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Your Hometown Newspaper Serving the Middleville, Caledonia and Gaines Township Areas
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TROJANS FIND SPARKLE EARLY, HOLD ON LATE AT DISTRICT
PAGE 15



Middleville gymnastics building burned in Friday blaze

Noah Peterson
Staff Writer

Middleville's Gymnastics In Motion (GIM) was lost when the building caught fire around 1 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 14. There were no injuries. Despite the efforts of several fire departments, the building was declared a total loss, and it is unclear if any items were salvaged inside.

Police were first to arrive after heavy smoke and flames were reported to be coming from the roof of GIM around 1 p.m. The building was reported to be unoccupied with no cars in the lot.

Not long after, firefighters from the Thornapple Township, Wayland, Freeport, Hastings and Caledonia fire departments responded to the scene. Police placed barricades to keep M-37 closed throughout the operation.

The situation was complicated when it turned out that there were no hydrants in the area; firefighters

See **BLAZE** on 3



A wide shot of Middleville's Gymnastics In Motion on M-37 just outside of Middleville after firefighters put out the fire that occurred there on Friday, Feb. 14. **Photo by Noah Peterson**

Suspect in fatal shooting in Cutlerville charged with felony firearm, open murder

James Gemmell
Contributing Writer

Kent County Sheriff's Office investigators say 36-year-old Jeffrey Gamble had known 18-year-old Marquan Leron Brice for many years.

And family members told various media outlets that Gamble even viewed Brice like a son, in some respects. But that relationship ended in gunfire on Sunday, February 16, in the Camelot Manor Mobile Home Park in the Cutlerville area of Byron Township. That is north of M-6 in the 6200 block of S. Division Avenue, which serves as the border between Byron and Gaines townships.

According to the KCSO, the shooting occurred around 5:30 p.m. in the 300 block of N. Harewood Dr.



Deputies took the suspect in the shooting at Camelot Mobile Home Park into custody after a brief manhunt. **Photos provided**

Court records indicate that Gamble was shot in the hip and chest late that afternoon during an argument with Brice. The sheriff's office said Gamble was driven to a hospital with critical injuries and died after undergoing surgery.

Deputies said that Brice fled from the scene after the shooting but later was apprehended after being tracked down by a sheriff's office K-9 unit assisted by drones. Brice was taken to the Kent County Jail. Court records show he was booked on February 17.

The KCSO said the Kent County Prosecutor's Office reviewed the case and filed charges of open murder and felony firearm against Brice. He was arraigned on those charges Feb. 18 in 63rd District Court.

The sheriff's office said that Gamble was Brice's mother's boyfriend, and they all had lived in the same home for many years.

Detectives said they are still investigating the specific circumstances surrounding the shooting. Details about the nature of the argument

See **SUSPECT** on 3

Series of local protests held to push back on Musk's involvement in federal government



A handful of Barry County residents braved frigid temperatures on Monday to protest in front of the Barry County Courthouse. **Photo by Molly Macleod**

Jayson Bussa
Contributing Writer

A group of Barry County residents have joined protests across the state to push back on the Trump Administration's decision to allow Elon Musk to involve himself in the operations of various federal agencies.

On Feb. 5, residents from Barry County traveled to Lansing to protest alongside others from across the state against the administration's efforts to reshape Washington's institutions.

"The sudden shutdown of federal departments and the unauthorized access Musk's team has to sensitive databases affecting every American violates the U.S. Constitution," said local protest organizer Lorraine Lindsey. "What are our elected officials in Lansing doing to stop this? More importantly, what steps are our state representatives and senators taking to mitigate the harmful impact of these changes on Michigan residents and businesses?"

On Feb. 10, Barry County residents joined protesters from Michigan's Second Congressional District at Congressman John Moolenaar's Caledonia office, demanding action. Roughly 60

See **PROTESTS** on 19

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Caledonia's RAD Drone Program off to a flying start

Noah Peterson
Staff Writer

Caledonia's EnrichED's RAD Drone program has five teams qualified for the 2025 North Central Aerial Drone Championship in their first two competitions of the season.

"Cal RAD has been constantly growing since we started four years ago," said Caledonia EnrichEd President and Student Services Assistant Angie Miller. "Last year we had 19 students and this year 30 students on 11 teams.

Both events took place at Kettering University, with the first held on Jan. 25. After three intense finals, each resulting in a tie, a rulebook decision declared Caledonia's "Fly Guys" (Gavin Grysen, Owen Marshall and Nicholai Nonhof) and "Altitude Strikes" (Nick Amorose, Shane Johnston and Zachary Little) as Tournament Mission Champions. The "Fly Guys" also received the Coding Award for their outstanding programming techniques in the Autonomous Flight Mission, while "Calvin & Hobbes" team members Jackson Bernal and Hailey LaPath were honored with the Judges Award, recognizing their exceptional contributions.

In addition, sibling duo Alex Hockwarth and Kate Yard of "Stall Warning" were awarded the All-Around Champion Award and secured a spot in the regional championship for their skills, teamwork, and professionalism. Hockwarth and Yard further proved their dominance by reclaiming the All-Around Champion title at the Feb. 6 competition at Kettering and recorded the highest skills score of the day, securing the Skills Mission Champion Award.

"The All-Around Award means that you're well-rounded and did well in every category," Miller noted. "Alex and Kate earned a score of 475 points, and I am impressed with their professionalism."



Award winners (from left) Zachary Little, Gavin Grysen, Nicholai Nonhof, Shane Johnston, Owen Marshall, Kate Yard, Jackson Bernal, Nick Amorose, Hailey LaPrath and Alex Hochwarth from the Kettering Competition on Jan. 25. **Photo provided**

The success doesn't stop there. Cal RAD's middle school team "Error" (Brady Cook, Micah Vink and absent teammates Kennedy Collins and Leah Marshall) earned their own regional invitation by winning the All-Around Champion Middle School Award at the Feb. 6 competition. In addition, team "Altitude Strikes" once again clinched the Tournament Champions title and took home another Coding Award, while team "AC130ABOVE!!" (Will Angus, Jack Gifford, Gain Rushlo and Charlie Schmidt) joined the regional qualifiers list by earning the Middle School Skills Champion Award.

Cal RAD's next big tournament will be on Mar. 22, hosted by Hudsonville Christian.

"With eight Caledonia RAD teams ranked among the top 10 middle and high school teams in the state, this season is already shaping up to be an incredible one. We can't wait to see what they achieve next!" Miller said.

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Phone: 269-945-9554
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CONTACT US
Editor: Molly Macleod
mmacleod@mihomepaper.com
Sports: Brett Bremer
bbremer@mihomepaper.com
Advertising Manager: Chris Silverman
csilverman@mihomepaper.com
Marketing and Community Engagement Specialist: Jennie Yonker
jyonker@mihomepaper.com

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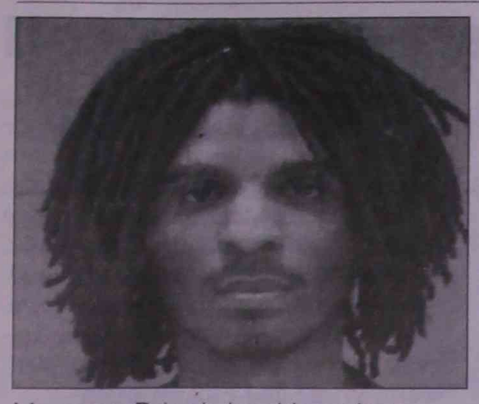
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Marquan Brice's booking photo.

SUSPECT

Continued from Page 1

between Brice and Gamble had not been released at the time of this report, nor was ballistics information about the type of gun used.

"We extend our deepest sympathies to the victim's family and friends during this difficult time," the KCSO said in a news release.

Anyone with more information related to the incident should contact the Kent County Sheriff's Office at 616-632-6125 or Silent Observer at 616-774-2345.

A GoFundMe page has been established for the family by Jeffrey Gamble's brother, Thadius Gamble.

It reads, in part, "He was a loved son, brother, uncle, and friend. This was unexpected and tragic."

Ada church to host free movie night March 1

Whitneyville Fellowship Church in Ada is inviting community members to a movie night on Saturday, March 1.

The featured movie will be "The Forge" which tells the story of Isaiah Wright, a 19-year -old who has some growing up to do.

A year out of high school with no plans for his future, Wright is challenged by his single mom and a successful businessman to start charting a better course for his life. Through the prayers of his mother and biblical discipleship from his new mentor, Wright begins to discover God's purpose for his life is so much more than he could hope for or imagine.

Fellowship hall doors open at 6:30 p.m., with the film starting at 7 p.m. Admission is free, and popcorn and beverages will be provided.

The Whitney Fellowship Church is located at 4935 Whitneyville Ave., between 48th and 52nd streets, in Ada. For more information on the movie night or upcoming other church events, visit the church's Facebook page or its website, WhitneyvilleFellowship.org. — *DM*

Winter storm proves less impactful than expected

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

Local officials were planning for a busy weekend, with weather forecasts calling for 8 inches or more of snow, as well as windy conditions. Happily, Mother Nature seemed to ease off a bit.

Barry County Sheriff's Office officials reported just four vehicular accidents over the weekend, though Lt. Tim Stevens said that didn't necessarily include calls into Central Dispatch regarding motorists who may have slid off the road due to poor weather or road conditions.

"There was no large spike in our numbers," Stevens said.

Jake Welch, managing director of the Barry County Road Commission, said the county agency called in road crews for the weekend after initial forecasts last Thursday called for up to 10 inches of snow. That included conducting operations both Saturday and Sunday.

"There was definitely blowing snow," Welch said. "The wind has been gnarly the last couple of weeks.

"(But) for what we've been getting on the weekends as of late … this was lighter than what we've been getting," he added. "This weekend wasn't all what we were expecting. It wasn't a ton (of snow)."

Compared to some weather reports, Welch added that local residents may have experienced snowfall of just 2 to 3 inches, depending on what part of Barry County they call home.

However, despite having less than anticipated snow fall and wanting to give BCRC drivers a day off, crews made at least one pass around county roadways Saturday and Sunday to make sure motorists had a clear pathway.

Additionally, crews worked to push back growing snow banks and drifts. Of course, such efforts have created calls into the BCRC office concerning damaged mailboxes.

"We've got a ton of calls about mailboxes," Welch said. "It's been a tough year because we've had to push snow back."

See **STORM** on 14

BLAZE

Continued from Page 1

had to bring in fresh water tankers to battle the blaze.

The building was declared a total loss about an hour after the fire was reported. An excavator tore down the remaining structure when it was revealed that nothing was salvageable inside.

GIM Athletics shared on its Facebook account that it's difficult to comprehend Friday's events.

"We want to thank everyone for their outpouring of love and support for our gym! We don't have any information at this time on what caused the fire, but we are beyond grateful that no classes were happening and no staff were in the buildings. Materials can be replaced, people cannot."

Barry County Commissioner Catherine Getty expressed the importance of the gym in the community at Tuesday's Barry County Board of Commissioners Committee of the Whole meeting.

"My heart really goes out to a business owner in Middleville that lost their business last week. Gymnastics In Motion, that facility was really a hub of a lot of activity for families and really an outlet for a lot of kids. It's sad to see it burned to the ground," Getty said.

