THE SUN AND NEWS
Your Hometown Newspaper Serving the Middleville, Caledonia and Gaines Township Areas
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BCSO-MIDDLEVILLE UNIT SERGEANT HONORED WITH MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD
PAGE 2

New staff writer joins View Newspaper Group



Noah Peterson

View Newspaper Group West welcomed a new staff writer to its ranks this week. Newcomer journalist Noah Peterson, 24, started his job with the local newspaper group earlier this month, according to editor Molly Macleod. He will write for The Hastings Banner, The Sun and News, and The Hastings Reminder.

Peterson said his pathway to the paper began in a familiar place.

"I found an ad in The Sun and News," Peterson said. "It's where I learned of this new position and thought it would be the best place to start."

Peterson graduated from Rochester Christian University in spring 2024 where he earned his bachelor's degree in mass communications and got hands-on experience in sports coverage while working as an editor for Shield Media, the independent student media outlet of Rochester Christian University.

"Because I grew up in this community," Peterson noted, "I know that working for the local paper will be a good start in my career. I hope to someday work my way into sports media and capture all content in Michigan sports."

Over the years, Peterson has gained knowledge in the journalism field. His strongest areas are photography and videography. In the past year, he launched a solo business for photography and videography — Prime Productions and Photography.

"I have a passion for capturing content, especially sports and events," he added. "I have learned so much in the past year and I hope to continue to grow in the West Michigan area and beyond."

Macleod said that his primary focus will be news coverage in the Caledonia and Middleville areas, including schools, government and more.

See **WRITER** on 6

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Members of the newly created Gaines Charter Township Fire Department raise their right hands in taking an oath Monday night at the township hall. **Photos by James Gemmell**

Members of the new Gaines Township Fire Department get sworn in

James Gemmell
Contributing Writer

Members of the newly-established Gaines Charter Township Fire Department have been officially sworn into duty.

They collectively raised their right hands and took an oath at the township board's regular monthly meeting Monday in the township hall board room. Many of them have been fighting fires in Gaines Township for years.

The fire department began operations January 1 as a single entity, the result of a merger between the Cutlerville and Dutton fire departments. The township board opted to combine them into one department after the Byron Township Board severed a 74-year partnership with Gaines in jointly operating the Cutlerville Fire Department.

Due to its booming population, Byron trustees decided in July 2023 that Byron needed to create its own fire department in Cutlerville.

In response, Gaines trustees decided to purchase the existing Cutlerville fire barn on 68th Street west of Division Avenue, even though it is in Byron Township. Gaines is paying $940,000 over five years to buy out Byron's equity share in the fire station, making 20-percent payments each year.

Construction of Byron Township's new Cutlerville fire station is underway east of US-131 and north of 68th Street. Gaines has a contract to assist Byron in fighting fires in Byron Township until that fire station becomes operational.

"I think it's a key moment for (Gaines) township," Gaines Supervisor Bob Terpstra told the firefighters as they were sworn in. "We know that it was triggered by our neighbors to the west pulling out. It gave us an opportunity to pivot, make some changes. I know that change isn't easy; it can cause some anxiety. But it's also an opportunity for us to really think about what we do, and it's really good for the community to hear again the power of a fire department in the township. I think it's very important."

Clerk Mike Brew asked the Gaines Township firefighters to

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BCSO-Middleville Unit sergeant honored with Meritorious Service Award

Noah Peterson
Staff Writer

Barry County Sheriff Dar Leaf recognized Sergeant Scott Ware for receiving the Meritorious Service Award at the Middleville Village Council Tuesday night.

"It's a big deal with law enforcement," said Leaf. "Something very positive happened a few weeks ago and we should all be very proud."

On Jan. 10, Sergeant Ware responded to a report of a missing person and used the resources available and instinct to connect the case with a loose dog report he handled earlier that day. His resources included cell phone data containing ping locations he obtained from the missing person's phone. When efforts began to become unsuccessful in his search, Sergeant Ware refused to give up and ultimately located the missing individual who was suffering from life-threatening hypothermia.

"There is no doubt that Sergeant Ware's diligence and perseverance prevented the loss of life," Sheriff Leaf noted. "It's his efforts that presented him the Meritorious Service Award."

A Meritorious Service Award is an honor given to individuals who have provided outstanding service or achievement. It recognizes those who have gone above and beyond their normal duties to make significant contributions to society.

This was not the first time Sergeant Ware earned recognition for his service. In 2021, he apprehended a suspect who was fleeing from police after breaking into a house in a residential neighborhood in Hastings. It was a long and dangerous car chase that spanned three townships until the suspect finally surrendered to Sergeant Ware in the Village of Woodland.

"Thank you, Sheriff, for coming up and sharing that moment for us," said Middleville Village President Kevin Smith. "We're certainly proud of you, Sergeant Ware."



Barry County Sheriff's Office Middleville Unit Sergeant Scott Ware (left) was honored this week with a Meritorious Service Award, presented by Barry County Sheriff Dar Leaf (right) at Tuesday's Middleville Village Council meeting. **Photo by Noah Peterson**

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GAINES

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raise their hands for an oath as he read the following statement: "I do solemnly swear and affirm that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of this state. That I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of firefighter according to the best of my ability."

The firefighters all responded with, "I will."

A photographer contracted by the township then snapped several photos of the firefighters in various group poses and with their family members.

Brew asked the firefighters to sign an oath that was then put into a township folder.

"We know that's not new but it's certainly worthy of all of us trying to remember and keep you at the forefront of our minds," Terpstra said.

He added, "I, for one, understand the ways that you need to be prepared, and the ways that you need to continue to be trained and prepared in a fast-changing world. All of us have heard stories over the years of amazing rescues, of heroic events. We cannot, however, forget the day-to-day and the day after day after day that you show up as you serve your community."

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Gaines trustees approve appraisal of mystery parcel for future park development

James Gemmell
Contributing Writer

Without most of them knowing where a certain 20-acre parcel of property is in Gaines Township or how much it might cost to purchase, township trustees voted 6-1 Monday night to authorize spending up to $3,000 to have it appraised.

Township Clerk Michael Brew cast the lone no vote at the Board of Trustees' monthly meeting at the township hall.

Commercial, industrial and residential development has been booming in Gaines in recent years, and a lot of the township's forested lands, agricultural property and wetlands have already been purchased. Township officials are trying to preserve some open space and park land before most of it is snapped up by developers for construction.

"I think we all recognize that, with all the development that's going on (in the township), if we don't set aside some parcels soon there's going to be homes on them, streets through them. And we can never go back and try to get park land somewhere," Trustee Kathy VanderStel said.

Township Manager Rod Weersing told trustees that Gaines staff members were recently approached by an undisclosed developer who might be interested in selling a heavily wooded parcel of land in the middle of the township that has Plaster Creek running through it. The exact location has not been publicly disclosed.

"It's a very desirable piece of property," Township Treasurer Laurie Lemke said, adding that "it's a bit of a gamble and a bit of a roll of the dice."

"This is either going to be seen as a wonderful opportunity or a little bit of a can of worms," Supervisor Bob Terpstra said.

The Michigan DNR has said the land, if developed into a park, could potentially be eligible for a state grant.

"The DNR trust fund needs a certified commercial appraisal," Weersing said.

Meanwhile, Gaines Community Development Director Dan Wells was approached about a possible purchase option for a second parcel of property not far from the first parcel. The second parcel would cover 20 to 30 acres.

"He has not had a chance to dig (research) deeper into the second one yet," Weersing said. "So, that one we would only appraise if we found out it was a good possibility."

He added that a group of people owns the property.

"They may want to portion some of it off to build on. Which would actually be advantageous to us because right now it does have a sewer connection to it, which makes it a little more valuable. The portion they want to build on would utilize that sewer connection. So, it would make the remaining portion a little less valuable," Weersing said.

The township's 40-year sewer contract with the City of Grand Rapids expires in 2028. Weersing has said the township may try to negotiate an extension of the sewer district boundary from its current border near 76th Street southward to cover the Plaster Creek

See **PARCEL** on 4

Gaines Board approves annual planning and zoning report

James Gemmell
Contributing Writer

The Gaines Township Board unanimously accepted on a voice vote the annual report from its Planning & Zoning Department on Monday night.

The Michigan Planning Enabling Act of 2008 requires municipal planning departments to submit an update each year on developments and code enforcements. The planning commission gave the report a thumbs-up last month and sent it to the township board for review.

Assistant Township Planner Dakota Swan went over some of the highlights of the annual planning and zoning review with township trustees. She mentioned a chart that shows how quickly Gaines Township's population is rising.

"We just assume that the population is just shy of 35,000 residents now. But we won't have a solid number on that until the 2025 census comes out," Swan said.

The U.S. Census Bureau is scheduled to release population data in June. That will include information such as household income, and breakdowns based on age, sex and race. The next U.S. census is scheduled for April 1, 2030.

