



NEWSLETTER

Growing the game of golf, one child at a time.

Our mission is to impact lives of young people by providing learning facilities and educational programs that promote character development and life-enhancing values through the game of golf. Using the game of golf as a tool, our goal is to teach youth the values of confidence, integrity, perseverance, sportsmanship, and teamwork.

Established in 2020, the Barry County Junior Golf Association has raised funds through donations from the community and the hard work of volunteers. To build on that success and to create perpetual support, we created an endowment fund with the Barry Community Foundation. Donations provided to the Barry County Jr. Golf Association will primarily support our Junior Golf League at The Legacy at Hastings and other youth golf programs in Barry County. We very much appreciate your support growing this entity. In that spirit, we are including a donation envelope. Please give what you can. We certainly appreciate all support from our community partners.

We could not accomplish our goals without the help of The Legacy at Hastings. The golf course has donated more than \$100,000.00 in greens fees, equipment, services, and driving range time to children who participate in our programs. In return, we hope you support The Legacy when you are choosing a place to golf or host a function. If you have questions or concerns about The Legacy, we encourage you to contact their General Manager, Grant Hansen at (269) 953-6038 or gm@legacyathastings.com.



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MEET THE BOARD

Nathan Tagg	President
Jake Welch	Vice President
Steven Storrs	Secretary
Danielle Storrs	Treasurer
Max Rappaport	Trustee
Jess Webb	Trustee
Stacey Graham	Trustee
Emily Edger	Trustee

MEET THE COACHES



Matt Townsley



Lynn Janson



Jock Hopkins

For the 2025 PGA Jr. season we were extremely fortunate to again have program founder and Michigan Golf Hall of Famer, Lynn Janson, back to lead the Junior Golf League at The Legacy at Hastings. Coaches Janson, Hopkins, and Townsley provided exceptional instruction to the children and taught them valuable lessons for life and the game of golf.

Due to the immense support from our donors, we were able to offer private lessons to each of the children who participated in the program. Coach Hopkins, Coach Townsley and Coach Janson agreed to provide individual lessons to all our Junior Golf League participants at a reduced rate, paid for entirely by our Foundation. We were able to provide more than 100 lessons to the children. The value of those lessons was invaluable.

Coach Janson, Coach Townsley and Coach Hopkins not only reduced their typical rate to make the lessons possible, but they also invested considerable time in our Junior Golf Program. Coach Janson and Coach Hopkins were there for each practice and match throughout the season and Coach Townsley spent considerable time heading up our virtual golf opportunities throughout the winter. We will miss Coach Janson as he heads to Florida to begin a new chapter. Thank you for everything you have done for our team and community!

Our 2025 season would not have been possible without the support of our team sponsors, Cedar Creek Machinists Training, TNR Machine, Inc., Kloosterman's Sports Tap, Edger Financial, Tripp, Tagg, & Storrs Attorneys at Law, and Hastings Fiberglass. We are very thankful for their financial support and investment in the youth of Barry County and Junior Golf League.



2025 ROSTERS

CCMT Patriots



Levi Bekker
Ryan Bekker
Willis Bronkema
Olive Day
Greyson DeVries
Ava Mead
Greyson Rambin

Dawson Tagg
Hudson Tagg
Tyson Tagg
Davis Wattles
Willis Welch
Dutch Workman

Hastings Hotsticks



Archer Goron
Keaton Graham
Dominic Hughes
James Janson
George Martin
Grant Martin
Graham Matteson

Bryson Shepard
Haven Slaughter
Mason Slaughter
Grey Smith
Kyle Taylor
Brody Witt

Edger Eagles



Leo Barber
Carly Darragh
Graham Darragh
Cora Edger
Liam Edger
Brezlin Honsberger
Irelyn Hurless

Kellen Jansens
Elyana Pohja
Sophie Pohja
Louis Webb
Luke Webb
Tony Sue

Sports Tap Scorpions



Landon Bowman
Levi Bowman
Brycen Finkbeiner
Mason Finkbeiner
Eli Newth
Flynn O'Connor
Jackson Storrs

Stella Storrs
Will Storrs
Lyla Tietz
Nolan VanderVeen
Colton VanderVeen
Colin VanEyck

The feedback received from participants, parents and volunteers was clear, the 2025 Junior Golf League was a success! This summer we implemented a number of changes to make the league more enjoyable for participants, parents, and coaches. The final regular league standings were as follows:

Edger Eagles	36.0 points
Hastings Hotsticks	35.5 points
Kloosterman's Sports Tap Scorpions	33.5 points
CCMT Patriots	27.0 points

The first round of playoffs produced two upsets! The CCMT Patriots defeated Edger Eagles and Kloosterman's Sports Tap Scorpions defeated Hastings Hotsticks. In the second round of playoffs the Kloosterman's Sports Tap Scorpions defeated the CCMT Patriots to be crowned the 2025 Champions. The Edger Eagles defeated the Hastings Hotsticks to claim third place.