A GoFundMe for GIM titled "Keep GIM Coaches and Kids Together" was created on Saturday and has already raised more than $7,000. Funds will go to the coaches to help continue working with the gym and kids and providing training space and equipment until a new building and gear can be attained.

"Please be patient as we navigate this difficult time and look towards the future. Your support means everything to us," wrote GIM representatives.

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Caledonia High School releases first semester honor roll

Caledonia High School has released its honor roll for the first semester of the 2024-25 academic year.

Students earning a grade point average of 4.000 or above are recognized as Summa Cum Laude. Those with a GPA of 3.500-3.999 as Magna Cum Laude, and those with a 3.300-3.499 GPA as Cum Laude.

Students qualifying include:

NINTH GRADE

Summa Cum Laude

Holden Ahee, Marco Amato, Madison Ambrose, Nick Amorose, Stella Barnwell, Connor Bloemers, Owen Bloemers, Maddox Bockover, Eve Boersma, Charlie Bont, Hayes Boucher, Emma Bowman, Alex Brady, Audree Brown, Aerianah Bute, Chloe Caldwell, Nora Case, Stella Chinthluai, Kendyl Clapper, Elise Clarin, Reagan Cobbs, Quinn Cook, Maci Davis, Miles Dood, Keely Drier, Sophie Edmondson, Adelyn Feenstra, Naomi Fennell, Ainsley Fron, Mohamed Gamareldawla, Myla Gortmaker, Ava Graham, Sophie Grajewski, Gavin Grysen, Mason Harrison, Caleb Helmholdt, Nevaeh Hirkaway, Scarlett Hoffa, Hannah Holmes, Rachael Hornacek, Isabelle Horning, Emery James, Ella Johnson, Shane Johnston, Max Judd, Erik Kalkofen, Lilliana Klein, Lily Klein, Summer Klein, Luke Kozak, Zachary Little, Nina Lusaya, Brinley Lyzenga, Owen Marshall, Bryson McCulloch, Haileigh McInally, Brooklyn McLeod, Lilian Meurlin, Mayar Mohameed, David Montross, Carly Moore, Alayna Musk, Berkley Nelson, Gavin Nelson, Kendyl Nonhof, Ryleigh Owens, Michael Paarlberg, Isabella Palmitier, Steven Pekrul, Emma Petz, Aimee Poe, MacKenzi Price, Griffin Rapa, Riley Reimbold, Corbin Ryder, Tiona Sakala, Daisy Schmidt, Grady Smith, Bennett Snapper, Kendall Somerville, Cooper Sowerby, Lydia Spees, Emily Stauffer, Arrow Stephen, Ruby Stoepker, Abigail Tava, Logan TenHopen, Shrimathi Thinniyam, Sakthi Kumar, David Tiers, Adelynn VanderZand, Lilli Wonnacott, Logan Workman, Katerina Yard, Quinn Ziegler and Zack Zupin.

Magna Cum Laude

Kelsie Baker, MaiLynn Bates, Lydia Bell, Isaac Bennett, Annika Bergs, Rylee Bos, Maie Brown-Nguyen, Lydia Casey, Tristan Chu, Anderson Collins, Nora Collins, Analiese Crothers, Sarah Denick, Naiya Dilley, Abigail Douglass, Jaycie Duffy, Henry Dupuis, Joey Duvall, Emma Elzinga, Sophie Ferris, Zach Fisher, Olivia Foster, Emma Garza, Grace Geelhoed, Madelynn Geerdes, Melanie Genao Grullon, Madysen Gizzi, Chace Gorby, Mallory Graham, Russell Grandon, Aiden Hager, Eli Hanna, Brooke Haynes, Jackson Heffner, Riley Hess, Avery Hitsman, Landon Horan, May May Huckleberry, Shane Johnson, Eli Jurmu, Aden Kalkofen, Maisie Klingensmith, Cooper Kosecki, Mason Lapekes, Ruby Larson, Emma Lerg, Khloe Lowande, August Maichele, Aditya Malvankar, Sedad Maric, Louis Mauriello, Cole McKenna, Tyler Menninga, Zahara Muriithi, Samuel Myers, Nicholai Nonhof, Oliver Olmstead, Gage Openshaw, Ellee Osborn, Egan Otto, Sydney Palmer, Lia-Rose Perry, Corbin Peterson, Zachary Pirkola, Zainab Piromari, Haven Powers, Samantha Richardson, Isabella Rozanski, Max Schnurstein, Aliya Schultetus, Conlan Schultz, Amelia Sharp, Caleb Sheldon, Cruz Sierra, Sutton Smith, Reagan Stevens, Jakob Swartzlander, Lucas Temple, Jared TenBrink, Calieb Tewoldemedhin, Myiah Thayer, Sean Thompson, Moss Thornton, Emma Unger, Logan Uyl, Levi VanderLaan, Raylee VanDeWeert, Kane VanLente, Lilian VanStrien, Laney Walsh, Brynn Ward, Lilli Ward, Brianne Weih, Samuel Westemeyer, Blake Whitlock, Vivian Williams and Lauren Ziegler.

Cum Laude

Caleb Abdelkader, Cameron Bach, Maddison Blaser, Payton Bykerk, Veda Choiniere, Elijah Clark, Evan Crater, Aslyn Crocker, Elliot DeVries, Parker Diemer, Jordyn Duffy, Kerim Duric, Jaden Emerson, Lleyton Finlan, Bryce Freese, Logan Hackman, Katelyn Johnson, Oslo Langeweg, Katelyn Light, Bryce Mitchell, Molly Muller, Maddyn Mulvey, Cade Paalman, Turner Platte, Alex Postma, Logan Pratt, Hestia Reed, Escher Reeder, Valeria Roque-Segura, Kylen Spencer, Marco Torrense Gallipoli, Iris VanOosterhout, Noah Wert, Naomi Wiese and Ethan Yarger.

TENTH GRADE

Summa Cum Laude

Aibree Akers, Addison Athearn, Bryce Backus, Layla Bouwens, Bria Brower, Justin Brown, Jagger Burnes, Kiara Cogswell, Katherine Cousineau, Elizabeth Crankson, Elliott Davis, Emery DeRosia, Trevor Dorman, Allison Dryburgh, Liam Dykhouse, Josie Endres, Grant Feldpausch, Estella Finkbeiner, Benjamin Geerdes, Chase Geister, Ayla Gerken, Aseel Ghannam, Grace Groendyke, Sean Harney, Gabriella Henney, Dylan Hilaski, Leah Hileman, Thomas Hodgson, Braden Hofstee, Maria Homrich, Claire James, Zack Keson, Ty Kimbrell, Mackenzie Krentz, Jack LeBoeuf, Vanness Lin, Madison Lockwood, Ellie Melano, Kayleigh Miersen, Noah Miller, Taven Openshaw, Abby Poe, Sophia Price, Quentin Raffler, Katie Reoch, Benji Rewa, Avery Seif, Lincoln Senti, Evelyn Smith, Tyler Smith, Emma Sokolovic, Harrison Solum, Lileeanna Souter-Allerding, Lucas Swartz, William Szyperski, Sui Tial, Katie Tran, Kate Trusevich, Jayden VanderSyde, Anna VanderWal, Meghan Venhuizen and James Visser.

Magna Cum Laude

Jackson Almy, Cameron Beach, Sarah Berger, Ainsley Bridges, Kayla Briseno, Aidan Brown, Kobe Buchan, Aaron Collins, Hunter Creguer, Caelyn Crocker, Akaela Daman, Addison Dana Brecken Daniero, Cole DeBlecourt, Ada Decker, Loralei DeHoek, Natalie DeTurk, Tessa DeYoung, Will Dickey, Daniel Donaldson, Levi Dorband, Cora Draft, Vivian Fink, Madelyn Geborkoff, Justin Golembeske, Luke Grasman, Emmett Haan, Lauryn Hager, Tzila Handley, Arbor Hannink, Anna Homrich, Evelyn Huttenga, Jack

See **HONOR** on 6

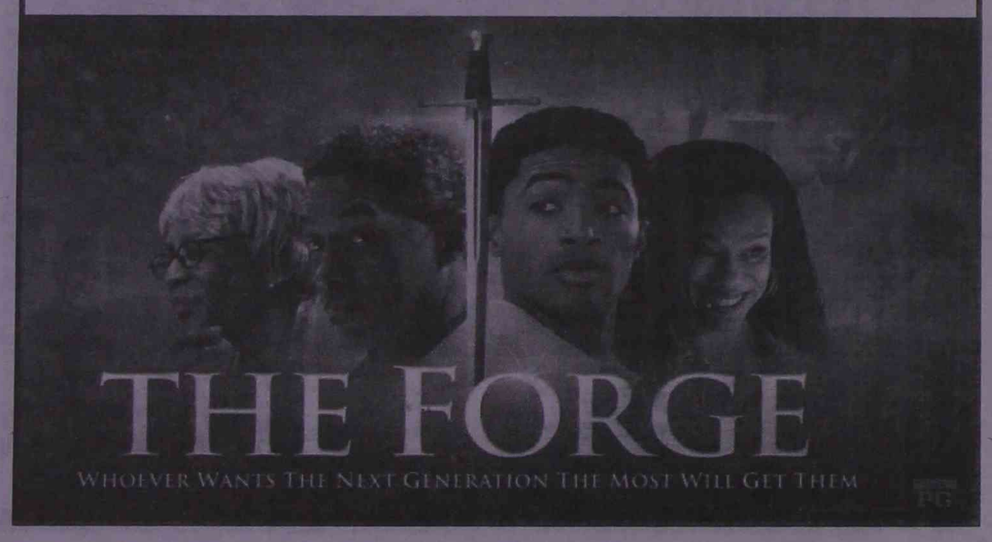
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Building Brands

Build a great wardrobe to build your personal brand



EMILY CASWELL
ecaswell@mihomepaper.com

A few months ago one of my team members walked into work wearing the most perfect fuchsia blazer. I was immediately obsessed and told her as much. Since we don't always work in the same office I thought it would be OK if I bought the blazer myself, but after some digging I discovered it was sold out in my size. Bummer, except that I'm an expert shopper and within 30 minutes had found a similar blazer from another retailer. While it didn't have a belt like hers did, it did have a faint pinstripe. If you're picturing the blazer, I bet you're thinking "wow, that's one loud blazer."

When I finally went to wear my fuchsia blazer earlier this week for a branding workshop I was presenting at, I had the same thought. My teammate pulled off the blazer so effortlessly, could I do the same? I wasn't positive, but the clock was ticking, so I went for it.

I'm so glad I did because by noon that day I had received multiple compliments. Not just on the blazer, but my overall "vibe." I have to admit, I was walking a little taller that day knowing what a beautiful piece of clothing I was wearing.

After texting a photo of my look to my teammate, thanking her for the inspiration, I started thinking about how our clothing plays such a big role in not just our "vibe," but also our personal brand.

That particular blazer is one of many I have purchased in recent years as my career has evolved, I've taken on more responsibilities and began to lead new team members. Something about a blazer, even when paired with jeans, says "leader," "professional," "pulled together."

