That's what we want," Yoder said.

"She's been here so long she knows people," Trustee Bob Green added. "She really impressed me."

Mark Borden, a resident of Carson City, has served as manager in Edmore since 2023. According to Lake Odessa officials, he served as city administrator in Carson City from 2008-2014 and has also held executive and managerial roles in businesses and organizations providing municipal engineering and planning, medical billing and higher education.

DeJong said that Borden might be the one candidate interviewed "that can walk in and do the job." The council member also appreciated that Borden mentioned he'd be willing to commit to serving as manager for up to seven years.

"He was up front and committed to that," DeJong said.

Trustee Roy Halfmann added he liked Borden's "laid-back" personality as a potential fit when working with other village department heads. And, like DeJong, he believes that Borden has the potential to serve as manager immediately.

"He can do everything," Halfmann said. "That's what he does now. He's a jack of all trades."

While Caudill might have been Yoder's top choice, she said Borden was her runner-up.

"He'd fit in with our staff," she said. "He could definitely do the job."

Other candidates interviewed during the two special meetings Dec. 8-9 included:

- Paul Back – Manager in Forsyth Township in the Upper Peninsula since April 2025.
- Conner DeYoung – 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 – Most recently served as assistant city manager in Chelsea from 2024 to 2025.

Interim Manager Gregg Guetschow said, while three of the five candidates were not selected to advance to the second round of interviews, they could still be considered for the position in the future.

"I don't let anyone off the hook," Guetschow said. "They're certainly not eliminated, not out of the running."

Lake Odessa has been without a full-time manager since December 2023 and has struggled to fill the position since that time. Council members previously have conducted three hiring searches, 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.



Members of the Women's Giving Circle of Barry County gathered at Thornapple Kellogg High School on Friday, Dec. 12, to hand over a check for $6,500 to TK's FFA advisor, Alyssa Hamlin. Pictured are (from left) Nancy Goodin, Lyn Briel, Debby McKeown, Hamlin, Kim Norris, Debbie Tomko, Lisa Finkbeiner and Carla Wilson-Neil. **Photo by Molly Macleod**

Women's Giving Circle benefits TK FFA program

Molly Macleod
Editor

Thornapple Kellogg High School's Future Farmers of America chapter received a financial boon last week from a local group of women dedicated to supporting area nonprofits.

The Women's Giving Circle of Barry County is a group of community members who are interested in learning about and contributing to local nonprofit organizations. Members meet quarterly and, together, vote on one organization to support. All members then write a personal check for $50 (or $30, if under age 30) to that nonprofit.

In November, members of the circle gathered at First Presbyterian Church in Hastings and voted to support TK's FFA program this quarter. WGC representatives handed over a check for $6,500 last week. With this quarter's donation, the Women's Giving Circle has contributed $348,500 to Barry County nonprofit organizations since it began in 2013.

TK's FFA program was rechartered in 2022. Today, it is run by TKHS agriculture, food and natural resources teacher Alyssa Hamlin. Hamlin said TK boasted a robust FFA program until 1966, when it shut down for unknown reasons. After a few years of building up the club, it currently maintains 30 to 40 active members.

Individuals must be members to vote at Women's Giving Circle meetings; interested women are welcome and encouraged to join at any time. Contact Nancy Goodin at NanGoodin@aol.com for a membership form and guidelines.

The Women's Giving Circle's next quarterly meeting will take place on Wednesday, Feb. 4, at the Hastings Elks Lodge. Social hour begins at 5:30 p.m., followed by the meeting at 6 p.m.

Organizers ask that current and prospective members RSVP to Goodin, NanGoodin@aol.com. Any questions about the organization can be directed to Goodin as well.

SUPPORT

Continued from Page 1

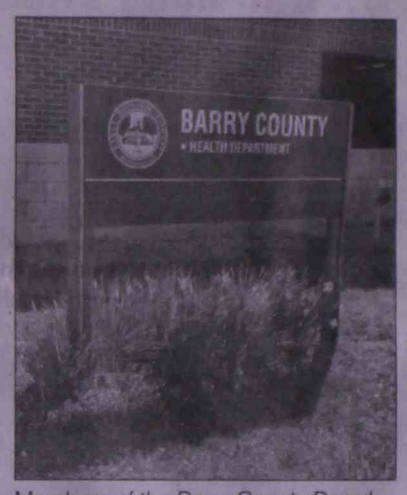
it recuperates revenue from permits.

"If we don't do anything, our residents will have an additional 30% fee increase. So what this does is allow us to take that share… we're estimating that's $19,000 for the first quarter. We'll draw that down as permits are used, and if we don't use it, great. We'll use it for next quarter," Zuzga said.

Zuzga thanked BEDHD Health Officer Rebekah Condon for her help in formulating the contract and its funding mechanism.

In April, BEDHD was hit with $850,000 in budget cuts from the federal level, forcing the department to eliminate nine positions. In June, Eaton County commissioners voted to reduce their contribution to BEDHD by 25% — or $225,000. Barry County commissioners voted in October to match that reduction, causing BEDHD to lose an additional $130,000.

However, Barry County commissioners approved the 2026 budget with a contingency fund in place for BEDHD in the event additional funds were needed to help reduce the financial burden on county residents.



Members of the Barry County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously on Tuesday, Dec. 16, to allocate up to $76,000 next year to the Barry-Eaton District Health Department. **File photo by Molly Macleod**

"The three of us (serving on the health department board), Bruce (Campbell), Catherine (Getty) and I felt strongly that Barry County residents shouldn't have to suffer for the fact that Eaton County is in financial problems. We felt that we had the ability to try to help our residents not have this big fee increase," said Commissioner Bob Teunessen.

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
BARRY COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. and JUDGE 25-30278-DE
William M. Doherty

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

Estate of Ward Robert Goff, deceased. Date of birth: 10/26/1941.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Ward Robert Goff, died 05/04/2025.

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

Date: 12-18-2025
Garry L. Walton P31199
229 East Michigan Avenue, Suite 340
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
269-383-3434
Penny A. Goff
5241 Waldorf Road
Delton, MI 49046
269-623-6525

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
BARRY COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. and JUDGE 2025-30297-DE
William M. Doherty

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

Estate of Elwood Rey Haan. Date of birth: 11/06/1947.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Elwood Rey Haan, died 10/27/2025.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Lori Haan, 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: 12/16/2025
Nathan E. Tagg P68994
202 South Broadway
Hastings, MI 49058
269-948-2900
Lori Haan
15568 Rich Lane
Hickory Corners, MI 49060
269-370-4871

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
BARRY COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. and JUDGE 2025-30288-DE
William M. Doherty

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

Estate of Mark Fleser. Date of birth: June 12, 1986.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Mark Fleser, died October 3, 2025.

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

Date: 12-8-2025
Sean Patrick Cox P51402
3351 Claystone St., SE, Suite 101
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
616-942-6404
Vicki L. Anderson
304 E. Orchard St.
Delton, MI 49046
616-550-5552

SYNOPSIS
Hastings Charter Township
Regular Meeting
December 9, 2025

Meeting called to order 6:35 pm
7 board members present
Approved agendas
Discussed recycling program, city property transfer fund, trustee status. Approved 2026 budget, Review Board members, auditor, & 2025 budget changes
Approved payment of bills
Dept. reports received
Motion to adjourn 7:49 pm
Submitted, David J. Olson, Clerk
Attested to by Jim Partridge, Supervisor

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AG releases report of alleged abuse within GR Diocese

Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel on Monday, Dec. 15, announced the release of a report concerning allegations of sexual abuse and other sexual misconduct that took place in the Diocese of Grand Rapids, including alleged incidents by priests serving churches in Lake Odessa and Caledonia.

The report was released to acknowledge the reports of abuse from victims and to report the department's findings.

According to an announcement released Monday by the attorney general's office, the document reportedly is a compilation of excerpts from the information obtained from tip lines, victim interviews, police investigations, open-source media, paper documents seized from the Diocese of Grand Rapids, and the electronic documents found on the diocesan computers, as well as reports of allegations disclosed by the diocese.

The list of priests for which there were allegations of sexual misconduct against either children or adults since January 1950 for the Diocese of Grand Rapids, which dates back to 1882, was derived from information gleaned from a search warrant that was executed against the Diocese of Grand Rapids in October 2018, as well as from a tipline operated by the attorney general's office since 2018.

There are 51 entries on this list, and of these 51 priests, 38 were ordained or incardinated by the Diocese of Grand Rapids.

"Accountability does not end with criminal prosecution," Nessel said. "Accountability includes transparency, acknowledgement and a commitment to believing in and supporting victims. No matter how much time has passed, survivors deserve to be heard, and by releasing these reports, we hope to honor the courage of victims and ensure their experiences are no longer hidden."

The report contains detailed descriptions of allegations of sexual abuse and other sexual misconduct, including grooming and misuse of authority against minors and adults. The possible criminal prosecution of many of these allegations is barred by the statute of limitations, or because the accused priest is deceased, or for other allegations because the conduct did not violate Michigan law or the person who alleged the sexual abuse did not wish to pursue criminal charges.

In October 2018, more than 40 Michigan State Police troopers, five officers from different law enforcement agencies and 15 special agents from the Department of Attorney General reportedly executed search warrants at Michigan's seven dioceses. As a result, law enforcement officials seized 220 boxes of paper documents and more than 3.5 million digital documents.

"This report is only possible through the victims who came forward and the dedicated work of the Michigan State Police and members of my office as part of the Clergy Abuse Investigation," Nessel added. "I am incredibly grateful for their commitment on these difficult cases."

As a result of the investigation, the state attorney general's office reportedly issued criminal charges in 11 cases throughout the entire state and secured convictions in nine cases, delivering justice for 38 survivors. None of the cases were related to priests ministering in the Diocese of Grand Rapids.

While they did not result in any form of prosecution, the 335-page report includes allegations against at least three priests who served in Lake Odessa and Caledonia.

According to the report, Father Louis Baudone faced "substantiated allegations" from the Diocese of Grand Rapids and bishop accountability site.

The report states that Baudone, who was ordained in 1959, faced two allegations of abuse in 1981 while serving in Muskegon Heights.

The report states that Baudone was also confronted by the parents of an unnamed victim for alleged sexual abuse in 2002 while serving in Lake Odessa. And it details a 2008 complaint against the priest for an alleged incident in 1978 at St. Edward's Church in Lake Odessa.

Baudone was reportedly removed from faculties in 2002 before passing away in May 2024.

The report names two other priests, Father David Eugene LeBlanc and Father Dennis Alan Wagner, who had served at the Holy Family Parish in Caledonia.

LeBlanc, who died in August 2019, was ordained in 1961 by later removed from faculties in January 2007.

According to the report, Wagner was "laicized" in April 2004 after being re-

See ABUSE on 5

Local educator encourages looking back at family history in new lecture series

Molly Macleod
Editor

Maggie Murphy, a longtime educator at Kellogg Community College's Fehsenfeld Center in Hastings, is taking her educational skills on the road next month. It's part of her lecture series: "Grit, Grace, and Grandeur: The making of a Denver diva Gladys Hagee Mathew."

Mathew, who Murphy describes as a distant aunt, was born prematurely in 1896 in the outskirts of Denver.

"Her father used parts from the bread warmer on the wood stove to create a makeshift incubator to save her life," Murphy said. "And she went on to sing with a Who's Who of the 20s through 40s music. She had an international opera career, as well."

Mathew married Steere de Montfort Mathew, a member of the British Gentry. The two inherited the Mathew family estate in England before moving the family treasures back to their home in New York, where Mathew died in 1981.

After Mathew and her husband's deaths, the contents of their Manhattan brownstone were left to Murphy's parents in Hillsdale.

Murphy said she remembers going with her father to Manhattan for two weeks, packing up her aunt's estate.

"My brother would take us to play in Central Park, and we brought these things home, where my mother spent the rest of her life preserving this collection," Murphy said.

Murphy said that while she may not have fully appreciated it as a kid, she now values her opportunity to grow up amongst history.

"We would hold court in 500-year-old Tudor chairs, we would fence with antique foils. One time we got Steere's grandfather's cavalry sword out and we were like knighting each other. And my mom comes running



Local educator Maggie Murphy is telling the story of her distant aunt, Gladys Hagee Mathew, in a new lecture series in 2026. **Courtesy photo**

out, 'Stop! It's got a sharp edge! You're going to behead each other!'" Murphy laughed.

Murphy will be telling the story of her aunt, along with the stories told by some of her artifacts, in a lecture series stretching near and far early next year, in 2026.

"What I love about the story is there's something for everyone. There's a bit of Civil War history there — Gladys's father served under General Sherman. And it's a tale of survival in the American West, with her barely making it. It's a love story, with a descendant of the British gentry. It is about life in Roaring 20s New York City — a diva's international opera career — and a collection of British and American history," she said.

Murphy said she hopes her lectures help inspire others to take a closer look at their own family histories. She only recently began looking at Mathew's history in 2022.

Next month, locals can catch Murphy's lecture series on Sunday, Jan. 11, at 2 p.m. at the Gilmore Car Museum. She will have a collection of artifacts on display, including a daguerreotype of Mathew's father, historic documents and photos.

More lecture dates and information can be found at Murphy's website, cairnhillfarms.net.

Nashville council praises DPW for keeping streets clear

Leila Wood
Contributing Writer

The Nashville Department of Public Works has been working hard to keep the village's streets plowed this winter.

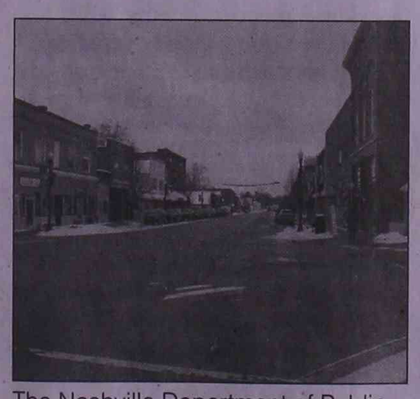
Members of the Village Council praised the DPW workers and thanked them for their dedication in a council meeting on Thursday, Dec. 11.

"The Village of Nashville is plowed out and ready to go for people to go to work before 5:30 in the morning, and there's communities in this state that don't even start clearing their streets... until 10 a.m. (or) 9:30," said Village President Mike Kenyon.

He said the village is very fortunate to have a crew of "maniacs" who get up and get the streets cleared that early in the morning.

