THE SUN AND NEWS
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YOUNG TK BOWLING TEAMS STAYING POSITIVE, IMPROVING
PAGE 6 & 7

NO. 42 SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2025 www.sunandnews.com

Cal Schools going to the polls in May for non-homestead operating millage increase

Molly Macleod
Editor

Voters in the Caledonia Community Schools district will head to the polls in May to decide on a .5-mill non-homestead operating millage increase. Should the non-homestead millage be approved, the agreement will expire at the end of 2030.

The district's current operating millage is set to expire at the end of the year. The operating millage is a non-homestead tax, meaning mills will only be levied against secondary residences or business properties. Taxpayers' primary homes are exempt from the tax.

Superintendent Dirk Weeldreyer explained the operating millage affects the district's foundation allowance. This year, over $48 million is coming in through Cal Schools' foundation allowance, roughly 68 percent of the district's total revenues.

Weeldreyer said foundation allowance funds are a blend of local and state money. A large chunk — over $16 million — of that $48 million is generated by the current, 18-mill non-homestead millage.

Compared to the rest of the Kent Intermediate School District, only two districts generate more money from local taxes than Caledonia Community Schools: Kenowa Hills Public Schools and Grand Rapids Public Schools.

Weeldreyer explained that the district must renew the operating millage at 18 mills in order to receive its full foundation allowance funding. Should the millage expire at the end of the year and not be renewed, the district would no longer be able to levy its local tax dollars.

Board members also

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Middleville Downtown Development Authority Chairwoman Kim Jachim stepped down from her position this week after serving on the board since 2019. **Photo provided**

Middleville DDA forms new committees; chair steps down

Jayson Bussa
Contributing Writer

The Middleville Downtown Development Authority plans to form and utilize four different committees to more effectively conduct its business moving forward.

During the DDA board meeting Tuesday, Feb. 4, the eight-person group voted unanimously to establish the quartet of committees in order to form specializations amongst its members, who will look closely at specific facets of the DDA's work.

The four proposed committees include:

Economic vitality – Focused on strengthening the commercial district, market analysis, business support, infill development and adaptive reuse of commercial space;

Design – Focused on enhancing the physical appearance of the development district, promoting maintenance and overseeing design review for historic preservation and rehabilitation projects;

Organization – To encourage stakeholder engagement, mobilization and shared vision for the future of the development district; and

Promotion – Tasked with generating interest in shopping, dining, living and investing in the development district.

"The committees will play a critical role in the implementation of the DDA's strategic initiatives and ongoing development efforts," Doug Powers, director of community and economic development, wrote in a memo to the DDA board.

No members have yet been appointed to the committees.

Also, members agreed for the DDA to help the village cover some of the costs associated with replacing the display on the village's digital sign. Though, first they wanted one of the newly-established committees to take a close look at it before determining how much.

The electronic sign is positioned at the intersection of Main Street and M-37. While it is operable, as of September of last year, village administrators have not been able to update the sign's messaging due to its existing radios no longer working and the internal components being beyond their useful life.

The sign was originally installed in 2012 from funds put forth by the DDA.

Last week, the village council voted to replace the LED display for an amount not exceeding $20,000.

A quote for the work from Grand Rapids-based Postema Signs included $17,985 for materials and components and $1,465 for the installation work.

The DDA has used the sign to promote various local events and agreed to foot some of the bill. Village officials stated they will move forward with replacing the sign this spring, regardless of what DDA decides.

DDA board member Joe Mancini made a motion to split the cost 50-50, but the board was also split with a 4-4 vote. He then proposed

See **DDA** on 7

Caledonia choir hits high notes at recent competitions

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

Members of the Caledonia High School Choir program have been making some noise lately.

Seven of the CHS singers were recently selected to the Michigan All-State Choir, according to choir director Kara Stevens.

"These students have made it to the very top level of this program by progressing through the regional and state honors choir and now represent CHS in a choir of 80 of the best singers in the state of Michigan," Stevens said in an email.

Caledonia choir members Cerys Smith, Susanna Vire, Ayden Taylor, Dalton Ed, Christian Moorlag, Landon Fleming and Christina Waldmiller will take their talents and perform at the MSVMA All-State Festival in May.

If that wasn't enough to brag about, 41 students in the CHS choir program recently participated in the District Solo and Ensemble Festival on Saturday, Feb. 1.

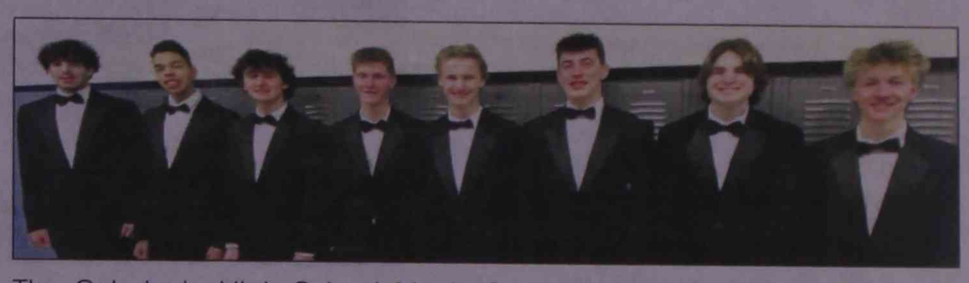
According to Stevens, the CHS program also sent two ensembles, chamber singers and men's octet, both of which received perfect scores.

Those participating included: Nathen Cox, Nicholas Amorose*, Addison Cook*, Alister Brew*, Christian Moorlag*, Tayla Bell*, Meghan Ruthven*, Lauren Parker, Liz Hilton*, Alexis Saidoo*, Nola Pearson*, Landon Fleming*, Kylee Zimmerer*, Evelynn Slomp*, Ayden Taylor*, Katelyn Ferris*, Sophia Price*, Susanna Vire*, Stella Barnwell*, Zahara Muriithi*, Lydia Shoesmith*, Connor Parlin*, Emma Kellogg*, Savannah Robinson*, Audrey Scott*, Allison Malone*, Maggie Koopman*, Tiona Sakala*, Gabrielle Linker*, Made Mai*, Ellie Melano, Dalton Ed*, Caralyn Price, Rian Restau*, Claire James, Christina Waldmiller*, Derick Prichard*, Kort Thompson*, Luke Smith*, Cody Winters* and Malachi Hanson*.

(*) Denotes students who qualified for the state festival.



Caledonia High School Choir members (l-r) Cerys Smith, Susanna Vire, Ayden Taylor, Dalton Ed, Christian Moorlag, Landon Fleming and Christina Waldmiller will take their talents and perform at the MSVMA All-State Festival in May. **Courtesy photos**



The Caledonia High School Men's Octet, pictured here, along with the Chamber Singers, earned perfect scores at the recent District Solo and Ensemble Festival.

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Caledonia Community Schools
has posted an RFP for
Asbestos Abatement Services
All RFP information can be found on the district website:
https://www.calschools.org/bond/

GFWC urges high school seniors to apply for scholarships

The General Federation of Women's Clubs - Gun Lake Area Women's Club is urging local high school seniors to beat upcoming deadlines and apply for various scholarship awards.

The GLWC is offering two, $500 scholarships to seniors Delton Kellogg, Martin, Thornapple Kellogg and Wayland Union school districts.

The Gun Lake organization is also set to award a $2,000 Premier Scholarship for one senior in each of the previous districts.

Interested individuals should visit the Barry Community Foundation's website, Barrycf.org, to fill out an application to be considered for the scholarships. The deadline for applications is Thursday, Feb. 20. — *DM*

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Housing development near new Dutton School breaking ground soon

Molly Macleod
Editor

Crews will soon begin moving dirt on the site of a new, 44-unit housing development on 30 acres along Patterson Avenue, just south of 76th Street in Caledonia. The Dutton Preserve planned unit development will be located just south of the nearby new Dutton Elementary School which is set to open this fall.