The annual report includes a section on parks and trails. In June 2022, the township board accepted an $8,740 bid from Grand Rapids-based architectural firm MCSA Group Inc. to prepare a Parks & Trails master plan. It incorporated input from township residents who responded to a survey about how they would like to see open space developed in Gaines.

Township officials have been talking for a few years about the possibility of developing new park space on a township-owned parcel next to the Byron-Gaines Utility Authority at 1381 84th St. SE.

"The big piece of information here is that staff are on the lookout for pieces of land to acquire for recreation purposes," Swan told the township board.

Given the rising price of eggs, Township Treasurer Laurie Lemke asked Swan if the planning department is receiving more questions from residents about the zoning rules for owning chickens and chicken coops.

"We have gotten a few applications over the last few months," Swan replied. "The zoning ordinance currently, if you live in the A-R (Agricultural/Rural-Residential) or A-B (Agricultural/Agri-Business) zoning districts, you're allowed to have chickens by right. When we move into the more suburban and solely residential areas of the township, regulations do get a little bit more restrictive. So, currently the way it stands in the ordinance, if you live in the RL-10 (Residential) zoning district, you're not allowed to have non-household animals … However, if you live in the RL-14 (Single Family Residential) zoning district - which calls for slightly larger lot sizes than RL-10 - you are eligible to apply for a special-use permit and get consideration from the planning commission to have chickens."

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Thornapple Township chips in $10,000 for trail project

Jayson Bussa
Contributing Writer

The Thornapple Township Board of Trustees is joining forces with the Village of Middleville, voting at its Feb. 10 meeting to kick in $10,000 for a project to overhaul a stretch of the Paul Henry Trail.

That might not be all, however, as Middleville officials might seek additional financial assistance in the future, given the hefty price tag of the project.

Middleville Village Manager Craig Stolsonburg, Village President Kevin Smith and Village President Pro Tempore Makenzi Peters were all present at Monday's meeting at which the township board pledged $10,000 in matching funds toward the effort to fix up the trail.

The Village of Middleville is looking to enhance the Paul Henry Trail by replacing two aging railroad bridges and repaving a stretch that extends from the village south to Irving Road. The renovations likely won't come cheap, and Stolsonburg has been making his rounds with municipalities and local organizations to solicit funds.

Stolsonburg said Monday the project would cost around $2.2 million, adding village officials are pursuing state grants to help with the cost. Even if awarded state funding, officials would likely have to raise around $500,000 to $600,000 for the necessary matching funds.

After crunching the numbers, Stolsonburg requested Thornapple Township earmark about $150,000 for the project – far more than the $10,000 the township board OK'd at Monday's meeting.

Stolsonburg said he plans to talk to

See **THORNAPPLE** on 6

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PARCEL

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watershed closer to 92nd Street.

The township's Parks & Trails Committee had requested that the township board consider authorizing up to $7,000 so that both properties could be appraised.

But trustee Rob DeWard mentioned that the township board approved in December spending up to $35,000 for a township-wide Natural Resources Inventory to be conducted. The board voted at that time to initially budget $23,1000 for an out-of-state company to undertake a three-phase study to survey the township's topography, among other tasks. The trustees could later determine if they want to spend the remaining balance of the $35,000 budgeted to expand the study.

DeWard asked why the township should not wait for the Natural Resources Inventory to be completed before getting the appraisal done on the two parcels. But Weersing said he was not sure if the owners would still have the property available for sale a year from now.

"I don't know if this is available in a year. If we put them off for a year, they may go in a different direction," Weersing said.

He added that, to be eligible for a state grant, the potential park property would first have to be appraised.

But DeWard said township trustees should have been given more information about the parcels before being asked to vote on whether to authorize funding the property appraisals.

"Instead, we're being asked to make a decision about something we don't know anything about. And I wonder if we're being good stewards to the public if we're making decisions here on the blind side," he said.

"The developer has asked us to not divulge until we get further down the road," Weersing explained.

"But how can we spend $7,000 in taxpayer money when have no idea what is, where it is?" Trustee Dan Fryling asked.

"Staff thinks it's a really good opportunity," Weersing replied, "and that's why it was brought to the attention of Parks & Trails, who reviewed it and also think it's a good opportunity and have made this request."

VanderStel, a member of the Parks & Trails Committee, said the committee was not given a specific location where the potential park property is.

"Not the actual location," she said. "It was being kept quiet for the reason stated, that we don't want it published."

"We've given (the Parks & Trails Committee) the highlights of the property and told them why we think that it is a good opportunity," Weersing said.

He added that township staff have "an idea" on what the cost of the first parcel of property would be, but not the second nearby parcel.

DeWard said trustees have a right and a duty to know where the board is spending taxpayer money.

"It just sounds way too secretive to me," Fryling said.

Terpstra said he did not want to wait a year for the Natural Resources Inventory to be conducted before deciding on whether to have the parcels appraised.

"I think we need to trust our township staff and adhere to what the current property owner says, that they don't really want all the information out yet," Trustee Tim Haagsma said.

A motion was then raised asking the township board if it would approve the Parks & Trails Committee's request to authorize spending up to $7,000 for appraisal of the two parcels of land that could be used for future park locations. The vote was 5-2 against the measure, with Haagsma and VanderStel casting the two yes votes.

Lemke then pointed out that Gaines Township has not invested much in its township parks in the past 20 years, other than some construction work at Prairie Wolf Park, mainly.

After that, Haagsma made a motion for the board to authorize spending up to $3,000 to have an appraisal done on the main 20-acre parcel that staff has been considering. As mentioned, that was approved 6-1.

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Church Safety Conference slated for Feb. 22

Jayson Bussa
Contributing Writer

No one likes to think about a situation where their lives might be in danger — but one local event is designed to prepare you for exactly that.

The Larry Jackson Memorial Barry County Sheriff's Church Safety Conference is where such information is exchanged. This year's event is slated for Feb. 22 at First Baptist Church of Middleville.

The event runs all day, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., and features several guest speakers and break-out sessions with varying topics, from building safety and legal liabilities to de-escalation tactics.

It's an opportunity for groups and individuals to receive this kind of training even if they previously didn't have access to it.

"Particularly at churches, you don't want to think about an active shooter coming in, but we rather equip people to know what to do in those situations rather than they regret not knowing what to do," said Becky Wynsma, who is a member of the Barry County Sheriff's Auxiliary, a member of First Baptist Church of Middleville and helps to organize the yearly event with her husband.

The training and education don't just center on extreme situations like an active shooter, either. In fact, first aid training is also a popular breakout session for the event.

The event has steadily grown over time, with a record 393 people who signed up for it last year. As of now, around 290 people are registered for this year's event, putting organizers on pace to match last year's total.

Advanced registration is encouraged so that organizers can get an idea of a headcount for food purposes, but walk-ins are certainly welcome.

This year's keynote speaker is John Riley, of Gentle Response, an organization that provides de-escalation training.

Riley is a former Army infantryman and retired member of the Grand Rapids Police Department. It was while preparing a conflict de-escalation training class for his church security team in 2016 that he realized what he had to share and teach would benefit anyone who deals with the public. Wynsma said people of all professions tend to partake in this training, including teachers.

"We think it is fantastic because it's more about trying to help communities and churches and schools," Wynsma said. "To just have more knowledge because the more you know the better you can help people. That's basically what it comes down to."

Wynsma also said that each conference features something new, so someone who may have attended the event each year will walk away learning something new.

Detailed information on the event, along with registration forms, can be found at barrychurchsafety.org.

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STARBASE Battle Creek shuts its doors for now; future in limbo

■STEAM program idled for more than 1,600 area students

John Hendler
View Newspaper Group

STARBASE Battle Creek closed its doors and program operations on Feb. 7. This closure not only impacted the Battle Creek site but all 90 programs across the United States, including two others in Michigan (STARBASE Alpena and STARBASE One Selfridge), Puerto Rico and Guam.

Fifth graders at Thornapple Kellogg Schools will have their plans to visit the STEAM learning center put on hold for the duration of the closure.

"At this time, we do not know if this is a temporary or permanent closure," said STARBASE Executive Director Amber Waterbury, who noted that STARBASE Battle Creek has been serving the community and region as a leader in STEAM education for 18 years and has approximately 1,600 children in the program. "Please know that we are working diligently to remain afloat and continue providing an empowering educational opportunity that inspires generations of children to come."

Fifth-grade students in the core program come to STARBASE Battle Creek for five hours (9 a.m. to 2 p.m.) of instruction one day a week for five consecutive weeks with about 250 students attending each particular section at a time.

Students in STARBASE Advanced (approximately 80) are in grades six and seven, and students in the Outreach program (approximately 500) range from K-12. Several schools in the area participate in STARBASE programs.

STARBASE is part of the Department of Defense and Congress passes funding bills for the federal government, which, when signed by the president, become law. They entered the current fiscal year on Oct. 1, 2024, with no budget in place. The federal government is currently operating on a continuing resolution, providing limited funds and STARBASE funds are fully expended.