Ladies Professional Golf Association

June 12th - June 15th



The Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) is an organization for female golfers founded in 1950. It is best known for running the LPGA Tour, a series of weekly golf tournaments for elite women professional golfers from all around the world. The LPGA is one of the longest-running women's professional sports associations in the world.

Due to Coach Janson's connections and our amazing donors, we were able to take our Junior Golf League members to watch the Meijer LPGA Classic on June 13th, 2025! A field of 144 of the world's top women golfers competed, with Carlota Ciganda taking the win and earning a \$450,000 prize. The Meijer LPGA Classic 'field trip' was a big hit for our junior golfers!

It was a beautiful day to spectate while spending time with family and friends. LPGA tour member, Dani Holmqvist, even joined the group for a picture!

Remembering our 2024 PGA Jr. League Champions: Tripp, Tagg, and Storrs

**Olive Day
Keaton Graham
Kellen Jansens
Ainslee Mattice
Millie Mattice
Jackson Storrs
Stella Storrs**



**Will Storrs
Dawson Tagg
Hudson Tagg
Tyson Tagg
Nolan VanderVeen
Colin VanEyck**

PGA Jr. ALL STARS

Dawson Tagg & Jackson Storrs



Luke Webb & Bryson Shephard



Hudson Tagg & Sophie Pohja



Will Storrs & Liam Edger



Leo Barber & Graham Matteson



Elyana Pohja & Cora Edger



Brycen Finkbeiner & Tyson Tagg



Landon Bowman & Flynn O'Connor



Thanks to the dedication and hard work of our players and coaches, our PGA Jr. League proudly qualified two All-Star teams to compete in the PGA Jr. League National Championship Tournament. This year's regional event was hosted at Binder Park Golf Course in Battle Creek, a course that brought both challenges and opportunities for our players.

Both of our teams played their hearts out and the team of Dawson Tagg, Jackson Storrs, Luke Webb, Bryson Shepard, Hudson Tagg, Sophie Pohja, Will Storrs, and Liam Edger played well enough to advance to the second round of the tournament! They were led by a round of 33, three under par, posted by Dawson Tagg and Jackson Storrs. That round ended up being the best round posted in the event for the entire weekend!

The team fought hard the second day and finished 6th overall in the State of Michigan, the best finish our program has ever posted.

We are so incredibly proud of all of the kids who participated. They made Barry County proud! We received several compliments about our children's playing ability and, more importantly, their positive attitude and the way they represented our program. The kids had an incredible time competing, growing their skills, and building memories that will last well beyond this season.



2024 PROGRAM OF THE YEAR

What started as a small effort to introduce kids to golf over a decade ago has grown into a thriving, year-round junior golf initiative at The Legacy, earning recognition as the 2024 Michigan PGA Junior Program of the Year!!

Thanks to thousands of volunteer hours, generous donations, and dedicated parents and children, our junior program has flourished, with resources dedicated to scholarships, equipment, instruction, and junior golf events. Participation has soared, with over 100 junior golfers involved, supported by nearly 20 dedicated volunteers and 10 assistant coaches. The impact extends far beyond the course—kids are earning college scholarships, competing in high school and junior tournaments, and even returning as members at The Legacy at Hastings, strengthening the future of the game in Barry County.

The success of our program has not only revitalized junior golf in the community but has also contributed to the overall growth of The Legacy. Families have joined the club because their children fell in love with golf, and community support has been overwhelming, leading to the construction of a \$500,000 simulator facility dedicated to junior golf.

From a struggling club with no junior program to a vibrant hub for young golfers, our foundation's vision and dedication have transformed the Barry County Junior Golf Association into a leader in junior golf development. Coach Janson's commitment, along with the support of the Michigan PGA, has been vital and helped create something truly special—an inspiring program that is growing the game and shaping the next generation of golfers.



2024 Junior Program of the Year Winner Lynn Janson, PGA

What began as a small initiative by PGA Professional Lynn Janson over a decade ago has grown into a successful, year-round junior golf program at The Legacy, earning the 2024 Michigan PGA Junior Program of the Year award. The program includes a PGA Jr. League with 52 kids, the Legacy Jr. Golf Program, and a partnership with the YMCA of Barry County. Thanks to grant funding, the program has flourished, with 107 junior golfers, 20 volunteers, and 10 assistant coaches. It has helped kids earn college scholarships, compete in tournaments, and return as club members, strengthening the future of the game. The program's success has also boosted The Legacy, contributing to the construction of a \$500,000 simulator facility.