The Caledonia Township Board on Dec. 4 gave final approval to two separate rezoning requests and a site condominium plan, giving JTB Homes LLC and Interra Homes the final OKs before breaking ground.

"Our development will connect to the township trail network and route through the school," said Jeff Hainer, land acquisition manager at JTB Homes. "We feel this project has great synergies with the school, and we have been working closely with them throughout the process."

JTB Homes purchased the 30-acre property from Caledonia Community Schools.

The homes will be clustered in such a way to allow 12.5 acres of the site to be maintained as open space in perpetuity. Each of the lots will have a minimum size of 10,000 square feet and a minimum width of 75 feet, according to township documents.

In addition, a 30-foot-wide access easement will be provided on the west side of the property, between two lots, that will connect to the neighboring Dutton School site so it can be used as a walking path for children going to and from the school. An 8-foot-wide shared use pathway will be also built along the length of the development along Patterson and connecting to the school property. The pathway along Patterson was required by the township as a condition of extending sanitary sewer to serve the development, according to township documents.

In addition, the township also required JTB to build 5-foot-wide sidewalks on both sides of the street within the development and plant two staggered rows of evergreen trees as a buffer between the development and Patterson Avenue. Despite an earlier request by JTB to allow parking on one side of the street, no on-street parking will be permitted in the development, according to township documents.

Staff Writer Greg Chandler contributed to this report.

MILLAGE

Continued from Page 1

considered statutory reductions to the non-homestead millage that can occur during the five-year agreement. The Headlee rollback reduces millage rates when property values increase faster than the rate of inflation.

"In 2018-19, that situation happened to us. Our overall property values increased by greater than the rate of inflation, so our mills, our 18 mills, were reduced by .1548 (mills), and that lost about $71,300 in revenue there in 2018-19," said Weeldreyer.

The next year, he said, it happened again. The total Headlee reductions between 2018-19 and 2019-20 added up to .3609 mills. Caledonia Schools ended up missing out on $186,200 in revenues.

"That's real money," Weeldreyer said.

When the district's operating millage was set to expire at the end of 2020, Weeldreyer said, the board went to the polls with a renewal of the standard 18 mills, plus an increase of 1.8 mills to cushion reductions made from the Headlee rollback. That millage is now at the end of its life.

"There has been a millage reduction for Caledonia Schools in six out of the last seven years because of our growth," Weeldreyer said.

Weeldreyer shared his projections for the next five years, expecting Headlee rollbacks — especially in the later years of the millage agreement. He said the .5-mill increase should act as a sufficient cushion for the district in the event of rollbacks.

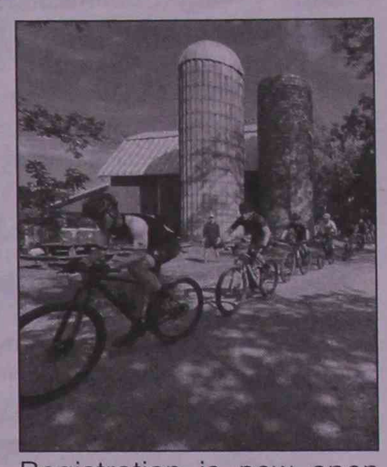
The district must levy 18 mills to receive its full foundation allowance, but cannot exceed that amount, Weeldreyer reminded the board. The .5-mill increase comes into play in the event of a tax rollback.

Board members unanimously agreed to the increase last week, with the non-homestead millage request to appear on the May 2025 ballot.



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Registration opens for fall bicycle race



Registration is now open for the 2025 Lord of the Springs mountain bike races in Yankee Springs.

The eighth annual Lord of the Springs mountain bike races are still months away. But, before cycling racers and enthusiasts hit the trails, they need to register for the Sept. 6 event.

Registration is now open for the 2025 mountain bike event that includes races of 37 or 19 miles on the Yankee singletrack and Barry County gravel and two-track trails. There is a 10-mile gravel-only course, as well.

And, for younger participants, there's a kids "race" that's free for children 12 and under. Kids will do a short loop in the field at the start/finish as many times as they can in 10 minutes.

All activities begin and end at YMCA Camp Manitou-Lin, a few miles north of the top-ranked Yankee Springs bike trails, on Briggs Road southwest of Middleville.

Registration fees and other race details are posted online on the event's website at lordofthesprings.com.

— *DM*

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Commissioners debate spraying as county spongy moth population could soon see die-off

Molly Macleod
Editor

Barry County Commissioners will decide in the coming months if aerial spraying is needed this spring to combat spongy moth infestations around the county. Representatives from the Barry Conservation District spoke on spongy moth population trends in Barry County at last week's Barry County Board of Commissioners meeting.

New Barry CD Executive Director Danielle Zoellner introduced herself to the board last week before handing off the presentation to District Forester Ben Savoie, who, along with seasonal staff, has been studying spongy moth populations in various locations around the county.

Savoie explained that Barry County's "favorite critter," the spongy moth, is an invasive species introduced in the 1800s as a failed silkworm experiment. The moths quickly spread across the United States.

"We have done a study based on your (the commissioners') request to figure out what the damages are going to be to Barry County for the coming years," Savoie said.

While spongy moths can feed off a number of different host trees, Savoie said the caterpillars prefer to feed on oak trees — a resource Barry County is flush with.

"They appear in early May and feed throughout June and July, which is what most people notice," Savoie said. "They eat all of the leaves on the trees and leave their waste everywhere. The adults themselves don't feed, but they lay a lot of eggs, which perpetuates the problem into the next year."

Spongy moths operate on a five- to seven-year outbreak cycle, he explained. The population builds slowly, growing each year before a massive die-off once the population hits its ceiling. A disease that only infects spongy moths helps speed up the die-off process.

If commissioners decide to go for an aerial treatment to combat the spongy moths, application would occur in the spring to affect the caterpillars as they feed.



Dr. Greg Dwyer, an ecology and evolution professor at the University of Chicago, is teaming up with the Barry Conservation District performing his own research on spongy moth populations in Barry County and the presence of a deadly disease to spongy moths. **Photo by Molly Macleod**

Savoie said the conservation district is working with a local scientist to see how present the fatal spongy moth disease is in Barry County populations. This could negate the need for any insecticide treatment.

Dr. Greg Dwyer, an ecology and evolution professor at the University of Chicago, owns property on one of southwest Barry County's many lakes. He saw Barry County's spongy moth infestation firsthand — and took it upon himself to study it. He has been working with Barry CD, studying the spongy moth population in Barry County.

"I own 8-and-a-half acres with my wife on Little Cedar Lake, and a big chunk of that is forested. The spongy moths have been attacking madly — so I sort of have some skin in the game," said Dwyer.

Though he acknowledged there is room for error in these results, Dwyer found 99 percent of the caterpillars he sampled that died were infected with the fatal spongy moth disease. He is hopeful that a die-off could soon hit the county's spongy moth population.

Dwyer said he has access to National Science Foundation funding through the university to help fund his ongoing research in Barry County. He should know by mid-March how present the disease is in Barry County spongy moths — and whether an aerial treatment should be needed.

As for now, the Barry Conservation District is expecting a lower spongy moth population this year than last, with peak numbers in the first few weeks of May. Should spraying be desired, Savoie said it may be wise to apply the treatment to isolated pockets of the county with high infestation rates — mainly in the Delton, Hope Township and Barry Township areas.



A spongy moth caterpillar is seen munching on an oak leaf. **Photo provided**

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Scots take down Falcons with 11 guys scoring

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Scots got their first win since Jan. 10 by knocking off West Catholic 60-44 in a non-conference ballgame at Caledonia High School Tuesday.

The Caledonia varsity boys' basketball team was set to go for two in a row back at it in the OK Green Conference Friday at Jenison.

Senior Parker Little had a team-high 14 points to go with three rebounds and four steals in the win for the Scots. Bryce Backus had ten points five rebounds four assists and two steals.