As the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate navigate the path forward for funding the federal government, Waterbury notes that there has been disagreement on how much to allocate for the 90 STARBASE locations.

"Currently, the House has proposed $60 million; the Senate has proposed $20 million," she said. "As a result of this disparity, the DoD comptroller (the financial reporting and accounting office) is acting conservatively and only released $20 million for all STARBASE locations during the continuing resolution."

On Jan. 29, the DoD program manager informed STARBASE they would have to close its operations on Feb. 7 because the DoD comptroller will not release additional funds.

STARBASE does not know if this shutdown is temporary or will be permanent.

"We will only learn this once Congress passes the appropriations budget and the president signs it into law," said Waterbury. "If the Senate concedes to the House and increases the STARBASE budget to $60 million, we've been told we can resume operations. If the House concedes to the Senate and lowers the budget, STARBASE will most likely face permanent closure."

STARBASE, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that operates STARBASE Battle Creek. They can fully accept any monetary donation people would like to make to help re-open the doors at starbasebattlecreek.org. (Contributions may be tax deductible.)

"With your critical financial contribution, we can supplement the shortfall in our budget while Congress makes a determination," said Waterbury. "The

See **STARBASE** on 14

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Thornapple Twp. board acts on variety of agenda items

Jayson Bussa
Contributing Writer

Helping fund trail renovations was far from the only action item before the members of the Thornapple Township Board of Trustees at their Feb. 10 meeting.

Other agenda items included:

• Thornapple Township Emergency Services Chief Bill Richardson was given approval by the board to hire two part-time EMTs and four part-time paramedics to fill the void left behind by an outgoing full-time employee and a long-time part-time paramedic, who worked significantly more than the typical part-timer.

• The board approved the appointment of Stephanie Skidmor as township's representative to the Thornapple Area Parks and Recreation Commission, succeeding Jeff Kenyon on the commission. Her term will expire at the end of this year.

• TTES will once again have an agreement with Yankee Springs Fire Department to help provide ambulance services. This was the case back in 2014 before Yankee Springs opted to contract with Wayland, instead.

"Geographically, we're poised in a much better location to take back over that coverage area," Richardson said, referring to the new agreement.

Richardson added his department would likely average only about a call every three days to cover those duties in the portion of Yankee Springs. The contract will bring his department around $4,500 for the year and cannot exceed $6,000.

THORNAPPLE

Continued from Page 4

the Irving Township Board of Trustees about helping fund the renovations, as well as soliciting additional funds from local organizations.

The trail project is targeted to begin in 2027 and the village would need to start applying for the grants in the near future.

"I just want to say, I had penciled in $10,000 because I hadn't spoken to anyone about this yet," Thornapple Township Board President Eric Schaefer said. "I think we feel comfortable with that as a starting point.

"But I think it was important for you guys to get this resolution of support sooner rather than later," he added. "When we're done with our budget and see what we have left and what we can afford, we certainly see the importance of trails."

However, some members balked at the idea of that amount ballooning from $10,000 to more than $100,000.

"I can't imagine that this rural community is populated with people who are going to accept that kind of expense going to a trail," Trustee Ross DeMaagd said. "Especially when the roads need the money and that benefits the general public a lot more."

DeMaagd added that with some outside-the-box thinking, they could find an alternative avenue to fixing up the trail — one with a smaller price tag.

WRITER

Continued from Page 1

He looks forward to covering other stories like sports and local events.

After graduating from Caledonia High School in 2019, Peterson attended Grand Rapids Community College for two years before transferring to Rochester Christian University. There, he was given an opportunity to compete in the cross country and track teams while pursuing his bachelor's degree. Peterson graduated after three years with a degree in mass communications and was recognized as a two-time Character of Champion for his athletic accomplishments.

"College was a blast," Peterson said. "I never thought I'd get to compete at a professional level and graduate in a field I am very interested in pursuing."

Peterson came back home after graduating where he plans to start his career in journalism. Over time, he hopes to gain lots of experience and connections to pursue a career in sports media and communications.

"I'm excited to be back home in West Michigan," Peterson added. "I hope that my time at the local newspaper group provides me with new opportunities and knowledge of what I want to do with my life."

Macleod said she is thrilled to welcome Peterson on board.

"I know the Middleville and Caledonia areas are in good hands with Noah. I know firsthand what it's like to start your journalism career in the community you grew up. I'm excited to see him learn and grow while connecting with the community," she said.

Founded in 2003, View Newspaper *Group is a locally-owned, locally-connected community newspaper group covering 13 Michigan counties. As Michigan's largest independently owned newspaper group, the company publishes 21 newspapers with print editions reaching more than 335,000 households each week, plus an additional 500,000 monthly online readers. For more information, visit mihomepaper.com or contact View Newspaper Group Brand Manager Emily Caswell at ecaswell@mihomepaper.com.*

GAINES CHARTER TOWNSHIP

2025 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW MEETING SCHEDULE

Charter Township of Gaines, County of Kent, MI

The Gaines Charter Township Board of Review for March 2025 will be held at the Township Office, located at 8555 Kalamazoo Ave., SE, Caledonia, MI to hear appeals regarding 2025 assessments.

The Gaines Charter Township Board of Review will meet on the following dates:

- Tuesday, March 4, 2025, 9:00AM: **Organizational Meeting**
- Monday, March 10, 2025, 12:00PM to 6:00PM: **Appeals Hearings**
- Tuesday, March 11, 2025, 3:00PM to 9:00PM: **Appeals Hearings**

The Board of Review will meet as many more days as necessary to hear protests and equalize the 2025 assessments. By Board resolution, taxpayers may protest by letter sent to 8555 Kalamazoo Ave., SE, Caledonia, MI 49316 or by email to jim.zenas@gainestownship.org, provided the protest is received before 5:00PM Tuesday, March 11, 2025.

The tentative ratios and the estimated multipliers for each class of real property and personal property for 2025 are as follows:

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Americans With Disabilities (ADA) Notice

The Township will provide necessary reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon seven (7) days' notice. Contact Kim Triplett at 616-504-4332.

Caledonia Community Schools

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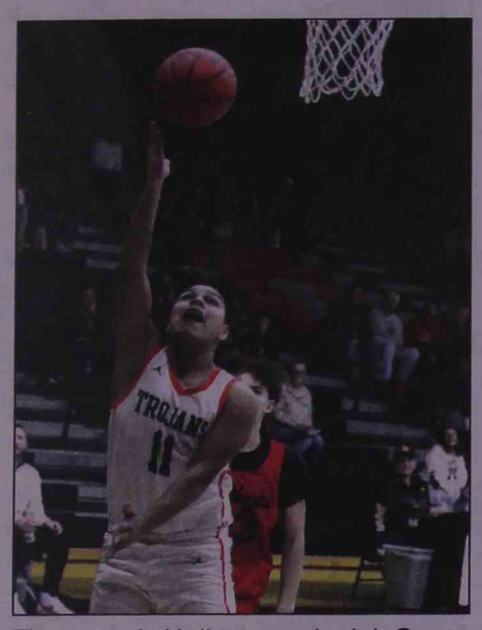
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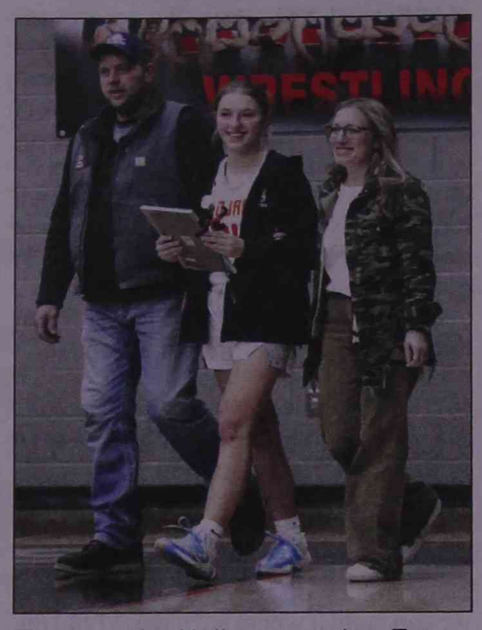
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Wildcats from Northview best TK teams on senior night



Thornapple Kellogg senior Ish Cantu gets to the rim for two points during the Trojans' senior night loss to visiting Northview in Middleville Feb. 7. The Wildcats took an 85-50 victory. The Trojans were 3-6 in the OK Gold conference and 9-10 overall on the season after a 52-42 conference defeat at Wayland Tuesday. **Photo by Brett Bremer**



Thornapple Kellogg senior Emma Dykhouse and her parents are honored during the Trojan varsity girls' and boys' basketball teams' senior night ceremony Feb. 7. The TK ladies were bested 50-35 by Northview on the night, but rebounded for a 53-52 win over the Wayland Wildcats Tuesday night. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

CHS boys score sweep of Jenison in Green hoops

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Caledonia varsity boys' basketball team made it 2-for-2 against Jenison in the OK Green Conference this winter and two wins in a row by outscoring the host Wildcats 47-40 Friday, Feb. 7.

