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## LCSO: Body found in marsh

**Tess Ware**  
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USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

The search for Jerry Spaulding may be over, but police aren't quite sure yet. According to a July 14 press release from the Livingston County Sheriff's Office, deputies responded to a report of a dead body in the area Brophy Road and Botsford Road in Oceola Township at around 9:48 p.m. July 13. A witness on scene said they were tending their cattle when they found the man in a swampy area near Neff Lake.

LCSO said he appeared to be stuck in a knee-high mud hole. The sheriff's office said the body was found in a heavily wooded, marshy area subject to "environmental conditions." Because of this, LCSO cannot positively identify the man at this time, but they suspect him to be Jerry Spaulding. Spaulding, an avid walker, left his home the afternoon of July 5 to retrieve a shirt he'd lost in the woods, Livingston County Sheriff Mike Murphy said. His sister, who called in the report, said he didn't return to his home near Argentine Road, north of Brophy Road. Spaulding

was last seen wearing a red and green western-style shirt, blue jeans and work boots. His disappearance sparked a days-long search by LCSO with assistance from search and rescue teams in Oakland and Lapeer Counties. Community members also joined the search. An organized party met at Riddle Cemetery on July 8. They were asked to stop their search after reports of trespassing and damaged crops, according to Murphy. LCSO did a last flyover with a helicopter on July 9 and asked the community

to keep their eyes open for Spaulding, but to halt searches at the family's request. According to the July 14 press release, there was no visible signs of struggle or confrontation. The body was taken to the University of Michigan Sparrow Hospital for a medical examination. LCSO was assisted by the Howell Area Fire Department and Medical Examiner's office. The incident is still under investigation until identification and cause of death is determined. — Contact reporter Tess Ware at [tware@livingstondaily.com](mailto:tware@livingstondaily.com).



A rendering of the proposed future Urban Air Adventure Park in Hartland Township. PROVIDED BY HARTLAND TOWNSHIP DOCUMENTS

## Indoor adventure park plans are in discussion

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HARTLAND TWP. — Hartland Township may soon have a new spot for locals to jump on trampolines, play laser tag and climb walls, following a popular indoor adventure brand proposal on vacant land. The possible addition of the area's very own Urban Air Adventure Park was

discussed by the Hartland Township Planning Commission on July 10. The plan involves an approximately 38,400-square-foot-building with a variety of activities, including trampolines, climbing walls, laser tag and a zipline. The business would also have a full-service café and several room options available for parties and group events, according to the meeting packet. The project is proposed on two undeveloped parcels south of Fountain

Square and east of Hartland Town Center. The combined property is about six acres. The project's applicant is Nate Sumner, who seeks to open his first location with the company. Urban Air Adventure Park has about 200 other locations nationwide, he said, including spaces in Commerce Township, Oxford, Sterling Heights and Livonia. See URBAN AIR, Page 2A

## JROTC won't move forward at Brighton Area Schools

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After officials determined there wasn't enough student support to move forward with a Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps Program at Brighton Area Schools, commissioners were slated to discuss reallocating \$150,000 in funding. The Livingston County Board's Finance and Asset Management Committee was scheduled to consider a resolution reallocating the program's earmarked \$150,000 in funds through the American Rescue Plan Act to the Livingston County Fiber Project during a meeting July 14. The project is county-wide effort aimed at installing an expanded trunk line system, improving access potential for hundreds of residents. The reallocation would increase total funding of the fiber project to over \$12.7 million, according to meeting documents.

### What happened to JROTC?

The Livingston County Board approved a resolution in September 2023 providing funding for a Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps Program at BAS under certain conditions, one of which was required approval from one of the branches of the U.S. Armed Forces by Jan. 26, 2024. BAS was expected to pilot the county-wide program in 2024, but the program's start was pushed to 2025 following setbacks, including late approval from the U.S. Navy. The district also noted a lack of student interest in the program, noted during a school board meeting in April See JROTC, Page 2A

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