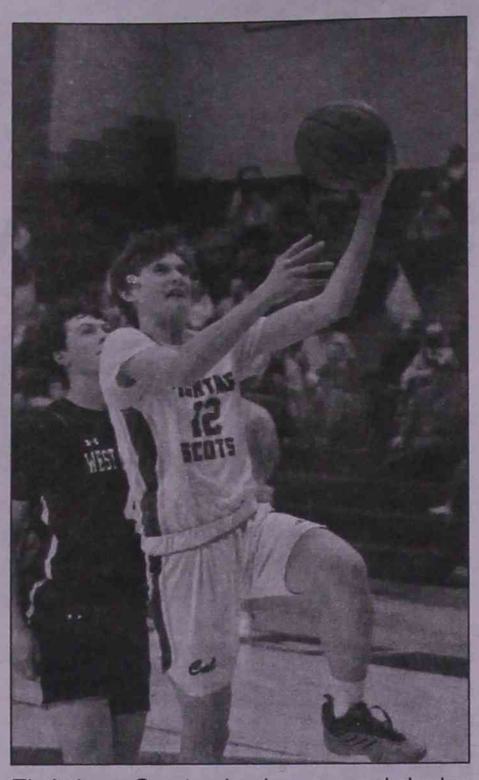
Caledonia had 11 different players score. Senior Ralph Emesum chipped in eight points and five rebounds and Jarell Jefferson added nine points.

The win moved the Scots to 5-12 overall this season. They were 1-5 in the OK Green heading into last night's contest in Jenison.

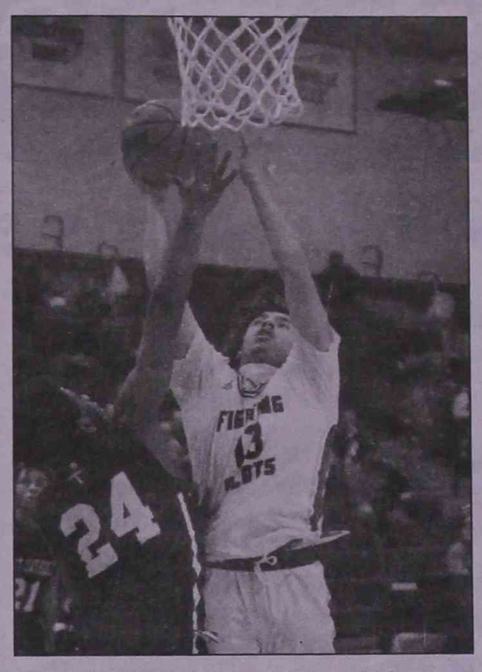
The Scots fell to visiting Reeths-Puffer last Friday, Jan. 31, 49-45.

Little had 14 points and Backus 13 in the loss to the Rockets. Backus had a team-high eight rebounds to go with two assists and two steals. Ben Geerdes chipped in eight points and seven rebounds.

The Scots will be home to face OK Green foes Muskegon Tuesday and Byron Center Friday in the week ahead. Muskegon is currently 14-2 overall and 6-0 in the OK Green and the Bulldogs are right behind at 5-1 in the conference and 13-5 overall.



Fighting Scots junior guard Luke Witvoet (12) races to the rim past West Catholic senior guard Jack Holt (4) for a transition layup in the first half. Tuesday at Caledonia High School. **Photo by Perry Hardin**



The Fighting Scots' Malachi Hanson (13) elevates in the paint over West Catholic Falcon Jael Djouguem (24) during second half Tuesday at Caledonia High Schools. **Photo by Perry Hardin.**

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CHS girls get fifth Green win in six tries

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Fighting Scots held their spot tied atop the OK Green Conference with Mona Shores by outscoring visiting Reeths-Puffer 51-27 last Friday.

Both the Scots and Sailors went into this weekend's action with 5-1 records in the OK Green. The Scots were set to visit Jenison Friday. They'll return to conference play in the week ahead with ballgames at Muskegon Tuesday and Byron Center Friday.

The Scots were 11-4 overall heading into that match-up with Jenison after a 44-20 loss to former OK Red Conference foe Grand Haven at home on Monday night, Feb. 3.

Village of Middleville COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the January 14, 2025 Regular Council Meeting, that were approved on January 28, 2025, are posted at the Village Hall at 100 E Main Street and on the website at www.villageofmiddleville.org.

Sporting News

Young TK bowling teams staying positive, improving

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Unity Christian girls kept their hold on the OK Gold Conference lead with a 17-13 win over the Thornapple Kellogg varsity girls' bowling team at Hastings Bowl Monday afternoon.

The Unity Christian girls improved to 11-1 in OK Gold Conference duals with the win, but the Thornapple Kellogg girls made them work for their points.

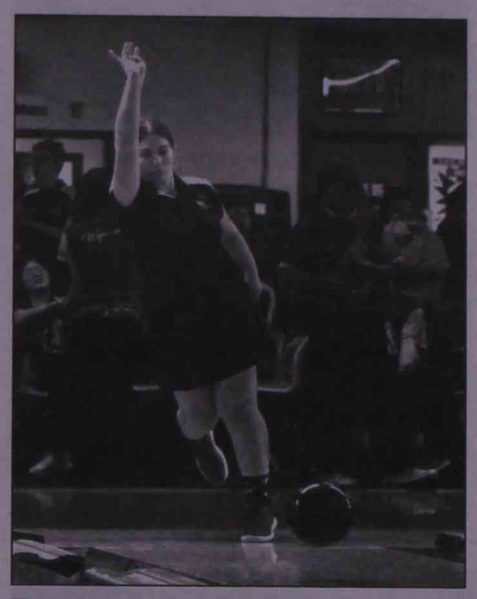
The Trojan teams are in a bit of a growth period at the moment without a single senior on the roster. A handful of returnees are leading the way for the TK girls' and boys' teams while some youngsters new to the sport work on honing their skills and gaining experience here and there.

"Things have been going pretty good," Thornapple Kellogg head coach Cheryl Cooper said. "We have a lot of new kids out this year. I think I have five new boys and four new girls, so that is really good. I love that we have that interest coming back again for it. The kids are improving. We have a lot of first time bowlers coming out. Some of the kids that have come back from last year are getting a lot better. They put in some practice time over the summer and you can see that."

She said a number of her varsity bowlers, and some competitors from area schools got together for a youth/adult league at Hastings Bowl in the fall, which took a pause during the high school season and will start back up again in the spring.

The group of returning girls leading the way for the Trojan team includes Jenna Robinett, Casey Phillips, Aubrie Hooten and Kenzie Hoogterp.

Coach Cooper said Phillips had a good start to the afternoon Monday in the Baker games, lost her mark a bit in the first individual game but then recalibrated to throw a really good second game.



Thornapple Kellogg's Jenna Robinett flings her ball down the lane during her team's OK Gold Conference win over Wyoming at Hastings Bowl Tuesday. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

The Trojan team won both Baker games on the day with scores of 163 and 134 beating out the Crusaders' 86 and 111.

Hoogterp and Robinett were pretty consistent Monday, and Robinett stood out with a couple of games in the 160s, a 167 and a 163. She earned a team point with the 163 in the second individual game. TK also got team points from a 131 by Hoogterp in game two and a 115 from Hooten in game one.

Phillips didn't pick up a team point but had solid games of 118 and 147.

The Crusaders outscored the TK ladies 727-634 and 655-632 in the two regular games. Unity was powered by Jaydan Blouw's two games of 191 and 133 and Emily Dertien's 146 and 148 games that won their team four of the individual game points. Emery Burdick had a 128 and a 139 to win two points for the Crusader team too.

The TK girls are now 6-6 in conference duals this season after outscoring Wyoming 28-2 in another conference match at Hastings Bowl Tuesday afternoon.

Robinett had a big day Tuesday with individual games of 179 and 153 to pick up two team points. Kayla Chapin-Dyer and Addison Petersen won two team points each too, and Hoogterp and Hooten won one team point apiece. Hoogterp rolled a 147 and a 115 and Hooten had a top game of 113.