"You turn them loose, and this town is done quickly, and they do it safely," he said.

The DPW recently got a new snow plow, and DPW Director Josh Pierce said, "It's working great."



The Nashville Department of Public Works has been working hard to keep the village's streets cleared. **Photo by Leila Wood**

Kenyon also had a message for village residents.

"We all see, after these guys do plow, there's at least one vehicle on any street that hasn't been moved, and sometimes they never move it... People just need to remember — get your cars off the street in the wintertime, if at all possible."

Area churches hosting Christmas events

Molly Macleod
Editor

Area churches are preparing for the holiday season with several Christmas events planned.

In Hastings, the Hastings Baptist Church is hosting a free community Christmas dinner on Monday, Dec. 22, from 5 to 7 p.m.

There is no cost to attend the dinner, nor is there a need to RSVP.

"We want to serve our wonderful community that we are so blessed to be a part of," said organizer Brenda Putman.

Anyone with questions about Monday's dinner can contact Putman at 989-450-2285.

Hastings Baptist Church is located at 309 E. Woodlawn Ave. in Hastings.

Near the southern end of the county, Pleasantview Family Church in Dowling is hosting its annual Christmas Eve service at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 24. The service is open to all.

Pleasantview Family Church is located at 2601 Lacey Road in Dowling.



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AI in personal finance: The promise and the limits

Your smartphone buzzes with an alert: Your budgeting app has spotted an unusual spending pattern and suggests transferring $50 from your savings account to your checking account. Later that day, a robo-advisor automatically rebalances your investment portfolio. Welcome to the age of artificial intelligence (AI) in personal finance, where technology is reshaping how we manage money.

What AI can do for your wallet. From tracking every latte to forecasting next month's bills, AI-powered tools are making financial management more accessible than ever. Some apps categorize transactions automatically, while other platforms offer conversational financial advice through text messages. These tools can monitor your credit score, suggest budget adjustments and even negotiate lower bills on services like cable and internet.

The investing landscape has transformed as well. Robo-advisors use algorithms to build diversified portfolios, automatically rebalance holdings and apply strategies to minimize tax bills. Educational tools powered by AI can explain complex concepts through interactive games and simple question-and-answer formats, making financial literacy more accessible.

Where AI falls short. Here's what the algorithms can't do: understand what truly matters to you.

AI doesn't know whether you value sustainable investing over maximum returns. It can't weigh the emotional complexity of saving for a child's education versus retiring early. When sudden illness strikes or a job change upends your plans, AI lacks the context and empathy to guide you through those human moments.

Technology can crunch numbers brilliantly, but it can't offer wisdom. It can't replace human judgment, experience or ethical reasoning. Robo-advisors' predetermined algorithms may not suit investors with complex financial needs like estate planning or comprehensive tax planning.

The human touch still matters. This is where human financial advisors remain indispensable. They provide what technology can't:

- **Long-term perspective:** Help you maintain focus when markets get volatile and emotions run high
- **Goal coordination:** Balance competing priorities, help partners merge their financial visions and remind you of goals you've tucked away and didn't know still mattered
- **Accountability:** Keep you on track with your financial strategy through life's inevitable changes
- **Emotional support:** Offer reassurance and wisdom during major financial decisions

Research validates it: Those who regularly work with a financial advisor and have a financial strategy are more likely to feel optimistic about their financial future than those who manage finances on their own, according to 2025 research from Edward Jones and Morning Consult.

Find the right balance. The future likely lies in a hybrid approach: combining data-driven AI insights with the human wisdom of a financial advisor who understands your values, priorities and life's inevitable curveballs. Think of AI as a powerful calculator and your financial advisor as the mathematician who knows which equations to use.

As these technologies evolve, the key is treating AI as a tool, not a guide.

Stay curious about what technology can do for your finances. Stay critical of its limitations. And remember: What matters most in your financial life is something only you can define.

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

Edward Jones, Member SIPC

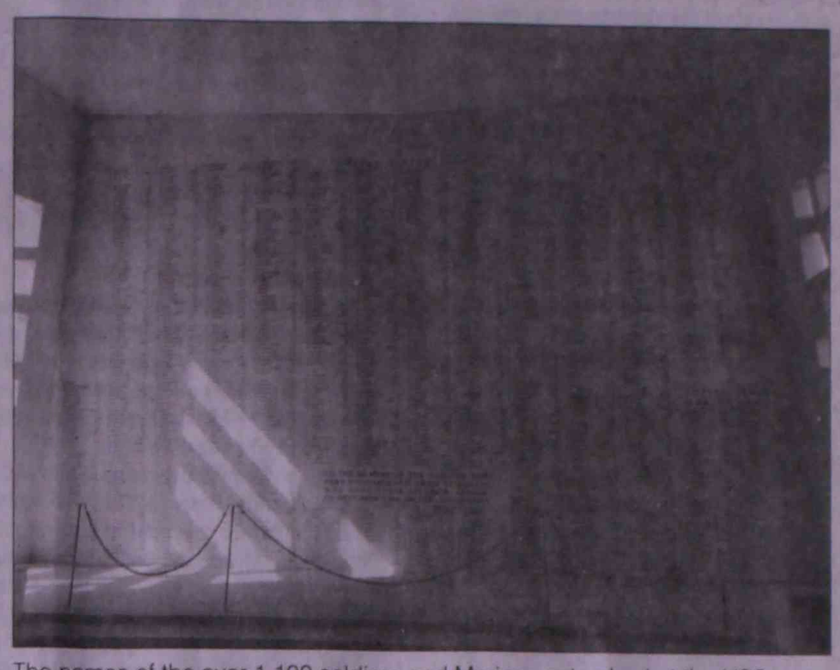
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After their performance at Forward Pier, Delton Kellogg band members stand in front of the USS Arizona Memorial.



After a long, hot day marching in the Pearl Harbor Parade on Sunday, Dec. 7, Delton Kellogg Marching Band members still have smiles on their faces.



The names of the over 1,100 soldiers and Marines entombed at the USS Arizona Memorial in Hawaii.

PARADE

Continued from Page 1

down Kalakaua Ave. through the heart of Waikiki to the USS Missouri.

"The heat was brutal, but the kids soldiered through," said Delton Kellogg band parent Jamie Brown.

Folks can still watch a recording of the parade featuring the DK band at pearlharborparade.com.

With the work out of the way on Sunday, band students and parents spent the rest of the trip enjoying the sights and sounds of Hawaii. The group visited Kualoa Nature Preserve and the Secret Island, the North Shore, the Polynesian Cultural Center and the Dole plantation.

After some more free time Wednesday morning, Dec. 10, the group wrapped up its adventure, taking a red-eye flight back to Chicago.

Band parents said "mahalo," or "thank you," to DK band director Sarah Knight, Patti LaJoye from Thornapple Travel, guide Mary Harrison and local guide Mose for making the trip a success.

Jamie Brown contributed to this report.

RAMP

Continued from Page 2

to the finish line, there is still fundraising left to be done.

"Like all projects that Barry County Parks works on, we are constantly looking for partners, and this one is no different. The Passport grant will assist us in getting closer to seeing this project become a reality, but there is still work to be done," said Barry County Parks Director Dan Patton. "Obviously, like many of our larger projects, we will be working with other funding partners and anyone who wants to contribute funding toward seeing this project completed."

Patton said the goal is to have the boat ramp project completed sometime in 2027. He encouraged anyone interested in contributing to the project or any future projects to reach out to him at DPatton@barrycounty.org or any parks commissioner.

"The proposed design includes access improvements to the existing boat launch area within the Charlton Park recreation area, as well as a new accessible kayak/canoe launch that will also be used for fishing; paved or concrete parking for trailers and vehicles; paved walkways to launch areas and companion seating at rest areas," Patton said.

The boat ramp expansion will not affect existing trees and wetlands, Patton said. Additionally, the design will meet or exceed Americans with Disabilities Act standards.

"This project will only enhance our efforts in developing a multi-jurisdictional water trail system and dramatically improve our water access for the Thornapple River and those people who utilize it for outdoor recreational activities," Patton said, adding that additional signage will be included in the project.

The DNR's Recreation Passport grant program began in 2010 with the goal of boosting visitation and funding for Michigan state parks. The Recreation Passport is a $14 annual pass required for access to 103 state parks and recreation areas, more than 140 state forest campgrounds, Michigan historic sites, hundreds of boating access sites and thousands of miles of trails.

One-tenth of the proceeds from Recreation Passport sales are granted to communities across the state for development and improvement of local public recreation facilities.

The Recreation Passport replaced the DNR's traditional annual motor vehicle permit for state park access with a purchase program tied to the renewal of license plate registrations.

Beyond the money allocated for Recreation Passport grants, revenue from sales of Recreation Passports supports operations, infrastructure and historic and cultural assets in Michigan's state parks and recreation system.

The application period for the next round of Recreation Passport grant funding opens in early 2026, with applications due April 1. Learn more about the program and application materials at Michigan.gov/DNRGrants.

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)

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)

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

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Area pastor develops app to help fellow clergy

A local pastor is using his programming talents to help other clergy members with their day-to-day tasks.

Justin Schultz knows firsthand how much time ministry paperwork steals from ministry work. His solution: The Pastor's Desk, an all-in-one software platform designed to give pastors back the time they need to focus on people and community.

Schultz, a pastor at Nashville Church of the Nazarene and CEO of JPIXEL, was frustrated when he was at his pastor's desk. When he sat down each month to complete his Pastor's Report, he needed to plan sermons, track member interactions, manage tasks, and generate monthly reports. He was forced to hunt down numerous pieces of information, and it took hours of his time.

"I thought there had to be a better way to organize everything in one place," said Schultz. "So, I built the Pastor's Desk app as a solution to a real problem I faced every day in ministry."

The app can help any pastor organize and monitor everything in one central place and save time and energy for what matters the most: ministering to people.

Schultz said this is a practical tool to free up time to focus on what pastor's truly want to do, which is loving people, building community and making a real, eternal impact.

The Pastor's Desk is an all-in-one ministry software platform built by pastors featuring tools such as peer support, integrated sermon builders with lectionary resources, and proactive pastoral care trackers and ministry tasks organizer.

The Pastor's Desk launched in September, and Schultz said the feedback has been very positive so far.

"The pastors that are using it have given me some really good feedback," Schultz said. "... the ones that are using it find it very helpful."

Schultz has experience in web design. But creating an app was a whole new kind of beast, he said.

"I built the front end of (the app), and I did some of the coding, and then I did hire a team at the end," he said. It took Schultz nearly four months to complete the app.

"It was a lot of learning, a lot of mistakes," Schultz laughed.

Schultz said he hopes his app can help some of the over 500,000 pastors in the United States.

"There's a lot of pastors who need this kind of support, so I'm just excited to help in a small way with that — and hopefully it does help," he said.

Though the app charges a $10.99 per month service fee, Schultz is currently offering free, lifetime subscriptions to anyone who needs it. The promo code for free, lifetime subscriptions is PDFREEACCOUNT. Interested individuals can sign up at AtThePastorsDesk.com, under the "sign up" tab.

Editor Molly Macleod contributed to this report.

Michigan Country Music Hall of Fame sets up shop in Nashville

Molly Macleod
Editor

Move over, Nashville, Tennessee. Barry County's Nashville is the latest American town by that name with a claim to country music fame.

The Michigan Country Music Hall of Fame recently announced it has named FoxView in Nashville as its new performance home.

Aaron and Angie Warner, owners of the Nashville event center, have been in talks with the folks at the Michigan Country Music Hall of Fame for some time. When Hall of Fame organizers expressed a desire for a new, permanent performance location, Aaron was quick to volunteer FoxView's space.

"They thought it was a very fun and appropriate fit to be in Nashville, of course, Michigan," Warner said. "We decided to kind of blow it up and make it fun. The more I talked to them, the more excited we both got."

The Warners quickly got to work planning a benefit concert for Saturday, Dec. 20, to help commemorate the Hall of Fame's new performance space in Nashville.

Doors open to the Christmas party, benefit concert and celebrity auction at 5 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 20, at FoxView in Nashville. Dinner tickets cost $35 per person; dinner and the auction begin at 6 p.m. Live performances by members of the Michigan Country Music Hall of Fame will begin at 7:30 p.m. and stretch throughout the night. Eric Brodberg, Brad Kilcherman, Helen DeBaker Vorce with Phil Vorce and more are slated to perform.

Warner said the public is invited to come and celebrate the Hall of Fame's new home in Nashville.

"They are an organization that wants to be very inviting to the public to come hear the musicians, come hear the music that fellow Michiganders have put together and become known for," Warner said.

Money raised from the benefit auction on Dec. 20 will be used to help give area students more opportunities to experience live music, Warner said.

"We put together a couple excursions that would place students that are interested in music into concert venues, into performance halls, into college, universities, so that they can see another aspect of how live music is utilized, besides what you may be limited to in your area or just from your own viewing online or on TV," Warner said.

Many rare and unique items are being auctioned off during this month's benefit, including signed guitars from Bruce Springsteen, David Bowie, Taylor Swift and the members of U2, movie memorabilia, autographed sports memorabilia, trips and more. A full listing of auction items can be found at yourfoxview.com.

"The goal of the benefit auction and the Michigan Country Music Hall of Fame is to offer local students a variety of ways to experience music being performed live, organizing trips to see local acts or see national acts take stage in local venues, in addition to hosting trips to see certain acts or participate in interactive opportunities with students actually performing on a variety of stages anywhere, including many in our local area," Warner said.

This month's concert and benefit auction mark only the beginning of a long relationship between the Hall of Fame and FoxView in Nashville, Warner said.

FoxView will be home to regular concerts by Country Music Hall of Fame members in the coming months.

FoxView is located at 975 N. Main Street in Nashville. More information about FoxView and its upcoming events can be found at yourfoxview.com.

More information about the Michigan Country Music Hall of Fame can be found at mcmhof.com.



The Michigan Country Music Hall of Fame recently announced it is moving its performance home to FoxView in Nashville, Michigan. **Courtesy photos**



Nashville is a fitting home for the Michigan Country Music Hall of Fame. FoxView will be hosting a Christmas concert and benefit on Saturday, Dec. 20, to celebrate the Hall of Fame's big move.

HPAC to host holiday concert Friday

The Hastings Performing Arts Center will welcome back Tim Zimmerman and The King's Brass for a fourth consecutive appearance in Hastings for a holiday concert at 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 19.

