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TKHS WINTER ALL-BARRY COUNTY ATHLETES HONORED
PAGES 14-17

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Planning commission discusses review of Cornerstone Estates project

NOAH PETERSON
Staff Writer

Members of the Thornapple Township Planning Commission discussed a review of the Cornerstone Estate site condo plan prior to scheduling a special land use (SLU) public hearing at its meeting on Monday, March 24.

The project, if approved, would build 15 condos on 22 acres of land on the corner of Whitneyville Road and Garbow Road. Residents would receive private roadways, private utility easements and street lights.

A project location map and internal street layout were provided to show planning commissioners the proposed lot or unit layout and dimensions for each condo. Each condo will also be filed under a site condominium plan, which is a condominium development consisting of a single-family, detached dwellings where the unit owner owns both the land and the house, similar to a traditional single-family home, but with the benefits and restrictions of condo living.

Members of the planning commission shared many concerns during the review of this project. One of the biggest issues with the project is the use of private streets and roads, which is against the standards for plat and site condominium developments by the Thornapple Township Planning Commission.

According to Section 21 of the plat and site condominium division regulations, "private streets and

See **PROJECT** on Page 7

Gaines Township Board to hold public hearing on proposed zoning ordinance amendment

JAMES GEMMELL
Contributing Writer

Residents and business owners will get a chance to provide input on a proposed zoning ordinance amendment at the Gaines Township Board's April 14 meeting.

A public hearing will be held during the 6 p.m. meeting at the township hall.

"During that meeting, we will address some of the comments we will have between now and then," Township Supervisor Bob Terpstra said at the board's March 10 meeting. That is when the trustees gave the draft ordinance a first read.

Township consultant David Jirousek with Horizon Community Planning is scheduled to attend the April 14 meeting. He and township planners have been working on the zoning ordinance update since August 2023. The need for amendments to the ordinance were identified in a July 2023 audit that mentioned several steps to bring it into alignment with the township's new master plan. Once approved, the revised zoning ordinance will serve as the township's primary legal document governing land development.

The proposed new ordinance has 36 chapters that are designed to be easily interpreted by the reader and balance personal property rights and the public's best interests. The planning commission recommended in February that it be approved by the township board after some final tweaks are made. Once it is, the document will be the first comprehensive update to the zoning ordinance since 2007.

However, there has been confusion among some residents and business owners about certain aspects of the draft ordinance, even though a link to it is posted on the front page of the township website, gainestownship.org.

See **GAINES TWP** on Page 6

TABLE 2.20 B: ZONING DISTRICTS

Category		District	Abbreviation	Chapter
Residential Districts		Rural Residential	RR	4
		Suburban Residential	SR	5
		Village Residential	VR	6
		Multiple-Family Residential	MFR	7
Non-Residential Districts	Commercial and Mixed-Use Districts	Neighborhood Commercial	NC	8
		General Commercial	GC	9
		Office and Service	OS	10
	Industrial Districts	Mixed Business	MB	11
		Light Industrial	LI	12
		Heavy Industrial	HI	13
Overlay District		Planned Unit Development	PUD	14

New zoning district categories will be covered in the updated zoning ordinance. **Source: gainestownship.org**



Gaines Township trustees listened to public input on a proposed zoning ordinance at their March meeting. The board will review a final draft for an amended ordinance in April. **Photo by James Gemmell**

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Cal Women's Club looking to the future after more than a century of service

MOLLY MACLEOD
Editor

As Women's History Month draws to a close, the ladies at the GFWC - Caledonia Women's Club are reflecting on a 109-year history as they prepare for another year of serving the community.

Established in 1916, the founders of the Caledonia Women's Club created the group to support voting rights for women. Not much has changed in the 100-plus years of the club's operation — it then focused on community involvement, political activism and educational programs. Over the years, the club has expanded its focus to involvement with local schools, promoting the Caledonia library and other service projects that make life better in Caledonia.



Members of the Caledonia Women's Club were spotted in the wild recently at Carveth Village Middleville for St. Patrick's Day. Club member Lenora Black's son, Peter, serenaded residents with Irish tunes. **Courtesy photos**

In 1948, the club joined the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC). It has remained federated since then.

Today, club members are active in a dizzying number of initiatives throughout the community each year.

Women's club members say they are proud to provide scholarships to young women in the area. Each year, the club gives out six $1,000 scholarships to Caledonia High School senior girls. The club also gives out one $7,000 scholarship through the Caledonia Educational Foundation. Additionally, the club helps send boys and girls at CHS to the MYLead youth leadership conference every year.

Other yearly activities include hosting the Caledonia High School senior girls' brunch at the end of each school year, supporting Green Gables Haven in Hastings, conducting Adopt-A-Highway road cleanups, supporting the local library, wrapping gifts for the Santa Claus Girls, supporting local nonprofits and much, much more.

The ladies of the Caledonia Women's Club are not afraid to get in the weeds when it comes to fundraising for its initiatives.

"One of the main things we've done is the scholarships, and that is our main thing — to provide scholarships to girls," said club member Kaaren DeWitt. "So we fundraise. We sell bedsheets, we sell key card books, we do bake sales."

The club is always looking to serve the community in any way it can, said DeWitt. The club sells six-packs of cookies each year for $1 at the Caledonia Harvest Festival. Cookie buyers are encouraged to donate money that the club will give to a local food pantry.

The club also provides tree seedlings each year to the Kindergarteners at Kettle Lake Elementary. Women's club members operate free clothing closets in five of the Caledonia elementary schools, excluding Dutton Elementary.

"A lot of women in our group are retired teachers, and they just know the need for teachers. You have a kid who spilled paint on themselves, wet their pants or just don't have anything. They need clothes. So these women put closets in all the elementaries," DeWitt said.

All kids are welcome to use the clothing closets for any reason.

"We're there to help so kids can be comfortable and learn in a comfortable environment — not be sitting

See **CLUB** on Page 7



Roughly 35 women make up the Caledonia Women's Club today. The club was established in 1916. Here, members are seen at a recent Christmas luncheon.

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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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Six Thornapple Kellogg High School students competed recently in the Business Professionals of America state leadership conference in Grand Rapids. **Courtesy photo**

BPA students head to national finals

A half-dozen Thornapple Kellogg High School students, members of the school's Business Professionals Association chapter, earned honors at the BPA's state leadership conference March 13-15 at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids.