Caledonia had three guys in double figures led by 18 points from sophomore Ben Geerdes who had five rebounds and three steals too. Fellow sophomore Bryce Backus had 14 points, eight rebounds, six assists and two steals for the Scots and senior Cam Myers had 12 points.

The Scots had just beaten West Catholic in a non-conference ballgame Feb. 4.

The win streak ended at two though as the Scots ran into the Muskegon team ranked eighth in the state in Division 1. The Big Reds kept their OK Green Conference record perfect at 8-0 with a 61-20 win at Caledonia High School Tuesday, Feb. 11.

Geerdes had seven points and four rebounds in the loss. Junior Luke Witvoet added six points.

The loss to Muskegon drops the Scots to 2-6 in the OK Green this winter and 6-13 overall heading into a Feb. 14 ballgame against Byron Center in Caledonia.

The Scots will be at West Ottawa Tuesday and then close the regular season at home against Mona Shores Feb. 21.



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Fastest Scots on skis score spots in state finals

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Senior David "DJ" Potgeter and Italian exchange student Chiara Marta both medaled in both events, the slalom and the giant slalom (GS), for the Caledonia varsity ski teams during the MHSAA Division 2 Regional Race hosted by Grand Rapids Christian at Cannonsburg Ski Area Monday.

The pair earned the chance to compete again at the MHSAA Division 2 Ski Finals at Boyne Highlands Feb. 24.

Potgeter, a state qualifier in his junior season too thanks to a regional slalom medal, placed ninth in the boys' GS and then fourth in the boys' slalom leading the CHS boys to a fourth-place finish overall. That's a bit of a tough spot to be in as the top ten individuals and the top three teams from the regional qualified for the state finals.

Marta was fifth in the girls' slalom and the runner-up to Mattawan/Paw Paw's Anna Hoogerheide in the girls' GS.

The East Grand Rapids boys and girls were well ahead of their competitors in the team standings and both captured regional titles. The Pioneer boys won with 86 points, with the low score in both events. Grand Rapids Christian finished the day with 145 points and West Catholic 157.5 to earn the other two team qualifying spots for the state finals.

Caledonia was fourth with 186 points, 18.5 behind third-place West Catholic and ahead of Mattawan/Paw Paw 189, Cadillac 197, West Michigan Aviation Academy 203, Hackett/Vicksburg 226.5, Spring Lake 275, Forest Hills Central 315, Northview 323, Lowell 337.5 and Plainwell/Thornapple Kellogg 365.5.

The regional course included two different GS courses and two different slalom courses for the boys' and girls' two runs down the hill.

The boys' opened on the GS runs on the cold, cloudy morning and Potgeter tallied times of 25.93 seconds and 26.85 seconds to hold a spot in the medals by more than half a second. In the slalom, Potgeter had times of 32.38 seconds and 32.40 on the two runs while the sun came out and the wind picked up on the hill.

"For him to qualify for both this year is huge," Caledonia head coach Duane Petrosky said. "He really, both as a skier and as a person, has just grown so much over the last four years. We are just really excited for him. This winter, he was trying to make Team Michigan, which is through USSA but they have a high school component. So, he did a bunch of extra races on top of ours. That experience along with his hard work has helped him to really step up. That field of skiers down here is really good down here in our region 5."

Experience and knowledge have been the biggest things improving Potgeter's times this winter.

"For him, it is really about how he reads the course and body position," Petrosky said. "He is really good at holding his edges and building speed in the right places on courses. A lot of kids, especially moving north, kids have gotten so much better at how do we create speed where we can, hold it where we have to hold on, because there are bad conditions and its so steep and you can't build speed, and then how do we accelerate across the flat. DJ is just really good at that."

Cadillac's Zane Wallis won the boys' GS competition with runs of 24.82 seconds and 25.96. East Grand Rapids' Quinn Irwin was the top slalom race with runs of 30.33 and 30.67. He also had the fastest second run of the GS earlier in the day, but a fall the first time down kept him out of the medals in that event.



The Fighting Scots' Liz Hilton gets moving down the slalom course during the MHSAA Division 2 Regional at Cannonsburg Ski Area Monday. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

"The boys team all season long has been great and skiing well," Petrosky said. "The second half we had a couple guys make mistakes. We had lost a ski, and then we had somebody double eject

See **SCOTS** on 9





Caledonia's Chiara Marta leans into a turn near the top of the GS course during the MHSAA Division 2 Regional at Cannonsburg Ski Area Monday. Marta earned a medal in both the GS and the slalom to qualify for the Feb. 24 D2 State Finals. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

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SCOTS

Continued from Page 8

towards the bottom bottom in that hole that developed. DJ is kind of at his level, but with the other guys on varsity if one guy bumps out there is another guy ready to step in and put a time down that helps.

"Peter Calhoun, I have been running in my sixth flight, not because he is the sixth fastest guy, but because he is the guy who can run a fast time later in a flight through rough conditions, and he did it for us again."

The CHS boys' team had Peter Calhoun tie for 24th in the slalom, Jake Potgeter 29th and Derick Pritchard 37th. In the GS, Jake Potgeter was 22nd, Aidan Brown finished in a tie for 27th and Calhoun finished 33rd.

Marta's first run down the girls' GS course was a hundredth of a second faster than Hoogerheide's, but Hoogerheide got the CHS leader by nine hundredths of a second the second time down for the win. East Grand Rapids' Sophie Hicks won the girls' slalom. Marta had GS runs of 26.38 and 26.22. Hoogerheide clocked in at 26.39 and 26.13 on her two runs.

"She is a special person and skier," coach Petrosky said, "and when we first met her she kind of downplayed how much she had raced. She is from Cortina, in Italy (home of some of the upcoming 2026 Winter Olympics competitions) … the first day we saw her ski it was like, 'oh, wow.'"

Marta is closing in on the team scoring records held by Emily Petrosky, the daughter of Duane Petrosky who is also an assistant coach in the program.

Marta had slalom times of 35.55 seconds and 34.21 seconds.

The East Grand Rapids girls won a regional title with 57 points ahead of Cadillac 113 and Grand Rapids Christian 116 in the top three. They were followed in the standings by Mattawan/Paw Paw 132, Hackett/Vicksburg 181, Forest Hills Central 201, Grand Rapids Catholic Central 209, Caledonia 254, Spring Lake 279 and Northview 358.

East Grand Rapids' Sophie Hicks beat out teammate Hannah Darooge at the top of the girls' slalom leaderboard at the start of the day. Hicks had runs of 35.05 and 33.20, just shy of fourth tenths of a second better than Darooge's runs of 35.19 and 33.45.

The Caledonia girls' team also had Liz Hilton 36th, Ada Decker 40th and Madison Reynolds 41st in the slalom. Scoring for the Scots in the GS behind Marta were Zuzanna Poradzka 42nd, Decker 43rd and Hilton 45th.

"What I have noticed from my younger skiers especially, our team has a lot of sophomore girls, they have been watching and trying to do some of the things [Marta] does on the course, and their times have been coming closer and closer. They're still a ways off. I just think having a skier like Chiara around brings everybody up, because they all want to do well … I think we'll see the benefits for the next few years on our girls' team, and the boys' too. She's faster than most boys."

Like the Caledonia girls' team, the Plainwell/Thornapple Kellogg Trojan boys' team was led by an exchange student, Claudio Costa. Costa had the top run for the Trojan club each time down with times of 27.21 and 28.50 in the GS.

The Trojan club also had Mark Gielincki 40th in the GS, Gerrit Taber 59th and Loehn Luckett 60th during the morning session.

Costa put together times of 37.20 and 36.63 to place 27th in the slalom. The Trojan club had Luckett 47th, Taber 48th and Ben White 57th in the slalom.

The Plainwell/TK Trojans head to Timber Ridge for the Southwest Michigan Ski Conference Finals Wednesday, Feb. 19, and then will race at the Caledonia Invitational at Crystal Mountain Friday, Feb. 21, to close out the season.

Caledonia will be a part of the Lake Michigan Ski Conference Championship at Crystal Mountain Feb. 19.