It's no secret that I love clothes, and it's no secret that clothes and your style say a lot about your personal brand. That said, I know post-pandemic dressing can be tricky.

The experts at Forbes agree. An article on the topic on forbes.com reads, "In a world that has embraced casual norms, does how CEOs and other organizational leaders present themselves still matter in 2025? The answer is a resounding yes. Despite relaxed post-pandemic standards, a leader's presentation remains a cornerstone of their influence and authority. Leadership is more than actions, words, or lessons from seminars — it encompasses every facet of your presence, including your appearance. Forming a strong executive impression is as vital as ever."

And that impression is made quickly. From the article, "some studies, such as the one appearing in Social Psychological and Personality Science, suggest (a first impression) can happen in as little as 33 to 100 milliseconds."

Knowing how important your wardrobe is to your personal brand, here are some tips to build a great wardrobe so you can build your brand:

Take note of what you like: Just as I made note of my teammate's blazer, I make note of pieces I love almost daily. Usually, it's something I see someone wear in person, but I also rip out magazine pages, screen shot outfits I see online or hit pause if I see something of note on TV. This process takes time ultimately helping you create your personal style.

Invest in your clothes (and a good tailor): While I love a good deal, a great wardrobe is an investment, so budget accordingly, always leaving room for the work of a tailor. An expensive jacket that doesn't fit right will miss the mark on making the impression you want it to. From the forbes.com article, "As Zig Ziglar aptly said, 'You cannot climb the ladder of success dressed in the costume of failure.'"

Clean out your closet: I like the one-in; one-out method, which ensures that when a new piece enters your closet, an old piece that no longer serves you exits. It's easier said than done, but important. Also important is an organized closet. Whether by color or by style, I like a closet that makes is easy to find everything.

Develop your own "uniform": Leave the black turtleneck and jeans to the late Steve Jobs, but create your own "uniform" so that getting dressed doesn't take up too much time or energy. I have a few no-fail combinations I can reach for when I need to look great, but am lacking inspiration.

I know not everyone has a passion for fashion, but I promise an update to your wardrobe will do a lot to boost your brand. Like the forbes.com article said, looking good means "You're serious, prepared, and intentional." It's also good for your mental health. From the article, " … research published in the Journal of Business Research found that intentional clothing choices shape individuals' confidence levels, influencing how they present themselves and interact with the world."

What's your best advice for building a professional wardrobe? Email me at ecaswell@mihomepaper.com.

Emily Caswell is the Brand Manager for VIEW Group, the branding division of View Newspaper Group.

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Cum Laude

Morgan Barthel, Ryder Born, Ava Decker, Ian DeHaan, Judah Dorband, Miles Fynewever, Miles Grengs, Rhyan Guzman, Connor Hager, Olivia Hawkins, Emilia Kaszynska, Landry Mueller,

Drew Nichols, Hailey Nichols, Renno Nichols, Jake Paoletti, Connor Parlin, Logan Paulen,

Milana Rico, Mateus Santos, Kenan Sehic, Nicholas Seif, Aster Siang, Reese Stafford, Braeden Stallard, Juliana Stevens, Brock Tidey, KaydenTyler, Gretchen VanderEide, Mya VanderZwaag, Gavin VanMeter, Tara Walter, Sophia Whittemore and Emma Wilson

ELEVENTH GRADE

Summa Cum Laude

Joelyn Abraham, Mackenzi Anes, Madelyn Anes, Hannah Backhus, Andrew Barnum, Valin Barrett, Brooke Bender, Brecken Byrd, Wade Cawson, Kyla Charles, Addison Cook, Gavin DeFields, Kayla DeGraaf, Baylee DeVries, Sebastian DeZeeuw, Charlie Doan, Maxwell Doll, Brennan Donnelly, Sophia Douglass, Larissa Dudicz, Sophia Fata, Katelyn Ferris, Anders Foerch, Yasmeen Ghannam, Landry Hammond, Caleb Harrison, Adam Haynes, Sam Hoag, Ayden Hoisington, Kay Hurst, Katelyn Jaquish, Noah Kaplan, Ian Kimbrell, Jolie King, Parker Knoop, Circe Langeweg, Gabrielle Linker, Avarey Lippert, Parker Lipsman, Marian Listen, Allison Malone, Keira Marshall, Jayden McCoy, Noah Moberly, Mitchell Moelker, Christian Moorlag, Angel Par, Caleb Parlin, Rebecca Pezzato, Derick Prichard, Ashia Robinson, David Robinson, Isaac Robotham, Abigail Schnurstein, Abby Skibinski, Evelynn Slomp, Luke Smith, Ethan Snapper, Chelsea Tran, Helena Truong, Brooklynn VanArtsen, Kaden VanRyn, Abby VerBurg, Samuel Walma, Maya White, Elliot Winger, Rydik Wrubel and Elliott Ziegler.

Magna Cum Laude

Parker Anderson, Alivia Baareman, Ava Bedingham, Lillian Bender, Madison Bergs, Skye Bradley, Elliot Clark, Tana Coates, Gavin Dean, Aydin DeBoer, Peyton DeHorn, Hudsen Derengowski, Elysa DeVries, Brent DeYoung, Samantha Dunham, Audrey Duong, Carter Dykstra, Garrett Fales, Kebe Fitzell, Eliana Grinstead, Gillian Guzman, Andrew Hanna, Malachi Hanson, Shannon Harmon, Haley Hartnett, Madeline Hayden, Katie Honhart, Jonas Howell, Zoey Hunter, Raymond Huynh, Benjamin James, Alyssa Jernigan, Paityn John, Noah Johnston, Lyla Keller, Hellen Komera, Kohen Lapekes, Molly Liggett, Adelae Lucas, Addison Luxford, Torie Main, Jocelyn Martinez, Easton Miller, Ella Miller, Zoe Miller, Liam Moore, Ben Moss, Kortney Muller, Sergio Munoz, Sophia Myers, Cole Nyman, Codie Okrangley, Stuart Parker, Camden Quigley, Alyssa Rife, Savannah Robinson, Niomi Scavo, Mila Schultz, Gavin Senneker, Ryan Snider, Bradyn Snow, Austin Soper, Evan Standley, Madelyn Stauffer, Nina Stiver, Summer Tague, Hailey Thayer, TylerTriebel, Gabe Trudeau, Austin Tufts, Rosalyn VanStrien, Eli Velting, Payton Walker, Braylon Walma, Yelena Wilks, Dakota Winters, Luke Witvoet, Ryne Wysocki and Drake Young.

Cum Laude

Erica Angell, Sam Baker, Carter Berends, Libby Coles, Cassidy Collins, Erik Cove, Ella DeVries, Katelyn Farstvedt, Thomas Fryers, Jr., Nathan Johnston, Molly Larson, Teagan Markham, Logan Marvin, Cody Meyers, Addyson Olin, Austin Osborn, Jameson Palmer, Lauren Parker, Aaron Pyper, Madyson Saari, Ella Schultetus, Colton Sheely, Mya-Rose Slosser, Adam Smith, Halle Stout, Ellie Tennant, Jack Thornton, Claire Timmerman, Andrew VanderKolk, Haydn Weidner, Ella Wickens, Morgan Wnuk, Leonidus Xiong and Brianna Zeller.

TWELFTH GRADE

Summa Cum Laude

Isabelle Anderson, Sophia Anderson, Luke Athearn, Michael Berger, Greta Betz, Keegan Broomfield, Ethan Buer, Malia Burke, Parker Chapp, Teagan Chu, Rory Cobb, Madison Coles, Lauren Collett, Carson Conroy, Liam Cook, Nathen Cox, Adysen Daman, Kiersten DeHaan, Kaylee Dekkinga-Weller, Noah DeRosia, Ella DeRuyter, Christian DeYoung, Evan DeYoung, Drew Diebolt, Hannah Dupuis, Aidan Edgar, Alexa Elliot, Ethan Fisher, Sophia Gauthier, Jenny George, Sydney Gonyon, Silas Haan, Alex Hance, Neal Hargrave, Liz Hilton, Alexander Hochwarth, Noah Irish, Micah Jacobson, Kathleen Johnson, Samuel Jones, Bridget Kayser, Mason Kern, Lukas Keson, Benjamin Kieliszewski, Kylee Kirkbride, Gretel Knipping, Colin Kowatch, Nirdhvaitha Kumar, Elena LaFranca, Myah Lapekes, West Larson, Danielle Le-Tran, Austin Licari, Samuel Lusaya, Siyani Mahadevan, Jessica Maier, Joshua Maier, Hailey Markwat, Tyler McAllister, Samantha McCormick, Brennan McVey, Sawyer Mertz, Samuel Miersen, Shaun Milanowski, Elise Miller, Nathan Montross, Andrew Moore, Mason Morrell, Claire Musk, Cameron Myers, Alivia Neubauer-Keyes, Josie Noble, Copelin Okrangley, Peter Paarlberg, Erin Peckham, Eliza Pehrson, Ada Petersen, Elizabeth Pickering, TJ Platschorre, Allie Poe, Zuzanna Poradzka, Kayli Price, Joshua Rabourn, Finn Radtke, Caydence Reed, Rian Restau, Kaliana Reynolds, Sebastian Rissley, Garrett Ruehle, Addison Russell, Meghan Ruthven, Juliana Ryder, Addison Saidoo, Allie Sensing, William Sheely, Henry Simon, Ranveer Singh, Cerys Smith, Olivia Stauffer, Owen Straight, Christopher Streit, Andrew Tava, Claire Teunessen, Kort Thompson, Hailey Tiers, Justin Trees, Isabella Treib, Adela Turpin, Ryleigh VanderBerg, Kenna VanLente, Luke Veldman, Susanna Vire, Emily Vu, Trevor Walter, Cameron Weibel, Isabella Wierzbicki, Leah Williams and Cameron Wright.

Magna Cum Laude

Madelyn Abraham, Ava Acton, Ashleigh Adams, Keira Bommarito, Kiley Bommarito, Lakely Bottum, Joseph Briseno, Susan Buss, Brooklyn Bykerk, William Chrisman, Jenna

See HONOR on 8

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Icy Gun Lake Winterfest back with a splash

Karen Turko-Ebright
Contributing Writer

A record-breaking turnout of 80 braved frigid temperatures at this year's famous Polar Dip at Gun Lake Winterfest. However, the icy fun spread with the West Michigan Ice Riders, who revved up their motorcycles to put on a show with the frozen lake as their stage.

William Reaume of the West Michigan Ice Riders could not resist the invitation from the Gun Lake Winterfest committee to fire up his motorcycle on the ice with his group of 20 bikers on Saturday.

"The Winterfest committee asked us to put on an ice bike expedition for everybody," said Reaume, who lives in Orangeville just south of Gun Lake. "We ride here locally a lot. It's entertaining for the crowd."

Ice riders range in age from six-year-old kids to riders who are over 70. They all throttled their engines on the ice at the annual Winterfest at Gun Lake Park over the weekend. The riders wowed the crowd with slick maneuvers across the smooth, icy terrain, performing for an audience of about 300.

"We are trail riders and motocross riders during the summertime. This is the off-season," Reaume explained. "We already own motorcycles, so we swapped the tires out to ride them on the lake. We have a ball."