The theme for the event was "Elevate Excellence," and students did just that at the open event testing held in the DeVos Place Convention Center. Students participated in business-related events and competed for the top spots.

Four of the six TKHS students also qualified to compete at the national BPA finals set for May 7-11 in Orlando, Fla., including:

• Evan Liu – Basic Office Systems 1st place; Fundamental Spreadsheets, 5th place;

• Meghan Skidmore – Fundamental Word Processing, 3rd place

• Ryan Skidmore – Intermediate Word Processing, 5th place; and

• Emma Johnson – Medical Coding, 5th place.

• Molly Alden (6th place, Prepared Speech) and Carmen Reynolds (7th place, Human Resource Manager) also earned honors at the recent state leadership conference.

Other members of the TKHS team, coached by Keith Hamming, participating at the event in Grand Rapids were Emalyn Cartwright, Katelyn Chase, Avery Oppewal and Kylan Pratt. — *DM*



Riverbank Music Series OK'd for another year

NOAH PETERSON
Staff Writer

The music will return this year after the Middleville Village Council approved an event permit on Tuesday for the Riverbank Music Series, a special event offering free live music every Friday during the summer. The approval allows artists to move forward with booking dates for this year's series.

Village council members unanimously approved the permit at their March 25 meeting, with the Riverbank music series set to be scheduled from June 6 through Aug. 29, excluding July 4, at the amphitheater on Main Street. The event is slated to offer live music to the Middleville community every Friday night from 6:30 to 9 p.m.

Douglas Powers, director of Community and Economic Development, requested the permit and said that the music series tradition would be great to continue this summer.

"The Riverbank Series is something we've done for numerous years and it would be great to do it again," said Powers. "I'd be more than happy to answer any comments, questions or concerns in motion to approve the event permit for this tradition."

The Riverbank Music Series has been a summer tradition for many years in Middleville. The music series will showcase many bands from the Grand Rapids area and provide free live music to the Middleville Community.

For more information on the Riverbank Music Series or to get updates on upcoming events, interested persons may follow Middleville's DDA Facebook page.

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

PUBLIC HEARING
The Village of Middleville Planning Commission
will hold a PUBLIC HEARING on Tuesday, April 15, 2025 at 7:00 pm,
or as soon thereafter as possible,
in the Council Chambers at the Middleville Village Hall at 100 East Main Street.

The purpose of the PUBLIC HEARING is to receive public comment and consider the following items:

- **Special Land Use of property located at 4650 N M-37**

The **Special Land Use Application** seeks Planning Commission approval for a **fitness center** within a property zoned **C-2 (Highway Commercial). Fitness centers are classified as special land uses in the C-2 zoning district and require Planning Commission approval per Section 78-323 of the Village Cod**e. The application will be reviewed in accordance with the **special land use approval standards set forth in Section 78-567 of the Village Code.**

- **Rezoning of property located at 313 Arlington from R-1 (Low-Density Single-Family Residential) to C-2 (Highway Commercial**

The public is invited to attend this open meeting and to offer comments. Alternatively, to participate in the meeting by providing written comment, you may email your comment to the Director of Community and Economic Development at powersd@villageofmiddleville.org, or drop them off in person to Middleville Village Hall. Written comments received prior to 4:00 pm on April 15, 2025 will be distributed to Planning Commission members and it will be noted that such comments were received prior to the meeting.

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

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

TK inducts 55 new members into NHS chapter

Thornapple Kellogg High School's Elizabeth Thurber Chapter of National Honor Society inducted 55 new members at a ceremony Thursday night, March 20.

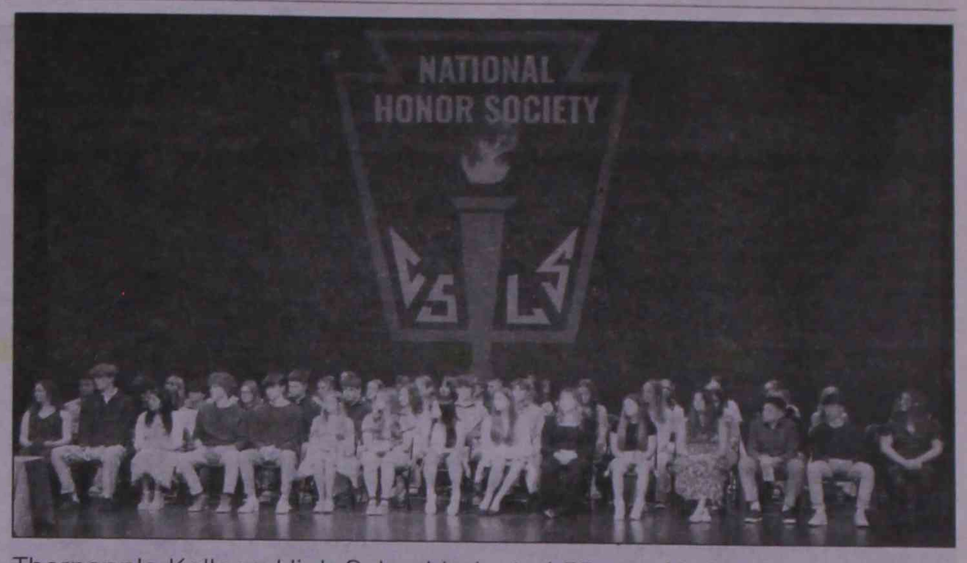
The new members include eight from the class of 2026 and 47 from the class of 2027, bringing the total number of members to 95.

"As you can tell, these 55 students deserve to be called the best of our student body," said NHS advisor Barb Maring, while welcoming the students and guests. "Let us remember that the National Honors Society is more than a cord worn at graduation, more than a certificate or a line on a resume.

"These talented students understand this, and they know they're about to make a commitment to use their gifts and talents to better the lives of others in their community through their involvement in the NHS," she said. "Let us remember that the NHS is a lesson in how to live a life as an active member of society – a lesson for a lifetime."

NHS members must meet several criteria for membership. Students must have a 3.5 GPA and provide evidence of their leadership and service. Students submit a written essay describing how they portray the four pillars of the NHS – character, service, leadership and scholarship.