Plainwell/TK's Mark Gielincki picks up speed at the start of the boys' GS course during the morning session of the MHSAA Division 2 Regional at Cannonsburg Ski Area Monday. **Photo by Brett Bremer**



The Fighting Scots' David Potgeter takes his second run down the hill at Cannonsburg Ski Area in the GS during the MHSAA Division 2 Regional Monday. Potgeter scored a top ten medal in both the GS and slalom to qualify for the Feb. 24 D2 State Finals. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

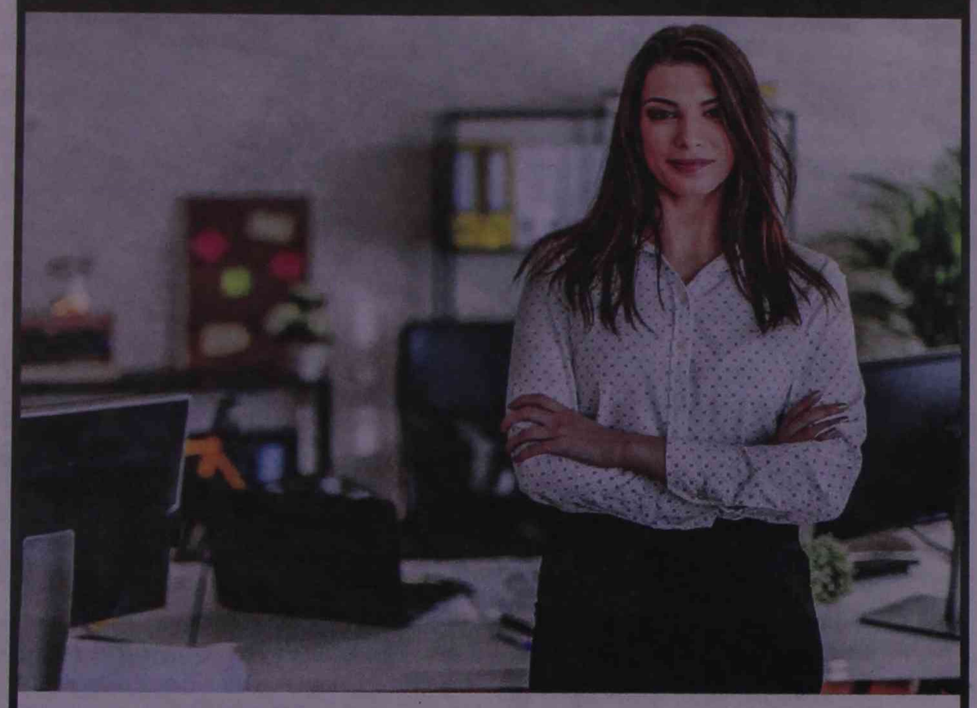
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Hayden makes quick work of first girls' district



Thornapple Kellogg's Adelaide Holderman (left) reaches over with a smile for a high-five from Caledonia's Maddie Hayden's quick pin of Holderman in their 170-pound championship match Sunday at the MHSAA Girls Individual District at Hastings High School. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

In the MHSAA's first season with an expanded girls' individual wrestling tournament, which includes a district round for the first time, every district champion was a first time district champion.

That goes for two-time state champions Maddie Hayden from Caledonia and Madison Nieuwenhuis from Plainwell, and for previous state medalists like Hastings' Dezarae Mathis and Naomi Grummet.

Grummet closed her junior season with an all-state medal in her hand for an eighth-place finish in the 155-pound weight class at the MHSAA Individual State Finals at Ford Field in Detroit last March. Her senior season will keep going towards a return to Detroit after she won a varsity tournament for the first time ever Sunday, taking the 145-pound weight class at the MHSAA Girls Individual Wrestling District hosted by her own Hastings High School.

Naomi is one of six Saxons who won their way through to the regional round of the state tournament. Hayden was the lone regional qualifier for the Fighting Scot program and Thornapple Kellogg got four girls through to this Sunday's regional at Portage Northern High School.

Thornapple Kellogg senior Emma Gibson won the 135-pound weight class. She pinned all three of her foes including Allegan's Dawn DeGood 1:20 into their championship bout. Raini Braska at 110 pounds and Adelaide Holderman at 170 pounds took runner-up finishes. Holderman couldn't help but smile as she high-fived a still kneeling Hayden after Caledonia's two-time state champion pinned her 58 seconds into their 170-pound title bout.

The TK team also had Rylee Alberts at 140 pounds place third.

"I think it is really cool. It kind of represents how many more girls have joined the sport, and not only joined the sport but stuck with it too," Hayden said of the first-time district tournament. "I think at first wrestling is a hard sport for girls to keep doing, especially if you're one of the only girls in the room. I think it is really cool how much it represents how girls' wrestling has grown."

Both Holderman and Hayden had made quick work of their first two district foes. Hayden pinned Otsego's Destiny Barck in 12 seconds in the

See **HAYDEN** on 11

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Scots get into final 16 in D1 with win over Knights

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Only eight teams made it further in the MHSAA Division 1 Team State Wrestling Tournament than the Fighting Scots this winter.

The gap between making the final 16 and being one of the squads pushing for a title was evident Wednesday at Brighton, and so was Caledonia's progress.

The Caledonia varsity wrestling team knocked off Loy Norrix 54-23 in its MHSAA Division 1 Regional Semifinal match and then ran into the Brighton team ranked second in the state in D1 and fell 76-0 in the regional final.

"We talked about it. If we could win round one, that was as goal for a successful program," Caledonia head coach Shawn Veitch said. "I am a straight shooter with them. That Loy Norrix match was a match I felt like we should win."

The Scots didn't win a dual with Loy Norrix in December of 2023, the first match in Veitch's returning to leading the CHS program. The Knights took a 56-21 win on that night in the Caledonia High School gym.

"Two years of growth and we flipped that script" Veitch said. "It just really shows the trajectory of our program and that it is on the right path, going the right direction to get to where we want to get at."

Loy Norrix forfeited the first two weight classes, 120 pounds and 126, to the Scots' Alish Basnett and Stephen Hooper to open the regional semifinal Wednesday and Caledonia led the dual from start to finish.

Coach Veitch was really pleased with a 12-11 victory in an ultimate tiebreaker round from Ben Moss over the Knights' Darik Smith in the 144-pound bout which was the Scots' first contested victory of the night.

Smith had a 3-1 lead after one period, but Moss got a take down of his own in the second period and went into the third period with a 6-5 lead. Smith managed the escape point he needed to even things up in the third period.

"He has just stuck to the script, asked questions, worked during and after practice on little adjustments," Veitch said of Moss. "He had lost 1 can't even tell ya how many matches by one or two points through the first three quarters of the season."

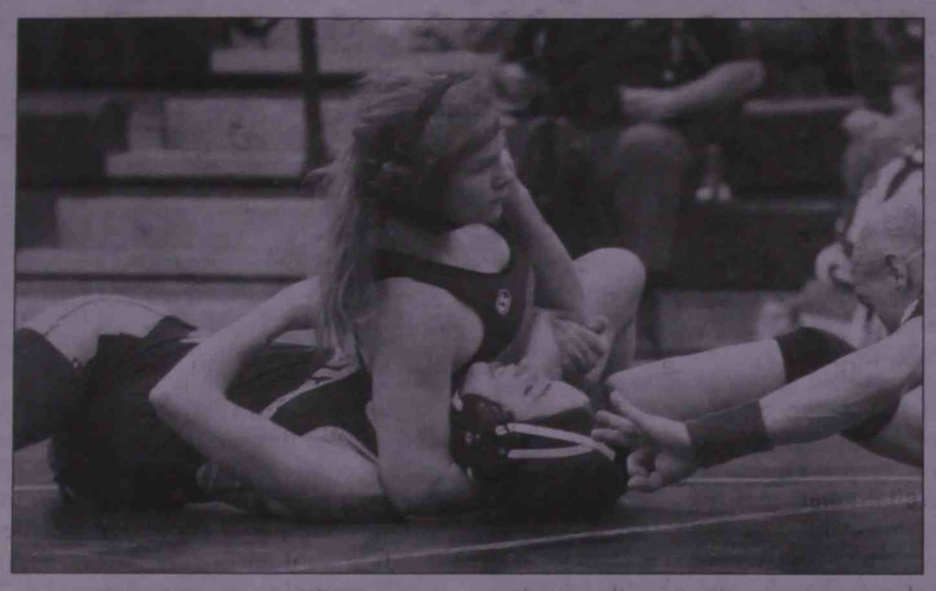
Veitch said he could see Moss getting down at one point, but they were able to talk about how it really meant he was really close to a breakthrough. That has proved true through the final weeks of the season.

The Scots also had Koleson Reeder score a technical fall at 157 pounds and David Tiers earn a major decision at 190. Pins came for the Scots from Muhammad Turk at 165, Caden Nostrant at 175, Kai Spencer at 285 pounds and Josh Grace at 120. Max Schnurstein added a forfeit win for the Scots at 106 pounds.

Coach Veitch noted that he also continued to be really impressed with Koleson's toughness. He had a severely sprained ankle at the late season tournament at Lakewood and kept battling through pain on into the postseason.

Caledonia has three wrestlers still competing in the individual state tournament. Escher Reeder, Tiers and James Carrow V earned top four finishes at the Scots' MHSAA Division 1 Individual District Tournament at Howell High School last Saturday.

Escher had the top finish placing third at 106 pounds. He beat Grand Ledge's Alex Duprest in the consolation final for third place 7-1. Tiers was fourth at 190 pounds and Carrow fourth at 132. The three regional qualifiers is up from one a year ago for the Scots. That trio will take part in the MHSAA Division 1 Individual Regional at Portage Northern High School today, Feb. 15.