Lynn Janson's vision, along with the Michigan PGA's support, has transformed The Legacy into a leader in junior golf development, growing the game and shaping future golfers.

Fundraising

The 2025 Lynn Janson Pro Am is our largest fundraiser of the year and this year's event was a smashing success. We were very fortunate to draw 21 professionals to The Legacy at Hastings to participate in the fundraiser. We would also like to acknowledge Lynn Janson, Grant Hansen, General Manager at The Legacy at Hastings, Jeff Storrs, and Maddie Copeland for all the effort they put into the Pro Am.

The 2025 Lynn Janson Pro Am was held on August 29, 2025, at The Legacy at Hastings. The 2025 Champion was Mr. Cairns who shot an exceptional round of 68 to leave with the winning prize purse. The team led by PGA Professional Joseph Hatch, including one of our PGA Jr. League Alumni, Will Jensen, took home the low gross prize with a 130 (-14). The team led by PGA Professional Jeff Bronkema, which included Eagle sponsor, Robert Fisher, won the low net division with a 130 (-14). Many of the professionals who attended the event have already agreed to return next summer, on September 4th, 2026 to support the Barry County Junior Golf Association.



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Awards Ceremony

Best Attitude

Grey Smith
Stella Storrs
Olive Day
Cora Edger



Most Improved

Graham Matteson
Flynn O'Connor
Tyson Tagg
Elyana Pohja



Hardest Workers

Bryson Shepard
Eli Newth
Hudson Tagg
Liam Edger



Rookies of the Year

Archer Goron
Will Bronkema
Colton VanderVeen
Brezlin Honsberger



Dedication Award Winners

Keaton Graham	Stella Storrs	Carly Darragh
Bryson Shepard	Will Storrs	Liam Edger
Kyle Taylor	Lyla Tietz	Brezlin Honsberger
Landon Bowman	Nolan VanderVeen	Irelyn Hurless
Levi Bowman	Colton VanderVeen	Kellen Jansens
Brycen Finkbeiner	Olive Day	Elyana Pohja
Mason Finkbeiner	Dawson Tagg	Sophie Pohja
Eli Newth	Hudson Tagg	Louis Webb
Flynn O'Connor	Tyson Tagg	Luke Webb
Jackson Storrs	Dutch Workman	Tony Sue



Most Flags Won for the Team

Grey Smith
Jackson Storrs
Luke Webb
Tyson Tagg





Program Graduates



After years of dedication, practice, and growth, the BCJGA Junior Golf League proudly celebrated the graduation of 10 of their players in 2025. Through the program, they developed not only their skills on the course—learning the fundamentals of the game, proper etiquette, and sportsmanship—but also confidence, discipline, and a love for the sport. The awards ceremony marked a meaningful milestone, recognizing their hard work and commitment. As they received their certificates and reflected on how far they had come, it was clear that this experience had left a lasting impact both on and off the green.



Ava Mead started in 2023 at the age of 11

Bryson Shepard started in 2024 at the age of 12

Davis Wattles started in 2022 at the age of 10

Grant Martin started in 2022 at the age of 10

Hudson Tagg started in 2019 at the age of 7



Jackson Storrs started in 2020 at the age of 8

James Janson started in 2021 at the age of 9

Luke Webb started in 2021 at the age of 9

Sophie Pohja started in 2021 at the age of 9

Willis Welch started in 2021 at the age of 9



Alumni Spotlight

Daniel Jensen



Meet Daniel Jensen, a 17-year-old senior who played in the BCJGA league for five years, graduating from our program in 2021. Daniel's exceptional play allowed him to qualify for the MHSAA State Golf Finals at Bedford Valley!

He was introduced to the game by his brother and dad. He credits the Barry County Junior Golf Association with helping him build lasting friendships and learn the value of teamwork. One of Daniel's biggest early challenges was managing his attitude after a bad shot, but over time, he learned to stay calm and view mistakes as just part of the game.

A standout moment for him was making it to the PGA Jr. League State Finals at Forest Akers during his final year in the league, a memory that marked a high point in his junior golf journey. Influential figures like Lynn Janson and his dad not only taught him the rules and etiquette of golf but also helped refine his swing. Daniel thrives in high-level competition, enjoying events like the Callaway Meijer Tour where he can test his skills against top ranked players.

His must-have gear? A bucket hat, for those hot, sunny days on the course. Looking ahead, Daniel hopes to qualify for state finals again in his senior year and continue his golf journey at the collegiate level.