A five-member faculty council determines which students should be invited to NHS.



Thornapple Kellogg High School inducted 55 new National Honor Society members last week. **Courtesy photo**

Students inducted at the recent ceremony included:

- **Class of 2026** – Shaelyne Bennett, Mark Gielincki, Miller Juarez, Oliver Lietz, Benjamin Postma, Lilian Rubert, Kara Smith and Gracyn Traub; and
- **Class of 2027** – Molly Alden, Rian Allen, Avery Bushman, Raegen Chapman, Caleb Chatman, Mason Chivis, Saige Clous, Mark Cuison, Parker Dahley, Jalen DeVore, Madelyn Eitel, Alexander Evans, Elijah Frazer, Grady Galaviz, Mary Gaudreau, Logan Goggins, Austin Hansford, Peyton Hardy, Ellie Harmon, Julia Hart, Adalyn

See **NHS** on Page 7

Caledonia Community Schools
has posted an RFB for Caledonia Stadium Waterline Relocation .
All RFP information can be found on the district website:
https://www.calschools.org/bond/

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Annual spring weight restrictions continue to be lifted on state roads

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) continues to adjust spring weight restriction on state roads in an annual move to protect roads.

Effective 6 a.m. Monday, March 31, weight restrictions will be lifted on all state trunkline highways from the southern Michigan border north to and including the following route beginning on M-20 at the US-31 intersection near New Era then east on M-20 to the US-131 interchange in Mecosta County, then north on US-131 to the south US-131 Business Route/M-20 interchange in Big Rapids, then east on M-20 to the US-10 interchange in Midland County, then east on US-10 continuing to M-25 to the M-15 intersection in Bay City, then south on M-15 to the M-46 intersection in Tuscola County, then east on M-46 ending at M-25 in Port Sanilac.

Frost restrictions are still in effect for the remainder of the state and will be imposed and enforced on all state trunkline highways north of the route detailed above. State routes typically carry M, I, or US designations.

In the restricted areas, the following will apply:

- On routes designated as "all-season" (designated in green and gold on the MDOT Truck Operators Map), there will be no reduction in legal axle weights.
- All extended permits will be valid for oversize loads in the weight-restricted area on the restricted routes. Single-trip permits will not be issued for any overweight loads or loads exceeding 14 feet in width, 11 axles, and 150 feet in overall length on the restricted routes.
- On routes designated as "seasonal" (designated in solid or dashed red on the MDOT Truck Operators Map), there will be a posted weight reduction of 25 percent for rigid (concrete) pavements and 35 percent for flexible (asphalt) pavements, and maximum speed of 35 mph for some vehicles.

Drivers must follow the speed limits for weight restricted roads, per state law. Go online for speed restrictions for trucks and the rules for propane fuel delivery and public utility vehicles.

When roads that have been frozen all winter begin to thaw from the surface downward, melting snow and ice saturate the softened ground. During the spring thaw, the roadbed softened by trapped moisture beneath the pavement makes it more susceptible to damage. This contributes to pothole problems already occurring due to this winter's numerous freeze-thaw cycles.

MDOT determines when weight restrictions begin each spring by measuring frost depths along state highways, observing road conditions, and monitoring weather forecasts. Weight restrictions remain in effect until the frost line is deep enough to

See **WEIGHT** on Page 7



GAINES CHARTER TOWNSHIP

GAINES CHARTER TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Gaines Charter Township Board of Trustees will hold a public hearing on a proposed restatement of the Gaines Charter Township Zoning Ordinance, including an amended official Zoning Map, which is referenced in Chapter 2, Section 2.20 A. The restatement is a complete update and replacement of the existing Zoning Ordinance.

Date and Time of Hearing: April 14, 2025, at 6:00 pm
Location of Hearing: Gaines Charter Township Offices, Board Room, 8555 Kalamazoo Avenue SE, Caledonia, MI 49316

The proposed restatement of the Zoning Ordinance includes the following parts and chapters:

- **PART I. INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL PROVISIONS**
  - CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION
  - CHAPTER 2 ZONING DISTRICTS AND INTERPRETATIONS
  - CHAPTER 3 MEASUREMENTS AND DESIGNATIONS
- **PART II. ZONING DISTRICT REGULATIONS**
  - CHAPTER 4 RURAL RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT (RR)
  - CHAPTER 5 SUBURBAN RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT (SR)
  - CHAPTER 6 VILLAGE RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT (VR)
  - CHAPTER 7 MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT (MFR)
  - CHAPTER 8 NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL DISTRICT (NC)
  - CHAPTER 9 GENERAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT (GC)
  - CHAPTER 10 OFFICE SERVICE DISTRICT (O-S)
  - CHAPTER 11 MIXED BUSINESS (MB)
  - CHAPTER 12 LIGHT INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT (LI)
  - CHAPTER 13 HEAVY INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT (HI)
  - CHAPTER 14 PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT (PUD) OVERLAY DISTRICT
  - CHAPTER 15 LAND USE
- **PART III. BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS**
  - CHAPTER 16 BUILDING REQUIREMENTS
  - CHAPTER 17 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS
  - CHAPTER 18 USES WITH SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS
  - CHAPTER 19 LIGHTING
  - CHAPTER 20 PARKING AND LOADING
  - CHAPTER 21 MOBILITY, TRAFFIC, AND ACCESS
  - CHAPTER 22 PRIVATE STREETS & DRIVEWAYS
  - CHAPTER 23 LANDSCAPING
  - CHAPTER 24 SIGNS
- **PART IV. REVIEW PROCESSES AND STANDARDS**
  - CHAPTER 25 GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESSES
  - CHAPTER 26 SITE PLAN REVIEW
  - CHAPTER 27 SPECIAL LAND USE REVIEW
  - CHAPTER 28 CONDOMINIUM REVIEW
  - CHAPTER 29 PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT REVIEW
  - CHAPTER 30 VARIANCE REVIEW
  - CHAPTER 31 ZONING AMENDMENT REVIEW
- **PART V. ADMINISTRATION**
  - CHAPTER 32 AUTHORITIES
  - CHAPTER 33 LAWFUL NONCONFORMITIES
  - CHAPTER 34 ENFORCEMENT
  - CHAPTER 35 DEFINITIONS
  - CHAPTER 36 CHECKLISTS

Any interested party may appear and be heard on said proposal. Information related to this request may be inspected, by appt., during regular business hours at the Planning Department window located in the Gaines Charter Township Offices. For information related to this request, contact Dan Wells at (616) 980-6188 or dan.wells@gainestownship.org. To be entered into the public record, signed written comments must be received by 4:00 PM on April 14, 2025.