Thornapple Kellogg's Rylee Alberts scores three near fall points in the closing seconds of her 140-pound match for third against Hastings' Jordan Milanowski for a 17-14 victory at the MHSAA Girls Individual Wrestling District at Hastings High School Sunday. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

HAYDEN

Continued from Page 10

170-pound quarterfinals and then stuck West Ottawa's Braelyn Sharda 35 seconds into their semifinal bout.

"I'm making sure that I'm the one hand fighting off the whistle. I'm the one getting what I want off my hand fight. I'm the one getting to my attacks … I'm just making sure I'm the one who is kind of controlling and dominating the match. Mostly it comes pretty naturally, but the more nervous I get for a match the more I'll kind of hold back. I think sometimes when I am more nervous for a match I have to cognitively choose to be the aggressor and be the one who dominates the match."

Holderman needed just a little more time. She pinned Fennville's Gabbi Vanstaalduinen in 65 seconds in the quarterfinals and then stuck Portland's Madison Pohl in 28 seconds.

Hayden is up a weight class from 155 where she won the first two girls' state championships.

Thornapple Kellogg's Jaycee Teunessen, Briella Dykstra, Addison Barringer, Aubrey Sines and Shaylynn Myers all won their way into the blood round, the consolation semifinals, but saw their tournament run end one victory shy of qualifying for the Feb. 16 regional.

In all, TK had 13 girls competing at the district tournament. Caledonia had three. Halle Stout, who qualified for the state finals along with Hayden last year as a freshman, wasn't able to get out of her 105-pound weight class this time around.

Village of Middleville COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the January 28, 2025 Regular Council Meeting, that were approved on February 11, 2025, are posted at the Village Hall at 100 E Main Street and on the website at www.villageofmiddleville.org.

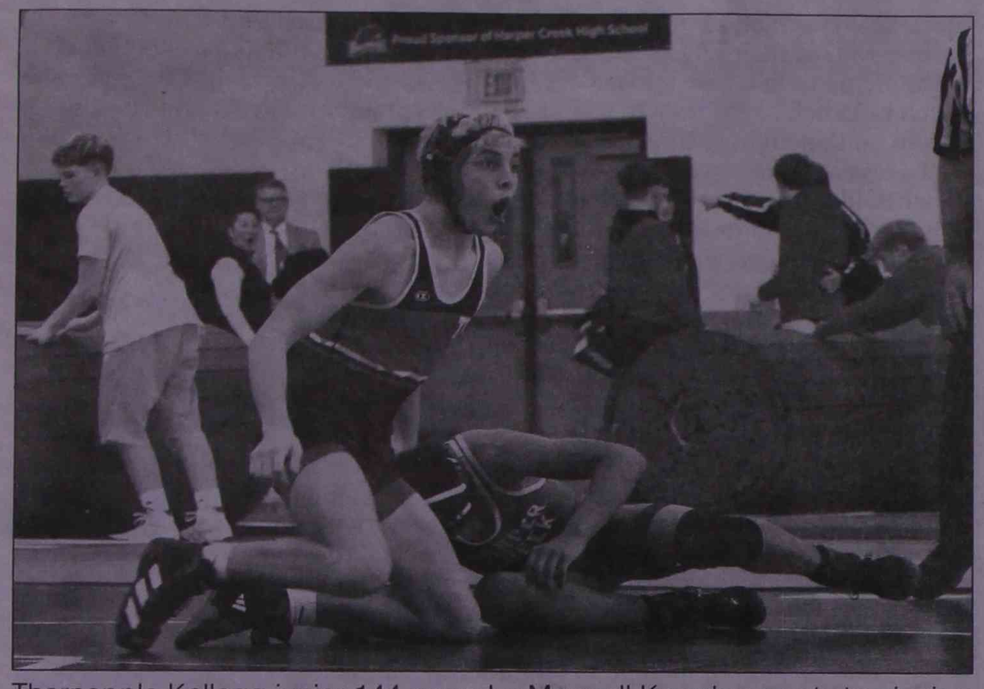
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CALEDONIA BOARD OF TRUSTEES Meeting Minutes

The minutes for the January 15, 2025 Township Board of Trustees Meeting that were approved on February 5, 2025, are posted at the Township Offices at 8196 Broadmoor Ave., and on the website at www.caledoniatownship.org.



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Back-to-back pins give TK a shot at state champs



Thornapple Kellogg junior 144-pounder Maxwell Knowles reacts to pinning Harper Creek's Amaree Armstrong in the penultimate bout of the MHSAA Division 2 Team Regional Semifinal at Harper Creek High School Wednesday. Knowles' pin and a 150-pound pin by teammate Griffin Grummet pushed TK to a 39-38 win over the Beavers. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Nobody expected them to beat Lowell.

But for a minute it didn't even look like the Trojans would get the chance to take on the top-ranked Red Arrows Wednesday night at Harper Creek High School.

Lowell kept its bid for a 12th consecutive MHSAA Division 2 Team Wrestling State Championship alive with a 75-0 win over the Thornapple Kellogg varsity wrestling team in the MHSAA Division 2 Regional Final in Battle Creek, but not before the Trojans got some late heroics from Maxwell Knowles and Griffin Grummet to score a 39-38 win over host Harper Creek in the regional semifinals.

The Trojans needed pins in the final two eight classes to pull ahead of the Beavers on the scoreboard, and they scored those 12 points. Knowles pulled off the unexpected in his 144-pound bout with Amaree Armstrong, pinning his Harper Creek opponent midway through the second period after the Beaver 144-pounder had scored the only take down of the match in the first period. Armstrong led 4-1 after a locked hands penalty against Knowles on the top early in the second period. Armstrong couldn't take advantage of his free chance to get off the bottom and Knowles kept working, and working and working until Armstrong was on his back.

"I got my legs in deep and it was a lot of pressure on him. My right leg was applying a lot of pressure," Knowles said.

"I am a new wrestler. I'm not great in other positions other than top."

Knowles, a junior, came into the bout with a 12-28 overall record this season and Armstrong sported a 28-13 mark. This is Knowles' first high school wrestling season.

"I want to be a fighter, and my old school didn't offer wrestling so I transferred schools to Middleville so I could be a wrestler," Knowles said. "I might as well, you only get one opportunity to do wrestling really. I come from a Jiu Jitsu background, so a lot of moves you do in Jiu Jitsu you do while you're on your back. It is okay to be on your back. Breaking those Jiu Jitsu habits has been really hard coming into wrestling because obviously it's the opposite principle."

Grummet, a sophomore, followed up by pinning Harper Creek's Caden Molak 61 seconds into their 150-pound match to secure the victory for the TK team. Grummet also secured the Trojans' district championship win over Gull Lake a week earlier.

"Two weeks in a row, as a sophomore he has been thrown into that situation and he has done a really good job," TK head coach Dayne Fletke said of Grummet. "He's a team player. He wrestles for the team. That is a good place to put him if it's going to come down to it."

Harper Creek had a couple spots where points got away from them, Raini Braska at 120 pounds for TK against the Beavers' Camren Brock and Diego Rodas at 126 pounds against Harper Creek's Devan Garcia, held on to allow just five-point technical falls rather than six-point pins. Those two flights where the Beavers were heavy favorites added ten points to their team total rather than a possible 12.

"Coming in, to start off the night we

See **PINS** on 13

2025 March Board of Review Meeting Schedule

Yankee Springs Township Barry County

The Yankee Springs Township Board of Review for March 2025 will meet at the Yankee Springs Township Hall at 284 N. Briggs Road, Middleville, MI 49333.

The Yankee Springs Township March Board of Review will meet on the following dates: Appeals are by appointment. Please call 269-795-9091 to schedule an appointment.

- Tuesday, March 4, 2025, at 1:30 PM - **Organizational Meeting**
- Wednesday, March 12, 2025, 1-4 PM and 6-9 PM - **Appeal Hearing**
- Thursday, March 13, 2025, 9 AM-Noon and 1:30-4:30 - **Appeal Hearing**

The Board of Review will meet as many more days as deemed necessary to hear questions, protests, and to equalize the 2025 assessments. By board resolution, taxpayers are able to protest in person, by letter sent to Dan Scheuerman at Yankee Springs Township, 284 N. Briggs Rd., Middleville, MI 49333, or email danscheuerman@yankeespringstwp.org., provided protest is received prior to 4 PM on March 13, 2025.

The tentative ratios and the estimated multipliers for each class of real property and personal property for 2025 are as follows

*Agricultural.....49.59%.....1.00827
*Commercial.....44.51%.....1.12334
*Industrial.....49.62%.....1.00766
*Residential.....45.56%.....1.09745
*Personal Property...50.00%.....1.00000

Americans With Disabilities (ADA) Notice

Persons with disabilities that need special assistance, please contact Tom Hopkins, Clerk, at 269-795-9091

Rob Heethuis, Supervisor Dan Scheuerman, Assessor

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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PINS

Continued from Page 12

were looking at Harper Creek who is a solid, solid program, and we were talking to the kids and saying every point counts," Fletke said. "If you go through there and you look, any of those kids that didn't get pinned, even getting teched saves the team a point … that really put us in a situation to pull that out.