The TK ladies took the two Baker games with scores of 176 and 112 against the Wolves.

The Unity Christian boys took a 26.5 to 3.5 win over the TK boys Monday, improving to 8-4 in the conference.

TK got individual points from Travis Sholty with a 171 in the second regular game, Colten Wiest with a 202 in the second regular game and Myles Chambers

See **BOWLING** on 7

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BOWLING

Continued from Page 6

with a 125 in the first regular game. Sholty also split a point in the first regular game thanks to a 123 that matched his Crusader foe. That was the second game over 200 for Wiest in recent weeks.

The Crusader boys won both baker games and the two regular games those 20 points.

The TK boys are now 1-11 in conference duals. They were bested in a close one with Wyoming Tuesday 16-14.

TK had the early lead thanks to taking the overall total in the Baker games. Wyoming took the opener 156-129, but TK rallied for a 144-112 win in the second Baker game to give the Trojans a 6-2 lead going into the regular games.

Things started well in the regular games too with the TK boys taking a 624-608 win in the first one and winning three of the five individual points. TK got points thanks to a 130 from Sholty, a 158 from Wiest and a 128 from Chase Buter.

That first regular game bumped the TK lead to 13-4, but the Wolves rallied to outscore TK 10-1 in the second regular game and take the overall total in those two games for two more points that pushed them to the victory.

Sholty scored the TK team's lone individual point in that second regular game with a 112, but the TK boys actually rolled better in that second game. They won the first regular game 634-606 and then were outscored 701-635 in the second.

Buter won a point in that opener with his 128 and then rolled a 149 that didn't score for his team in the second game. That was because Wyoming's Carmelo Berry rolled a 103 in the opening game and then surged to a 166 in the second game which was the top individual score of the day.

Despite the TK girls' being around .500 and the boys having just one conference win so far, coach Cooper said, "they have a pretty positive attitude. [Coach] Ray [Guild] and I pretty much we're always telling them as long as you're improving yourself and getting better that is what you have to look at. Sure sometimes when they have a bad game they struggle a little, but overall their attitudes are pretty good."

The Trojans close out the OK Gold Conference duals playing host to Wayland Feb. 10 at Hastings Bowl and then heading to Northfield Lanes to take on Northview Feb. 12. The OK Gold Conference Championship Meet is set for Feb. 14 at Spectrum Lanes.

Buter had a strong day at Spectrum lanes Sunday as the TK boys participated in a regional tune-up where they each got to roll six games. He averaged 165 for the day. The TK girls get their turn at a regional tune-up this Sunday, Feb. 9.



The Trojans' Chase Buter lets a shot loose during his team's OK Gold Conference dual with visiting Unity Christian at Hastings Bowl Monday afternoon. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

DDA

Continued from Page 1

sending the matter to the newly-established Design Committee, which received unanimous support.

Members of the DDA noodled on the idea of using the sign to generate additional revenue, potentially selling advertising packages for private events or businesses. The new sign will have greater capabilities, such as displaying colored graphics and animations.

Tuesday's meeting later concluded with a statement by chairwoman Kim Jachim, who grew emotional as she announced she would be stepping away from her leadership role.

The DDA board has been barebones for the last year or so, but Jachim now leaves with many of the seats having been filled.

"These are my final comments," Jachim said. "I read this morning: 'Start living your life, time is precious. We often delay our plans, our happiness and our goals and we think everything should fall into place. Meanwhile, we miss the moments that really count.'

"With that being said, I've led this community — this DDA board — and have been on the board since 2019," she added. "It's been a privilege to serve. But a wise leader knows when to leave. Thank you for allowing me to do what I called my 'feel-good job.'"

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Middleville Rotary
Spaghetti Dinner
Date: February 14, 2025
Serving Time: 5:00pm - 7:30pm
Location: Thornapple Kellogg HS School Cafeteria
(Girls & Boys Varsity Basketball Games-starts at 6:00pm)

MENU
Spaghetti
Garlic Bread
Salad Bar
Drinks: Coffee, Punch, Milk, Water
Optional by donation:
Dessert (Cake, Pies)
Cost(s)
Adults: $12
Students: $6
Couples: $20
Presale Tickets are available at
Thornapple Township Hall
or from any Rotarian

Gar seniors do good work in win over GRCC

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Grand Rapids Gars varsity boys' swim co-op spearheaded by TK celebrated its senior night with a 102-72 victory over Grand Rapids Catholic Central at Grandville High School Tuesday.

The Gars had six different guys win individual events and the team took the victory in each of the night's first two relays.

Senior Hunter Tietz took first in two individual events. He won the 200-yard individual medley in a time of 2 minutes 17.38 seconds and the 100-yard backstroke in 1:03.69.

Tietz anchored the 200-yard medley relay team for the Gars that opened the night with a winning time of 1:51.56. He was joined in that win by Gabriel Van, Luke Hemker and Ethan Klopfenstein who all won individual races throughout the night too.

It was that same foursome that also won the 200-yard freestyle relay with a time of 1:43.66.



The Grand Rapids Gars swim co-op and coach DJ Cochran (back) celebrate seniors Nolan Send, Luke Hemker, Adlai Kersey, Ethan Klopfenstein and Hunter Tietz during the team's OK Rainbow Tier II Conference dual with Catholic Central at Grandville High School Tuesday. **Photo provided**

The senior group for the Gars this winter includes Tietz, Hemker, Klopfenstein, Nolan Send and Adlai Kersey.

Send was the champ in the day's 200-yard freestyle race with a time of 2:04.02. Klopfenstein won the 100-yard butterfly in 58.74 seconds. Hemker took the 100-yard breaststroke in 1:18.35, one of the toughest races of the night. He beat out Catholic Central's Chris Padron by just six hundredths of a second.

Van joined Tietz in winning two races for the Gars. The took the 50-yard freestyle in 23.80 and the 500-yard freestyle in 5:20.28.

The Gars also had Ethan Magnuson win the diving competition with a score of 141.20 points.

Grant Hillary was the only Cougar to win an individual event. He took the 100-yard freestyle in 55.75 seconds. He was also a part of the winning Cougar 400-yard freestyle relay team at the end of the night.

The Gar team had Ty Denney and Caden Bliek placed 2-3 in that 100-yard freestyle race Hillary won.

The Gars had good representation at last weekend's MISCA Meet in Holland. Van met the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 1 state qualifying time in the 100-yard butterfly while placing 12th in 53.65 seconds and he was also 24th in the 100-yard backstroke in 57.19.

Klopfenstein placed 28th in the 100-yard butterfly in 57.37 and 33rd in the 100-yard backstroke in 57.55.

Tietz placed 41st in the 100-yard backstroke in 58.32.

The Gars also had the 200-yard freestyle relay team of Send, Tietz, Denney and Van place 29th in 1:34.92, moving up a handful of spots from its seed time and inching closer to the state qualifying mark it is shooting for.

That same foursome was 22nd in the 400-yard freestyle relay with a time of 3:28.04.

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Charter Township of Caledonia
Kent County – Michigan
2025 March Board of Review

Tuesday: March 4th, 2024 Org. Meeting – 10:00AM
Appeal dates:
Monday: March 10th, 2024 9:00AM – 3:00PM
Tuesday: March 11th, 2024 3:00PM –9:00PM

All reviews will be heard by appointment only. For appointments call: (616) 891-0070
8196 Broadmoor Ave. SE Caledonia MI 49316. Written appeals must be in the Twp. office by Thursday, March 6, 2024.

The 2025 equalization tentative ratios and estimated multipliers for the Charter Township of Caledonia will be as follows:

	Tentative Ratio	Estimated multiplier
Agricultural:	46.57	1.0737
Commercial:	47.57	1.0511
Industrial:	47.58	1.0509
Residential:	46.10	1.0846
Personal:	50.00	1.0000

Supervisor: Bryan Harrison
Assessor: Katie Roodvoets

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Forest Hills Northern rallies to take down TK in OT

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Having the home court advantage for just the second time in 2025 wasn't enough to push the Trojans to a Thursday night victory over Forest Hills Northern.