The motorcycle group is self-affiliated and likes to put on a show. Reaume said the group supports the local restaurants and businesses and buys gas in the Gun Lake area.

"We are trail riders and motocross riders during the summertime. This is the off-season," Reaume explained. "We already own motorcycles, so we swapped the tires out to ride them on the lake. We have a ball."

Winterfest 2025 moved from Yankee Springs State Park to Gun Lake Park at 2397 Patterson Road.

"I love the location because it's so close to the water. We got to see the bikers today," said Theresa Paiz, who heads up apparel and marketing for Winterfest.

Under her vendor tent, Paiz offers the public a variety of Winterfest swag.

"I'm glad we're back here because we were at this park eight or nine years before," she said. "I love the location because people approached me today and said, 'We were in town, and we did not know you were here. We stopped by to see you.' At the state park, we did not have that because it's off the road."

She said, "It was a great day."

Stacey Landman co-chairs Winterfest with her husband, Brad. Both are in their second year heading up the event.

"This year was great. We had lots of kids. We had a lot of audience participation in our games. It was fun," Stacey said. "I really like the location. I think a lot of people can see it because it's visible."

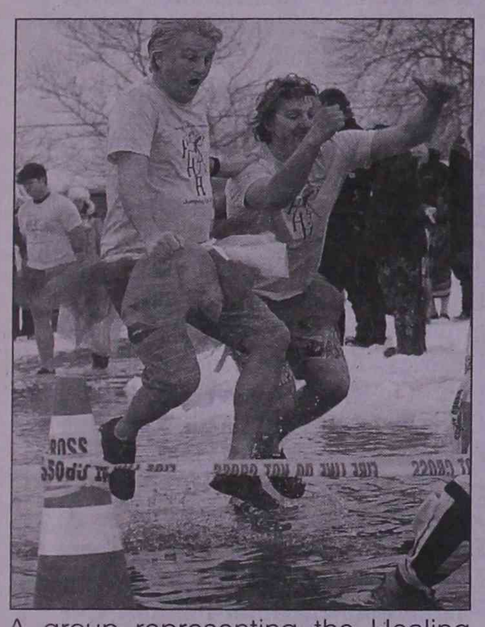
This year, trolleys were on-site at Winterfest, transporting shoppers to local businesses and restaurants around Gun Lake.

"There were a lot of people on the trolleys," Stacey Landman said. "Many people got to go to all the different

See **WINTERFEST** on 8



William Reaume and the West Michigan Ice Riders swapped their tires on their motorcycles to ride on the ice at Gun Lake Park on Saturday at the annual Gun Lake Winterfest. **Photos by Karen Turko-Ebright**



A group representing the Healing with Hope and Happiness mission aims to bring hope and joy to kids dealing with serious health situations. From left, Brian Kaczanowski and Nick Dykstra take the plunge at the Polar Dip during this year's Gun Lake Winterfest.

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WINTERFEST

Continued from Page 7

restaurants and businesses around the area as opposed to staying in one spot."

Besides trolleys, she said the games were a big hit with the audience.

"It was fun. We did a pizza eating and Vernors chugging contest and played the Price is Right games. Everyone won gift cards to use around town," Stacey Landman explained.

Jan Grabowski lives in Gun Lake and was excited to check the Polar Dip off her bucket list. She came with Mick Buhar and Joany Spencer. However, it wasn't on Buhar's bucket list. "It's just something to do," he said.

Brad Landman said the park was bustling with people all day long.

"It went well. Our goal was to bring people together and to the businesses," he said. I've seen the trolleys full running around. We couldn't be happier."

Elizabeth Jones continues to take charge of Gun Lake Idol.

"Idol went great. The singers liked that they finished at the casino rather than the Winterfest stage," Jones said. "It's a great experience for them. The casino puts on a very nice show."

Idol winners performed their winning songs at the Winterfest main stage on Saturday.

First-place winner Maurice Townsend received a $750 check, second-place winner Jaycee Peters took home the $500 prize and third-place winner Summer Ledford walked away with a $250 award. All three took home trophies.

Deb Timmerman, president of the Gun Lake Business Association, enjoyed her day at Winterfest.

"We are thrilled to support area businesses. It's so nice to hear that the trolleys have been full and that people are enjoying themselves," Timmerman said.

Katie Niemchick ran the Polar Dip. She credits the considerable turnout of Polar Dippers to the price cut this year.

"We changed the pricing from $25 to $10. We wanted to make it affordable for people to enjoy," Niemchick said. The proceeds will go to this year's chosen charity, The General Federation of Women's Clubs - Gun Lake Chapter.



A crowd of about 300 gathered on the ice at Gun Lake Park to cheer on the Polar Dippers and watch the West Michigan Ice Riders on Saturday at the annual Gun Lake Winterfest.

HONOR

Continued from Page 6

Clapper, Dakota Cole, Makenna Cole, Jack Collett, Remy Cortez, Coen Crocker, Samantha Daley-Fell, Campbell Day, Brynn Decker, Mary Depetro, Kara DeVault, Tristan Devrou, Isabelle DeWolf, Maria Dias Ribeiro, Taylor Doss, Dalton Ed, Easton Ellens, Laney Elles, Isabella Ellis, Ralph Emesum, Amber Fairchild, Chessie Fanco, Leighton Fink, Landon Fleming, Anthony Fox, Ethan Franken, Alaina Franklin, Ella Frederick, Cambria Gaier, Aiden Gieseler, Sofia Goldoni, Katie Guernsey, Kailyn Gustin, Presley Gyorki, Brogan Hacht, Leigha Hall, Leyla Hazel, Ally Heaton, Paige Henion, Claire Hoop, Rebecca Hornacek, Kaleb Huyser, Flavia Iorizzo, Rachel Judd, Kaelin Kalacanic, Anthony Kauffman, Avalynn Klapmust, Eden Korb, Olivia LaHaie, Mason Langeland, Kathryn Langenburg, Lauren Lauver, Abbie Layton, Isabella Leason, Gabbi Levack, Ellery Lienesch, Molly Lieske, Myrthe Lippens, Parker Little, Emmi Mince, Zachary Mulder, Amber Munson, Tucker Murray, Khadeeja Nasir, Tien Dinh Nguyen, Obaidullah Noor, Aubrey Oldfield, Amariana Ortega-Summerville, Sakura Otto, Crew Paalman, Lukas Palmitier, Allie Pellerito, Georgia Pennington, Alana Pettenger, Ethan Petz, Ragaz Piromari, Alejandra Posada Fernandez, DJ Potgeter, Noah Prior, Logan Reimbold Isaac Reurink, Jack Rife, Allye Risner, Jensen Rivera, Nuria Ros, Kyler Ross, Alaina Russell, Anthony Russo, Madison Savin, Kasen Savoy, Payton Seelye, Jacob Sensing, Brody Siler, Makenna Smiertka, Taylor Sorsen, Johanna Sproul, Hayden Stanley, Emma Stein, Ava Streff, River Swanlund, Ayden Taylor, Filip Taylor, Alexis Tell, Sam Temple, Natu Tewoldemedhin, Caleb Thome, Colton Timmerman, Muhammed Turk, Annika VanderEide, Patrick VanderKolk, Addysen VanderLaan, Cade VanderLaan, William VanderWeele, Aiden VanDeWeert, Leah VanHall, Talen Verburg, Reed Vogeler, Christina Waldmiller, Lillian Walker, Kayla Wever, Ella Wierenga, Josie Wilcox and Lauren Wnuk.

Cum Laude

Avery Beezhold, Jett Black, Mya Burgess, James Carrow, Kaden Colegrove, Valentina Correa Sobral, Cody DeVries, Madison Doroff, Kaeler Fox, Owen Fynewever, Gabrielle Gonzalez, Lily Gortmaker, Nathaniel Gue, Alexis Hammock, James Harper, Lexi Henney, Brady Hilaski, Ellie Hudson, Carter Johnson, Lily Keech, Jenna Labun, Isabelle Lavallee, Luna Moras, Cole Morgan, Jackson Olin, Alaina Palmer, Heidi Phillips, Ella Plummer, Bailey Postema, Hanna Powers, Axel Price, Samuel Pugh, Ademar Reid, AJ Roszkowski, Ella Rounds, Yoga Sharma, Quentin Stacer, Anika Sverns, Carly Vander-Roest, Levi VerBurg, Alani Xiong and Isabel Zupin.

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MIDDLEVILLE TOPS 546

The Feb. 17 meeting opened with roll call and the secretary's report. There is one new fish in the fishbowl.

Virginia's program was from TOPS President Rick Danforth in the March/April TOPS magazine: "TOPS Evolving to Remain Viable." Why do we resist change? Without change, nothing can be improved. The same goes for our weight-loss journeys. We need to make changes to get to our desired goal. Even TOPS founder Esther Mann knew her original ideas would need to evolve in order to succeed. Making changes is vital to any organization or company. If not, they cease to exist.

Linda won 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.

Trojans close regular season at home Thursday night

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Thornapple Kellogg varsity girls' basketball team will close out the regular season with a home game against Lakewood Thursday in Middleville.

The Trojans were set to visit Grand Rapids Union in the OK Gold Conference finale Friday, Feb. 21.

WestCatholic and Wyoming both scored their second win of the season over the TK ladies in the lead up to that second meeting with the Hawks. The Wolves bested the TK ladies 45-37 last Friday, Feb. 14, and the Trojans were downed 54-29 by the Falcons in Grand Rapids Tuesday night.

Those two losses pushed the Trojans' OK Gold Conference record down to 3-8 for the season and their overall mark to 7-12.

TK will start the MHSAA Division 1 state postseason the week of March 3 with Byron Center playing host.

CHS duo falls in blood round at tough D1 regional

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Caledonia boys won't be represented at Ford Field in Detroit this season, but that doesn't mean this season wasn't a success. It was another step forward.

The Fighting Scot varsity wrestling team had three individual regional qualifiers, and only two were able to compete at the MHSAA Division 1 Individual Regional hosted by Portage Northern High School Saturday.

Caledonia freshman 106-pounder Escher Reeder and senior 132-pounder James Carrow V both won one match, but had their season eventually come to an end with a loss in the regional blood round (the consolation semifinals.)

Reeder won his opening round match, 9-2 over Hudsonville's Braxton Sandee, but then was pinned in a semifinal bout by Brighton's Jameson Wood and then fell to Hastings freshman Hunter Sutfin in the blood round.

"Escher had a great first match," Caledonia head coach Shawn Veitch said, but he said Sutfin's opening round loss was as bit of a surprise and that made the path a little tougher for Reed.

Carrow lost by technical fall in his quarterfinal match against Hudsonville's Conor McAlary to start the day. He bounced back to score an 8-5 win over Reeths-Puffer's Tanner Cowles in the first round of consolation, but was pinned by Hunter Pulawski from Byron Center in the blood round.

"James, he just had a tough weight class," Veitch said. "It was just a stacked weight class. We were trying to find a way to get through."

"All in all, I would say about as expected. We want to have more, but just as a program that is where we're at right now. All good steps."