HPAC officials expect the concert to sell out, just as it did last year.

This year's performance will feature a spectacular community collaboration as The King's Brass is joined by more than 70 student and community brass players for a powerful mass performance of "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing."

"This is an incredible opportunity for our students," said band director Caleb Piersma. "Performing with musicians of this caliber pushes them to a higher level and gives them a firsthand look at what professional music-making looks like."

With more than 40 years of performance history and over 100 concerts each season, The King's Brass is internationally known for delivering innovative worship through the best in sacred brass music.

"This group plays with incredible joy and at a supreme professional level," added Joe LaJoye, HPAC programming and promotion coordinator. "Every time they return, they elevate the musical experience for both performers and audience members."



The Hastings Performing Arts Center will welcome back Tim Zimmerman and The King's Brass for a fourth consecutive appearance in Hastings for a holiday concert at 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 19. **Courtesy photos**

Tickets are available at hastings.ludus.com or by calling 269-818-2492.

The Hastings Performing Arts Center is located at 520 W. South Street in Hastings, and the lobby and box office will be open one hour prior to the event, with auditorium doors opening 30 minutes before the concert.

The Dec. 19 holiday concert is supported by the Baum Family Foundation, season sponsor of the HPAC, and is presented by the Friends of HPAC in partnership with the Thornapple Arts Council and the Hastings Area School System. — *DM*

ABUSE

Continued from Page 3

moved from ministry in May 2002. He was originally ordained in May 1976.

Information related to the investigation into Michigan's various dioceses may be shared via the investigation hotline at 844-324-3374 or by email. Or, for more information on the attorney general's clergy abuse investigation or to submit information, visit the department's website at michigan.gov/ag/initiatives/catholic-church-clergy-abuse.

Victims of sexual abuse and/or assault in need of additional resources are encouraged to contact 855-VOICES4.

Staff writer Dennis Mansfield contributed to this report.

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HASTINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY SCHEDULE

No library card is required for library programs and activities.

Thursday, Dec. 18 – Novel Ideas Book Club discusses "The Wishing Bridge" by Viola Shipman, 1 p.m.; Movie Memories and Milestones watches a 1945 film where a New York teen gets involved in everyone's lives by playing Cupid. She turns the household upside down and gets her father fired by fixing up her uncle with the boss's daughter, 5 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 19 – Friday Story-time, 10:30 a.m.

Saturday, Dec. 20 – Warhammer and Dungeons & Dragons, 10 a.m.

Monday, Dec. 22 – Crafting Passions, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 23 – Baby Café, 10 a.m.; mahjong, 2 p.m.; chess club, 5 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 24 – Library closed.

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

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OBITUARIES

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Richard Marvin Herbstreith



Richard Marvin Herbstreith, age 89, of Hastings, MI passed away December 11, 2025. He was born October 14, 1936, in Dowling, MI, the son of Hale and Anna (Hiher) Herbstreith.

Richard worked as a heavy equipment operator for the City of Hastings, retiring after 35 years of service. On February 24, 1968, he married Nancy (Hoaglin) Herbstreith, and together they shared 55 years until her passing in 2023. She was the love of his life, and he cherished her deeply.

He enjoyed fishing, tending his yard, and watching over wild birds. Known as a helpful neighbor, Richard was always ready to lend a hand, whether plowing snow or resurfacing a driveway. His Yorkie, Angel, brought him joy in his final year.

Richard was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Nancy; grandson, Donnell Rowe; brothers, Robert, Leon, and Jack; sisters, Marie Henge, Betty Storm, and Gail Wallace; and his Yorkies, Precious and Cherish.

He is survived by his children, Janine (Ricky) Rowe, Annette (Perry) Raab, Lashell (Bobby) Thomas, and John (Liliana) Herbstreith; grandchildren, Cassie Smith, DiAnthony Sweet, Brandon Rowe, Caleb Hall, Ariel Gallagher, Jaxson Gallagher, Janessa Thomas, Roman Herbstreith, and Elysium Herbstreith; brother Harry Herbstreith; sister, Dorothy Service; and his Yorkie, Angel.

Visitation will be held Friday, Dec. 19, 2025, at noon with a funeral service at 1 p.m. at Girrbach Funeral Home, 328 S Broadway, Hastings, MI. Interment will follow at Dowling Cemetery.

Arrangements are entrusted to Girrbach Funeral Home. To leave an online condolence, please visit www.girrbachfuneralhome.com.

John Clare Smith



The magnificent life of John Clare Smith, ended peacefully, at home, surrounded by his entire family, on Thanksgiving Night.

John, one of the most generous souls you could meet, was born in West Unity, Ohio on March 27, 1935, to Paul and Minnie Smith. As a child, his family moved many times, living at times in Ohio, Florida and Michigan. John disliked all the moving around as a kid, so he made sure his family was settled in one location when he was a father.

His family landed in Michigan when he was older, and he attended and graduated Hastings High School in 1953. After graduation, while working in a Kellogg Warehouse, he met lifelong friend Dean Barnum, who convinced him to attend college at Western Michigan University. While keeping a night job at Kellogg's, John worked his way through college and graduated Cum Laude with a BA in Political Science in 1958 and was awarded a fellowship to attend the University of Michigan.

He and Dean attended the University of Michigan where he graduated with a master's degree in political science in 1960. In 1961, while working as a Political Science Teacher at Harper Creek High school, he met the love of his life Carole "Green-Green" Greer and after some time and convincing, they dated and were married in June of 1963.

After two years of service in Nigeria, in the Peace Corp, John and Carole settled on Fremont Street in Battle Creek, where they raised four children, and their always busy household, helped raise the 20 other kids that lived in the neighborhood.

John found his passion and life's work as a Political Science Professor at Kellogg Community College, where he worked to develop the young minds of the Battle Creek community from 1968 to 2005.

In 1976, John and Carole, with some trepidation, decided to purchase Ackers Point Resort on Long Lake in Cloverdale, MI. The summer resort turned out to be one of the most enriching experiences for themselves, their children and now, their grandchildren. Every summer, from 1976 to present day, returning guests, some with generations of family, come from all over the U.S. to rent a cottage at Ackers Point. The long-time friendships, fun and families, make Ackers Point a truly special place.

From 1976 until his death, John worked tirelessly to keep up the property that brings joy and kindship to so many guests.

John is survived by his wife, Carole Smith; his sisters, Jan Henry and Linda Smith; his brother, Dan Smith; his daughters, Sloane Hutson, Courtney Weirsema; his sons, Graham and Clint Smith; his in-laws, Tim Hutson, Jason Wiersema, Sally Smith, Amy Young and his grandchildren,: Brandon, Hayden, and Addison Hutson, Jaeger, Viviana, Ward and Rafferty Smith, Evelynn and Caeli Wiersema.

We are very sad to lose such a great husband, brother, father and grandfather, but we are so much more grateful for the gift that he was in our lives as well as the lives of all the people he loved, all the students he taught, all the guests he hosted, all the families and friendships he helped foster. He lived a humble, inspiring life that will carry forward.

We would like to thank all the caregivers who helped take care of John for the last few years of his life. Special thanks to Visiting Angels, our friends and staff at the Pennock Health Center, Katherine (I don't know her last name), and Jeremy Bower.

A visitation was held, Thursday, Dec. 4, 2025 at Williams-Gores Funeral Home (133 E Orchard St, Delton, MI 49046). John's funeral service took place Friday, Dec. 5, 2025, at St. Ambrose Catholic Church (11149 Floria Rd, Delton, MI 49046).

In lieu of flowers memorial donations to St. Jude's Children's Hospital (https://www.stjude.org/donate/donate-to-st-jude.html?sc_icid=header-btn-donate-now) or planting a tree in John's memory will be appreciated.

Please visit www.williamsgoresfuneral.com to share a memory or leave a condolence message for John's family.

ASK DR. UNIVERSE

Explosive knowledge

How many volcanoes are there in the world?

— Garrett, 10, Md.

Dear Garrett,

On very clear days, I can see five volcanoes from my campus. They're Rainier, Hood, Adams, St. Helens and Baker. That's…a lot.

I asked my friend Katie Cooper about it. She's a geophysicist at Washington State University.

She told me we don't know precisely how many active volcanoes there are at this moment on the Earth. That's because some of them are tough to count.

"The volcanoes that stick up above water are a lot easier to count because you can see them," Cooper said. "But the ones underwater are harder to find. We haven't mapped out or explored all the ocean floor, which is 70% of our planet's surface."

Scientists think there are about 1,350 potentially active volcanoes in the world. That's not counting some of the ones on the ocean floor. About 500 of those have erupted since humans started keeping records.

Lots of those volcanoes are in the Pacific Rim. That's also called the Ring of Fire. It's a big horseshoe-shaped area. It goes up the western coasts of South America and North America, across the Pacific Ocean, then down the side of Japan and New Zealand.

The Pacific Northwest is in the Ring of Fire. That's why I can see so many volcanoes.

It's a lot trickier to count volcanoes under the oceans. Plus, many of those volcanoes are different from what we usually imagine.

Most people picture a volcano as a mountain. It forms when tectonic plates bash into each other or slide under each other. That motion shoves the crust up into that mountain-like form. Inside, magma bubbles up through Earth's crust toward the surface. When it erupts, magma oozes, spurts or explodes out to the surface. Once it's out, we call it lava.

But underwater volcanoes can happen when tectonic plates on the sea floor pull apart.

"We have a large amount of volcanoes underneath the ocean floor," Cooper said. "They're these long, linear chains called mid-ocean ridges. That's where two plates are coming apart. Moving away from each other causes melting to happen in the middle. And so, the ridge itself is a volcano. But a very different type of volcano than we like to imagine."

To count volcanoes above water, scientists look for evidence of past eruptions. They use instruments to see the magma chamber under the volcano.

To count volcanoes underwater, scientists would need to map the whole ocean floor. Cooper told me that there are little bits of iron in some volcanic rocks. When these rocks are erupted, the iron bits within them lines up with the Earth's magnetic field. They point north—just like a compass.

But the North Pole and South Pole sometimes switch—and nobody is sure exactly how that works.

Since the iron in the volcanic rocks lines up with the poles, the ocean floor has magnetic stripes. They tell scientists which pole was the North Pole when the plates spread apart in that spot.

Learning more about the ocean floor could help us understand all kinds of things. Like how and why the poles flip and how many volcanoes are underwater.

It could be explosive knowledge.

— 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. 18-25 —

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.

Dec. 19-28 — Winter Break Kits (ages birth to 18). Stop by the Institute near the south side bathrooms, Hastings Public Library, Delton District Library, or Dowling Public Library to pick up a free kit filled with winter fun and hands-on activities to keep learning and exploring during the break. Kits are grouped by age or grade level: birth to 2 years old, preschool, early elementary, upper elementary and teens.

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

Worship Together

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

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

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

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

PLEASANT VIEW 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

RUTLAND CHARTER TOWNSHIP
BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN
NOTICE OF PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING ON SPECIAL LAND USE PERMIT APPLICATION AT JANUARY 7, 2026 MEETING

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

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE the Rutland Charter Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing at its regular meeting on January 7, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the Rutland Charter Township Hall located at 2461 Heath Road, within the Charter Township of Rutland, Barry County, Michigan. The items to be considered at this public hearing include the following:

1. The application of Baria Brothers, LLC (by Maninder Singh, owner) for special land use approval of a Marihuana Retailer business at 50 North M-37 Highway (parcel number 08-13-011-018-10). The subject property is located in the MU Mixed Use District. The land use proposed by the applicant is permissible in this zoning district, subject to special land use approval (and site plan approval).
2. Such other matters as may properly come before the Planning Commission at this meeting.

Written comments concerning the above matters may be mailed to the Rutland Charter Township Clerk at the Rutland Charter Township Hall at any time prior to this public hearing/meeting, and may further be submitted to the Planning Commission at the public hearing/meeting.

The Rutland Charter Township Code, Zoning Map, Master Plan, and the above-referenced special land use application may be examined by contacting the Rutland Charter Township Clerk at the Township Hall during regular business hours on regular business days maintained by the Township offices from and after the publication of this Notice and until and including the day of the hearing/meeting, and further may be examined at the hearing/meeting.

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

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

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

A century of live Christmas trees in Hastings

DAVID W. MILLER
Special to The Banner

Few holiday traditions bind a community together quite like the ritual of selecting and decorating a Christmas tree. In Hastings, the connection between families, farms and fragrant evergreens stretches back more than a century. The story of live Christmas trees here reflects changing tastes, agricultural growth and a community that has long valued the familiar sights and scents of the season.

The tradition reaches back well before the mid-twentieth century. By the early 1920s, the town already maintained a large outdoor community Christmas tree in the center of the business district. *Banner* accounts describe crowds gathering on Christmas Day for treats and festivities around the tree. Such gatherings demonstrate how firmly the live-tree custom had taken root in Hastings at a time when holiday decorations were scarce and lights were few.

A revealing *Banner* photograph from Oct. 30, 1952, offers another early glimpse of the tradition taking shape downtown. In it, 77-year-old Frank Walton of Freeport — named that year's "Champion Deer Hunter" after taking a deer in each of his 61 hunting seasons—is shown speaking with Bernard "Bun" McPharlin while holding a rifle. Yet behind the two lies a detail of particular interest: State Street lined with Christmas trees tied to the parking meters. Long before modern displays or organized tree lots, Hastings businesses were already using live evergreens to signal the coming holiday season and enliven the streetscape.

By the 1940s, fresh evergreens were central to both public and private celebrations. Despite wartime rationing, families still placed real pines and spruces in their homes, often cut from local woodlots or purchased from small lots downtown. Decorations were simple—paper chains, familiar ornaments and light strings carefully reused year after year. The courthouse square remained the seasonal heart of town, its traditions unchanged by the war. This decade marks the final period in which most trees came directly from mixed forests rather than dedicated plantations.

Postwar prosperity brought a major shift. Beginning in the late 1940s and continuing through the 1950s, commercial Christmas tree farming expanded rapidly across Michigan. Growers introduced shearing techniques that produced well-formed, evenly shaped trees—very different from the natural, untrimmed varieties of earlier years. Michigan soon emerged as a national leader in the industry. Today, the state ranks third in the nation in Christmas-tree harvests, supplying approximately 2 million fresh trees to the national market each year. It also produces more wholesale varieties than any other state—more than a dozen in all—ranging from Scotch and white pine to blue spruce, Douglas fir, and the increasingly popular Fraser fir. This agricultural strength provided the foundation for the familiar traditions that Hastings families would come to enjoy.