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

GAINES TWP

Continued from Page 1

For example, some think their property will be rezoned under the revised ordinance once it is approved.

Gaines Community Development Director Dan Wells said the zoning ordinance is not part of a rezoning action on any properties in the township.

"So, all the parcels in the township will remain what they are zoned currently. It's just that in the Future Land Use Plan it designated what people can do with their properties in the future. So, they can change the zoning to that designated zoning. But this zoning ordinance won't change any zoning in the township," Wells said.

However, there are some changes to the name of the zoning categories. For example, there are new residential districts titled Suburban Residential (SR) and Village Residential (VR). In suburban areas, there are the Residential-10 and Residential-14 designations.

"Those numbers are based on the number of square feet per parcel that's required. So, Residential-10 is a 10,000 square foot parcel and Residential-14 is a slightly larger lot, 14,000 square feet," Wells said. "We're combining those in the new zoning ordinance to just the general Suburban Residential. And the minimum lot size there will be 12,000 square feet. And that brings it into alignment with the state law on subdivisions. The standard parcel under state law is 12,000 square feet."



The Gaines Parks & Trails Committee members held a meeting at the Gaines Township Hall on March 5, with the committee's next meeting set for April 16. **Courtesy photo**

One business owner, Tom Werkema of Werkema Machine Co., said at the March 10 township board meeting that a proposed rezoning of his business property at 7300 South Division Ave. from light industrial to residential might "greatly reduce" the value of his building by not allowing future owners to use it as designed. And he said the zoning change potentially could categorize almost every business along the Division Avenue corridor north of 76th Street as an existing non-conforming use.

But Wells clarified that the business's zoning will not be changed.

"Nor does it create a nonconforming situation where he wouldn't be able to sell it as industrial property. He's going to be able to sell that for industrial use. Unless he or a future owner requests a change to that, it's going to remain industrial. So, it doesn't lower his (property) value at all," Wells said.

He reiterated that no zoning of any parcels will change under the township's proposed zoning ordinance amendment.

"That's welcome news," Werkema said in a late-March phone interview with *The Sun and News*.

"All the changes in the zoning ordinance have been discussed very carefully by our zoning committee," Wells said. "We have a zoning subcommittee that's been meeting regularly over the last year-and-a-half to discuss all of the changes under the zoning ordinance. And it's been closely vetted by the planning commission."

Township planners figure 15 to 20 percent of the language in the updated ordinance will be different than what is in the existing township ordinance. And most of that pertains to property setbacks and zoning language.

"It's just that we're updating it and changing some of the language and bringing it into current law. There are a lot of things in it that current law says weren't appropriate to keep in there. Our township attorney has reviewed it. Everything's been vetted very closely," Wells said.

Another point of confusion among some business owners concerns last year's redesignation of several properties along the east side of the Division Avenue corridor in Cutlerville and along 68th Street in Dutton. The amended ordinance includes Neighborhood Commercial (C-1) and General Commercial (C-2) designations. The properties were brought into alignment with the new township master plan that was adopted by the board in 2023.

However, that is not directly related to the proposed zoning ordinance.

Werkema told planning commissioners recently that he is concerned about proposed limitations on the square footage of solar arrays, which he said could preclude someone from going "completely off the grid. They're assuming an interconnected system."

He said township officials should take lot size into consideration in the zoning regulations.

"The 1,500 square feet that they're allowing for solar panels is not adequate, if somebody wants to disconnect from the utility, go off the grid," said Werkema, the former chairman of the Gaines Zoning Board of Appeals.

Township planning staffers heard his concerns and have made some adjustments this past week.

"After consideration of Mr. Werkema's comments at the board meeting and discussing the issue of scale-of-ground mounted solar systems, we will present language to the board for consideration in the latest draft ordinance amendment to allow non-commercial systems greater than 1,500 square feet on a parcel, under a special use permit process," Wells said.

He added, "This will ensure that immediate neighbors will be notified of larger proposed ground-mounted larger systems and not have negative visual impacts to surrounding properties."

"That's wonderful," Werkema said upon hearing the news about the changes being proposed.

He said the draft ordinance amendment is "very well-written. I don't have any complaints unless I get into the nitty gritty of some of the rules."

One proposed rule that Werkema took exception to pertains to the parking of any inoperable motor vehicle outside of an enclosed garage for more than 48 hours.

"I don't think that dealt with it being licensed or insured, at all. If somebody didn't have the money and needed to wait a week or two for a paycheck, they're in violation," Werkema said.

He feels that does not give people without much disposable income enough time to either get their vehicle running again or sold.

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PROJECT

Continued from Page 1

roads are not permitted. All interior streets or roads shall be designed and constructed to meet the standards of the Barry County Roading Commission or other public agency with jurisdiction. Construction inspection of all internal streets or roads shall conform to requirements of the public agency with jurisdiction and shall be dedicated as public streets or roads."

Several other concerns were addressed, with current residents on the location site expressing concerns about having to reduce private land use, which can lower property value. But Phil Gensterblum, the township's zoning administrator, informed members that nothing is official and that more discussion is to be had before moving forward.

"There's lots of elements that don't comply with the planning commission," said Gensterblum. "The big thing is that we need to look more into the ordinance regulations and review this plan more before a public hearing can be held."



A look at an early site condominium plan for the proposed Cornerstone Estates. If approved, developers would build 15 condos on a 22-acre plot of land on the corner of Whitneyville Road and Garbow Road in Thornapple Township. **Photo by Noah Peterson**

The Thornapple Township Planning Commission will follow up on the review at its next meeting on April 28.

WEIGHT

Continued from Page 5

allow moisture to escape and the roadbeds regain stability.