"You look at the D1 competition, not only our district with Grand Ledge and Brighton, but now we have Rockford and Grandville. You have to be a hammer if you want to get through."

Reeder was one of two CHS freshmen to qualify for the regional, but 190-pounder David Tiers injured a knee in the Scots' team regional competition and didn't compete at the individual tournament Saturday.

GAINES CHARTER TOWNSHIP

GAINES CHARTER TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Gaines Charter Township Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing to consider the following request:

Summary of Request:	Request for a dimensional variance to reduce the rear yard setback of the eastern property line from 100 feet to 50 feet to construct a single-family dwelling in the A-R zoning district.
Property Address:	4422 76 th Street SE, Caledonia, MI 49316
Parcel Number:	41-22-13-200-021
Applicant:	Kevin Offringa
Date and Time of Hearing:	March 12 th , 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 during regular business hours Monday through Friday, at the Planning Department window located in the Gaines Charter Township Offices or 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 PM on March 12 th , 2025.

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





Caledonia junior center Jolie King (top) forces a jump ball with West Ottawa's Nevaeh Reynolds during the first half of their non-conference ballgame at Caledonia High School Tuesday. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

Bottum inks college plans, helps Scots beat W.O.

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Caledonia sweet ladies built up some good momentum for what was set to be one of the program's biggest nights of basketball in the past decade Friday.

Mona Shores was set to visit Caledonia for a winner-take-all ballgame for the 2025 OK Green Conference Championship Friday night at Caledonia High School on a night that also includes the Scots' annual Cal Slams Cancer festivities and the Scots' senior night. Both teams were 8-1 through their first nine ballgames of the conference season.

The Fighting Scots improved their record to 15-4 overall with a 48-37 non-conference win over West Ottawa on what was an eventful Tuesday too at CHS.

Senior center Lakely Bottum signed her National Letter of Intent Tuesday to join the Aquinas College Women's Basketball program next year, and then she scored the first seven points of the game against former OK Red Conference foe West Ottawa in a ballgame the Scots led from start to finish.

"It just worked out that way," Bottum said of her big start. "There was definitely good movement offensively. Right away our energy was good."

Caledonia closed the first half on a 16-3 run to really take control against West Ottawa Tuesday, and then followed that up with a 16-6 run in the third quarter.

"I was happy with the way the girls adjusted. They saw a lot of different defenses tonight," Caledonia head coach Todd Bloemers said. "Coach [Paul] Chapman is known for doing some gimmicky stuff, and he gets his girls to buy into it and do a nice job of executing. Whether it was 1-3-1, 2-3, man, box-and-one, we were able to just run our stuff and get good shots. I didn't feel like we shot the ball great tonight, but I thought that we executed well enough, and moved the ball quickly enough, to make things happen."

Bottum finished with a team-high 13 points. freshman guard Emily Stauffer had 11 points and nine Scots scored in all. Freshman guard Myla Gortmaker had seven points and freshman guard Olivia Foster had six on a pair of threes.

"We're proud of [Bottum]," Bloemers said. "She has improved every season, but I have really seen a difference in her demeanor and focus here in the second part of this season. I think it is not a surprise that she is playing quite well."

West Ottawa was powered by the ability of freshman guard Jana Honeycutt to get to the rim. She finished with a game-high 21 points. Bloemers said the Scots got better with their help-side defense as the game progressed to limit Honeycutt at least a little.

The win bumps the Fighting Scots' record to 15-4 overall this season. They

See **SCOTS** on 11

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SCOTS

Continued from Page 10

last won a conference title in 2016 and that title was the first for the program since 1994.

Bottum said she and her teammates were really excited for Friday night's match-up, looking forward to avenging their 42-38 loss at Mona Shores from last month. The Sailors' lone conference defeat this season came against Muskegon.

"After that we came in the locker room and we said we're going to try our best next time and we're going to beat them. We just need to play a lot harder. We underestimated them on some points … they shot more threes than we thought they were going to shoot, and made them. Now we just need know now that they have the three-point shooters and the post so we need to lock both down."

Bottum hopes she has more than a few ballgames remaining with the Scots who will start their MHSAA Division 1 District Tournament the week beginning March 3, but she is also looking forward to playing at Aquinas in the future.

"I am really excited for that. It was between two colleges, but at Aquinas as soon as I went there, the practice I attended, I felt like it was family right away. I felt like I was meant to be there. I just got that feeling and it was nice."

She said getting that decision made did take a little pressure off.



Caledonia senior center Lakely Bottum puts a jump up over West Ottawa's Brooke Villemure during the first half of the Scots' 48-37 win over the visiting Panthers Tuesday at Caledonia High School.

Scots get a second shot at TK boys in district

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Caledonia varsity boys' basketball team will open the 2025 MHSAA Division 1 state tournament in Wyoming Monday taking on Thornapple Kellogg.

The Fighting Scots and Trojans tip off at 5:30 p.m. in the opening game of their district tournament. The Thornapple Kellogg boys took a three-point win over the Scots in Middleville back in the final game before the holiday break.

The Monday winner takes on the district's top seed, Byron Center, in the district semifinals back at Wyoming High School early Wednesday evening. Host Wyoming takes on Ottawa Hills in the second opening round game of the night Monday at the home of the Wolves with the winner of that one set to face East Kentwood in the second district semifinal Wednesday.

That top-seeded Byron Center team improved to 7-2 in the OK Green Conference, two games back of league-leading Muskegon, by scoring a 66-44 win over the Scots in Caledonia last Friday.

West Ottawa scored a 77-46 win over the visiting Scots in Holland Tuesday night.

Caledonia was set to go in a Friday night home game with Mona Shores to close the regular season with a 2-7 mark in the OK Green and a 6-15 overall record.



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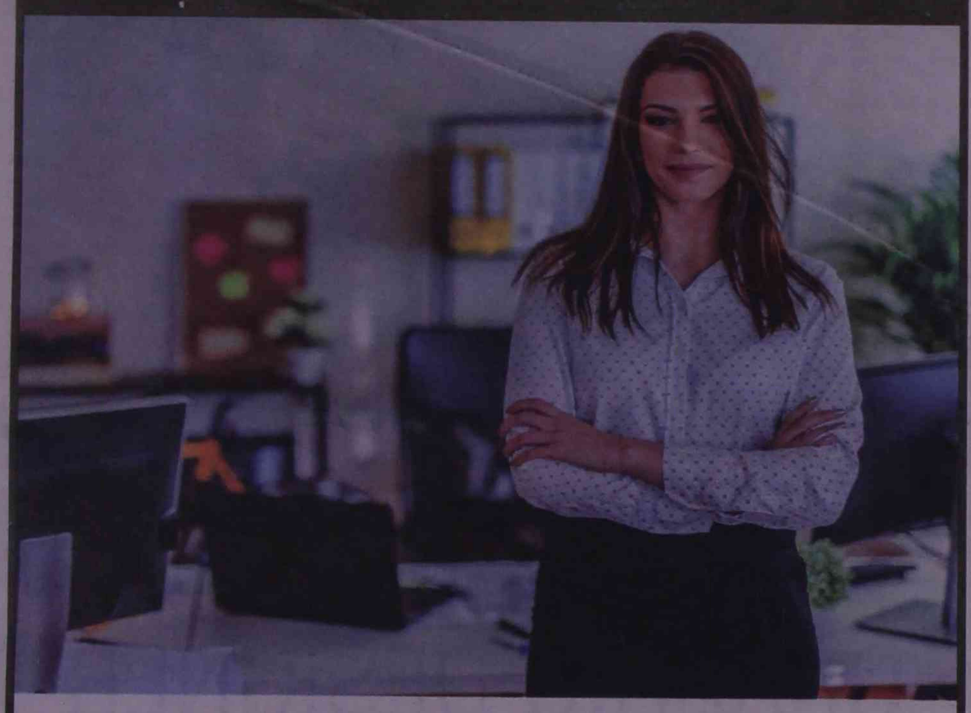
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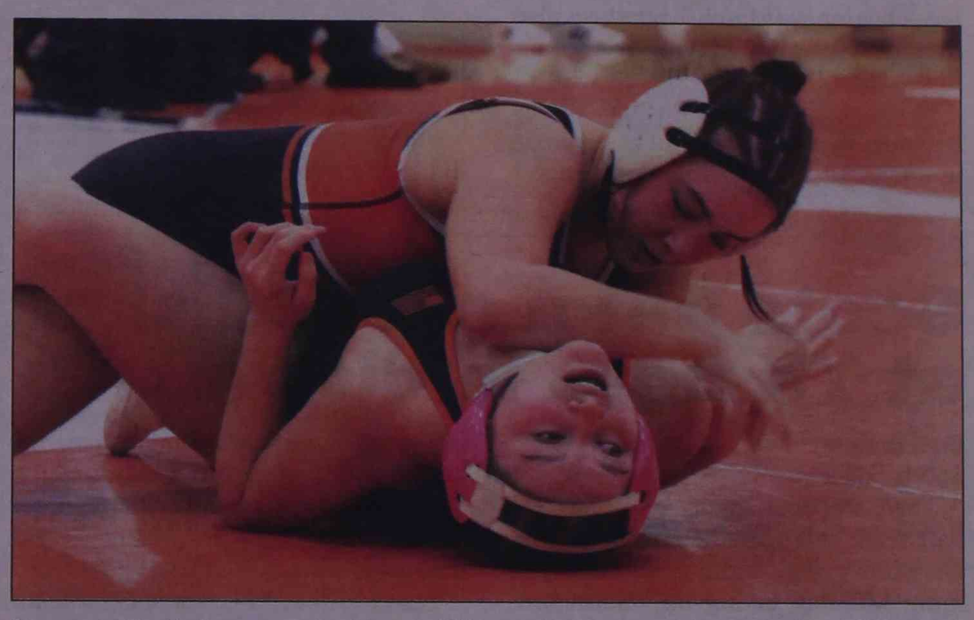
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Hayden and Gibson win regional titles in Portage



Caledonia junior Maddie Hayden (top) awaits the pin single as she holds down Paw Paw's Angle Miller during the first period of their 170-pound semifinal at the MHSAA girls Wrestling Regional at Portage Northern High School Sunday. Hayden, a two-time state champion, won her third regional title Sunday.



Thornapple Kellogg senior Emma Gibson (top) closes in on a pin of Allegan's Dawn Degood during the first period of their 135-pound championship match at the MHSAA Girls Wrestling Regional hosted by Portage Northern High School Sunday. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Adelaide Holderman did something nobody else has been able to do since the 2023 MHSAA Individual State Finals on Sunday.

She scored a point against Caledonia junior Maddie Hayden in the state tournament - three of them actually.