The Huskies dug out of a double-digit first half hole, took control late in the fourth quarter before the Trojans managed to force overtime, and eventually prevailed 55-52.

Forest Hills Northern was able to get to the rim too often late in regulation and into the extra session whether in the half-court or while taking advantage of a few Trojan turnovers.

The Trojans hit six of their first eight three-point attempts to lead 26-15 with 4:40 to go in the first half, but he FHN team rallied to get within six points by the half.

Junior Ben Lloyd, who set the TK boys' record for threes in a game with nine Tuesday at Hamilton, hit four more in the first half and finished with five for the night.

The TK lead was still 39-37 at the start of the fourth quarter, but the FHN boys built a lead of as many as four points in the fourth. TK needed a three from Lucas Ploeg with 24.2 seconds to send the ballgame to overtime tied at 47-47.

Malachi VanEngen got into the paint to score the opening bucket of overtime for TK, but Northern went on a 6-0 run over the next three minutes to go in front 53-49.

Lloyd's fifth three of the game got the Trojans to within 53-52 with 1:09 to play, but every Trojan chance the rest of the way came up empty.

TK had the ball, out of timeouts, with 30 seconds remaining, but couldn't get a shot against the Husky defense as the clock ticked down. Eventually a foul was whistled on Northern with 5.8 seconds to play. The Huskies were still one foul shy of the bonus. VanEngen had a three from the right corner blocked by FHN's Peyton Pascoe and TK got to inbound the ball again with one second left. The Trojans got it in to Jude Webster, but he was swarmed by the defense and off balance he tried to dish off a pass to Lloyd as the time expired.

Webster finished with a team high 18 points. Lloyd had 15. Trey Hilton and Lucas Ploeg, who both fouled out before the end of the night, had six and five points respectively.

Forest Hills Northern got 21 points from 6-7 senior Joey Angok, nine from Moody Dahabra, eight from Kyle Brown and seven apiece from Tuthill and Pascoe.

The TK boys returned to OK Gold Conference play Tuesday at home and were downed 71-31 by South Christian in Middleville. TK went into this weekend's action with a 9-8 overall record and a 3-4 mark in the OK Gold.

The Trojans were slated to host Northview Friday, Feb. 7.

Forest Hills Northern improved to 6-9 overall on the season with the win in Middleville.



Forest Hills northern senior guard Jacob Tuthill floats towards the basket to get a shot off between Thornapple Kellogg's Malachi VanEngen and Elliott Neff during the first half of the Huskies' non-conference win in Middleville Thursday, Jan. 30. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

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Scots score first district title in eight years

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Caledonia had five guys win two matches and a whole lot of other guys get done what they needed to get done at Portage Northern High School Wednesday.

The Fighting Scots won their first district championship since back-to-back titles in 2016 and 2017 by outscoring Portage Northern and then Mattawan at the MHSAA Division 1 Team District hosted by the Huskies.

Caledonia got enough work done early on against Mattawan in the district final that the Scots could void the 190 and 215 pound weight classes and take a 37-35 victory.

"It goes back to how there are two big things when we started there last year, just telling the kids 'those who stay will become champions'. It is going to be a journey,. It doesn't happen overnight. Stick to the system and they did that," Caledonia head coach Shawn Veitch said.

He feels like that system has his guys peaking at the right time of the season.

Cayden Nostrant put the finishing touches on the win with a 23-14 major decision in his 175-pound bout with Mattawan's Conner Taylor.

Nostrant was one of the five Fighting Scots to take two wins on the night, joined by Max Schnurstein, James Carrow V, Robert Restau and Ben Moss.

"But there are 14 weight classes, which tells you that a lot of other kids did their jobs stepping up and winning matches we needed to win, but also going six minutes to save points and that was especially big against Mattawan."

Mattawan threw one of its top wrestlers, Aidan Robinson, at the Scots early. Capable of wrestling at 190, Robinson opened the dual at heavyweight and scored a pin. The Wildcats got pins in two of the first three bouts, but those were the only times the Scots got stuck on their back in the final.

Alish Basnet saved a point for the Scots by avoiding getting pinned by Mattawan's Dylan Putman in the 126-pound bout, holding Putman to a 20-3 technical fall victory. Coach Vietch was also pleased with Muhammed Turk holding the Wildcats' Gabe Love to an 8-1 decision in the 165-pound bout. Sometimes not giving up points is as good as scoring them yourself.



The Caledonia varsity wrestling team celebrates its first district championship since 2017 following a win over Mattawan in the MHSAA Division 1 Team District Final at Portage Northern High School Wednesday. The Scots will head to Brighton for their team regional tournament Feb. 12. **Photo provided**

Veitch did want more from Josh Grace in the 120-pound match early in the dual. The Scots trailed 12-6 at that point after Mattawan's two pins and a pin from Schnurstein at 106 pounds. Grace gave up a take down and a penalty point to trail 4-0 at the end of one period and Veitch got on him reminding him that a match is six minutes long.

"He was one move away from getting it done. His second period, he came out with a whole different mindset and energy and ended up sticking the kid," Veitch said.

Carrow got a pin for the Scots in the 132-pound match to put his team in front 18-17 and Caledonia led the rest of the way. Restau followed with a pin at 138 pounds. Moss outscored the Wildcats' Zack Miller 9-6 at 144 pounds. Koleson Reeder added a pin for the Scots at 157 pounds.

Luke Kowatch, Xavier Stewart, Carrow, Restau, Moss and Will Sheely had pins for the Scots in the district semifinal win over Portage Northern. Schnurstein won by void at 106 pounds against the Huskies.

The Scots also had Nostrant score a 4-2 win over Cayden Nazakians at 165 pounds and Escher Reeder earn a technical fall in the 113 pound bout.

Veitch also noted that while he didn't get a win in his 190-pound bout, freshman David Tiers did a lot to inspire his team with his preparation in the week leading up to the district tournament to be ready to wrestle at 190. He hadn't quite yet made weight there yet, and due to illness the Scots needed him there.

"That gave our team a lot of positive energy to know that a freshman and he's going to be tough too, would cut down for the team because we needed a 190 pounder. Positive vibes in the practice room. It was so cool to see and have that entire team piece as we talked about it for the last week, - how each individual needed to do their jobs."

Last Friday, the Scots were a part of the OK Green Conference Tournament in Jenison. Byron Center took the day's championship with 180 points ahead of Reeths-Puffer 158.5, Jenison 146.5, Caledonia 133, Muskegon 124.5 and Mona Shores 83.5.

The Scots had nine guys in the top four in their respective weight classes and eight total in the top three. Nostrant was the conference champion at 165 pounds pinning Ja Mier Jefferson from Muskegon in the third period of their championship match after pulling out a win with a takedown in a sudden victory overtime period against Jenison's Carlitos Leija in the semifinals.

Schnurstein at 106 pounds, Carrow at 132 and Restau at 138 all placed second. The Scots got third-place finishes from Escher Reeder, Grace, Sheely and Koleson Reeder. Turk placed fourth.

Scot hockey tops Sailors in conference tourney

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Caledonia varsity hockey team opened the 2025 OK Conference Tournament with a 4-0 shut out of Mona Shores at Griff's Georgetown Ice Arena in Hudsonville Tuesday.

That earned the Fighting Scots another shot at an East Grand Rapids team they upended 2-1 earlier this season in the second round of the conference tournament Friday, Feb. 7. The conference tournament wraps up today, Feb. 8. Saturday's game-time will be determined by Friday night's result.

Caledonia is slated to close out the 2025 regular season hosting Grand Rapids Catholic Central Feb. 14 and then visiting Mona Shores Feb. 15.

