



Volley Night Lights begins with West Ottawa vs. HC

SPORTS, 1B



The Holland Sentinel

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Hog Wild has new owners, but it still has same bones



Jason VanderKlok, center, and two silent partners took over Hog Wild BBQ in March.

Austin Metz

Holland Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK

There's new ownership at Hog Wild BBQ, but customers can expect the same menu, staff and operations that have made the restaurant a local staple for nearly two decades in Holland.

Jason VanderKlok took over the barbecue restaurant at 154 W. Lakewood Blvd. alongside two silent partners in March. VanderKlok, originally from Kalamazoo, attended Hope College and most recently worked at Haworth.

"It's been great," VanderKlok told The Sentinel. "We have a great staff, great menu and great system, which is why we were so attracted to it. The Overways had a great business model... they knew how to set up a business for success."

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Hog Wild BBQ continues to offer the same popular menu after a recent ownership change in March. PHOTOS PROVIDED BY MARIAH VANDERPLOEG PHOTOGRAPHY

Ottawa County to host public hearing for 2027 budget

Cassidey Kavathas

Holland Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Sentinel is providing a weekly round-up of the biggest topics in upcoming municipal meetings, giving our readers a chance to engage with their local officials on the projects, appointments and decisions that hit closest to home.

These round-ups are written on Fridays and updated online Mondays. Municipalities are not required by the Michigan Open Meetings Act to provide an agenda in advance of a meeting, but they are required to provide notice.

Please visit your local municipality website for the most updated information.

Here are the biggest topics for meetings Monday-Friday, Aug. 24-28:

Ottawa County

Appointment and Alignment Committee: 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 25, at the Ottawa County Fillmore Street Complex

Read the agenda: tinyurl.com/3ey369e8

How to participate remotely: Meetings are live streamed via YouTube at @miOttawa.

Board of Commissioners: 9 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 25, at the Ottawa County Fillmore Street Complex

The agenda includes:

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4 area high schools among top in state

Mitchell Boatman

Holland Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK

The latest report on Best High Schools from the U.S. News and World Report was released Aug. 17, and several local schools have again earned recognition as some of the top in Michigan.

A total of four local high schools ranked in the Top 100, with a fifth just outside that range at 101, including Black River High School, Zeeland West High School, Zeeland East High School and Saugatuck High School.

U.S. News evaluates schools in several

categories, including college readiness (30% of total score), college curriculum breadth (10%), state assessment proficiency (20%), state assessment performance (20%), underserved student performance (10%) and graduation rate (10%).

From those metrics, schools are given a score of 0-100. The most recent rankings are based on data from 2023-24, with 678 schools ranked out of 1,259 total public high schools in Michigan. Of note, private schools aren't included in the rankings.

The schools that score in the bottom 25% are given a range, rather than an individual rank. For more information on

the report's ranking methodology, visit tinyurl.com/ys3xnbwb.

Black River High School

Black River was again the top-rated school near Holland at No. 24 with an overall score of 95.87.

In terms of individual categories, the school performed well in college curriculum breadth (12th), college readiness (19th), state assessment proficiency (40th) and state assessment performance (70th).

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