Holderman, a Thornapple Kellogg sophomore, got a quick take down of Hayden at the start of their 170-pound championship match at the MHSAA Girls Individual Wrestling Regional hosted by Portage Northern High School Sunday. As quick as Holderman

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Continued from Page 12

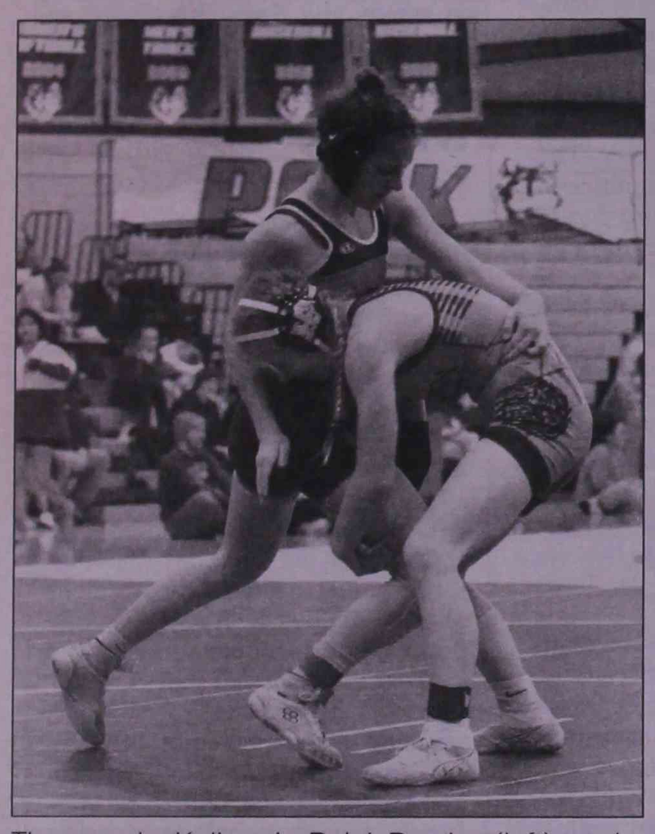
had those two points though, the two-time state champion Hayden had a two-point reversal and then a pin to win her third regional championship in three years.

"I was just being kind of sloppy with my underhook and she got in on a shot," Hayden said. "Not too many people shoot on me, so I am not too swell at sprawling right now, but it is okay. If somebody would have taken me down before, I would have really been able to laugh it off. I would probably be pretty mad about if for a while, but that is one thing I have kind of been doing especially with having a concussion this summer and getting back into wrestling. I realized I have to laugh it off and do the next best thing."

The last time somebody scored against Hayden in the state tournament was the 155-pound championship match at the 2023 Individual State Finals when Howell's Brynn Green managed a take down in the third period to cut into what had been a 6-0 lead for Hayden to that point. Hayden of course went on to a 7-3 victory in that match and then took seven straight shut out wins on her way to a second 155-pound state championship in 2024.

Hayden had five shut out victories this postseason before the regional final including a win over Holderman in their district championship match the previous Sunday.

"I had a lot easier time having fun at this tournament," Hayden said. "I don't know what it is about this tournament. I just had more fun, and that always helps with wrestling good, just having fun … that is something me and [coach Shawn] Veitch have kind of been working on. Before every tournament he is telling me just go out there and have fun. The best thing you can do is just go out there and have a smile on your face. I think this tournament is kind of when that clicked for me. Before this, I would be pretty nervous for a lot of my tournaments and I would be kind of anxious. It just clicked for me today to be able to have a smile and laugh stuff off."



Thornapple Kellogg's Raini Braska (left) works to break free from Mattawan's Anna Williamson during their 110-pound semifinal match at the MHSAA Girls Wrestling Regional at Portage Northern High School Sunday.

Hayden and Holderman were quite familiar with each other before going head to head in the regional final, and Hayden said she thinks the pair are capable of meeting up again in the 170-pound state championship match at Ford Field if they're on their A-game.

Both girls will head to Ford Field in Detroit the weekend of Feb. 28-March 1 for the MHSAA Individual State Finals. Hayden was the lone regional qualifier for the Caledonia girls' team this season. Holderman, a first time state qualifier this year, will be joined at Ford Field by senior teammates Emma Gibson and Raini Braska, friends since kindergarten who also won their way to top four finishes at Sunday's regional tournament. Gibson took the 135-pound regional championship and Braska placed third at 110 pounds.

Holderman and Hayden started practicing with each other last fall after that was proposed through a mutual friend, and Hayden said she's learned from Holderman that she should never settle in and just feel comfortable out on the mat and that teach skills and be a big helper in perfecting skills.

The Trojan junior Holderman said she can go into a match with Hayden with nothing to lose, "I just try my best and try not to get pinned and just try to work my moves and not let her dictate it."

"I don't remember [how I got the takedown.] I kind of black out when I wrestle. I don't remember anything," Holderman said.

She said she was shocked and happy to qualify for the state finals, and she feels like she has improved a lot since her sophomore season. Holderman said she is more aggressive this year in trying to wrestler her own match and not letting opponents control a match. Getting to the state finals was one of her goals coming into the season.

Gibson is now a three-time state qualifier and she'll be chasing her first state medal on the mats at Ford Field. Braska is now a two-time state qualifier. That TK duo was joined by teammate Rylee Alberts at the state finals in 2024, but the sophomore Alberts was bested in a tough blood round match with Hastings' Jordan Milanowski Sunday.

Gibson is now 28-4 this season. Her win Sunday was her second regional championship.

"My positioning was really good today. My shots were on point today," Gibson said. "I think my head game, my mindset was on point."

Gibson scored a quick pin of Three Oaks River Valley's Addison Lynch in the quarterfinals and then outscored Otsego's Samantha Bonoevetz 18-2 in the semifinals. Gibson said she was a little apprehensive about being able to get shots in on Bonoevetz in that semifinal match, something she has struggled with in the past, but her confidence grew once she found she was succeeding in getting her opponent to the mat.

Gibson closed her day by pinning Allegan's Dawn DeGood 43 seconds into their 135-pound championship bout.

"I think I have a really good chance at placing [at the state finals] this year. The last two years I was super nervous and wasn't in the right mindset. I think this year I switched it all around and learned how to give it all out there," Gibson said.

Braska was bested 8-1 by Anna Williamson from Mattawan in the semifinals 8-1, but bounced back with pins of Bellevue's Ariel Crawley and Sturgis' Geovana Cruz to earn her third-place regional medal.

Holderman got to her championship bout with Hayden by scoring first round pins of Watervliet's Ayanna Marshall and Marcellus' Carlee Osborn.

Hayden moved her season record to 18-1 with her three wins Saturday. She started the regional with quick pins of Marcellus' Memory Sylvester and Paw Paw's Angel Miller. Holderman was the only one to last more than a minute against the Scots' star.

"I was happy with how she responded," Caledonia head coach Shawn Veitch said in regards to Maddie getting taken down by Holderman. "She just kept wrestling, scored back and kept wrestling. Especially at this time of year, she's not used to getting points scored against her, but you're going to be wrestling the best competition. So, those kinds of things can happen. I do love her. She comes right off and is like, 'man, I've got to sprawl.' You've got to love her."

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Goalie goal closes out conference season

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Sam Hoag is a goalie. He's always been a goalie. He started as a keeper in Squirt A at about ten years old.

Now he's the wall at the back of the Caledonia varsity hockey team that capped off a 5-1-1 season in the OK Conference Rue Division with a 4-1 win over Grand Rapids Catholic Central at Kentwood Ice Arena Friday.

With 56.4 seconds left on the third period clock, and the puck in the net at the far end of the ice, the short-handed Fighting Scots spun back the other direction to their own net to celebrate with their junior net-minder. Hoag was credited with his first goal ever, at any level.

"I didn't even see it until I saw everyone celebrating you know. They shot it all the way down the ice. I was close," Hoag said. "Their guy shot it and I was the closest to it.

"It counts."

"It's fantastic for the guys," Caledonia head coach Jeremy Bultema said. "You saw it out there on the ice and in the locker room they were charged for him."

Hoag was strong in his net all night long, the Scots scored three early goals including two from sophomore Drew Nichols, and the Caledonia penalty kill was outstanding when it needed to be - and it needed to be a lot.

Senior Henry Simon also scored early for the Scots as they had a 3-0 lead 8:09 into the contest. Ty Lewandowski and Austin Osborn both notched assists during that early stretch.

Catholic Central got a 4-on-4 goal from Henry Kwiatkowski with six and a half minutes left in the first period.

The Fighting Scots spent a little more time than they would have liked with four men on the ice. They were called for seven penalties in the game.



Caledonia goalie Sam Hoag is all smiles as teammates Ethan Sova (15), Luke McNabnay (5) and Henry Simon (7) rush over to celebrate his empty net goal late in their win over the Grand Rapids Catholic Central Cougars Friday, Feb. 14, at Kentwood Ice Arena. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

"If you can hold a team to no power play goals, you have got it down," coach Bultema said. "We work on that every week. The guys, we're a short bench today we've got some sickness and some other stuff going on, the kids battled today. When you can shut down a team, I think we had seven penalty kills there, and that changes the momentum and that really fires us up and helps us with the win."

He liked how his guys stayed in structure and outworked the Cougars' power play, stayed in lanes, and blocked some shots.

The Scots were midway through the second period, Caledonia was whistled for a two-minute interference penalty and 1:57 later a two-minute roughing penalty putting it on the penalty kill for almost a full four minutes. They managed to kill off both penalties with an especially stellar final two minutes in which it felt like the Scots were able to keep the puck in the Cougars' end for more time than it was in their own. The Scots also had a couple of penalties in the first five minutes of the third period that they managed to skate through unharmed.

"We locked them down. We've been working on it in practice. We got a lot of those," Hoag said of him and his squad killing off the penalties. "They're taking away the shot lanes, the back doors, doing a lot of communicating. It all plays into it."

Hoag said all the guys are doing a good job of communicating, but especially Lewandowski and the team captain Kauffman.

The Fighting Scots, a co-op team with Caledonia, Lowell and Thornapple Kellogg, were back in action at Mona Shores Saturday for a 4-2 non-conference win. They will head to Wings Event Center in Kalamazoo for an MHSAA Division 2 Regional Semifinal against OK Conference Rue Division rival Byron Center Feb. 24.

The Scots and Bulldogs skated to a 4-4 draw during their regular season match-up, and the Bulldogs earned a 1-0 overtime victory over Caledonia in the third-place game of last weekend's OK Conference Tournament.

"We learned a lot from [Byron Center] in the OK Conference Tournament last week. The boys are ready," coach Bultema said. "We were again running through some sickness in that tournament. We tested out some new systems. It worked well. We're about as prepared as you can get."

The wins last weekend move Caledonia's record to 18-6-1 overall this season.

As the celebration at the end wound down and the Scots prepped to head over and thank the home fans for their support Friday, junior Rylan Bultema skated quickly over to his bench and passed the puck along to coach Bultema, who slipped it into his right coat pocket - a souvenir to present to Hoag later in the locker room.

Hoag had 27 saves in the win Friday.

In the win over Mona Shores Saturday, Caledonia got two goals from Lewandowski and one each from Ethan Sova and Tony Kauffman. Simon had two assists and Sova, Kauffman and Gabe Supuk had one assist each.

STORM

Continued from Page 3

He added that getting the snow off roads and adjacent areas sometimes is a balancing act, as BCRC crews work to get snow and debris off the roadways and help residents have access to their mailboxes, while also trying to avoid them.

According to Welch, mailboxes are supposed to be located at least 17 feet from the centerline of a road. And, if a driver hits a mailbox, he added the BCRC does have a policy for a resident to request replacement of their mailbox with a generic one provided by the county.