During this same period, live Christmas trees briefly encountered their first major competitor. In 1958, Modern Coatings, Inc., of Chicago, produced the first commercially mass-manufactured aluminum Christmas tree, an emblem of mid-century modern design. The idea was perfected in 1959 when the Aluminum Specialty Company of Manitowoc, Wisconsin, introduced its iconic "Evergleam" tree. Sleek, metallic, and illuminated by rotating color wheels, aluminum trees became a short-lived national sensation in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Yet in communities like Hastings, they remained more novelty than tradition. The fragrance and ritual of selecting a real tree continued to outweigh the appeal of metallic branches and color wheels.

By the 1950s and 1960s, Barry County itself was contributing directly to Michigan's booming tree-farming movement. Local growers began planting orderly rows of evergreens specifically for the holiday market. In the 1960s, Denver Kiersey, Ted Knopt, Howard Ferris and Phil Horning were among the first county farmers to cultivate Christmas trees as a seasonal crop. Their farms brought fresh, well-shaped trees within easy reach of Hastings families. A December drive into the countryside—walking the rows, judging the shape, and debating which tree was "just right"—became



In Hastings, the connection between families, farms and fragrant evergreen Christmas trees stretches back more than a century. **Courtesy photos**

a cherished ritual. At Howard Ferris's farm west of town, customers could even cut their own, giving the county an early "choose-and-cut" experience that many families still remember fondly.

At the same time, live trees remained an anchor of downtown tradition. For many years, the 4-H clubs throughout Barry County operated their annual Christmas tree sale on the courthouse lawn. Each December, the square transformed into a fragrant forest of cut pines and spruces. Volunteers bundled against the cold helped families select their trees, tie them to station wagons, and load them into pickup trucks. The glow of the courthouse behind the rows of evergreens made the scene unmistakably Hastings, and for many families, purchasing a 4-H tree became as much a tradition as decorating it.

Through the 1970s and 1980s, live Christmas trees continued to define the season in Barry County. Michigan's tree-growing industry had matured into one of the nation's largest, and many farms adopted agritourism practices that turned holiday tree selection into a full outing—complete with wagon rides, wreath-making, hot cider and small gift shops. For families in and around Hastings, a December trip to a regional farm became an eagerly anticipated part of the season. Artificial trees gained traction during these years, especially for their convenience, but live trees—biodegradable, aromatic and rooted in local agricultural heritage—remained the favorite for many.

By the 1990s and 2000s, environmental awareness further strengthened the appeal of real trees. Conservation groups emphasized that Christmas trees were a renewable crop grown on managed land, not harvested from wild forests. Michigan producers highlighted the ecological benefits of buying locally, noting that doing so helped prevent the introduction of invasive pests. Many tree farms became multi-generational operations, welcoming returning customers year after year. For Hastings families, the live tree increasingly represented both tradition and environmental responsibility.

In the 2010s and 2020s, the story of live Christmas trees in Hastings came full circle. The community continued to value real evergreens for home celebrations and public displays, while Michigan's tree-growing industry remained one of the state's agricultural strengths. Just this year, 2025, Hastings has established a new tradition by designating an evergreen at Thornapple Plaza as the Barry County Memorial Christmas Tree. The tree, already a familiar landmark, became a place where residents could hang memorial ornaments during the Christmas season in honor of lost loved ones. Illuminated by the city and decorated by the public, it echoes the communal spirit that surrounded

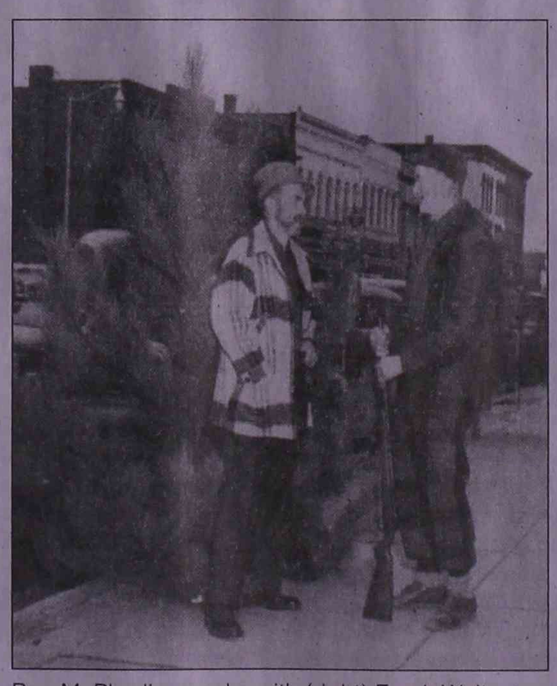
In many ways, the living tree at Thornapple Plaza carries forward the long arc of Hastings' holiday traditions. For decades, 4-H youth sold fresh evergreens on the courthouse lawn, turning the square into a seasonal gathering place where families chose their tree while supporting local children. During as many years, a life-sized nativity scene at the corner of State Street and Broadway stood as a quiet reminder of the season's spiritual roots. Together, these traditions formed the backdrop of countless Hastings Christmases—rituals as enduring as the scent of pine on cold December air.

Here in Hastings, the evergreen has always been more than decoration. It is a symbol of memory, community and the warmth of gathering together.

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



By the 1990s and 2000s, environmental awareness further strengthened the appeal of real trees.



Bun McPharlin speaks with (right) Frank Walton on State Street in downtown Hastings in 1952. Behind the two men is a row of Christmas trees tied to parking meters.



In 1958, Modern Coatings, Inc., of Chicago, produced the first commercially mass-manufactured aluminum Christmas tree.



Ruth Miller with her three sons during Christmas, 1952. Her sons are (from left) Stephen, Jeffrey and David.



For many years, the 4-H clubs throughout Barry County operated their annual Christmas tree sale on the courthouse lawn.

Hastings ladies win their second tournament title in two tries

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Hastings varsity girls' wrestling team finished off a weekend sweep by the high school wrestling program winning the Gull Lake Girls Blue Devil Classic Sunday.

Hastings had four flight champions and outscored runner-up Otsego by 30 points at the top of the standings.

The Hastings varsity boys' team won the Mount Pleasant Duals Saturday and a Saxon 'B' team won the championship at the Jesse Snow Memorial Tournament Saturday too.

Riley Furrow at 105 pounds, Morgan Casselman at 115, Dez Mathis at 120 and Sara Baker at 130 won championships for the Hastings girls in Richland at the 29-team girls' tournament.

The Saxon team finished the day with 186 points ahead of Otsego 156, Plainwell 107.5, Holt 101.5, Dowagiac 97, Olivet 91, Harper Creek 76, Mattawan 66, Marshall 57.5 and Three Rivers 53.5 in the top ten. Lakewood was 11th with 53.5 points and the Delton Kellogg girls were 24th with 12 points.

Mathis pinned all three of her opponents during the day with her quarterfinal pin to start the day taking just nine seconds. She stuck Leslie's Kayden Tinkey 45 seconds into their championship match at 120 pounds. Casselman pinned all four of her foes in the 115-pound weight class.

Baker won the 130-pound championship pinning Plainwell's Sophia Vega in the second period of their finals match.

Furrow pinned Madison Williams from Holt midway through the 105-pound championship match.

The Hastings team also had Nani Farrell place third at 125 pounds. Saxons finishing fourth were London Hammond (135 pounds), Autumn Mayak (140), Abby Frazer (145), Alexia Owen (190) and Ashlyn Bailey (235). Teammate Chloe Aiken was fifth at 155 pounds.

"For the second week of the season, the girls continue to wrestle really well," Hastings head coach Mike Goggins said, "winning their second tournament in as many weeks. Freshman Riley Furrow at 105, and seniors Dez Mathis at 120 and Sara Baker at 130 all remain undefeated winning their weight classes two weeks in a row.

"Dez battled sickness all day to win her weight class. Morgan Casselman really stepped up and went undefeated for the day with her first tournament win."

The Hastings girls check in fourth in the state in the most recent set of girls' rankings after starting the winter unranked.

Delton Kellogg had three competitors with the top finish coming from junior Olivia Post who was fourth at 130 pounds.

Lakewood senior Peyton Federau won the 190-pound weight class with three pins. She stuck Bronson's Anna Lindsey in the championship round.



The Hastings varsity girls' wrestling team, ranked fourth in the state, celebrates its victory Sunday at the Gull Lake Girls Blue Devil Classic. The Saxons outscored runner-up Otsego 186-154 to win their second straight tournament title.



Saxon senior Sara Baker holds her opponent on her back during her run to a 130-pound championships Sunday at the Gull Lake Girls Blue Devil Classic.
Photos provided

TK ladies outcheer Plainwell on new season's first night

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Was it perfect? Not quite.

Could it have been a better first night of competition for the Thornapple Kellogg varsity competitive cheer team? Not really.

The host Trojans opened the 2025-26 season by winning the Competitive Cheer Coaches Association of Michigan Invitational in Middleville Friday.

The stands were packed with orange and black with TK middle school and JV teams competing too. The TK ladies took the lead with a reworked round one routine. They stayed right with Plainwell in round two by performing as tough a routine as is possible. In round three, the Trojans returned to a full complement of four stunt groups on the mat, after performing with three a season ago, and blew everyone away to win the day's championship.

TK outscored runner-up Plainwell 734.7 to 721.2 overall at the meet with nine varsity teams. The win was especially sweet for the TK Trojans being that the Plainwell Trojans placed fifth at the MHSAA Division 2 Competitive Cheer Finals as year ago, scoring as the top team from the west side of the state. Plainwell won district and regional titles on its way to the 2025 Finals, finishing ahead of the TK ladies at both those meets last February.



The Thornapple Kellogg varsity competitive cheer team celebrates a victory in the CCCAM Invitational at Thornapple Kellogg High School in Middleville Friday, Dec. 12. **Photo provided**

"In my opinion in year's past and with a lot of teams, and I'm sure we'll do it this year, you go out there and you're so worried about perfection that you lose sight of why you're there and why you're doing it," TK head coach Madelynn Lula said. "They just had that at the forefront of their mind. I am here because I love what I am doing. I love the people I am doing it with. And I love the people I am doing it for. If we shoot for the stars and land on the moon, great. And that is exactly what they did."

The Trojans are shooting to get back to the state finals after coming up short of that goal last season, and with an experienced team and a solid group of newcomers Lula thought it was time to do something a little different. Rather than getting help from outside the program for round one choreography this season, Lula took on the task herself.

"I just felt like we were at a place where we were getting bored of the style that TK had been doing for a really long time and I wanted something new and exciting to engage the athletes," Lula said.

"And so when they came off the mat in round one, there was so much 'did you see everybody's faces?' Everybody was shocked. Everybody loved it, and we got a lot of compliments on that, which hopefully will help us stand apart for the rest of the year."

She said that a lot of teams either take a "dance" style or a "textbook" style in round one. TK has leaned into the textbook approach most of the time, and scored well, but wanted to put a more memorable impression out there this season.

"It was so it was so cool … when we walked out of the building we actually got the compliment from somebody saying you're gonna be the choreography people are talking about all year just because it's different. It's something different," Lula said. "We kind of mesh the really unique and creative, innovative with the textbook motions to make our own unique TK style this year."

There was also the added benefit of Lula knowing her cheerleaders so well that she could really hone the choreography to their talents rather than trying to squeeze their talents into the choreography.

TK had the top score of round one with 225.3 points. Plainwell was second at 222.8 and Forest Hills Northern wasn't far behind with a score of 219.7.

Tk and Plainwell pulled away from the pack in round two. Plainwell had a round two score of 216.9 and TK put up a score of 213.9 – so Plainwell led by half a point entering round three.

TK threw back handsprings, back walkovers and back tucks as their big gymnastics skills in round two, and Lula said it was the first time in a couple seasons that her team has performed a round two with a maximum degree of difficulty.

"Everybody hit, so they knew that even though there were imperfections they did their job and stayed on their feet," Lula said.

The orange and black Trojans secured the win with a round three score of 295.5 (which included an eight-point deduction.) Plainwell had a score of 281.5 (which also included an eight-point deduction in the round.)

"Yes it is early in the season. Yes there were mistakes," Lula said. "We know exactly where we can improve, but to go out there and hit a perfect round three, or our version of perfect in December anyways, this early in the game was huge for their confidence."

Forest Hills Northern was third overall on the day with a score of 678.74. The Huskies had a score of 196.64 in round two and 262.4 in round three. Portage Central was fourth overall with a total of 667 points ahead of Coopersville 639.9, Newaygo 533.94, Dowagiac 477.4, South Haven 450.7 and Portage Northern 328.

SYNOPSIS
RUTLAND CHARTER TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
December 10, 2025 – 7:00 p.m.

Regular meeting called to order and Pledge of Allegiance.
Present: Hall, Hawthorne, Greenfield, Watson, Bellmore, Mayack
Absent: James
Approved the Agenda
Approved the Consent Agenda
Monthly Treasurer's Report
Monthly Clerk's Voucher/Payroll Report
Motion to Resolution 2025-313 2026 Township Board Compensation
Supervisor-$32,079.60 Clerk-$36,823.50 Treasurer-$33,987.85 Trustee-$140.70 per Board Meeting
Roll Call Vote – All ayes, Motion passes
Motion to approve Resolution 2025-314 2026 Township Budget Roll Call Vote – All Ayes, motion passes
Motion to approve Wightman for GIS mapping of cemetery. Roll Call Vote – All ayes, motion passes
Motion to Resolution 2025-312 2026 Board Meeting Dates and Holiday Schedule Roll Call Vote – All ayes, motion passes
Motion to accept first reading of Ordinance 2026-199 JPC Zoning Ordinance Amendments Roll Call Vote – All ayes, motion passes
Motion to accept first reading of Ordinance 2026-200 Amendments to SLU for wineries Roll Call Vote – All ayes, motion passes
Motion to appoint township 2026 Auditors-Siegfried & Crandall, Attorney-Craig Rolfe, Planner-Rebecca Harvey, Engineer-Ken Bosma Roll Call Vote- All ayes, motion passes
Motion to approve life insurance coverage for township employees Roll Call Vote - All ayes, motion passes
Adjournment 7:49 pm
Respectfully submitted, Robin Hawthorne, Clerk
Attested to by, Marti Mayack, Supervisor

Hastings wrestlers have pleasant day winning annual Coca-Cola Classic

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Hastings didn't have any trouble sweeping its way to the championship at the Coca-Cola Classic Invite hosted by Mount Pleasant Saturday.