"They might have had a tall order, but they knew they were going to give 100 percent and they weren't going to back down. That makes a difference in a dual. The team wins, we all win. If one wins, we all win as well. Those are things this group has going for them."

TK opened the dual strong against Harper Creek, taking a 21-0 lead through four weight classes. Camden Peter at 157 pounds, Blake Bossenberger at 165 and Jayce Curtis at 175 all scored pins for TK to open the dual. Peter managed his with four seconds left on the third period clock. Bossenberger and Curtis scored their pins early in the second period of their matches. That early Trojan run was capped off by a 20-13 win for Jackson Smith over Julian Landenberger in the 190-pound bout.

Christien Miller scoring a pin 57 seconds into the 113-pound match against Harper Creek's Carson Andrews accounted for TK's only other points until the late heroics from Knowles and Grummet.

Harper Creek got a 13-4 major decision from Sean Johnson over Tanner Buxton at 215 pounds and had heavyweight Ricky Johnson pin TK's Abram Dutcher 65 seconds into their 285-pound match. Cohen Renner then added a forfeit win for the Beavers as the line-up flipped to 106 pounds.

After the two technical falls at 120 and 126 for the Beavers, the Harper Creek team took the lead in the dual for the first time at 32-27 thanks to a pin by Jackson Pennock in his 132-pound bout with TK's Bennett MacDonald.

The Beavers bumped their lead to 11 points with two matches to go as Israel Waite pinned TK's Trace Pfiefer early in the second period of their 138-pound bout

Lowell beat Parma Western 67-10 in its regional semifinal match, and then swept all 14 weight classes in the final against TK. The Red Arrows' win over the Trojans included nine pins.

"Getting back to the regional final is nice. It has been a couple years," Fletke said, "the final 16. I think it has been three years for us since we've been in this position. It is just nice for the whole team. We brought 50 some kids here to watch what we've been working for this whole season. It is a family. We could have brought 28, but no we want everyone to witness it, because we all work together in the room every day for each other."

A few TK wrestlers still have matches ahead.

The Trojans were at Harper Creek Saturday, Feb. 8, for their MHSAA Division 2 Individual District Tournament and five Trojans won their way through to today's MHSAA Division 2 Individual Regional Tournament at Gull Lake.

Curtis took second in the 165-pound weight class. He had a pair of pins and then a technical fall against Parma Western's Titan Parker in the semifinals before running into Lowell's Owen Segorski in the championship bout at their flight. Segorski pinned Curtis 1:20 into their final round match.

Smith at 175 pounds, Miller at 113, Peter at 157 and Bossenberger at 165 all placed third.

Green title on the line as Scots host Sailors Friday

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

There is more than one game's worth of work to do yet, but the first conference championship in the new OK Green will come down to a ballgame between the Fighting Scots and Sailors at Caledonia High School Friday, Feb. 21.

Both teams went into this weekend's action with 7-1 conference records. The Scots were set to visit Byron Center Feb. 14 while Mona Shores had a home date with Muskegon Friday – the only team that beat it the first time through the conference schedule.

Mona Shores took the first matchup between the two teams last month, scoring a four-point win in Muskegon.

Caledonia got conference win number six last Friday at Jenison, pulling out a 51-50 win over the Wildcats, and then took a 54-43 win at Muskegon Tuesday, Feb. 11.

The Scots moved their overall record to 13-4 with the win at Muskegon.

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Thornapple Township
2025 BOARD OF REVIEW

Notice to all township taxpayers: The 2025 Board of Review for the Township of Thonapple will meet at the Township Hall, 200 E. Main St., Middleville, Michigan on these dates:

March 4, 2025 - Organizational Meeting
9 a.m.
Monday, March 10, 2025
9 a.m. to 12 Noon; 1 to 3 p.m.
Tuesday, March 11, 2025
6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Wednesday, March 12, 2024
8am to 12 Noon; 1 to 3 p.m.
CALL 269-795-7202
To make appointment with the Board of Review
(Written appeals accepted until 3 p.m. March 12, 2025)

The tentative recommended equalization ratios and estimated multipliers (factors) necessary to compute individual state equalized values of real property in the Township of Thornapple, Barry County:

CLASS	RATIO(%)	MULTIPLIER
AGRICULTURAL	47.16%	1.06022
COMMERCIAL	49.97%	1.00060
INDUSTRIAL	47.68%	1.04866
RESIDENTIAL	45.14%	1.10767
PERSONAL PROPERTY	50.00%	1.00000
DEVELOPMENTAL	None in Class	
TIMBER-CUTOVER	None in Class	

Eric Schaefer, Thornapple Township Supervisor

100 East Main Street ~ Middleville, MI 49333 ~ 269-795-3385
www.villageofmiddleville.org

PUBLIC HEARING

The Village of Middleville Planning Commission will hold a PUBLIC HEARING on Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at 7:00 pm, or as soon thereafter as possible, in the Council Chambers at the Middleville Village Hall at 100 East Main Street.

The purpose of the PUBLIC HEARING is to receive public comment and consider an application for Special Land Use Permit on property located at the northwest corner of M-37 and Heyboer Drive.

The Special Land Use Application seeks Planning Commission approval for a **drive-through facility** within a property that is part of a **Planned Unit Development (PUD) overlay zoning district**, where permitted uses are regulated by the C-2 zoning district and subject to the provisions of **Ordinance 2131**. Drive-through facilities are classified as **special land uses** in the **C-2 zoning district** and require Planning Commission approval per **Section 78-552 of the Village Code**.

The public is invited to attend this open meeting and to offer comments. Alternatively, to participate in the meeting by providing written comment, you may email your comment to the Director of Community and Economic Development at powersd@villageofmiddleville.org, or drop them off in person to Middleville Village Hall. Written comments received prior to 4:00 pm on March 4, 2025 will be distributed to Planning Commission members and it will be noted that such comments were received prior to the meeting.

A copy of the Special Land Use application is available for public inspection at Middleville Village Hall at the address indicated above during normal business hours (Monday thru Thursday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm and Friday 8:00 am to noon).

Persons with special needs who wish to attend should contact the Village Clerk no less than 3 days prior to the meeting. The Village Clerk can be contacted by phone at the number indicated above or by email at rvanpolen@villageofmiddleville.org, during normal business hours (Monday thru Thursday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm and Friday 8:00 am to noon).

Rhonda Van Polen, Village Clerk

STARBASE

Continued from Page 5

funds we raise can help us function in some form during this time. Your support is vital and will make a difference."

Waterbury is also urging people to each out to their Congressional representatives and senators, including senators Gary Peters (peters.senate.gov/contact/email-gary) Elissa Slotkin (slotkin.senate.gov/contact-your-senator/) and representatives Tim Walberg (walber g.house.gov/contact), Bill Huizenga (huizenga.house.gov/contact) and John Moolenaar (moolenaar.house.gov/contact).

Waterbury said she has been communicating with Peters' office and said the senator and his office have been very supportive.

"Your voice matters, and with enough support, we can help protect this invaluable program for future generations," said Waterbury. "A quick phone call or email to their offices can make a significant difference."

Those with questions can contact Waterbury at awaterbury@starbase-battlecreek.org or 269-969-3219.

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

HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH
9669 Kraft Ave., Caledonia
Phone: 616-891-9259
www.holyfamilycaledonia.org
Saturday Evening Mass ..... 5:00 p.m.
Sunday Masses..... 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Considering becoming Catholic?
Call or see our website for information.

JOURNEY CHURCH
Caledonia Location -
9185 Cherry Valley Ave SE
9:15 am and 11:00 am
Middleville Location -
1664 M-37
9:30 am and 11:00 am

PEACE CHURCH
PEACECHURCH.CC
Sundays at 9:00, and 10:30 AM
Lead Pastor: Pastor Ryan Kimmel
616.891.8119
6950 Cherry Valley Rd., Middleville, MI 49333
peacechurch.cc

St. Paul Lutheran Church & Preschool
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
8436 Kraft Ave., Caledonia, MI 49316
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

MIDDLEVILLE TOPS 546

The Feb. 10 meeting opened with roll call and the secretary's report. There is one new fish in the fishbowl. One fish fell out.

Maryellen's program was "Better Than Perfect" from the Jan./Feb. TOPS magazine. The article was from the perspective of an eldest child who felt she was a high achiever and perfectionist. She beat herself up worse than anyone else when making mistakes.

The author found a prayer group called "Therapy" that helped her learn the power of forgiveness begins with forgiving yourself first. Forgive yourself for all mistakes — big and little. Even ones you don't know you are making. Whenever a mistake is made, stop, and take a breath. Apologize immediately without making an excuse. And don't forget to apologize to yourself, too.