Overall, Welch said Barry County residents have been very understanding of such incidents.

"Barry County, by and large, is a great area," Welch said. "I'm constantly having people expressing how appreciative they are of what we do. I try to pass that on to our crew.

"This is what those guys do," he added. "They're so good at it."

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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Trojans find sparkle early, hold on late at district

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Trojan sparkle flipped ends of the meet, but the Thornapple Kellogg varsity competitive cheer team is still moving on.

The Thornapple Kellogg varsity competitive cheer team placed third at the MHSAA Division 2 District it hosted Saturday to earn a spot in the regional round of the state tournament Saturday, Feb. 22, at Forest Hills Northern High School.

"They did well. They did very well. It was our highest score of the season. Obviously that is what you want this time of the year is to climb points wise," Thornapple Kellogg head coach Madalynn Lula said.

The Trojans had their best round one and round two scores of the season, and their best performance in those two rounds according to their coach. TK had a stunt go awry in round three, which kept the Trojans from climbing any higher in the day's final standings.

Plainwell won the district championship with an overall score of 766.66. Zeeland West was second with 761.36 points ahead of TK 752.68 and Gull Lake 749.86. Those four teams earned spots in this weekend's regional at FHN. Sturgis wasn't far behind with a fifth-place score of 741.28.

Mattawan was sixth with s score of 687.32 ahead of Hastings 676.68, Harper Creek 667.80, Hamilton 656.04, Stevensville Lakeshore 654.38, Wayland 653.60, Zeeland East 652.80, Edwardsburg 641.04, Vicksburg 634.74 and St. Joseph 609.80.

The district champs from Plainwell had the top scores of the event in both rounds one and two, a 230.60 and a 221.46, and then scored 314.60 points in round three. Zeeland West was the only team better than Plainwell in round three with a score of 315.10.

Thornapple Kellogg had hoped to be closer to those numbers in round three, but finished with a 308.60 which was still the fifth best round three score of the day.

"Round three was not our best performance," Lula said. "Our most consistent stunt group took a fall, fortunately we didn't take a penalty for it, which is good, but I think it was really a group that hadn't fallen all year. Things happen, flukes happen. I am glad it happened this week and not next week. We still scored well int hat round, just not as well as we could have."



Thornapple Kellogg varsity cheerleaders perform during round three of the MHSAA Division 2 Competitive Cheer District at Thornapple Kellogg High School in Middleville Saturday. The Trojans placed third at the district to earn a spot in the regional tournament at Forest Hills Northern High School this Saturday, Feb. 22. **Photo provided**

The Trojans did do some things right in that moment to keep from taking a penalty that would have made things really close with Sturgis for the final state qualifying spot.

"The bases and back spot kept the flyer off the ground. They kept it safe. They're smart cheerleaders. All of them are smart kids and they know what it takes to minimize the point loss," Lula said.

The team knew what it was going to take to maximize its scores in rounds one and two in the week leading up to districts too. Lula said they brought in some outside eyes to practice to really help them tighten up their performance and see things the cheerleaders and coaches might not have been noticing after drilling so many times over and over again.

TK put up a score of 228.30 in round one which was only bested by the Plainwell girls. The TK score of 215.78 in round two was the third best score of that round behind Plainwell and Zeeland West. They needed those numbers as round three has been the powerhouse for the Trojans throughout the season.

"Round one, for weeks now, we have been really focused in on honing in on the details of round one. The biggest thing in round one has been finding our sparkle. We have been saying that since conference. Part of round one is that it is more than skill and execution. It needs performance behind it.

"Us coaches came out from behind the mat on Saturday (after round one) and for the first time we looked at each other and thought ooh that gave me goosebumps."

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

PUBLIC NOTICE
GAINES CHARTER TOWNSHIP
BOARD MEETING SYNOPSIS
February 10, 2025

The Gaines Charter Township Board held a regular meeting on Monday, February 10, 2025, and took the following actions.

1. Reviewed the Consent Agenda.
2. Approved the Meeting Agenda
3. A portion of the Gaines Charter Township Fire Department took the oath of office upon the change of the corporation name
4. Approved the Consent Agenda
5. Accepted the 2024 Planning and Zoning Department Annual Report
6. Approved a Parks and Trails assessment request not to exceed $3000 on one property
7. Approved the Water and Sewer Development Contract for Thornapple Farms Phase III
8. Accepted the Water and Sewer Annual 2024 Report of Billing Adjustments
9. Scheduled a Public Hearing for a Streetlight Special Assessment District for Thornapple Farms Phases I and II
10. Approved moving to the B S & A Cloud Version
11. Adjourned the Regular Board Meeting at 7:38 pm

A complete copy of the minutes of these meetings and any resolutions or ordinances adopted at the meeting are on file and available for review at the Gaines Charter Township office, 8555 Kalamazoo Avenue SE, Caledonia, Michigan 49316. Ordinances, meeting schedules, meeting minutes, and other Township information are also available at www.gainestownship.org.

Michael Brew
Gaines Charter Township Clerk

Scots fill up all-conference squads in the LMSC at Crystal Mountain

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Fighting Scots couldn't catch the Glen Lake squad this winter, but their depth was evident on the medal stand at the Lake Michigan Ski Conference Championship at Crystal Mountain Wednesday.

The Caledonia varsity boys' ski team had nine guys earn all-conference honors, out of 15 award winners in the conference overall. The Caledonia girls were also second in the conference to Glen Lake this season and had four girls earn all-conference honors thanks to a top 15 overall finish in the conference's season-long "World Cup" points system.

David Potgeter, a state qualifier for the second time as a senior this winter, led the CHS boys with a fourth-place finish in the overall conference standings. Sophomore Aidan Brown was fifth, sophomore James Prichard ninth, freshman Jake Potgeter tenth, junior Derick Prichard 11th, junior Peter Calhoun 12th, junior James Diegel 13th, junior Gavin Dean 14th and freshman Justin Harper 15th.

"First of all, I want to congratulate Glen Lake on winning the conference. They skied great all season and earned the championship trophy. Our guys really skied well this year and are really showing improvement. We are putting the pieces together for a team that will be a contender for years to come," Fighting Scot head coach Duane Petrosky said. "David Potgeter was our lone senior on varsity, which means that we have everyone else back."

He had the same glowing praise for the Glen Lake girls.

The CHS boys were second at Wednesday's meet where the top ten in each event earned medals as well. In the giant slalom (GS) the CHS boys had David Potgeter second, Aidan Brown seventh, James Prichard eighth and Derick Prichard ninth. Jake Potgeter wasn't in the top four scorers for the team, but he still earned a GS medal for placing tenth.

The CHS boys' team had David Potgeter second in the slalom, Brown sixth, Jake Potgeter seventh and James Prichard ninth.

Italian exchange student Chiara Marta set the Caledonia single season slalom wins record with her seventh victory, and still has two more races left including the MHSAA Division 2 State Finals along with David Potgeter at Boyne Highlands Monday.

Marta was first overall in the all-conference standings at the end of the meet too, with the Scots also placing sophomore Kylee Zimmer sixth, Polish exchange student Zuzanna Poradzka ninth and senior Liz Hilton tenth.

"Our girls really made some huge improvements this year and are building a foundation to move the team forward in the future," coach Petrosky said. "I haven't mentioned Kylee Zimmerer much this season, but she has had a great year. She transferred schools and MHSAA did not allow her to ski on our varsity team but she really worked hard and ended up sixth in the conference. We are excited about having her on the varsity next year along with the rest of this year's sophomores and freshman.

"These are great girls who are becoming very good racers—we are excited to see what the future brings. Our seniors and exchange students will be missed, they are an exceptional group."

Poradzka was eighth in the slalom race Wednesday and Hilton tenth, and the Scot team also had Ada Decker place 11th in that event. In the GS, the Marta took a win there too while Poradzka was fifth, Zimmer eighth, Hilton 11th and Decker 13th.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Village of Caledonia

A public hearing will be held on March 10, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Hall located at 250 S Maple Street SE Caledonia, MI 49316 to gather public input for submittal to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Passport grant application for the "Paul Henry Trailhead" project, located at the north side of the intersection between Kinsey Street and Main Street.

Interested persons may attend the public hearing. Written comments may be addressed to Brian Bennett, Village Manager, address as noted above.

Brian Bennett, Village Manager

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:

Agricultural	44.05	1.1351		Commercial	47.83	1.0454
Residential	46.57	1.0737		Developmental	NC	NC
Industrial	45.28	1.1042		Personal Property	50.00	1.000

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 TOWNSHIP

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CALEDONIA
KENT COUNTY, MICHIGAN

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Caledonia will hold a public hearing on March 17, 2025, at 7:00 p.m., at the Caledonia Township Hall located at 8196 Broadmoor Avenue SE, Caledonia, Michigan 49316. The hearing is to consider a Home Based Business at 8461 76th Street SE, on parcel number: 41-23-11-451-031. The business is a pet groomer entirely within a 10' x 20' building.

All interested persons may attend the public hearing and comment on the proposed request. Written comments concerning the request may be submitted to the Township office, at the above-stated address, up to the time of the public hearing.
Dated: February 18, 2025

PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CALEDONIA

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Caledonia cheer concludes season at districts

Noah Peterson
Staff Writer

The Fighting Scots competed in what would be their last event of the season Saturday.

The Caledonia varsity competitive cheer was a part of the MHSAA Division 1 District 1 hosted by Hudsonville High School. The top four teams from the district advance to the regional round of the state tournament. Though Caledonia did not qualify for regionals, placing tenth, that didn't mean the Fighting Scots didn't have an extraordinary performance.

"Of course, everyone wants to advance on to regionals," said Caledonia head coach Lauren Hermenet. "But I believe our girls showed up and put up a good fight."

Caledonia presented itself with an impressive overall score of 682.90 points, its second highest overall score this season despite a number of injuries on the team. But the Scots pulled together to face the adversity and fought through the obstacles they were thrown.

Senior Isabella Wierzbicki led the team with her incredible leadership qualities and her drive and determination to her team and the sport. Junior Alyssa Jernigan fought through some injuries over the final few weeks of the season to compete for the Scots.

Caledonia had scores of 214.80 in round one, 196.30 in round two and 271.80 in round three.

Grandville tallied 785.18 points to earn the district title and will advance to regionals on Feb.22, along with Hudsonville with 780.20, East Kentwood third at 778.30 and Rockford fourth at 776.60.

The Grandville girls led the meet from start to finish after scoring 236.80 points with their round one performance. The Bulldogs added scores of 230.48 in round two and 317.90 in round three. The runner-up Eagles from Hudsonville closed strong with the top round three performance of the meet which earned 318.70 points.

The OK Green Conference just missed having a team break through as Jenison, Mona Shores and Byron Center placed fifth, sixth and seventh respectively at the 12-team regional. The Jenison girls were just 2.1 points behind the last of the regional qualifying teams with an overall score of 774.50.

Caledonia tied for fifth in the OK Green Conference this season and some of the Scots' upperclassmen were recognized with conference awards. Wierzbicki and fellow senior Madison Bernal were awarded all-conference, and senior Zoey McLeod received a honorable mention all-conference award. In addition, Wierzbicki was a scholarship winner at the LMCCOA Scholarship Invitational on Jan. 25.