The win over Mona Shores to open the conference tournament was the second straight win for the Scots who knocked off the Eastside Stars co-op filled with Lansing area teams Okemos, East Lansing, Eaton Rapids, Haslett,Charlotte, Owosso 4-2 Feb. 1 at Kentwood Ice Arena.

CHS skiers challenged in regional tune-ups

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Regional time is here.

The Caledonia varsity ski teams will head to Cannonsburg Monday, Feb. 10, for their MHSAA Division 2 Regional hosted by Grand Rapids Christian.

The Fighting Scots really tested themselves for a push to try and qualify for the state finals on Monday, Feb. 3, at Schuss Mountain for the Claire Invitational.

"Schuss Mountain is one of the best race venues in the state of Michigan, which translates to: it is a huge steep slope," Caledonia head coach Duane Petrosky said. "About half of our girls have not raced KINGDOM COME at Schuss, which is 550 feet of steep slopes and some incredibly fast courses and the girls really skied well."

The Caledonia girls were seventh overall and the Caledonia boys sixth.

Petrosky said his guys were really hoping to build some regional momentum, but they got off to a bit of a slow start.

"We had a climb and a couple DNFs in GS, which pushed us way back in the points after the first event. At the break, we talked about having to focus on one run at a time to finish the race on a positive note and the guys did."

DJ Potgeter led the way for the CHS boys in the slalom with a medal-winning sixth-place finish, and everyone on the team finished strong putting the Scots in third place in the slalom event on its own.

The Scots' Lake Michigan Ski Conference foes from Maple City Glen Lake won the boys' title at the 11-team meet with 58 total points. Boyne/Charlevoix was second with 109.5, Mattawan 122, Grayling 126, Mt. Pleasant 146, Caledonia 176, Clare 227.5, Hudsonville 284, Onekema 311, Harrison 352 and Plainwell/Thornapple Kellogg 373.

Aidan Brown had a solid morning for the CHS boys. He won a medal with a 12th-place finish in the GS. The Scot team also had Peter Calhoun 26th, James Pritchard 28th and DJ Potgeter 47th in that GS contest.

In the slalom, along with DJ, Brown was 16th, Jake Potgeter 18th and Pritchard 23rd.

Caledonia's Chiara Marta was the runner-up in the girls' slalom in the morning with teammates Zuzanna Poradzka 27th, Liz Hilton 27th and Ada Decker 35th in that contest.

"In slalom, everyone completed their two runs while in slalom we lost Chiara, after she lost her skis in a spectacular crash, and the rest of the team really stepped up their skiing," coach Petrosky said. "I am proud of how well we did, especially in GS where we had a lot of challenges, ranging from delays due to course conditions to delays because of injuries to skiers. It seemed like every time something put a course into a delay our skier was in the start waiting for their turn and they came out and nailed their runs afterwards."

The Scots had Poradzka earn a medal for 13th in the GS. Hilton was 21st, Decker 29th and Madison Reynolds 35th.

Maple City Glen Lake won the girls' meet too with 82 points ahead of Clare 91, Mattawan 133, Grayling 141, Boyne/Charlevoix 174, Mt. Pleasant 182, Caledonia 191, Onekema 204, Hudsonville 249 and Plainwell/Thornapple Kellogg 354.

It has been a busy stretch for the Fighting Scots they participated in the Grayling Slalom Hootenanny Friday, at the Otsego Club in Gaylord and that was on the heels of a LMSC race Wednesday, Jan. 29, at Crystal Mountain.

The Caledonia girls were third at the Grayling Hootenanny which included morning and afternoon slalom sessions. Marta was first in the afternoon and the runner-up in the morning competition. Those were medal winning performances as was Poradzka's tenth-place finish in the morning session.

David Potgeter was fourth in the boys' morning slalom and Brown earned a medal with a sixth-place finish in the afternoon slalom event for the guys. The CHS boys also placed third.

HELP WANTED
Community Development Coordinator

Middleville

The Village of Middleville is seeking a **Community Development Coordinator** to support economic and downtown development efforts. This position can be **full-time (40 hours per week) or part-time**, with a flexible schedule. The hourly wage is **$21-26 per hour**, based on qualifications, with opportunities for professional development.

Position Summary-
The coordinator will assist the Director of Community and Economic Development in implementing projects, supporting business retention and recruitment, and serving as the **staff liaison to the Downtown Development Authority (DDA)** by coordinating meetings and preparing agendas.

Key Responsibilities-
- Assist in economic development projects.
- Coordinate DDA meetings and support board members.
- Draft press releases, grant applications, and reports.
- Prepare site submissions and **RFPs for development projects**.
- Track grant compliance and project timelines.
- Maintain business and downtown property data.
- Assist with fundraising, special projects, and event coordination.

Qualifications-
- Associate's degree in **urban planning, business, or a related field**.
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YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

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

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing will be held on February 19, 2025, commencing at 7:00 p.m. at the Yankee Springs Township Hall, 284 N. Briggs Rd., Middleville MI, within the Township, as required under the provisions of the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act and the Zoning Ordinance for the Township.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE In addition to participation during a public hearing, members of the public may also provide comments for the Planning Commission's consideration by emailing or mailing those comments to the Planning Commission for receipt prior to the meeting, in care of the Township Zoning Administrator, Joe Shea (joeshea@yankeespringstwp.org). Letters and emails are due one week before the hearing date; or by leaving a phone message prior to the meeting with the Township Zoning Administrator, Joe Shea at 269-795-9091.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the item(s) to be considered at said public hearing include, in brief, the following:

1. **SEU 25-01-02: Parcel ID 16-370-017-00, 12755 Whispering Pines Drive, Wayland, MI 49348.**

A request by J.J. VanderLinden, the property owner, for a special exception use permit to operate a commercial Short-term rental pursuant to the Yankee Springs Zoning Ordinance, ***Article X, Short Term Rentals.***

2. Such other business as may properly come before the Planning Commission.

Anyone interested in reviewing the application material may do so at the township hall. All interested persons are invited to be present at the aforesaid time and place, or, if an electronic meeting is held, to participate via the electronic meeting.

Yankee Springs Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, to individuals with disabilities at the hearing upon four (7) days' prior notice to the Township Clerk. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Township Clerk at the address or telephone number listed below.

YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
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Viking swimmers show off speed at MITCA Meet

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The push is on to meet the state cut in a couple of relays for the Caledonia/Lowell/South Christian varsity boys' swimming and diving team.

CLS head coach Todd DeJong said he continues to be pretty proud of his young men following a strong performance at the MISCA Meet against many of the state's top swimmers in Holland last weekend.

The Vikings' 200-yard freestyle relay team of Ethan Snapper, Doug Gaylord, Sam Jones and Anders Foerch turned in a time of 1 minute 33.86 seconds in the 200-yard freestyle relay which put them in 25th overall in the race.

The CLS 200-yard medley relay of Jones, Andrew Barnum, Nolan Fitzgerald and Ethan Snapper achieved a time of 1:47.47 at the opening of the meet.

The CLS team also had a couple of individual performances at the MITCA Meet. Foerch placed 41st in the 50-yard freestyle with a time of 22.93 seconds and Snapper was 55th in 23.44. It was a personal best for Foerch and coach DeJong said both guys competed fiercely in the race.

The CLS boys were back in the water against OK Rainbow Tier II Conference foe Ottawa Hills Tuesday and fell 111-75 to the Bengals.

Foerch took the 50-yard freestyle that day in 23.54 and teammate Fitzgerald won the 200-yard individual medley in 2:16.42. Jones had a stellar 100-yard backstroke turning in a winning time of 1:04.02. Barnum won the 100-yard breaststroke for the Vikings in 1:10.08.



Members of the Caledonia/Lowell/South Christian varsity boys' swimming and diving team celebrate a successful performance at the MISCA Meet last weekend in Holland. **Photo provided**

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GAINES CHARTER TOWNSHIP
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Gaines Charter Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider the following request:

Summary of Request: Special Land Use request to build a 2,507 square foot accessory building in the A-R zoning district.