County road commissions and city public works departments put in place their own seasonal weight restrictions, which usually, but not always, coincide with state highway weight restrictions. Signs are generally posted to indicate which routes have weight restrictions in effect.

For weight restriction information and updates, call 800-787-8960, or you can access this information on MDOT's website at Michigan.gov/Truckers, under "Restrictions." All-season routes are designated in green and gold on the MDOT Truck Operators Map, which is available online. You also may sign up to receive email alerts.

Trucking companies located in New Jersey and Canada can obtain information by calling 517-373-6256. — *MM*

CLUB

Continued from Page 2

there with wet socks," she said.

The women's club will host its third annual Bunco fundraiser this April, which supports the clothing closets.

Today, roughly 35 ladies make up the club. The club's longest-serving member is Judy Harrison, who has been a member since 1965.

"For 60 years, she's been in our group," said DeWitt. "We'll have some people, they'll come and go, but she's been a staple since 1965."

DeWitt said the club is not the posh, strict club of women's club past. "It's evolved where it isn't just 'Old Caledonia' … Most of these people are new to Caledonia, and they joined the club because their kids are here, their grandkids are here. They're new to the community, they want to meet people and they want to do things.

"It's just a great way for new people to the community to get to know the community and what's going on. There's pretty much never a bad idea."

DeWitt said it's the community's support that makes the club successful in its initiatives.

"The support of our community — that's what keeps us going, and that's what keeps us able to fund those scholarships. If we didn't have the community behind us, we wouldn't be able to do as many things as we do," DeWitt said.

The club meets at the new Caledonia Community Center on Mondays once a month, excluding in January, February, July and August.

Ladies interested in joining the club can message the Caledonia Women's Club Facebook group for more information. DeWitt said the club is always looking for new members.

NHS

Continued from Page 4

Henry, Alexander Hildabrand, Alexa Hoeksma, Adelaide Holderman, Jacob Koster, Addyson Lambert, Leighton Leslie, Alaina McCrumb, Callie Middleton, Gage Novak, Isabelle Piering, Carmen Reynolds, Reece Ritsema, Marissa Rowley, Katelyn Scobey, Taylor Seif, Paige Sheely, Meghan Skidmore, Lily Stanard, Ethan Strait, Charles VanDuine, Brandan Velting, Alexis Watson, Emma Weeber, Chloe Yates, Alyvia Zolinski and Parker Zube.

During the March 20 ceremony, a roll call of new members was read by NHS secretary Josalyn Cramer and NHS treasurer Valerie Tamez. TKHS principal Tony Petersen greeted each member before they received their certificates, who then recited the NHS pledge as they were formally welcomed into the NHS chapter.

"I would like to be among the first to congratulate you," said Petersen. "It is an honor to serve as your principal and I'm proud of each of you for the hard work, dedication, leadership service and the impeccable character that each of you has displayed.

"You're among the best and the brightest at TKHS and I look forward to seeing the legacy that you continue to build as a member of the National Honor Society," Petersen added.

The TKHS National Honor Society was founded in 1958 by Elizabeth Thurber, a language arts instructor. At the first ceremony, seven students were inducted. — *DM*

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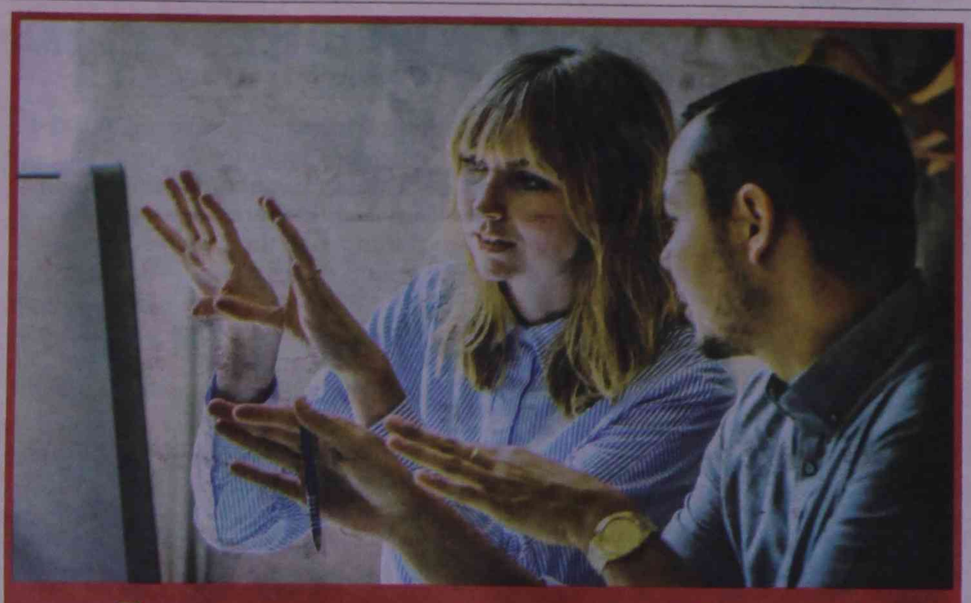
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Sporting News

Scot keeper hits milestone in loss to Mona Shores

BRETT BREMER
Sports Editor

Caledonia scored the first two goals and the last two, but in between Mona Shores found the net enough times to take a 6-4 victory at Scotland Yard in Caledonia Wednesday.

Fighting Scot senior keeper Alivia Neubauer-Keyes made 11 saves to keep her team in the match and surpassed the 200 save milestone for her varsity career late in the first half.

"This is her third years. She came in as a sophomore playing in the field and not knowing anything about being in net, and has stepped in and really just excelled these past three years," Caledonia head coach Kendra Venema said of her senior keeper.

She said Neubauer-Keyes' best asset is her mental toughness.

"If she gets five down on her she doesn't let that affect her. She is ready for the next one. She can easily just say, okay I've got it next time, and not let it continually affect her. That is one of the hardest things about being in net," Venema said, "because once you get a few on you sometimes you get a little defeated. But she is very head strong."

On most nights, the Scots hope that allowing just six goals will be enough to get them a victory and Fighting Scot head coach Kendra Venema was fairly pleased with her team's defensive performance overall in front of Neubauer-Keyes.