"It's a huge blessing and well deserved," Hermenet noted. "Our seniors have brought so much perspective, expertise, and advice to our underclassmen."

The Fighting Scots are expecting bigger and better things as the program continues to grow.



The Caledonia varsity competitive cheer team holds up its flyers in round three at the MHSAA Division 1 District 1 competition hosted by Hudsonville High School Saturday, Feb. 15. **Photo by Noah Peterson**

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

THORNAPPLE TOWNSHIP BOARD
200 E MAIN ST. MIDDLEVILLE, MI 49333

SYNOPSIS OF MEETING MINUTES
Monday, February 10, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. with seven members present.

Items approved:
1. Printed Agenda approved as amended.
2. Consent Agenda approved as presented.
3. Approved Resolution 02-2025.
4. Approved motion for Incident Command Training for all full-time (EMS) employees not to exceed $1,540.00.
5. Approved the hiring of two part-time EMTs and four paramedics.
6. Approved the appointment of Stephanie Skidmore.
7. Approved "Statement of Attempt to Collect Delinquent Personal Property Tax" and "Waiver and Consent" form.
8. Approved Ambulance Contract with Yankee Springs Township.

Meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Prepared by Deputy Clerk Brenda Hess. Approved by Township Supervisor, Eric Schaefer.

Copies of the meeting minutes are available upon request from the Township Clerk or by visiting https://thornapple- twp.org/meeting-minutes/ Office hours 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

-End-

Brenda Hess, Deputy Clerk
Eric Schaefer, Township Supervisor

Obituaries

Rena R. Seitz

Rena R. Seitz, age 73, of Caledonia was called home by her Lord on Friday, February 7, 2025. She was born October 21, 1951 to the late Stanley and Irma Chandler. She was preceded in death by two brothers, Terry and Jim Chandler.

She will be lovingly remembered by her husband of 36 years, Joe whom she married May 12, 1989, and who survives. Also surviving are two daughters, Laura Sigg (Jeffery Kinell), Alison (John) Sorensen; two sons, Joseph (Heidi) Seitz, Lucas (Jessica) Seitz; along with six grandchildren, Kelsey, Nathan, Maximillian, Mya, Alexander and Bryce. She is also survived by a sister, Bonnie (George) Grippen.

Rena really liked to travel throughout the United States and the Caribbean and that filled many vacations during her rewarding career as a Human Resource Professional and Manager. After retirement Rena would enjoy time planning and cooking meals for those she loved. Spending her winters on the gulf coast in Florida and summers in western Michigan. She enjoyed many hours relaxing with her husband on her deck, or in her lanai, watching beautiful sunsets, listening to music, and sipping a glass of wine. Rena also enjoyed



talking with, swapping recipes with, and just spending time with family, friends, and neighbors. She was always ready to watch the grandchildren's sporting activities, do an occasional walk, go for a golf outing, or enjoy college football or basketball as long as one of the teams were the Wisconsin Badgers or the Michigan Wolverines. Rena also enjoyed watching professional football, but only if it involved the Green Bay Packers and they were winning.

A memorial visitation in celebration of Rena's life will be held from 2-4 and 6-8 pm on Monday, February 24, 2025 at Matthysse Kuiper DeGraaf Funeral Home, 616 E. Main St, SE, Caledonia. Those who wish to make memorial contributions in Rena's name may do so to the Kent County Animal Shelter. Condolences may be sent online at www.mkdfuneralhome.com.



Rachel Bean

Rachel Bean, age 41, of Caledonia, went to her heavenly home on Monday, February 17, 2025. Rachel came to the U.S. as a baby from Korea at the age of 2.5 months old. She was raised in Minnesota, Kansas, and Nebraska, where she called home for many years and attended college. She spent years in Chicago working at several restaurants, including Tavern at the Park, where she met the love of her life, Allen. She had a heart to help others and was learning and striving to help others in need. She enjoyed cooking, the arts, including ballet and attending the Nutcracker every Christmas. She also enjoyed shopping at the Dollar Tree for a bargain. Most of all, she loved being with her family and raising her son, Hudson.

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
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

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Obituaries

Robert Lee 'Bob' Klinge



Robert Lee 'Bob' Klinge, a cherished brother, uncle, and friend, passed away peacefully on Friday, February 7, 2025, in Wyoming, MI. Born on July 11, 1947, in Grand Rapids, MI, Bob was the son of Clarence and Jessie "Jackie" (Dykstra) Klinge Sr.

A 1965 graduate of Thornapple-Kellogg High School, Bob proudly served his country as a member of the United States Army, serving in Vietnam with the 18th Engineer Brigade. He was the dedicated owner of Bob's Engine Hospital for over 30 years, where his hard work and commitment to service built a legacy that will long be remembered by his colleagues and customers alike.

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 will receive friends on Thursday, February 13, 2025 from 5:00-7:00 PM at the Beeler-Gores Funeral Home. He will be laid to rest at Fort Custer National Cemetery on Friday, February 14, 2025 at 11:00 AM. 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.

PROTESTS

Continued from Page 2

demonstrators urged Moolenaar to uphold checks and balances and push back against Musk's disruptive and unconstitutional takeover.

"It should alarm every American that an unelected billionaire has been allowed to infiltrate our government with no oversight," said Lindsey. "Musk and his unvetted associates have accessed private financial data, gutted federal agencies, and are now targeting the Department of Education. This is a hostile takeover of our government."

The protesters called on Moolenaar to stand against what they perceive as President Trump's disregard for constitutional processes.

"The President could implement his agenda through legally mandated decision-making, yet he and Musk are choosing to ignore the Constitution," Lindsey added. "People are concerned for their future. We need Congress to fight for us — protect us from this illegal coup. We will not back down."

Protests were held simultaneously at the offices of all 13 Michigan members of Congress and the state's two U.S. Senators. The statewide action follows reports that Musk's self-described "Department of Government Efficiency" (DOGE) accessed Treasury Department payment systems. Protesters fear that not only has sensitive financial data fallen into unknown hands, but that future payments could be at risk.

Most recently, on Feb. 17, another group of Barry County residents braved frigid temperatures to protest at the Barry County Courthouse in Hastings and Calder Plaza in Grand Rapids, determined to keep public attention on the matter.

"This is not a partisan issue — it's an American issue," Lindsey emphasized. "We are fulfilling our patriotic duty by holding our elected officials accountable at every level. We urge others to join us in demanding transparency, adherence to the Constitution, and policies that serve all Americans, regardless of ideology. Our nation has long been a beacon of democracy — let's uphold those values at home."

The group plans to march at least once a month, with details announced via local social media platforms.

FIRST BAPTIST MIDDLEVILLE
BOT BATTLES
Sunday, March 2
Doors Open: 5:30 PM - Event: 6:00 - 7:30 PM
Come Watch! - All Ages - No Cost - Free Snacks - You Are Invited!



FBCMIDDLEVILLE.NET | FACEBOOK.COM/FIRSTBAPTISTMIDDLEVILLE

Yankee Springs Township
284 N. BRIGGS ROAD- MIDDLEVILLE, MICHIGAN 49333
269-795-9091 / FAX 269-795-2388

Notice

Yankee Springs Township-Barry County
Is seeking estimates for Rest Room remodel Project
The basic scope of work is as follows:

-Remove old, designated plumbing fixtures, partitions and flooring in Ladie's Room and Men's Room.
-New sinks, faucets, comfort height elongated toilets, grab bars and partitions.
-New mirrors
-Paint block walls
-New luxury vinyl flooring
*Note: full specs can be picked up at the township office or emailed to you.

Township Hall Location: 284 N. Briggs Road-Middleville, MI

Certificate of Liability Insurance in the amount of $1,000,000 must be submitted with the bid.
Bids will be received until Noon, Wednesday, March 12, 2025 addressed to:

Tom Hopkins
Yankee Springs Township Clerk
284 N Briggs Road
Middleville, MI 49333

Please Call 269-795-9091 with any questions.

Estimates may also be e-mailed to tomhopkins@yankeespringstwp.org and must be received no later than Noon, March 12, 2025. It is required that contractors visit the township to review the project with township staff prior to submitting an estimate. A more detailed scope of work will be sent upon request.

Estimates will be evaluated by the township after 12 Noon on March 12, 2025 before being presented to the Township Board for possible awarding at the March 13, 2025 Township Board Meeting at 6: 00 PM. Yankee Springs reserves the right to reject any and all estimates.

Celebrating
NIGHTHAWK GRILLE & BAR
40 Years in Business!
February 24th-March 1st!
Give-a-way swag, prizes,
drink specials, and live music!!!

Music Line-up
Wednesday- Cash & Smith 5 to 8 pm
Thursday- Curt Hines 5 to 8 pm
Friday- Tipsy and
The Kickstands- 8 to 11 pm
Saturday- Judo Chop Band 7 to 11 pm

We would like to thank all of our customers throughout the years for all their support!! A SPECIAL THANKS to our staff too!

We hope to see you during our Anniversary Week to celebrate!

UPCOMING EVENTS:
MARCH 8TH
JACK & JILL POOL TOURNAMENT
MARCH 17TH
ANNUAL CORNED BEEF DINNER
APRIL 26TH
19TH ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF

6950 WHITNEYVILLE RD. ALTO
868-6336

Curtis third at regionals to earn return trip to Ford Field



Senior Jayce Curtis (second from right) is now the last member of the Thornapple Kellogg varsity co-ed wrestling team standing as he placed third in the 165-pound weight class at the MHSAA Division 2 Individual Regional Tournament at Gull Lake Saturday. The Trojan team also had Jack Smith at 175 pounds, Christien Miller at 113, Camden Peter at 157 and Blake Bossenberger at 165 all qualify for the regional tournament. Curtis improved his record to 38-11 on the season with a 3-1 day and will be a part of the MHSAA Division 2 Individual State Finals at Ford Field Feb. 28-March 1 in downtown Detroit. - *BB*. **Photo provided**

Trojans take back-to-back OK Gold victories on home floor

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Thornapple Kellogg varsity boys' basketball team took back-to-back wins over Wyoming and West Catholic and was looking to close out the 2024-25 regular season on a three-game win streak as it played host to Grand Rapids Union Friday.

TK moved its record to 11-10 overall with the two wins and 5-6 in the OK Gold Conference.

Trojan head coach Phil Garber said Lucas Ploeg and Jude Webster led the boys in orange and black in scoring in each of those two victories, and it was a bit tongue in cheek, but one of the key bits of the scorebook against the Falcons was Ploeg finishing the contest without a foul.

Keeping the junior forward on the floor as much as possible certainly benefits the Trojan team, and that was certainly true in the 65-53 win over the visiting Falcons in Middleville Tuesday.

TK topped Wyoming 60-50 in Middleville last Friday, Feb. 14.

TK was 2-0 against both the Wolves and the Falcons in the OK Gold this winter.

The Trojans will now head to Wyoming Monday to take on Caledonia in the opening round of the MHSAA Division 1 District Tournament being hosted by the Wolves. Game time is set for 5:30 between the Scots and Trojans who took a three-point win when the two teams met in Caledonia back in December.

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