Lynn Janson



July 30, 2025

Dear PGA JR LEAGUE Parents and Friends,

I've been the Captain and Leader of our PGA JR LEAGUE program for the last twelve years and it's been a truly rewarding experience for me and hopefully for all those who have been involved with the program as well. This is an emotional and tough decision but I must announce that this is my final year with the program here at The Legacy. The inevitable consequences of age, the desire for more family time as well as certain health issues have led to this decision.

I'm proud of the good things that have taken place over the years and I'm extremely grateful to The Legacy at Hastings for the sacrifices and generosity of the many people that were necessary for a successful program like this one. I feel like The Barry County Junior Golf Association is in a good position and that the future of golf here at The Legacy looks bright.

My last official event will be The Lynn Janson Pro-Am on August 29. Norma and my plans aren't solidified just yet but we will likely land in Florida near PGA Golf Club where we are familiar with the area, have many friends and great golf. We hope to be back in the West Michigan area near family during the summer months.

Again, this has been a difficult time as I feel I've been sort of a grandfather figure as well as golf pro to many of our junior golfers. I am confident however that our kids will continue to play and thrive with their golf games over the coming years. It has been a delightful honor to serve the Hastings community junior golfers for these many years.

Truly,

Lynn Janson, PGA Professional



Tom Watson

A Legacy of Hard Work, Heart, and Community



We lost Tom Watson this year. He was a founding board member of the Barry County Junior Golf Association and will forever be remembered for his hard work, generosity, and dedication to his community and our program.

Tom pursued his education at Kellogg Community College, where he studied tool and die. While completing his coursework, he gained hands-on experience working at Fort Custer Tool & Die in Battle Creek. After earning his Journeyman license, Tom founded TNR Machine Inc. in the garage of his home. As the business quickly grew, it relocated to its current location in Dowling, where Tom's brother Ron joined him as a partner.



Tom's passion for his craft extended beyond his own success. He was instrumental in building a partnership with Hastings Area Schools to spark interest in the tool and die industry among local youth. Through this program, students gained valuable workplace experience, helping prepare the next generation of skilled tradespeople. He later founded Cedar Creek Machinist Training School (CCMT), where he served as the primary instructor. CCMT gave countless young adults the opportunity to learn a skilled trade and empowering them. Tom received multiple awards for his work with CCMT, including a Certificate of Recognition from the United States Senate. Yet, you would never hear Tom talk about his awards. His pride came from the impact CCMT had on young adults, the lives it changed, and the employees it created for local businesses.



Tom was also part owner of The Legacy at Hastings and loved every aspect of the golf course. He truly enjoyed being there, socializing with members, helping maintain the grounds, and watching others enjoy the game he loved. The name "The Legacy" was chosen by Tom and the rest of the ownership team as a reflection of their mission: to preserve the course for future generations as an act of community service. Tom's contributions to the course were immeasurable. He donated thousands of hours, including constructing several forward (red) tees almost entirely on his own. Even though he didn't play from them, he built them to encourage more women and children to enjoy the game. He was also heavily involved in starting, growing, and supporting The Legacy's youth golf programs, even sponsoring his own PGA Jr. League team.



Tom also served on our board for the first five years of our organization's existence, pouring his heart into helping us succeed. He loved youth golf and gave his time, energy, and generosity to help grow the game. At The Legacy, Tom was affectionately known as "Tommy Two Club" because he always seemed to birdie at least one Par 3 every round. He will also be forever remembered for helping start the Watson Cup, an annual Ryder Cup-style event held each fall, a member favorite that continues to bring players together.

After courageously battling cancer, Tom passed away in April 2025. Much of what Tom did in life—and especially at The Legacy—was for others. Those who knew him best will tell you he was always positive, helpful, and selfless.

October 17, 1964

April 23, 2025

We are so thankful for "Mr. Watson" and all he did for our program, The Legacy, and Barry County. Rest in peace, *Tommy Two Club*. Your "Legacy" is secure, you will not be forgotten.

Dave Kendall

January 4, 1955 --- September 15, 2025

Dave Kendall, one of Coach Janson's closest friends, and one of Michigan's most respected golf professionals, teachers, mentors, and supporter of the Barry County Junior Golf Association, passed away this year at 70 after a courageous battle with cancer. His impact on the game and on the countless lives he touched, is immeasurable.

A Jackson native, Dave began playing golf as a teenager and went on to build a remarkable career as both a player and instructor. After graduating from Ferris State University's Professional Golf Management program, he served as head professional at Cadillac Country Club for 17 years before founding The Kendall Academy at Miles of Golf in 1997. Known for his thoughtful, story filled lessons, Dave didn't just teach golf swings, he taught life lessons about patience, humility, and perseverance.