"We put in a ton of work," Venema said. "We go back and forth between a man, and when we're down because of a card we go into a zone. That's the first time all season, we have had cards every single and, and that's the first time we got a stop with our zone and they haven't got-

See **SCOT** on Page 9



Caledonia senior goalkeeper Alivia Neubauer-Keyes directs a shot from Mona Shores' Danika Johnson away from her net during their match at Scotland Yard in Caledonia Wednesday. Neubauer-Keyes recorded her 200th varsity save during the contest with the visiting Sailors. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

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SCOT

Continued from Page 8

ten a goal on a yellow card.

"Our defense worked really hard to only let in six while having so much time on our defensive end."

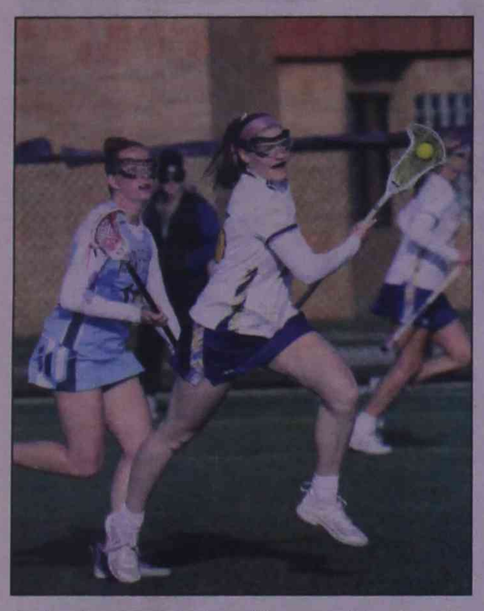
Senior Mya Burgess had three goals and senior Kenna VanLente one for the Scots. Senior Ellie Hudson notched an assist on all three Burgess goals. The two connected twice in the first four minutes of the match to put the Scots up 2-0.

Coach Venema liked the way her girls chased down ground balls early on, but could see that they weren't as vigorous at it as the first half wore on.

"I think part of it is just how new all our girls are. We have eight or nine freshmen and three people that have never played before. So, it's just a pretty new team that isn't used to this level of competition."

She said getting young players used to varsity rules and the varsity game can be tough early in a season.

"They go from having to stop on every whistle, and not being able to check, and not being used to this level of physicality to then dealing with people putting bodies on you, and really dealing with hard checks and faster speed, and it all adds up," Venema said, "and their stick skills to can just be a little bit weaker compared to the varsity level."



Caledonia senior Kenna VanLente sprints through the midfield with the ball during the first half of the Scots' match with visiting Mona Shores at Scotland Yard Wednesday.



Caledonia senior Mya Burgess turns back to celebrate an early goal with senior teammate Ellie Hudson during the first half of their contest with visiting Mona Shores at Scotland Yard in Caledonia Wednesday.

Mona Shores scored once before the first quarter was up and then tallied two goals in the second quarter to lead 3-2 at the half.

The Caledonia offense was held in check by the Sailors for the majority of the second half. It was a tremendous defensive play by VanLente that finally broke the Scots' scoring drought with a little less than nine minutes to go and the Sailors in front 6-2. She stepped up to intercept a clearing pass from the Sailors in the midfield and charged in on the Sailor net and put a shot away. She had seven forced turnovers in the match.

The Sailor lead held at 6-3 from there until the final minute when Burgess finished off her hat-trick.

The Caledonia girls are now 0-3 overall this season. They fell to the 2024 MHSAA Division 2 State Champions from Grand Rapids Catholic Central 14-6 Monday, putting up a good fight according to their coach.

VanLente had five turnovers in that one, a ground ball and a goal. Hudson had two goals and an assist. Burgess, Vivian Fink and Mallory Graham also had goals in the loss for the Scots. Burgees also fought on the draws and won two while causing two turnovers too.

Northview took an 18-8 win over the Scots in the season opener March 19.





Trojan track teams get off to good start at GVSU

BRETT BREMER
Sports Editor

The Trojans are off and running – fast.

Thornapple Kellogg senior Jacob Draaisma, a state qualifier in the 800-meter run and the OK Gold Conference runner-up in the 1600-meter run a year ago, raced to a new personal record time of 4 minutes 26.13 seconds to open the 2025 varsity track and field season at the Grand Valley State University Indoor Laker Challenge March 19.

He placed fourth in the race with that time and also scored a fourth-place finish in the 800-meter run with a time of 2:01.88 – a time about three seconds off his best performance in the event outdoors a year ago.

The Big Schools meet at GVSU was held for boys Wednesday, March 19, and girls on Thursday March 20.

The top finish for the TK ladies came from senior state medalist Brooklyn Harmon as she won the 60-meter hurdles in 9.26 seconds. The TK team had junior Mia Hilton 12th in that race in 10.15 seconds and freshman Amya Gater 14th in 10.28.

Hilton and Harmon also teamed with juniors Madison Kietzman and Payton Gater to place fourth in the day's 4x300-meter relay with a time of 2:56.79.

In the field events, the TK ladies got top ten finishes from senior Emma Dykhouse in the shot put (fourth, 33 feet, 10.25 inches) and Hilton in the pole vault (eighth, 8-0). They were both regional placers in those events a year ago – something that will be made tougher this spring as the Trojan teams make the move up from Division 2 to Division 1 for the MHSAA state competitions.

The TK boys got a 19th-place fin-

See **TROJAN** on Page 17

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Education TODAY

VIEW Newspaper Group



What parents can do to save more for college

Raising a child is no small task. Though it's no surprise that parenting requires a substantial investment of time and energy, the financial cost of raising a child might raise more than a few eyebrows. According to the *SmartAsset* 2024 Study, the median annual cost to raise a child in the United States in 2024 is $22,850, and that figure is considerably higher in many states.

Commitment and discipline are vital to getting across the financial finish line when raising a child, and that includes finding a way to finance a college education. Data from the College Board, a nonprofit that studies trends in the cost of a college education, indicates the cost of tuition and fees varies widely depending on the type of institution. Tuition and fees at an in-state four-year public school cost a little more than $11,000 during the 2023-24 school year, while it was nearly four times as much ($41,540) at a private nonprofit four-year institution.



Financing a child's college education can seem like a daunting task. However, an array of strategies can help parents save more for college.