Next, look to see if a lesson can be learned — what led to your action, what do you need to work on, and what can you act on. Then, let go of the mistake. Forgive yourself as well as others. If a mistake continued to bother her, she went to confession. It helped her to forgive herself and others. It also helped her to learn from and heal from her mistakes. Another lesson she learned was that good can come from big mistakes. When she learned something, she let God handle the rest. She also learned that mistakes are going to happen because we live in an imperfect world. But forgiveness can heal them, and lessons can be learned. The key is to never give up.

Virginia 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.

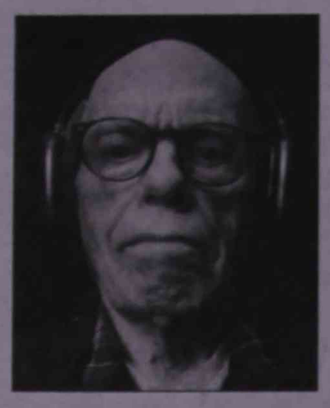
Anyone with questions may call Virginia, 269-908-8036, or Maryellen, 616-318-3545. The first meeting is free.

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Obituaries

Robert Lee "Bob" Klinge



Bob's life was filled with the joy of simple pleasures. He found happiness in camping with his beloved wife Linda, who preceded him in death in 2018. His love for family was evident through the time he spent with them, and his enjoyment of sharing meals with friends at Thornapple Kitchen was always a delight.

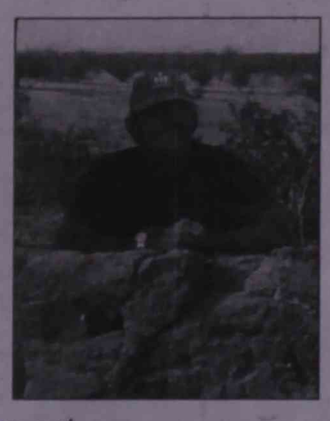
He leaves behind a loving family, including his siblings, Joyce Colborn, Clarence (Mary) Klinge Jr., Larry (Mary) Klinge, Ron (Carolyn) Klinge, Cindy Klinge, and Kris (Dan) Reeves, along with many adored nieces and nephews.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents, Clarence and Jessie "Jackie" (Dykstra) Klinge Sr.

Bob's family received friends on Thursday, Feb. 13, 2025 at the Beeler-Gores Funeral Home. He will be laid to rest at Fort Custer National Cemetery on Friday, Feb. 14, 2025 at 11 a.m.

Memorial contributions may be made to DAV (Disabled American Veterans). Please visit www.beelergoresfuneral.com to share a memory or leave a condolence message for Bob's family.condolence message for Carol's family.

Terry D. Rosendberg



Terry D. Rosendberg, passed away peacefully in Eloy, AZ, on February 10, 2025, at the age of 84. Born on June 15, 1940, in Middleville, MI, Terry was the son of Claude and Mary (Boley) Rosenberg.

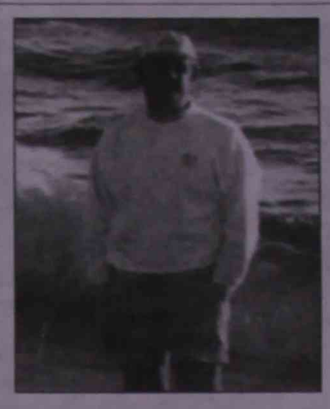
Terry had enlisted in the Navy and later embarked on a diverse career path. He worked for Arnold's Amusements, WG Wade Shows, and Diversco Gravel. His entrepreneurial spirit shone when he owned his own tire and wrecker service in Kalkaska. Throughout his life, Terry drove trucks for many companies and held a variety of jobs that showcased his versatility and work ethic.

Terry's zest for life was evident in his numerous interests and involvements. A devout member of the Parmelee United Methodist Church, he also enjoyed fellowship at the Golden Harvest Cowboy Church in Arizona City, Arizona. Terry's love for the outdoors was unmistakable, with over 50 joyous years spent in Eloy, Arizona. He was a valued member of the Barry County Gas and Steam Engine Club and relished the simple pleasures of exploring the desert, and even finding abandoned vehicles for cash rewards. He was a jack of all trades that could fix almost anything, and an extremely talented welder. He enjoyed riding motorcycles, even going to Sturgis Motorcycle Rally one year with his brothers Dodie and Mike. Terry's love for birds, and his musical talents on the dulcimer and accordion were known to all who loved him.

Terry was a loving patriarch, leaving behind a large and adoring family. He is survived by his children, Tammy (Ed) Jackson, Tim Rosenberg, Tom (Dana Newsome) Rosenberg, Jim (Kelly Hull) Rosenberg; stepchildren, Dawn (Jim) Losinger, Alan (Lydia) Brog, Jody (Sheryl) Brog; 40 grandchildren; 40 great-grandchildren; and 5 great-great-grandchildren. He also leaves his siblings, Jackie Gerard, Mike (Lynda) Rosenberg, and Susan (Bob) Parsley, as well as many nieces and nephews. Terry was preceded in death by his loving wife, Janet (Thaler) Rosenberg, his grandson Matthew Allen James, his sister Nancy (Bob) Anders, his brother, Dodie (Rosie) Rosenberg, and his brothers-in-law, Gary Gerard and Paul Parsley.

Services will be held at a later date. Memorial contributions to the Barry County Gas and Steam Engine Club will be appreciated. Please visit www.beelergoresfuneral.com to share a memory or leave a condolence message for Terry's family.

Roger Charles Keating



Roger Charles Keating, March 23, 1943 - February 7, 2025 left his earthly home he loved at the age of 81. His final hours, before entering his Heavenly home, were spent in the presence of his beloved family.

He is survived by Joyce, his treasured wife of nearly 62 years; his sons, Kraig (Jill) Keating, Kory (Shannon Houseman) Keating; and much-loved grandsons, Skyelar Guy, Taylor Goodwin and Bailey Goodwin.

He was a devoted husband, father and friend. He will be deeply missed by his immediate and extended family and his many dear friends.

He was the guy who could fix almost anything especially if it was one of the John Deere's he loved so much. Favorite times were spent plowing snow or mowing grass. Other good times were spent on one of his many boats, or just watching the Thornapple River go by.

He was predeceased in death by his parents, Ronald and Alice (Lamphear) Keating; and a brother, Ralph Keating.

Memorial services will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Feb. 14, at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 8436 Kraft Ave. Caledonia, with Pastor David Miller and Pastor Timothy Brand officiating. Relatives and friends may meet the family at the church on Thursday from 5 to 7 p.m. and on Friday from 10 a.m. until time of service.

Those who wish may make memorial contributions to St. Paul Lutheran Church, Capital Improvement Fund, or Faith Hospice Trillium Woods.

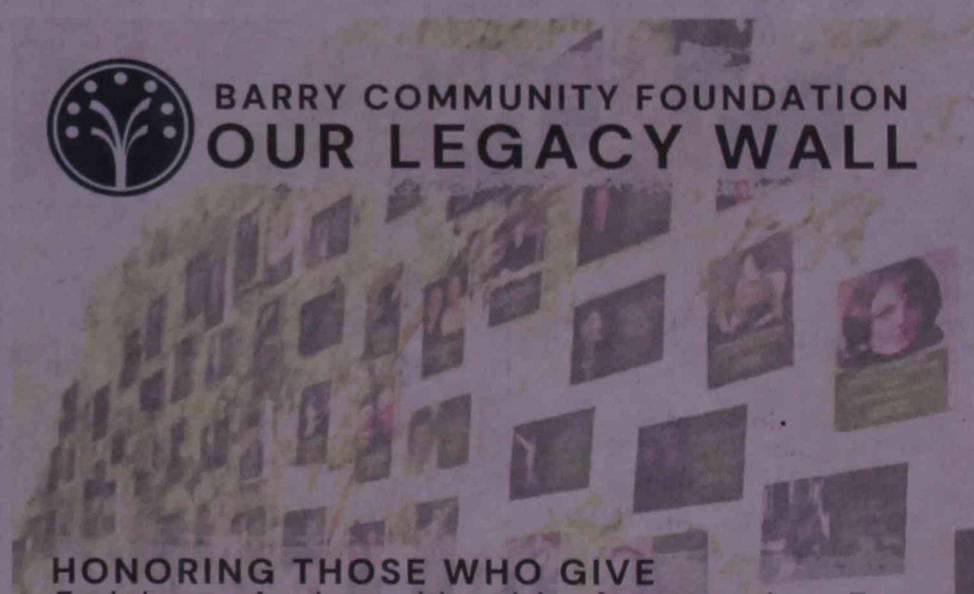
Per, Mr. Keating wishes cremation has taken place.

The family would like to thank family and friends at St. Paul Lutheran Church, the caregivers; Amber, Tammy and Quan for their wonderful and compassionate care given to Roger.

Condolences may be sent online at www.mkdfuneralhome.com.

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