Over the years, Dave's influence spread across Michigan golf. He twice earned Michigan PGA Professional of the Year and Teacher of the Year honors, served as Michigan Section PGA President, and was inducted into the Jackson Golf Hall of Fame (2011), Michigan PGA Hall of Fame (2013), and Michigan Golf Hall of Fame (2015). His students, from beginners to accomplished professionals, often said he made them not just better golfers, but better people.

An accomplished competitor, Dave's playing career included two Michigan Senior Open titles, a Michigan Senior PGA Championship, 12 holes-in-one, and even shooting his age, 70, at the 2024 Michigan PGA Senior Open. But he took the greatest pride in the success of his students, including professionals like Matt Harmon and Patrick Wilkes-Krier, who credited Dave as a mentor and inspiration.

After being diagnosed with stage-4 esophageal cancer in 2024, Dave faced his illness with grace and optimism, finding strength in the game he loved. Despite grim odds, he returned to the golf course, playing nearly every day with his wife, Karen, and friends at Washtenaw Golf Club, where he was a co-owner. This past summer, he made his 12th hole-in-one on hole 12, 52 years after his first, a fitting symbol of his enduring love for the game.

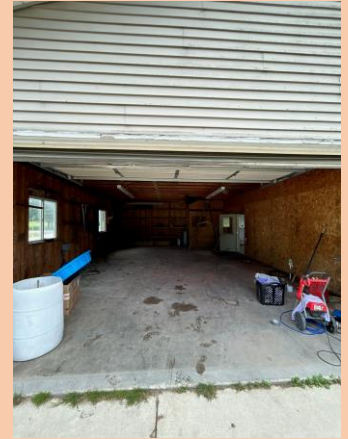
Earlier this year, Dave received the Golf Association of Michigan's Distinguished Service Award, the organization's highest honor. In his emotional acceptance speech, he reflected on lessons learned through golf and life: "There are no undefeated seasons. Improving is also winning. We all make mistakes. Not learning from them is losing."

Dave's humility, kindness, and selflessness defined him. He inspired others through both his words and example, always choosing gratitude over complaint and joy over fear. A teacher, competitor, mentor, and friend, Dave Kendall leaves behind a legacy that reaches far beyond the fairways. He made the world, and everyone in it, a little better, one lesson, one laugh, and one kind word at a time.



BCJGA Training Facility

Before



After many years of dreaming, planning, fundraising, including a successful \$500,000.00 capital campaign in 2024, and lots and lots of work and volunteer hours, we opened the Barry County Junior Golf Training Facility in January 2025. The building is a state-of-the-art facility to provide golf instruction year-round and further our mission to provide children the opportunity to fall in love with the game of golf. We could not be more proud of the building or more excited about what it means for the future of youth golf in our area.

We are so thankful for all the donors, volunteers, contractors, board members, and to the ownership and staff, of The Legacy at Hastings for making this happen.

Special thanks to Larry and Earlene Baum, David and Susie Baum, the DeCamp Family, and Maggie Coleman, for their financial support and belief in the project. We are also thankful for the Barry Community Foundation and Bonnie Gettys for teaching us how to raise funds and spread our message.

Finally, a huge thank you to Mr. Jim Peterson, our general contractor for all the hours he donated to this project as well as our board member and project manager, Jacob Welch, for all their hard work, dedication, and time to make our virtual golf training facility possible!

After



2025 Season

The Barry County Junior Golf Foundation, with support from The Legacy, added to the fun by providing sweet treats and snacks at the end of each golf match and practice. While we know the kids enjoyed golfing, we suspect many looked forward just as much to the snacks, treats, and time spent with their friends after matches!

Thanks to donated funds, the Foundation was also able to host league parties at the beginning and end of the year. These events took place at the Barry County Junior Golf Association Foundation Building and featured a massive blow-up slide purchased specifically for the PGA Jr. program, along with numerous other golf related, child focused games. While not directly tied to golf, attractions like the slide, treats, and snacks made the children even more excited to come to the course and participate.

Watching children on the golf course is a joy. Each swing, putt, and laugh tells a story of growth and excitement. As they learn the fundamentals of the game, they're not just improving their skills, they're also discovering patience, focus, and sportsmanship. Every round becomes an adventure, filled with small triumphs, encouragement from friends, and the simple joy of being outdoors. These experiences go beyond golf, creating lasting memories that children carry with them for years, shaping their confidence, friendships, and lifelong love for the game.



2025 Season