• Take advantage of a 529 plan

A 529 education savings plan is an increasingly popular way to save for college. The Education Savings Programs at Bank of America reports that 529 plan assets increased from $88.5 billion in 2008 to more than $446 billion in 2023. A 529 plan is a tax-advantaged investment program administered by a state. When funds withdrawn from the plan are used for qualified expenses, such as tuition costs, then the earnings are free from federal income tax obligations. There are distinctions between 529 prepaid tuition programs and 529 savings programs, so parents are urged to discuss those differences with a financial advisor so they can choose the best plan for their situation.

• Redirect extra income to a college savings plan

Parents may have "extra" sources of income that can be used to fund college savings. Annual bonuses, money distributed through state-sponsored property tax relief programs and even money freed up when kids graduate from daycare and into elementary school can be redirected into college savings plans. Redirected daycare expenses may be particularly savvy, as parents know the cost of daycare is considerable. In fact, a recent report from Child Care Aware of America indicated the cost to place two children in child care exceeded annual typical mortgage payments in 45 states. Once kids are out of daycare, parents can redirect some or all the money they had been spending on child care into college savings plans.

• Don't go it alone

A 2023 survey from the College Savings Foundation found that 45 percent of parents would request that family and friends contribute to a child's 529 plan in lieu of the standard gifts given to children for their birthday, special events like graduation or during the holiday season. This practical yet less traditional approach can pad college savings plans by a considerable amount over the years, and close relatives might be more than happy to help parents fund a better education for their youngsters.

College is a costly investment, but parents can look to a handful of strategies to help defray tuition costs.

— Metro Creative Connection

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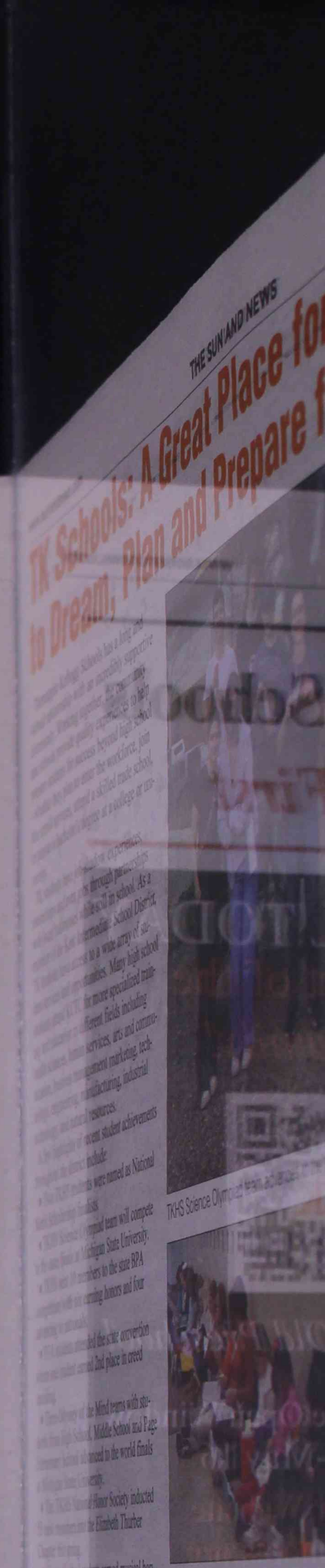
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TK Schools: A Great Place for Students to Dream, Plan and Prepare for the Future

Thornapple Kellogg Schools has a long and valued relationship with an incredibly supportive community. Working together, the community and schools provide quality experiences to help prepare students for success beyond high school - whether they plan to enter the workforce, join the armed services, attend a skilled trade school, or pursue a bachelor's degree at a college or university.

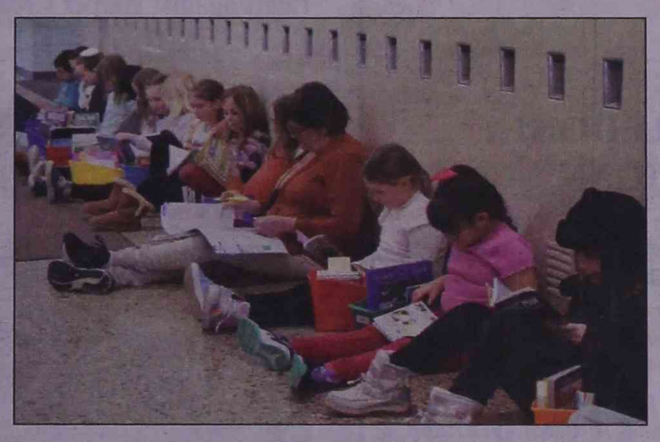
TK students have job-shadow experiences, internships and even jobs through partnerships with local businesses while still in school. As a member of the Kent Intermediate School District, TK students have access to a wide array of student services and opportunities. Many high school students attend KCTC for more specialized training and education in different fields including health sciences, human services, arts and communication, business management marketing, technology, engineering, manufacturing, industrial technology, and natural resources.

A few highlights of recent student achievements throughout the district include:

- Two TKHS students were named as National Merit Scholarship finalists.
- TKHS Science Olympiad team will compete in the state finals at Michigan State University.
- TKHS sent 10 members to the state BPA competition with six earning honors and four advancing to nationals.
- FFA students attended the state convention where one student earned 2nd place in creed speaking.
- Three Odyssey of the Mind teams with students from High School, Middle School and Page Elementary School advanced to the world finals at Michigan State University.
- The TKHS National Honor Society inducted 55 new members into the Elizabeth Thurber Chapter this spring.
- Five individual students earned musical honors at recent district competitions - three for solo choir and two for solo musical instrumentalists.
- Seven students have been named PRO students of the month at KCTC since January.
- More than 40 companies were represented at the annual TK career fair.
- More than 30 volunteers participated in mock job interviews with seniors.
- 22 student-athletes received conference honors for winter sports.
- TKHS drama and musical students gave three outstanding performances of "Wizard of Oz."
- Middle School students attended Career Quest at DeVos Place.



TKHS Science Olympiad team advances to the state finals.



Lee Elementary students and teachers fill the hallways for DEAR time – Drop Everything and Read.