The Saxons were a perfect 5-0 in five duals with the closest contest of the day a 49-20 victory over the Charlotte Orioles.

Every Saxon competitor finished the day with a winning record. Ethan Hetrick, Austin Friddle, Jace Acker, Liam Renner, Reyd Zoerman and Hunter Sutfin all were undefeated at the tournament, and Aden Armstrong and Isaac Lilley each picked up four wins.

The Saxon team also defeated Clare 75-6, Blanchard Montabella 75-5, Mount Pleasant 53-20 and Shepherd 70-9.

It was a weekend of victories for the entire Saxon program with a 'B' team winning the Jesse Snow Memorial Tournament at Maple Valley High School Saturday and the Saxon girls' team winning the Gull Lake Girls' Blue Devil Classic Sunday.

The Saxon team was set to host Cedar Springs Wednesday, Dec. 17, and will be off from competition until hosting its annual LH Lamb Invitational Jan. 3.

Offensive rebounds and DK turnovers get Gobles a victory in Delton

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

It was a great start for the Panthers, but it didn't last in the Southwestern Athletic Conference Central Division opener against visiting Gobles Friday.

The visiting Tigers took a 48-20 win over the Delton Kellogg varsity girls' basketball team. The loss drops the Panthers to 1-1 overall this season and they have a tough one ahead Friday against SAC Central favorite Saugatuck on the road.

The Delton Kellogg girls had an 8-0 lead at the start of the ballgame Friday. DK head coach Kevin Lillibridge said the Gobles' girls came out trying to trap the experienced DK back-court, and the Panthers were ready for it.

"We diced it up, and then they went to a 1-3-1," Lillibridge said.

His girls had a tougher time with that. The Tigers were bigger, more experienced and more physical in the paint. And DK had a tougher time taking care of the basketball as the game wore on.

"We gave them 44 extra opportunities on turnovers and offensive rebounds," Lillibridge said. "Against a good team like that, losing by 24 extra possessions and giving them 44 extra chances is an issue. Addie is great. Izzie has been great. Jalin has been great. But if we can't get below a zone, we're in trouble."

Addie Stampfler, Izzie Wendland and Jalin Lyons, a trio of senior guards, make up a solid returning back-court for DK this winter. Stampfler had one of the highest outputs ever by a DK girl in the scorebook in the season opener with 32 points against Bloomingdale and had a team-high 11 points Friday.

Wendland had five points. Lyons had two points and senior Clara Sanchez chipped in two points too.



Delton Kellogg freshman Kendria Newcastle looks to dish off the basketball as she's defended by Gobles senior Halle Bigelow in the post Friday at DKHS.

Gobles rallied to score the final 15 points of the first quarter, leading 15-8, and then pushed its lead to 23-10 by the half. The Tigers then outscored the Panthers 25-10 in the second half.

There were times that the Panthers had the ball in good positions, but had shots miss their mark. Those shots were rushed a bit here and there.

"We have a lot of work to do as a program. Our youth program is great. Things are looking good in the future. These girls need to set the tone and give effort all the time, and not get beat down the court for fast-breaks, and then those 44 extra possessions. Transition defense, and rebounding and turnovers have got to be way better," Lillibridge said. "We can fix that stuff. Effort is something you can fix. The other stuff, we can fix."



Delton Kellogg senior guard Izzie Wendland looks to get a shot up over Gobles junior Alana Gonzalez in the post during the second half of their SAC Central ballgame in Delton Friday. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

Senior Kylee Killeen led Gobles with 17 points. She hit three 3-pointers and scored more than a couple buckets in transition after taking the ball away from the Panthers.

Senior Elianna Wood added 14 points for Gobles and senior Daisy Jackson had nine.

Lillibridge noted that his squad really relied on 2025 grad Josie Williams in the post for four seasons, and now there is a transition happening with a couple key post players this season a freshman, a foreign exchange student and a junior who is more of an inside-out type player learning to handle things in the paint.

The contest with Saugatuck is the last one on the schedule before the holiday break for the Delton Kellogg girls. They return to action at Fennville Jan. 5.

Gobles moved to 3-0 overall this season with the win.

GO ONLINE TO HASTINGSBANNER.COM

Saxon swimmers compete well with Bulldogs in tough early SCC dual

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Hastings varsity boys' swimming and diving team took on one of the toughest challenges of the season right off the block.

Hastings was bested by perennial Southwestern and Central Michigan Swim Conference foe Otsego 84-72 at the Community Education and Recreation Center in Hastings Tuesday.

Hastings got off to a great start with the team of Gavin Bagley, Colton Baker, Miki Macharik and Caleb Kramer winning the 200-yard medley relay in 2 minutes 4.76 seconds. They beat the Bulldogs' top team in the race by a quarter of a second.

Baker led a 1-2 finish in the diving competition for the Hastings boys. He won with a score of 135.45 points. Teammate Cruize Rathburn was second in 123.45.

Kramer and Rathburn had a solid 100-yard freestyle race for the Saxons with Kramer winning that one in 1:01.53 and Rathburn placing third in 1:07.98.

The Bulldogs built a solid lead through the evening's first nine events, and Hastings earned the first-place points in the final three races of the evening. Bagley took the 100-yard backstroke in 1:15.34, Macharik won the 100-yard breaststroke in 1:24.59 and the team of Hammond, Bagley, Richard Fritz and Rathburn closed out the meet by tallying a time of 4:40.88 in the 400-yard freestyle relay.

Liam Smith and Blake Guerrant won two individual races each for the Bulldogs with times fast enough to already be qualifying for the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 3 Boys' Swimming and Diving Finals. Smith took the 200-yard freestyle in 1:41.30 and the 500-yard freestyle in 4:37.76. Guerrant won the 200-yard individual medley in 2:13.05 and the 100-yard butterfly in 57.71 seconds.

Those two guys were also a part of the Bulldogs' win in the 200-yard freestyle relay joined by Garrison Busscher and Liam Raseman. Raseman was the day's 50-yard freestyle champ in 25.08. Kramer was right behind him in that race placing second with a time of 25.78.

The Saxons' face another one of the SCC's top program's, and the state's for that matter, when they travel to swim against Plainwell Jan. 6.

YOU'RE NOT JUST OUR READERS.

You're our friends, our family, our neighbors... and our future.

VIEW Newspaper Group

Your Community Connection

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 22, 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): Christopher Vanstee and Tami Vanstee, husband and wife

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

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Freedom Mortgage Corporation

Date of Mortgage: November 21, 2016

Date of Mortgage Recording: December 8, 2016

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $274,156.83

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Thornapple, Barry County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 52, Boulder Creek Estates, according to the recorded plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 6 of Plats, Page 23.

Common street address (if any): 5570 Ravine Dr, Middleville, MI 49333-8371

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: December 18, 2025

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

1580154
(12-18)(01-08)

RUTLAND CHARTER TOWNSHIP
BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN
NOTICE OF ORDINANCE SUBMITTAL

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

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE proposed Ordinance #2026-200 appended hereto was introduced for first reading by the Rutland Charter Township Board at its December 10, 2025 meeting.

This proposed ordinance will be considered for adoption by the Township Board at its scheduled regular meeting on January 14, 2026 commencing at 7:00 p.m. at the Charter Township Hall.

Rutland Charter Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon seven (7) days' notice to Rutland Charter Township. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Township.

Format note---this proposed ordinance is prepared in "legislative format": new verbiage proposed to be added is shown in bold type; any existing verbiage proposed to be deleted is shown lined-through.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF RUTLAND
BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN
ORDINANCE NO. 2026-200 (PROPOSED)
ADOPTED:
EFFECTIVE:

An Ordinance to amend § 220-5-3.P. of Chapter 220 of the Rutland Charter Township Code pertaining to winery land uses in the CR Country Residential District.

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF RUTLAND
BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN
ORDAINS:

SECTION 1
AMENDMENT OF § 220-5-3.P. PERTAINING TO WINERY SPECIAL LAND USES IN CR COUNTRY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT

§ 220-5-3.P. of the Rutland Charter Township Code, pertaining to winery land uses as special land uses in the CR Country Residential District, is amended to read as follows:

"P. Winery, including tasting, ~~and~~ retail sales ~~room~~**, mobile food vendor, and indoor acoustic music,** accessory to an on-premises vineyard, subject to the following limitations ~~on tasting and retail sales rooms~~:

1. On parcels with a lot area of at least 1.0 acre but less than 5 acres, the building in which the tasting and retail sales room is located shall not exceed a building area of 1,500 square feet.
2. On parcels with a lot area of at least 5 acres but less than 10 acres, the building in which the tasting and retail sales room is located shall not exceed a building area of 5,000 square feet.
3. On parcels with a lot area of 10 acres or more, the building in which the tasting and retail sales room is located shall not exceed a building area of 10,000 square feet.
4. **Only one mobile food vendor (food truck) shall be allowed on-site at a time, at a frequency of not more than one occurrence per month and for a duration of not more than two consecutive days per occurrence. A mobile food vendor on-site shall have and display upon request all applicable state/county licenses/permits.**
5. **The winery shall have and display upon request the state entertainment permit applicable to permissible on-site indoor acoustic music entertainment. The sound from such indoor acoustic music entertainment shall not be discernable beyond the boundaries of the subject property.**
6. **All vehicles associated with any accessory uses conducted at the winery shall be parked on-site in an off-street parking area designated on the site plan approved by the Planning Commission."**

SECTION 2
REPEAL AND EFFECTIVE DATE

All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed. This Ordinance shall become effective on the eighth day after publication or such later date as may be required by law.

Robin Hawthorne, Clerk
Charter Township of Rutland

Pretty great back-court trio back to lead Delton Kellogg boys' squad

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Panthers should be able to put the ball in the basket most nights with the returning back-court trio of Tyler Howland, Grady Matteson and Keegan Hill.

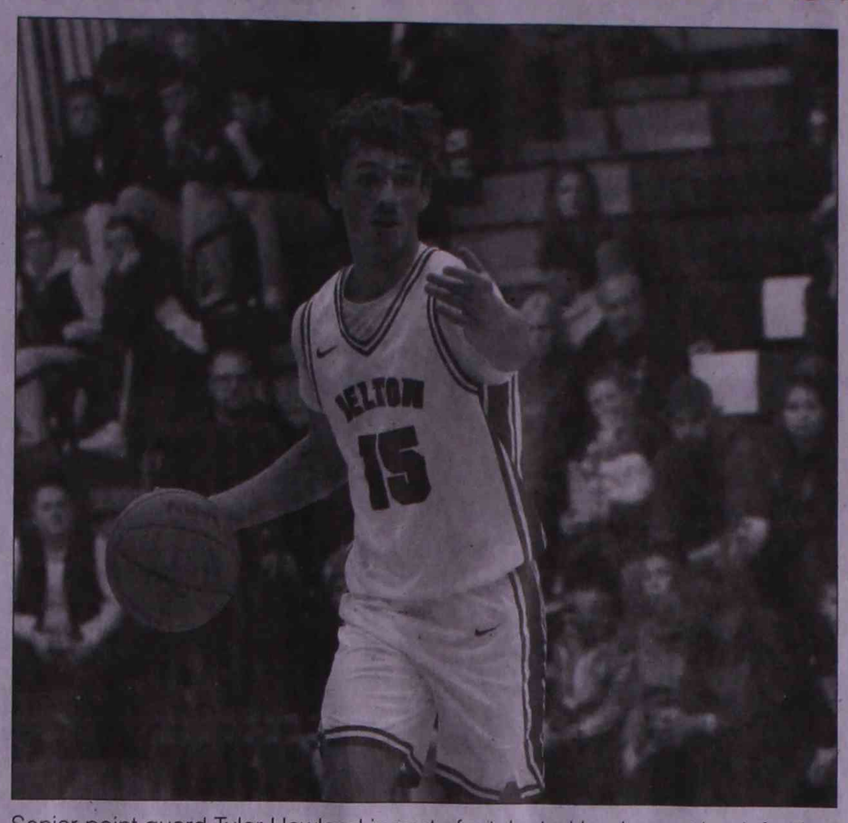
Howland is a four-year varsity player back at point guard for the Delton Kellogg varsity boys' basketball team. He averaged 11.4 points, 3.5 assists, five rebounds and two steals per game as a junior last winter. He has the ability to hit an outside shot, but also to get to the rim and rise above bigger defenders with his leaping ability.

Matteson is a deadeye outside shooter back on the varsity for his junior campaign. He averaged over ten points per game last season, two steals and five rebounds. He set a DK record last winter with nine threes in one ballgame.

In the senior Hill, who is returning from an injury sustained during football season, the Panthers have an athletic spark plug to move the basketball quickly on offense and pester opposing defenders.

With that trio, head coach Jason Howland really likes his team's shooting, ball-handling and leadership.

Depth is a bit of an issue for this Delton Kellogg squad, and especially here early in the season as everyone works to get in the swing of things. Senior center Jarno Wiebenga and senior guard Gabe Smoczynski will need to be key contributors for the Panther team to find the success they're hoping for.



Senior point guard Tyler Howland is part of a talented back-court back for the Delton Kellogg varsity boys' basketball team this winter. Howland earned all-conference and all-county honors as a junior. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

The DK team was 13-9 overall and played in a district championship game.

The Panthers fell to Bloomingdale in that district final last year, but knocked off the Bloomingdale boys in the season opener this year. The Panthers were 2-2 heading into this week with a 1-1 mark in the Southwestern Athletic Conference Central Division so far.

The Panthers were set to face Watervliet Tuesday, Dec. 16, and will be on the road at Saugatuck Dec. 19 for another SAC Central match-up.

Coach Howland said Gobles and Galesburg-Augusta are the favorites for a conference championship this winter. Both teams have won their first two SAC Central match-ups. Gobles bested the Delton Kellogg boys in Delton last Friday and were 4-0 overall coming into this week.

The DK boys are off following Saturday's trip to Saugatuck until a Jan. 5 trip to Maple Valley.

Coach Howland said he is hoping this 2025-26 group can match or improve on last year's win total, and play consistently competitive basketball while enjoying playing the game.