Property Address: 3241 Muff Ridge Lane, Caledonia, MI 49316

Parcel Numbers: 41-22-26-301-005

Applicant: Eve Wynalda

Date and Time of Hearing: February 27, 2025, at 7:00 pm

Location of Hearing: Gaines Charter Township Offices, Board Room
8555 Kalamazoo Avenue SE, Caledonia, MI 49316

Any interested party may appear and be heard on said proposal. Information related to this request may be inspected, by appt., during regular business hours at the Planning Department window located in the Gaines Charter Township Offices. For information related to this request, contact Dan Wells at (616) 980-6188 or dan.wells@gainestownship.org. To be entered into the public record, signed written comments must be received by 5:00 PM on February 27th, 2025.

Persons with disabilities needing special accommodations should contact Kim Triplett at (616) 698-6640 one week prior to the meeting to request mobility, visual or any other assistance.

GAINES CHARTER TOWNSHIP
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Gaines Charter Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider the following request:

Summary of Request: Request to rezone a 40.5 acre parcel from Steelcase PUD-LSP to Light Industrial (I-1).

Property Address: 7147 Patterson Avenue SE, Caledonia, MI 49316

Parcel Numbers: 41-22-12-100-031

Applicant: Chris Sander, Microsoft Corporation

Date and Time of Hearing: February 27, 2025, at 7:00 pm

Location of Hearing: Gaines Charter Township Offices, Board Room
8555 Kalamazoo Avenue SE, Caledonia, MI 49316

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Obituaries

Betty Marie Lenz Bryans



Betty Marie Lenz Bryans, age 90, of Middleville, MI, passed away peacefully in her sleep, Friday, Jan. 31, 2025.

Betty was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and great grandmother. Her greatest love was for her husband, Dick Bryans, and her family and friends.

A lifelong resident of Barry County, she was involved in and cherished her community. She grew up on a farm in Hastings, which taught her the life skills she was so good at. She had so many talents which she put into providing such a warm, welcoming home. Betty also set a strong example of love and loyalty.

Betty worked as an X-ray tech at Pennock Hospital before they started their family. She chose to stay home and raise her four daughters. In 1979, she went back to work at Hastings Orthopedic Clinic for 22 years. In retirement, she spent her time reading, was an avid walker, golf and bowling leagues, and gardening.

She spent many hours teaching her skills to the youth of Barry County as a 4-H leader. She also spent countless years at the Barry County Fair, sharing her talents and as a board member.

She is survived by her husband of 70 years, Dick Bryans. Also surviving are her daughters, Linda (Jeff) Brice, Marcia Lund, Anne (Dan) Wenger and son-in-law, Kary Morris. Also surviving are 10 grandchildren and 17 great grandchildren; sisters-in-law, Marilyn Bryans, Elaine Cooley, Belva (Bob) Barry and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her daughter, Jane Morris and son-in-law, Bob Lund; her parents, Harry and Reatha Lenz; in-laws, Carl and Myrtle Bryans; brother, Jack and Judy Lenz, brother-in-law, Robert Bryans, Ken and Evelyn Sprague, Robert and Betty James and Ray Cooley.

Cremation has taken place, and we will celebrate Betty's life at a later date.

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

GAINES CHARTER TOWNSHIP
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Gaines Charter Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider the following request:

Summary of Request: Special Land Use request to allow for non-household animals (chickens) in the RL-14 zoning district.

Property Address: 1230 76th Street, Byron Center, MI 49315

Parcel Numbers: 41-22-17-201-002

Applicant: Robert Pavlovic

Date and Time of Hearing: February 27, 2025, at 7:00 pm

Location of Hearing: Gaines Charter Township Offices, Board Room 8555 Kalamazoo Avenue SE, Caledonia, MI 49316

Any interested party may appear and be heard on said proposal. Information related to this request may be inspected, by appt., during regular business hours at the Planning Department window located in the Gaines Charter Township Offices. For information related to this request, contact Dan Wells at (616) 980-6188 or dan.wells@gainestownship.org. To be entered into the public record, signed written comments must be received by 5:00 PM on February 27th, 2025.

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Earth Day Alliance continues collection

Local residents are again being encouraged to not throw away old sneakers. Instead, they'll have another opportunity to donate used shoes – and for a good cause.

The Barry County Earth Day Alliance, or BCEDA, asked residents last fall to donate their old sneakers and athletic footwear, with plans for the used shoes to be recycled.

Since January, BCEDA officials reported having collected hundreds of pairs of used sneakers. The group has then passed the shoes along to GotSneakers, a zero-waste nonprofit that gives the shoes new life.

Local residents may drop off once-loved shoes at the Hastings and Delton libraries, the Corewell Health Pennock gym or Bright Start Pediatrics.

Once delivered to GotSneakers, the shoes reportedly are sorted to determine where they will best be used.

"Congratulate yourselves," BCEDA spokesperson Marcia Szumowski stated recently. "You helped keep 915 pairs of old athletic shoes out of the landfills in 2024 when you dropped them off."

According to a statement by the BCEDA, one-tenth of the shoes donated are branded athletic shoes and can be sanitized, restored and resold in the eco- and budget-friendly thrift community store.

Another 80 percent of footwear is considered reusable to micro-industry partners throughout Latin America, the Caribbean and the Middle East. The remaining 10 percent of donated shoes are often considered unusable but recyclable.

And, for those who missed out on donating their used shoes this past fall, they'll have another chance to do so this month. The BCEDA will have a table at the "Family Science Night" from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 19 at the Hastings Public Library.

Persons donating shoes at the Family

See **EARTH** on 15



MIDDLEVILLE TOPS 546

The Feb. 3 meeting opened with roll call and the secretary's report. There is one new fish in the fishbowl. One fish fell out.

Virginia's program was "Keys to a long, happy life" from Women's World magazine. The article had easy tricks to keep your brain sharp, your body strong, your vision clear and more.

Keep your vision clear by taking acetaminophen, ibuprofen, or naproxen instead of pain medicine or aspirin helps with macular aging or eye nerve clusters.

Improve balance by playing ping pong, Wii bowling, or pickleball. Playing fun games keeps you more sure-footed and stimulates your brain balance region. Or, standing like a flamingo helps, too.

Sharpen hearing by taking a 15-minute stroll. Exercise sends nutrient-rich blood to feed the cochlea organ in the ear. Listening to music energizes brain nerves that helps tune out background noises.

Build muscle with sunshine. D-3 is an essential building block for strong, toned muscle. Or eat one cup of yogurt.

Strengthen bones by opening the window for 10 minutes. It flushes out air pollutants that halt bone thinning and wards off fractures. Or read a book. Rest and relaxation calms nerves and keeps bones strong.

Boost memory with a bowl of chili. Adding meat or poultry to your diet cuts down on foggy thinking and age-related memory loss. The iron and essential amino acids are key building blocks of healthy new brain cells. Or snack sooner. Eating a light snack within one hour of waking could cut age-related memory loss.

Linda lost the Ha-Ha Box.

The meeting closed with marching in place as the group recited the TOPS pledge.

TOPS, a weight loss support group, meets every Monday at Lincoln Meadows in Middleville. Weigh-in is from 3:30 p.m. to 3:45 p.m., followed immediately by the meeting. Press the white buzzer for entry.

Anyone with questions may call Virginia, 269-908-8036, or Maryellen, 616-318-3545. The first meeting is free.

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Obituaries

Lois Sharleen Apsey

With heavy hearts, the family of Lois Sharleen Apsey, of Middleville, MI wishes to tell you, Sharleen, passed suddenly on January 19, 2025 after an arduous fight with cancer, at age 86.

She was at home with her daughter and grandson. Sharleen was born July 11th, 1938 in Flint to the late Robert Darby and Marcella Darby (Grady). She later moved to Grand Rapids and graduated from Ottawa Hills High School where she made many close friends and developed her sense of poise and traditional values.