Board of County Road Commissioners
David Solmes *Chairman*
Jim C. James *Vice Chairman*
Jamie Knight *Member*
Jake Welch *Managing Director*
Christine BeBeau *Secretary*

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.

City of Hastings

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

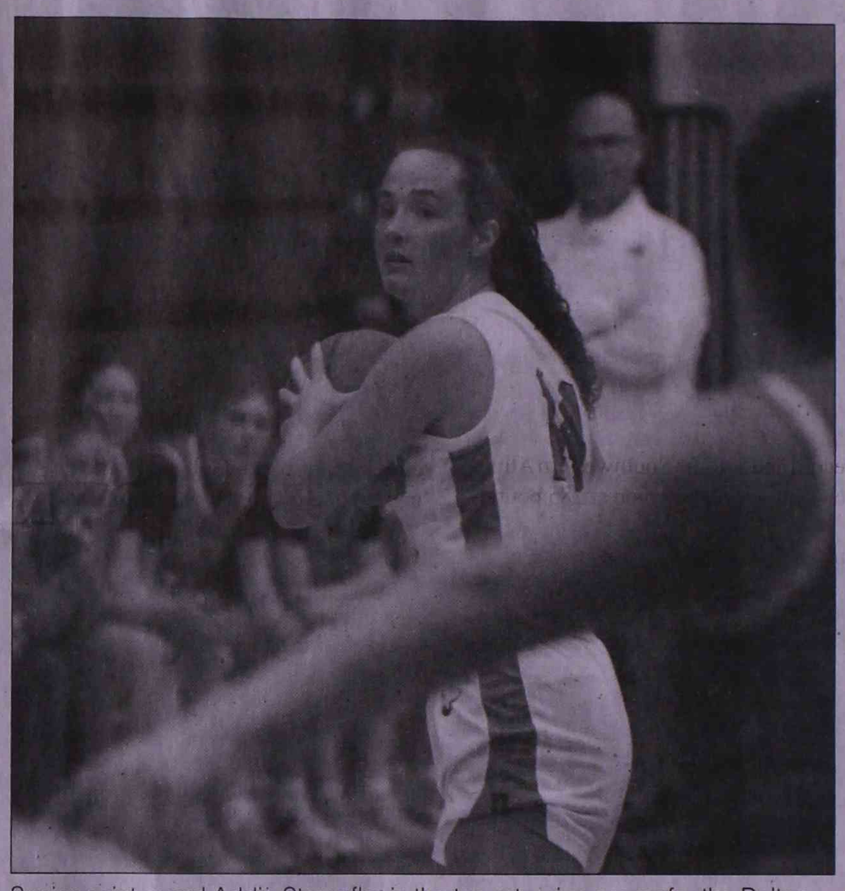
The City Council for the City of Hastings will hold a Public Hearing for the purpose of hearing written and/or oral comments from the public concerning North Ridge Estates Condominiums Planned Unit Development and final site plan approval for property located at 1700 N. Jefferson Street Block parcel #08-55-155-000-00. City Council will review and consider final site plan approval for the development and construction of eight (8) three (3) unit attached residential site condominiums, three (3) four (4) unit attached residential site condominiums, and one (1) two (2) unit attached residential site condominium. The public hearing will be held at **7:00 PM on Monday January 12, 2026**, in the City Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall, 201 East State Street, Hastings, Michigan 49058.



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

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

Linda Perin
City Clerk



Senior point guard Addie Stampfler is the top returning scorer for the Delton Kellogg varsity girls' basketball team this winter. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

Panthers working to find a way to get a SAC Central win this winter

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Senior guard Addie Stampfler is approaching the all-time steals record in the Delton Kellogg varsity girls' basketball program.

The Panthers are hopeful to steal a conference victory or two this winter too.

Delton Kellogg was 6-17 overall a year ago, but was held without a victory in the Southwestern Athletic Conference Central Division which was their second straight SAC Central campaign without a victory.

Kevin Lillibridge is in his second season leading the DK girls' varsity team, and he said he sees perseverance as one of his team's biggest strengths.

"Last year, with mostly the same group, they battled every game with just six players on the varsity roster. Not only did they maintain effort, they improved throughout the season," Lillibridge said.

There are more than six girls on the roster this winter. Stampfler averaged 11 points and 4.4 steals per game as a junior. Senior guards Jalin Lyons and Izzie Wendland return with her in the back-court and the team brings back senior forward Dani Fields too.

Lyons averaged six rebounds pre game as a junior which was number two on the team and Wendland had two steals and five deflections per game last season. Stampfler earned All-Barry County and all-conference honors a year ago.

Lillibridge said Lyons is a girl who is always in the right spot, and he said of Wendland she "brings back scoring and toughness on defense. Her relentless attitude during games is what helps keep our team going."

He added of Fields that "she is always steady and one of our more efficient players on both offense and defense. She has the ability to know where to go on the court at all times to help the team."

Junior Mallory Momenee is one of the key additions to the roster according to Lillibridge, and she did get some varsity experience last year.

"We have a very big mix of players this year," Lillibridge said. "We have five returning players, three foreign exchange students and the rest of the players are either freshmen, or sophomores. We need to come together and build not only for this year and the future."

He hopes his girls continue to stay positive and grow as a team.

The Delton Kellogg squad split its first two nonconference match-ups last week, besting Bloomingdale and then falling to SAC Central foe Gobles. The Panthers go on the road Friday, Dec. 19, to take on a Saugatuck team that Lillibridge said looks like the toughest team in the division coming into the season.

"They have the potential to be really good even with the loss of their post player from last season," Lillibridge said of the Trailblazers.

The Saugatuck girls were 2-0 overall and 1-0 in the SAC Central coming into the week.

The DK girls are off for the holiday break following Friday's ballgame. They will return to action at Fennville Jan. 5.

2025 Winter SPORTS Preview

DK girls look to get closer to top of league and district standings

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Delton Kellogg varsity competitive cheer team will open its season Saturday at the Plainwell Cheer Fest.

As in most seasons, it is a work in progress during December.

A couple four-year varsity cheerleaders are back to lead the way for DK in senior back spot Violet Kokx and senior base Brooke Childs. They return along with senior base Lily Devries and junior flyer Brynlee Babbitt-Smith.

Devries and Babbitt-Smith will be key tumblers for the squad this winter too. Babbitt-Smith is opening her third varsity season and Devries is in her second varsity season.

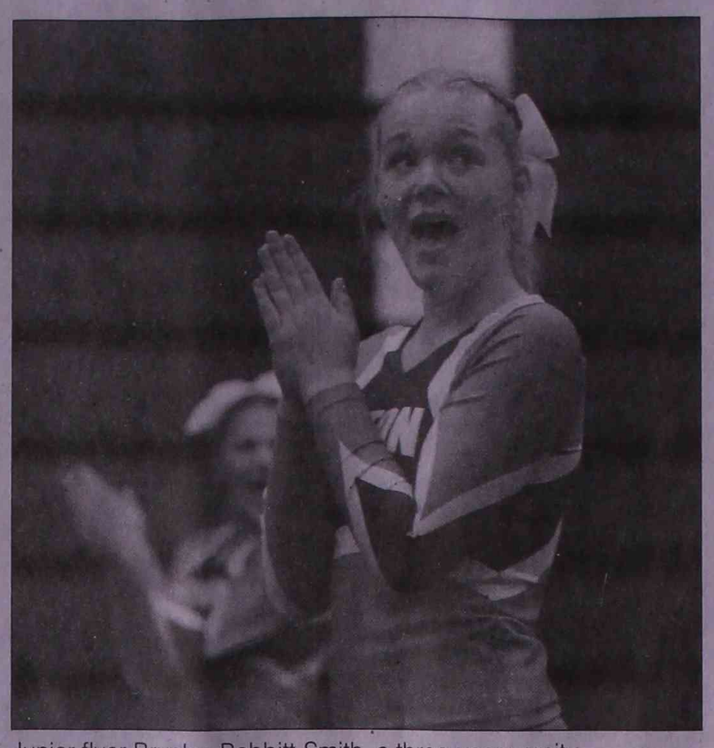
"Overall, we only have a few girls on the team that have any longevity with competitive cheer," Delton Kellogg head coach Zoe Reynolds said. "I lean on them and so do their teammates."

Reynolds has been leading the Delton Kellogg program for 20 seasons.

Those youngsters she's working onto the mat along with her handful of experienced cheerleaders include sophomore flyer/base Lindie Wiessner and freshman flyer Gabby Marlow.

"We have a solid round one. In round two, we are hoping to have three skills that are 1.2 in difficulty this season," Reynolds said, "possibly more before we are finished. Round three, it is still too early for me to say much, but I have high hopes that this will be a great year for all three rounds."

The Delton Kellogg girls closed last season fifth in the Southwestern Athletic Conference and sixth at districts. The Panthers were less than six points shy of qualifying for the regional round of the state tournament.



Junior flyer Brynlee Babbitt-Smith, a three-year varsity cheerleader, is one of a handful of Panthers who have been a part of the varsity since their freshman campaign at DKHS this winter. **File photo by Brett Bremer**

The Panthers are hoping to improve on those placings during the 2025-26 season, to finish at the top of the conference and to earn a spot four district finish to advance to regionals.

Reynolds said there will definitely be some tough competition for a SAC championship this winter coming especially from the Coloma, Gobles and Schoolcraft girls.

Schoolcraft will host the first SAC Jamboree Jan. 8.

DK brings back handful of regional qualifiers looking for more

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

It's safe to say the Panthers are hoping for better this season.

The Delton Kellogg varsity wrestling team brings back four of its five regional qualifiers from a year ago including a pair of state qualifiers in senior Mitchell Swift and sophomore Evan Stampfler.

Swift capped off an outstanding junior campaign by placing third in Division 4's 285-pound weight class at the MHSAA Individual State Finals last March. He closed the campaign with a 37-7 overall record and was the Southwestern Athletic Conference champion at 285 pounds. He's back this year looking to finish even higher on the state finals podium.

Stampfler qualified for the finals at 120 pounds as a freshman and is bumping up a weight class or two this season after a 30-16 season to start high school.

The returning regional qualifiers for DK this season are sophomore Mason Ferris at 215 pounds and junior Mendon Phillips at 165. Ferris was 28-13 a year ago and a SAC champ at 190. Phillips put together a 37-18 season as a sophomore.

The list of top returnees also includes juniors Alec Sinkler and Kayle McLellan who both won more than 20 matches a year ago.

Sophomore Lane Steele, senior Griffyn Harmon and junior Tucker Tack should be strong returning contributors as well.

There are a few freshmen throughout the line-up looking to add their talents too, and Brandon Nieuwenhuis at 113 pounds is one who has stepped up already to win some key points for the varsity.

The Delton Kellogg varsity girls' wrestling team is a smallish one, with a pair of juniors and a pair of freshmen on the roster. Olivia Post was a state qualifier as a freshman and is looking to try and win her way back to Ford Field. She is off to an 8-4 start wrestling at 130 pounds.

The Delton Kellogg varsity team is already through its toughest night of Southwestern Athletic Conference duals having faced fifth-ranked Martin and ninth-ranked Gobles at the first conference quad of the season. Those two highly ranked Division 4 squads took wins over the Panthers, but Delton Kellogg will be shooting to win its way through the rest of the conference slate.

The Panthers weren't quite at full strength, with a number of guys still working to get to the weight classes they expect to be competing at by the end of the season, at that first set of conference duals. DK head coach Dan Phillips is excited about what his team will look like once all the pieces fall into place.

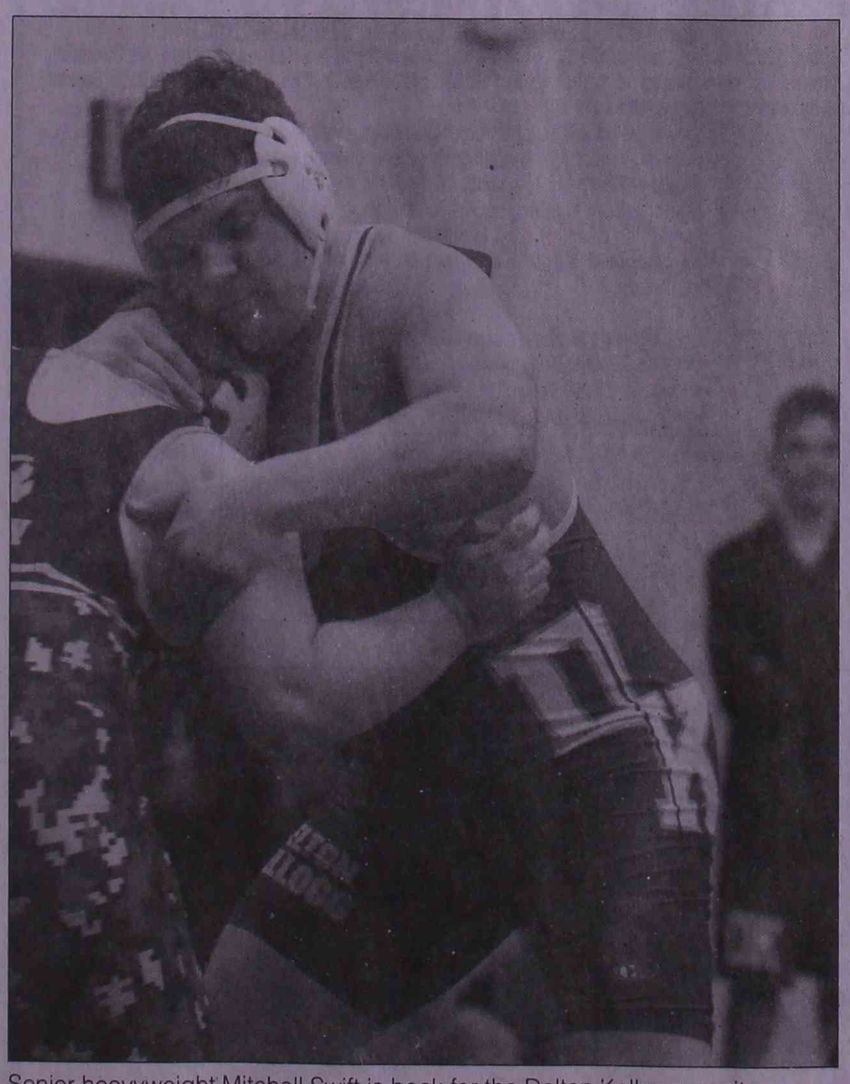
That Martin/Climax-Scotts team knocked the DK varsity out of the team state tournament in the district finals a year ago.

DK will see a Constantine team currently ranked tenth in Division 3 in the state at Lawton Jan. 14, and Galesburg-Augusta is off to a solid start too. The Rams just finished second to the Delton Kellogg team at a tournament in Eau Claire Saturday.

DK also already earned a runner-up finish at its own dual meet tournament earlier this month.

DK was set to host a SAC Quad with Allegan and Schoolcraft Wednesday, Dec. 17. The Panthers go to the Ionia Invitational Dec. 20 and then are off until the Homer Invitational Jan. 3.

The Delton Kellogg girls' team is set to be a part of the Meert Memorial Girls' Wrestling Tournament at Plainwell Sunday, Dec. 21. The DK ladies are then off until a visit from Mattawan Jan. 7.



Senior heavyweight Mitchell Swift is back for the Delton Kellogg varsity wrestling team this winter after placing third at 285 pounds at the MHSAA Division 4 Individual Wrestling Finals as a junior. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the Circuit Court in Barry County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on 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
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Barry County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM on 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.

4727 Waldorf Road, Delton, Michigan 49046

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)

Saxons knock off Harper Creek in conference opener

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

After an 0-3 start the Saxons have won two straight.

The Hastings varsity boys' basketball team improved its record to 2-3 with its first win over Harper Creek since February of 2023 at Hastings High School Tuesday by a score of 60-49.

That first Interstate-8 Athletic Conference win comes on the heels of a 56-39 win over Hopkins last Friday.

Center Jason Jimenez ripped down an offensive rebound and banked a shot back in at the buzzer to cut into what had been the Beavers' biggest lead of the night at the end of the first quarter. The Saxons entered the second quarter down 13-10, jumped in front 15-13 quickly and then never trailed again. It was a 22-7 run for the Saxons in the second quarter.

Back-to-back threes by Daniel Jensen and Jett Nofz late in the second quarter boosted Hastings to a 32-20 lead at the break.

"There was real growth on display," Hastings head coach Jess Webb said. "Confidence showed again, with scoring coming from multiple guys and defense again stepping up big."

The Saxon coach was really impressed with his guys' ability to hold the Beavers to just 20 points in the first half.

"Our kids battled to protect the paint while closing hard on shooters," coach Webb said.

"Harper Creek is a very well-coached team and throws a lot of different defensive looks at you," he added. "I thought our guys handled the pressure extremely well and finished the game the right way. This was a big step for our program and a strong marker for where Hastings basketball is headed."

Harper Creek had the Saxon lead down to ten late in the third quarter, but Jack Webb scored a bucket in transition and then buried a 3-pointer from the right corner in front of the Saxon bench to shoot his team's lead up to 48-33 going into the fourth.

The Beavers got the Saxon lead down to eight in the closing minute, but Hastings hit plenty of free throws to close out the win.

Jack Webb scored 16 points and Jimenez had 15 for the Saxons.

Harper Creek is now 1-1 in conference play and 2-3 overall. It was the conference opener for the Saxons.

The Saxons go on the road in the I-8 today, Dec. 18, to take on Parma Western and then will be off until a nonconference ballgame at Ionia Jan. 3.

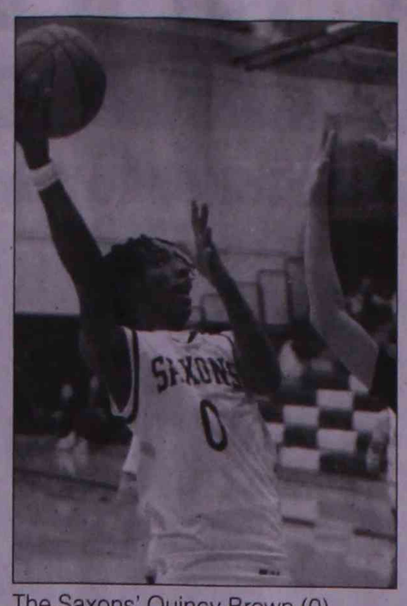
Hastings took off in the second half against Hopkins last week for a 56-39 win. The Saxons outscored the Vikings 21-10 in the third quarter after building a 23-16 halftime lead.

The Saxons shot 45.1 percent from the floor in that win and buried nine 3-pointers. A 34-20 rebounding edge helped the Saxons make up for 21 turnovers.

Webb led the Saxons in the win over the Vikings with 19 points, six rebounds and four assists. Quincy Brown had 14 points and three assists. Jimenez finished with eight points and six rebounds. Jensen had a team-high eight rebounds to go with four points. Bryce Etheridge stepped in to provide six points, four rebounds and two assists.

"Our kids stayed calm against their full-court pressure, and we shot it well from beyond the arc," coach Webb said. "Confidence is starting to build, and that matters. It starts with defense for us. Holding Hopkins to 16 points in the first half was big, and we also rebounded well. That win carried over into practice as we got ready for Harper Creek."

Merek Zapolink was Hopkins' leading-scorer with six points. Hopkins had six guys with four points each.



The Saxons' Quincy Brown (0) slashes to the hoop for a contested layup during the second half of the Friday night matchup with Hopkins at Hastings High School. **Photos by Perry Hardin**



Hastings guard Logan Kimmel (12) dribble penetrates past Hopkins' Dexter Graczyk (22) in the fourth quarter Friday at Hastings High School.

Saxons working on turning up the defensive pressure on opponents

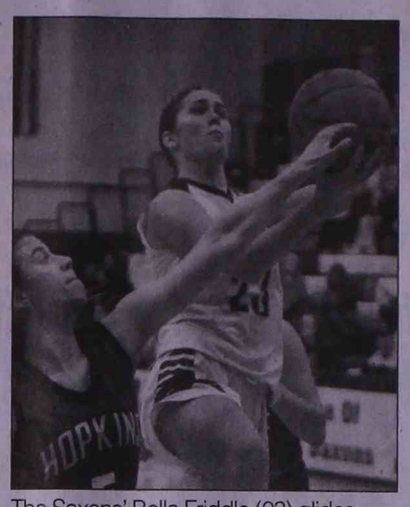
Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Harper Creek extended its lead late to score a 51-33 win over the Hastings girls in what was the Interstate-8 Athletic Conference opener for the Saxons Tuesday in Battle Creek.

The Beavers had a ten-point lead at the half. Hastings had that down to nine going into the fourth quarter before Harper Creek began to extend the advantage.

Bella Friddle led the Saxons with eight points. Ashlyn Bailey, Tenleigh Nichols and Ava Noteboom had six points apiece.

"We are working to improve on the defensive end," Hastings head coach Ben Wilson said. "We increased ball pressure and were able to turn Harper Creek over. Our goal now is to consistently be able to turn those turnovers into points on our end.



The Saxons' Bella Friddle (23) glides towards the rack between Hopkins seniors Reegan Helderop (5) and Kelsey Burgess (11) in the first quarter of their nonconference ballgame at Hastings High School Friday. **Photo by Perry Hardin**

"Our coaches have made it clear to our players that we are working on continuing to get better, understand our roles and progress every week, with the goal to be playing the best in March. Defense is our main focus as we go forward. Kids are playing really hard and responding to changes we are making on the floor. Right now the results aren't there on the scoreboard but we know those wins will come."

The loss dropped the Saxons to 0-3 on the season and 0-1 in the I-8. The Saxons will face a Parma Western team that is off to a 2-0 conference start at Parma Western tonight, Dec. 18.

The Saxons were downed 57-29 in a nonconference ballgame against visiting Hopkins last Friday, Dec. 12. That Hopkins team is off to a 3-0 start to the season.

RUTLAND CHARTER TOWNSHIP
BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN
NOTICE OF ORDINANCE SUBMITTAL

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

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE proposed Ordinance #2026-199 appended hereto was introduced for first reading by the Rutland Charter Township Board at its December 10, 2025 meeting.

This proposed ordinance will be considered for adoption by the Township Board at its scheduled regular meeting on January 14, 2026 commencing at 7:00 p.m. at the Charter Township Hall.

Rutland Charter Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon seven (7) days' notice to Rutland Charter Township. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Township.

Format note---this proposed ordinance is prepared in "legislative format": new verbiage proposed to be added is shown in bold type; any existing verbiage proposed to be deleted is shown lined-through.

CITY OF HASTINGS & CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF RUTLAND
BARRY COUNTY, STATE OF MICHIGAN
RUTLAND CHARTER TOWNSHIP ORDINANCE NO. 2026-199
ADOPTED BY TOWNSHIP BOARD:
EFFECTIVE DATE: _____ (OR AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED BY LAW)
CITY OF HASTINGS ORDINANCE NO. 635
ADOPTED BY CITY COUNCIL:
EFFECTIVE DATE: _____ (or as otherwise provided by law)

JOINT ORDINANCE TO AMEND HASTINGS-RUTLAND JOINT PLANNING COMMISSION ZONING ORDINANCE

An Ordinance to amend Sections 5.05, 5.06, 6.05, 12.09 and 13.05 of the Zoning Ordinance of the Hastings-Rutland Joint Planning Commission (Rutland Charter Township Ordinance No. 2016-156, as amended/City of Hastings Ordinance No. 532, as amended) pertaining to, respectively, general lighting requirements, general screening requirements, lot coverage in MU Mixed Use District, screening and landscaping of off-street parking spaces, and signs permitted in the MU Mixed Use District and LI Light Industrial District.

THE CITY OF HASTINGS & THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF RUTLAND
BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN
ORDAIN:

SECTION 1
PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF SECTION 5.05 PERTAINING TO GENERAL LIGHTING REQUIREMENTS

Section 5.05, subsection A.4. of the Zoning Ordinance of the Hastings-Rutland Joint Planning Commission, pertaining to general lighting requirements, is amended to read as follows:

"4. Lighting fixtures shall have 100% cut-off above the horizontal plane at the lowest part of the point light source and light rays shall not be emitted by the installed fixture at angles above the horizontal plane. No light fixture shall be mounted higher than ~~20~~ **33** feet above the ~~average grade of the site~~ **grade at the pole,** or ~~15~~ **23** feet when the ~~subject~~ site abuts a residential district."

SECTION 2
PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF SECTION 5.06 PERTAINING TO GENERAL SCREENING REQUIREMENTS

Section 5.06, subsection C.7. of the Zoning Ordinance of the Hastings-Rutland Joint Planning Commission, pertaining to general screening requirements, is amended to add a new sub-part c reading as follows (introductory paragraph is included for context, but existing sub-parts a and b are not included in this tentative text because they are not proposed to be amended):

"7. Screening. Except as otherwise provided in this Ordinance, all premises used for commercial or industrial purposes shall be screened from adjoining premises located in any adjoining residential district by either of the following:

c. The Planning Commission shall have the authority to modify the preceding requirements for screening when the public benefit could still be achieved with a plan that varies from the above."

SECTION 3
PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF SECTION 6.05 PERTAINING TO LOT COVERAGE IN MU MIXED USE DISTRICT

Section 6.05, subsection A. and sub-part 2 therein of the Zoning Ordinance of the Hastings-Rutland Joint Planning Commission, pertaining to lot coverage in MU Mixed Use District, is amended to read as follows (the other existing sub-parts are not included in this tentative text because they are not proposed to be amended):

"A. Lot coverage shall be limited to a maximum of ~~50%~~ **70%.** The ~~50%~~ **70%** maximum may be increased with approval from the Planning Commission by 5% for each of the following completed items:

2. Areas of slopes greater than ~~20%~~ **50%** will not be developed or graded. (Note: A ~~twenty~~ **fifty**-percent slope equals one foot rise over ~~five~~ **two** feet of run)."

SECTION 4
PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF SECTION 12.09 PERTAINING TO SCREENING AND LANDSCAPING OF OFF-STREET PARKING SPACES

Section 12.09, subsection C.1. of the Zoning Ordinance of the Hastings-Rutland Joint Planning Commission, pertaining to screening and landscaping of off-street parking areas, is amended to read as follows:

C. In addition to required screening around off-street parking and loading areas, all off-street parking areas containing more than 10 parking spaces shall provide the following landscaping within the parking lot envelope, described as the area including the parking lot surface and extending 18 feet from the edge of the parking lot:

"1. ~~Two canopy trees shall be required for each 90 square feet of total of the paved driveway and parking lot surface, provided that in no case less than two trees shall be provided.~~ **A minimum of 2 canopy trees are required for an off street parking area with 11-20 parking spaces, and one additional canopy tree is required for every 20 parking spaces or increment thereof for an off-street parking area with more than 20 parking spaces.** Utilizing landscape islands in the interior of the parking lot for tree plantings shall be encouraged, but not required."

SECTION 5
PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF SECTION 13.05 PERTAINING TO PERMITTED SIGNS IN THE MU MIXED USE DISTRICT AND LI LIGHT INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT

Section 13.05, subsections B and C, of the Zoning Ordinance of the Hastings-Rutland Joint Planning Commission, pertaining to permitted signs in the MU Mixed Use District and LI Light Industrial District, are amended to read as follows:

"B. Wall signs on building walls facing a public right-of-way or parking area, with a sign area not exceeding 20% of the building wall area upon which affixed, or 90% of the width of the wall, but subject to a total area limit of 200 square feet; except for buildings over 150,000 square feet in area the total area limit is ~~550~~ **800** square feet. **Wayfinding and or informational signage shall not be included in the above stated standards.**

C. One pole sign or one ground-mounted sign in accordance with Option 1 or Option 2 in the table below; provided a permissible business use on a corner lot shall be permitted one ~~ground-mounted~~ sign on each street frontage in accordance with Option 1 or Option 2 in the table below:

Minimum Setback (feet)		Sign Type	Area (square feet)	Height (feet, **including any base)**
Option 1	10	Pole	32	10
OR				
		Ground-mounted	50	6
Option 2	20	Pole	~~75~~ **100**	20
OR				
		Ground-mounted	100	6 **14**

SECTION 6
EFFECTIVE DATE/REPEAL

This Ordinance shall take effect on the latter of: (1) 15 days after enactment by both the City and Township, or (2) the eighth day after publication of a notice of adoption of this Ordinance as required by law; provided, however, if a notice of intent to file a petition under *MCL 125.3402* is timely filed with respect to this Ordinance and/or if the right of referendum under applicable provisions of the charter of the City of Hastings is timely initiated, this Ordinance shall then only take effect as provided by applicable provisions of *MCL 125.3402* and/or the City charter, or as otherwise provided by law.