After graduating high school, she met Bill and moved to Middleville where she started creating a welcoming, tidy home with a warm, sensitive, and caring family. She then spent the next 61 years in the same home, perfecting it to match her inviting, tasteful style and building her enduring family legacy.

During her life, Sharleen served in many roles. Professionally, she worked in a pet shop, was a secretary at the Masonic Temple in downtown Grand Rapids, was "the Avon Lady," a Cub Scout den mother and primarily, an administrative and executive secretary for the Thornapple Kellogg School District for 29 years. Personally, those who knew Shar, knew her as polite, very friendly and recognized her for her signature, well-coiffed white hair and stylish wardrobe. Those who loved Sharleen knew her as a devoted wife with unflinching love and loyalty to her husband, children and grandchildren, friends and neighbors, and four-legged friends.

She was a daughter, big sister, wife, Mom, best friend, Aunt Sharleen, Grandma, GGG, and the true embodiment of a homemaker. Her home was a welcome place of comfort for all she knew and loved.

We will miss her beyond measure, but know she is ecstatic to be joining those who preceded her in death: her husband and best friend of 58 years, Bill Apsey; sisters, Megan Gearing and Beth Kazma; in-laws, Art and Doris Apsey, Iris and Bill Gummo; best friend, Ella Jewett; and many others from the Grady, Darby, and Apsey clans.

Shar will be lovingly remembered by: her children, Shelley and Rich Hamilton, Mark and Jenelle Apsey; grandchildren, Dylan, Shannon and Cody Cousineau, Keegan, and Kaitlynn; brothers-in-law, Arthur (Cindie) Apsey, Charles Gearing, Ron (Sylvia) Kazma, Steve (Mary Jo) Uhen; many loving nieces and nephews; beloved cousins, Kathleen Johansen and Jerry Darby; best friend, Marilyn Finkbeiner; neighbor, Ken Morgan; surrogate children and grandchildren, Chris, Jada, Josh, Alex, and Jake; and other dear friends and neighbors.



Although Sharleen wished for no formal services to be held, her family will be holding a burial and celebration of life gathering in the summer. Her family would be grateful if you would share your favorite memories of Shar on her memorial page at www.beelergoresfuneral.com.

Sharleen's family would like to extend sincere appreciation to the Barry County Commission on Aging staff, Mary Free Bed Home Health staff, and the Corewell Health Home Palliative team for their loving care during her final days at home.

In lieu of flowers, those who wish, may make memorial contributions to: https://give.corewellhealth.org/cancercare

EARTH

Continued from Page 14

Science Night will be entered for a drawing for a Culver's gift card.

"Each family dropping off shoes can sign up for the drawing," Szumowski stated. "Now's the time to go through your closets and pull out those old athletic shoes that you aren't wearing anymore. It doesn't matter what shape they're in."

Szumowski added individuals who cannot attend the Feb. 19 event may still donate their old shoes at a designated drop box, though they will not be eligible for the drawing.

"Sorry," she said. "But the drawing is only for Family Science Night." — *DM*

LOCAL CHURCH DIRECTORY

ALASKA BAPTIST CHURCH
Service Times
Sunday at 9:30 AM & 6:00 PM
www.alaskabaptist.org
7240 68th Street SE, Caledonia

Caledonia Vine Street Church
Rev. Christine M. Beaudoin
Join us for our traditional yet casual worship service, in person or online, at 9:00 am
250 Vine Street 616-891-8669

cornerstonechurch
Join us in person or online
Sundays 9:30 & 11am
1675 84th St. SE
Caledonia, MI 49316
cornerstonemi.org/weekend

FIRST BAPTIST Middleville
Sunday Service 10:30 AM
Livestream: facebook.com/firstbaptistmiddleville
FBCMIDDLEVILLE.NET - 5215 M37 - 269-795-9726

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
908 W. Main Street, Middleville
(Missouri Synod)
Sunday Worship . . . . . 9:30 a.m.
Pastor: Rob Wurst
http://goodshepherdlcms.googlepages.com
Church: (269) 795-2391

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Middleville Location -
1664 M-37
9:30 am and 11:00 am

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PEACECHURCH.CC
Sundays at 9:00, and 10:30 AM
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616.891.8119
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peacechurch.cc

Sunday Worship: 8:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.
Fellowship 9:45 to 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School 10 to 10:45 a.m.
@ St. Paul Lutheran Church & Preschool
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Office 616-891-8688 • Preschool (616) 891-8688
www.stpaulcaledonia.org

THORNAPPLE VALLEY CHURCH MIDDLEVILLE
SERVICE TIMES:
Sunday at 9:30am & 11:00am
20 State Street, Middleville, MI / www.tvcweb.com

Whitneyville Bible Church
8655 Whitneyville Avenue, Alto
616.891.8661
www.whitneyvillebible.org
Pastor Jonathan DeCou
Sunday School ..... 9:30 AM
Sunday Worship ..... 10:30 AM
Watch our services from our website (see above)

Yankee Springs Bible Church
8900 Duffy Road
Middleville, MI 49333
"Shining Forth God's Light"
Sunday Morning Worship ..... 10:00 a.m.
Community Group ..... 11:00 a.m.
James L. Collison, Pastor
www.yankeespringsbiblechurch.org

TK tops Blue Devils for district championship

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Trojan heavyweights put the hammer down early. Starting at 157 pounds, Thornapple Kellogg six consecutive matches to build a 34-0 lead in its MHSAA Division 2 District Final against Gull Lake in Richland Wednesday.

Things got interesting in the end, as the Trojans needed Griffin Grummet to seal the victory in the last of the 14 weight classes, and he did just that with a 7-4 win against his 150-pound foe, clinching a 43-35 win and the district championship for the TK varsity wrestling team.

The Trojans will head to Harper Creek High School Wednesday, Feb. 12, to take on the host Beavers in the MHSAA Division 2 Team Regional Semifinals. Parma Western and top-ranked Lowell meet in the region's other semifinal match-up Wednesday.

Gull Lake got to the final against TK with a 53-26 win over Pennfield in the district opener in Richland Wednesday.



The Thornapple Kellogg varsity wrestling team celebrates its MHSAA Division 2 District Championship after a 43-35 win over host Gull Lake in the district final Wednesday in Richland. **Photo provided**

Camden Peter started the TK run at the opening of the district final with a pin at 157 pounds. From there TK got a technical fall from Blake Bossenberger at 165 pounds, a pin from Jackson Smith at 175, a tech fall from Jayce Curtis at 190, a pin from Tanner Buxton at 215 pounds and a pin from Abram Dutcher at 285 pounds.

A quick pin form Christien Miller at 113 pounds and Grummet's victory sealed the deal.

The Trojans will be at their MHSAA Division 2 Individual District Tournament Saturday, Feb. 8, at Harper Creek and the TK girls can compete in the MHSAA Girls' Individual District at Hastings High School Sunday, Feb. 9.

The district win came on the heels of a solid day to close out the regular season in Middleville last Friday, Jan. 31. Thornapple Kellogg won six of the 14 weight classes at the OK Gold Conference Championship in Middleville to finish off a runner-up finish in the conference this season.

Dutcher at 285 pounds, Miller at 113, Grummet at 150, Bossenberger at 165, Curtis at 175 and Buxton at 215 pounds all won their weight class for the Trojan team. TK had 12 wrestlers overall finish in the top four in their weight class.

Wayland finished off a conference championship season by scoring 228.5 points Friday. TK was second with 191.5 ahead of Northview 117, Grand Rapids Union 72, West Catholic 70 and Wyoming 56.5.

The TK team also had Diego Rodas at 126 pounds and Peter at 157 both finish as the runner-up at their weight class. Smith at 190 and Raini Braska at 120 were third, and Emma Gibson at 132 pounds and Maxwell Knowles at 144 were both fourth.

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