Robin Hawthorne, Clerk
Charter Township of Rutland

Linda Perin, Clerk
City of Hastings

DK able to turn tough defense into easy offense against Watervliet

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Getting some easy baskets helped the Delton Kellogg boys bounce back Tuesday night.

The DK Panther varsity boys' basketball team improved to 3-2 overall this season with a 58-24 win over visiting Watervliet.

"The team played well last night," Delton Kellogg head coach Jason Howland said. "We were able to get some fast break points that we have not been able to produce this season. We worked on it in practice and it showed last night. Players were playing tough defense, which gave us the opportunity to force turnovers and make our opponent take contested shots, converting those turnovers and rebounds into fast break points."

It was a solid shooting night for the DK Panthers even when they weren't taking transition opportunities to the rim. Delton Kellogg got out to a 27-14 lead in the first half.

Tyler Howland set the pace offensively with 22 points. He hit three 3-pointers and was 3-of-4 at the free throw line.

DK also got ten points from Grady Matteson, eight from Keegan Hill, six from Jarno Wiebenga and five from Gabe Ramsey.

Caleb Jewell led Watervliet with eight points.

"I'm proud of our players and their effort," coach Howland said, "when you are able to work on things during practice and then see the players transfer it to a game it is a great feeling."

The Delton Kellogg team is at Saugatuck Friday, Dec. 19, for a Southwestern Athletic Conference Central Division game. Delton Kellogg is currently 1-1 in SAC Central play. Gobles scored a 50-36 conference win at Delton Kellogg last Friday, Dec. 12.

It was one of the Delton team's toughest nights putting the ball in the basket.

"We started out slow for some reason," coach Howland said. "This was a big game for us being a conference game. This is the team probably to beat in our conference if we want to get that championship. We kind of put ourselves in a little bit of a hole, but the good news is we get another shot at them, another opportunity to get a win and maybe even it out."

Gobles shot out to an 8-1 lead in the first few minutes and pushed that advantage to as many as 11 points early in the second quarter. It was 12-4 at the end of the first.

Coach Howland was pleased his team was able to surge a bit as that first half wore on. DK fought back to within 21-20 at the half, and the Panthers had a brief 24-23 lead there early in the third quarter before Gobles put together a 7-0 run to close out the quarter.

Senior guard Keegan Hill was a bit of a spark defensively in that second quarter run for DK, creating a little bit of easy offense with his efforts. It was just his second game back from a broken collarbone suffered during football season.

Coach Howland is really looking forward to Hill getting up to full speed and terrorizing opposing guards along with Tyler Howland at the top of the Panthers' defensive sets.

Tyler Howland led DK with nine points in the loss. Wiebenga had six points and Hill and Matteson added five apiece. A triple from senior Camaron Martinez late in the game had the Christmas themed DK student section going wild even as the Tigers closed out the win.

Matteson had nine threes, setting a DK record, in a game with Gobles last season. Coach Howland said a couple things weren't quite right offensively. He was hoping to get a little more penetration and some kick-outs for Matteson triple tries, and said Matteson could have worked a little better to create some space of his own too. The DK coach is really looking forward to the chance to start honing Wiebenga's post-game during the holiday break to take advantage of his size more.

Gobles got 18 points from junior point guard Carter Crippin, 12 from senior center Aden Newberry and ten from junior guard Gibson Curtis.

Crippin was able to handle the Panther pressure much of the evening, and Newberry was a terror around the basket in a good battle of bigs with Wiebenga.



The Delton Kellogg High School student section, decked out in Christmas attire, belts out a big "You!" as it sings along with Mariah Carey's "All I Want For Christmas Is You" during a break in the action of the varsity boys' basketball team's SAC Central contest with visiting Gobles Friday. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

Ramey and Barton team up for runner-up Marshall Scotch Doubles finish

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Saxons Andrew Barton and Megan Ramey rolled to a runner-up finish at the annual Marshall Scotch Doubles Tournament at University Lanes in Albion Saturday.

Alternating throws, the Saxon duo put together a 709 series over the course of four games with scores of 175, 198, 171 and 165 in the qualifying. They took a 166-136 win in the quarterfinals and a 192-172 win in the semifinals of match play before falling 168-160 in the championship match.

Hastings had four pairs participating Saturday. Dakota Cole and Tempy Jiles were 18th with a 533 series, Aiden Hook and Khloe Baker were 23rd with a 497 series, and Owen Boge and Misha Haskins were 27th with a 475 series. In all, 38 pairs competed at the event.

The Saxon boys improved to 2-0 in Interstate-8 Athletic Conference duals with a 24-6 win over Jackson Northwest last week.

The Hastings boys' team swept the individual match-ups in the head-to-head games with each guy winning two points for the team. Cole had games of 182 and 164. Brody Mix rolled a 150 and a 155. Barton had scores of 162 and 186. Boge tallied a 211 and a 172. Hook had scores of 211 and 175. The Saxons went into the two Baker games with a 20-0 lead.

In Hook's 211-game he had an all mark game with a strike or a spare at every opportunity.

Hastings won one of the two Baker games, rolling a 210 as a team and putting together a string of five straight strikes, one by each of the five bowlers in the line-up including Jonas Stiling who got worked into the mix.

The Hastings girls were bested by the Mounties, but coach Deanna Rhodes was pleased to have five varsity bowlers in her line-up. The top individual scores of the day were a 133 by Ramey, a 104 by Tempy, a 112 by Chloe Pirtle, a 96 from Khloe Baker and an 81 from Haskins.



Saxons Megan Ramey (left) and Andrew Barton celebrate their runner-up finish at the Marshall Scotch Doubles Tournament Saturday, Dec. 13, at University Lanes in Albion. **Photos provided**



The Saxons' Owen Boge fires his ball down the alley at University Lanes in Albion during the Marshall Scotch Doubles Tournament Saturday.

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

Hastings Charter Township 2026 Board Meeting Schedule

to be held at the township hall:
885 River Rd, Hastings MI

Except when indicated by *

January 13th	July 14th
February 10th	August 11th
March 10th	Sept 8th
April 14th	Oct 13th *
May 12th	Nov 10th
June 9th	Dec 8th
July 14th	

*to be held at Charlton Park township building

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csilverman@mihomepaper.com



The Delton Kellogg varsity wrestling team celebrates with its brackets, medals and trophy after winning the 2025 Burton Richards Memorial tournament hosted by Eau Claire High School Saturday. **Photo provided**

Five champs and a team title for DK grapplers at Eau Claire invite

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Delton Kellogg wrestlers won five of the 14 flights and the Panthers dominated the annual Burton Richards Memorial Tournament hosted by Eau Claire Saturday.

The Panthers closed the day 64.5 points ahead of runner-up Galesburg-Augusta.

Evan Stampfler at 138 pounds, Griffyn Harmon at 157, Mendon Phillips at 165, Mason Ferris at 190 and Mitchell Swift at 285 pounds all won their flight. Tucker Tack at 157 pounds, Lane Steele at 126 and Alec Sinkler at 132 were second; Kayle McLellan was third at 126, and Brandon Nieuwenhuis at 106 finished fourth.

Stampfler defeated Centreville's Rockne Hamilton, a Division 4 state medalist a year ago, 5-4 in the 138-pound championship to close out a 4-0 day.

Swift, who was third at 285 pounds last year in Division 4 in the state, pinned last year's seventh place state medalist, Brock Woodhouse from Marcellus, 89 seconds into the 285-pound championship match Saturday. Swift was 3-0 for the day with three pins in the first period of matches.

It was a pair of DK Panthers in the 157-pound championship with Griffyn Harmon pinning teammate Tucker Tack. Harmon had a technical fall and a pin on his way to the final, while Tack pinned his other two foes.

Phillips pinned Galesburg-Augusta's Jonah Ranes in the 165-pound championship to close out a 4-0 day.

Ferris was 4-0 too at 190 pounds where he pinned Centreville's Matthew Blair midway through the second period of their championship match. Ferris pinned his first three opponents in the first period to get to the championship bout.

Delton closed the day with 226.5 points ahead of G-A 162, Buchanan 159, Centreville 159, Berrien Springs 137, Coloma 129.5, Fennville 66, River Valley 53.5, Eau Claire 48 and Lawrence 37 in the top ten. In all, 16 teams took part in the tournament.

The Panthers were slated to host a SAC Quad taking on Allegan and Schoolcraft Wednesday, Dec. 17. They will be back in action at the Ionia Invitational Saturday, Dec. 20.

Delton Kellogg followed up its tournament victory with a 39-33 win in a non-conference dual at Battle Creek Pennfield Monday.

GO ONLINE TO HASTINGSBANNER.COM

First Presbyterian Church of Hastings

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Community Blue Christmas
Dec. 21st at 4pm
Blue Christmas is a service of wholeness and healing which offers comfort and hope to those facing grief, illness or hardship during the holiday season.

A special offering of leggings/ sweatpants for Southeastern Elementary will be collected!

Christmas Eve Service
Dec. 24th at 4:30pm
Family Friendly Service
Dec. 24th at 11pm
Traditional Candlelight Service

Service of Lessons and Carols
Dec. 28th at 10am
Continue the celebration of the Christmas season with a service of readings and carols.

405 N M-37 Hwy Hastings MI
www.firstchurchhastings.org



The Thornapple Kellogg varsity girls' wrestling team accepts its trophy after winning the Kent County Championships at East Kentwood High School Saturday. Last year's state runner-up team from Lowell was second and last year's state champs from Grand Haven were third behind the Trojans.

TK knocks off last season's top teams to win Kent County title

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Thornapple Kellogg varsity girls' wrestling team took the championship Saturday at East Kentwood High School in the annual Kent County Championship beating out the teams that went 1-2 at the state finals last March.

TK outscored Lowell 161-145.5 at the top of the day's standings. Lowell had three individual champions and TK had two. Nobody matched TK's eight top-six finishes. Grand Haven was third with 143 points.

Grand Haven won the MHSAA's first girls' team championship last March, beating out Lowell by ten points at the top of the standings at Ford Field. The TK team was 11th at those state finals.

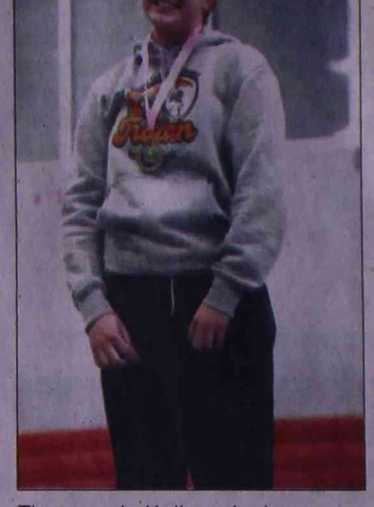
The Trojan team got individual championships from Adelaide Holderman at 170 pounds and Rylee Alberts at 135 pounds at East Kentwood Saturday.

Holderman, who placed fourth at 170 pounds at the MHSAA Individual State Finals a year ago, is the lone returning state qualifier from last year for the Trojans. Alberts, now a junior, was a state qualifier as a freshman two years ago.

TK's Briella Dykstra at 115 pounds, Madison Chipman at 100 both placed third, and Amelia Barringer at 115 pounds and Kayla Price at 130 were both fourth. Their team also had Taylor Pena fifth at 170 pounds and Maggie McKeown sixth at 105 pounds.

Holderman opened her day with a technical fall and a pin before beating West Ottawa's Le'Anna Zavala 10-2 in the 170-pound championship match.

Alberts pinned all four of her foes. She needed less than a minute for the win in each of the first three rounds. She stuck North Muskegon's Kelsie Vandervelde 1:31 into the



Thornapple Kellogg junior Adelaide Holderman is on the medal stand after winning the 170-pound championship at the Kent County Championships hosted by East Kentwood High School Saturday. **Photos provided**

135-pound final.

In all TK had 14 girls competing at the 32-team tournament. Karsyn Boersma, Morgan Boersma, Addison Barringer and Jaycee Teunessen also had victories throughout the course of the day for the Trojans.

West Ottawa was fourth on the day with 86.5 points ahead of Fruitport 85, Rockford 81, Forest Hills Eastern 75, Northview 74, Kelloggsville 72 and Forest Hills Central 65 in the top ten.

Lowell's Lana Sheehan won the 115-pound weight class and the Red Arrows had Veronica Tapia win at 105 pounds and Tatianna Castillo at 110.

Grand Haven got championships from Daniella Ramirez at 190 pounds and Megan Brower at 130.

Burpee hits 100-win mark as Lions place third at Jesse Snow tourney

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Jackson Burpee picked up varsity win number 100 on his way to a 190-pound championship Saturday at the Lions' annual Jesse Snow Memorial Tournament.

The senior Burpee, a state qualifier a year ago, was one of three Maple Valley champions on the day. Senior heavyweight Joe Long won the 285-pound championship and was chosen the tournament's sportsmanship award winner. Lion sophomore Dakota Leslie won the girls' 115-pound championship.

A couple other area varsity programs showed off their depth on the day. The Hastings 'B' Team won the tournament championship with 207.5 points and Lakewood had a 'B' Team place second with 132 points.

The Lions were third with 114.5 points ahead of Portage Northern 108, Battle Creek Lakeview 72, Colon 42 and Webberville 6.

The Lion team had three other top four individual finishes at the tournament. Tyrese Robinson El at 215 pounds and Roman Schillz at 126 both placed third and Josh Deppe was fourth at 157 pounds.

Burpee pinned his first two opponents on the day and then defeated Patrick Walkington from Lakewood 21-4 in the championship match at 190 pounds.

Long earned his title with four pins. He had three competitors stuck within a minute and all four of his pins in the



Maple Valley senior Jackson Burpee celebrates his 100th varsity victory during the Lions' annual Jesse Snow Memorial Tournament in Nashville Saturday with help from Mindy Kinney (left) and Nicholas Burpee. **Photo provided**

285-pound weight class came in the first period.

Leslie won her 115-pound championship with three pins. She stuck Portage Northern's Emma Pathic in 1:28 in their championship bout.

The Hastings 'B' team got championships from Brandon Goodrich at 126 pounds, Jackson McKinney at 132, Jax Balderson at 144, Maverik Peake at 138, Quinn Schnerre at 165 and Tyce Richardson at 175.

Lakewood had Austin Witt with the 106 pound championship.