- Elementary students completed Reading Month challenges. Reading Month emphasizes the importance of reading and encourages students to continue reading all year.
- Middle School band members are learning all 12 major scales.
- Lee Elementary is the all-time leader in the state for donations to the American Heart Association through Kids Heart Challenge (formerly known as Jump Rope for Heart.)
- Page Elementary students learned about philanthropy and service through the Circle of Giving program. Students donated $736.95 to various organizations in the county.
- Bus Yay! Awards are being given to students to celebrate positive behavior while riding the bus.
- "Schools to Tools" mobile field trip made a stop at TK Middle School to give students hands-on experience in skilled trades.

These highlights are by no means a complete list of the student achievements in recent months, but an example of the variety of ways students at TK are being successful.

TK Schools is committed to continuing success for students through excellence in education, building relationships with students, providing necessary support, and celebrating and recognizing student achievements.

Stay up to date with all the news from TK Schools by following the district on social media - Facebook, Instagram and YouTube at TK Schools. Download the free TK App for all the latest information or check out the website at www.tkschools.org for more great stories about our students. Don't miss the quarterly newsletter the TK Key – also packed with information and photos from all our schools.

TK fills many spots on winter All-Barry County teams

BRETT BREMER
Sports Editor

The MHSAA winter sports season wrapped up with the girls' basketball finals in East Lansing last weekend, and it was a fine winter season for a number of Thornapple Kellogg High School student-athletes.

The TK varsity boys' and girls' basketball teams both had double-digit wins with the TK girls finishing as the winningest girls' basketball team among the Barry County area schools during the 2024-25 season with 13 victories.

The Thornapple Kellogg varsity wrestling team won a team district championship and the new TK varsity girls' team competed in its first ever duals, while the two squads sent a handful of grapplers to the state finals at Ford Field at the end of the season.

Swimmers from the Grand Rapids Gars co-op proved some of the best in the OK Rainbow East Division, and one TK freshman raced his way into the state swim finals.

The TK varsity competitive cheer team swept its way through the OK Gold Conference for another title, but ultimately came up just short of its goal to get back to the state finals.

And it was a season of growth for some young TK bowlers.

There were highs throughout the winter for all the Trojan sports teams, and many of the top performers from the TK varsity squads have earned spots on the 2024-25 All-Barry County First and Second Teams along with members of Barry County Christian, Hastings, Delton Kellogg, Lakewood and Maple Valley teams in their respective sports. Here are those TK all-county award winners.

WRESTLING

First Team

120 - Christien Miller, Thornapple Kellogg: Miller closed his senior season as an OK Gold Conference champion and a regional qualifier. He put together a record of 35-10 this season.

He was a two-time state qualifier in high school and a state medalist at the end of his sophomore campaign.

165 - Blake Bossenberger, Thornapple Kellogg: Bossenberger was a regional qualifier and a conference champion as a senior for the Trojans.

He closed his year with a record of 36-10.

175 - Jayce Curtis, Thornapple Kellogg: Curtis earned all-state honors for the first time as a senior this season placing eighth in Division 2's 165-pound weight class at the state finals. He was a three-time state qualifier.

Curtis closed his season with a record of 41-15. He was the OK Gold Conference champion at his weight class this season.

WRESTLING

Second Team

157 - Griffin Grummet, Thornapple Kellogg: The OK Gold Conference champion at 150-pounds this winter, Grummet put together an overall record of 30-18.

Grummet had wins that clinched the Trojans' team victories in the team state tournament, in the district finals against Gull Lake and regional semi-finals against Harper Creek.

GIRLS' WRESTLING

First Team

Rylee Alberts, Thornapple Kellogg: A regional qualifier wrestling at 140 pounds throughout her sophomore season, Alberts was 26-15 this season.

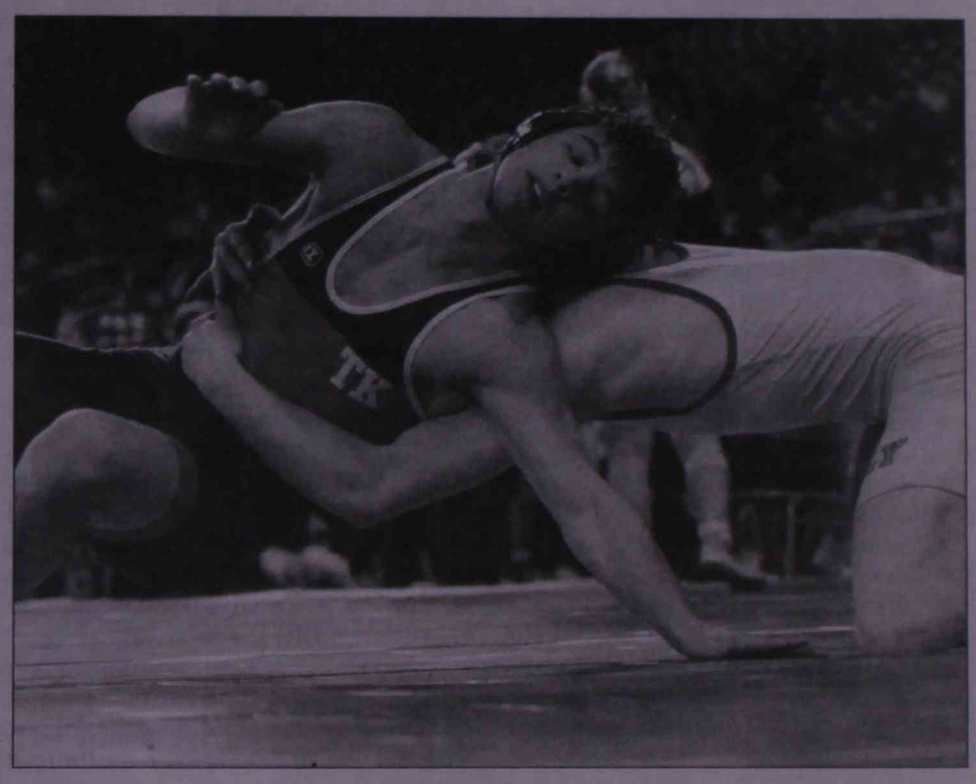
Alberts was a state qualifier as a freshman. This year, she was the champion at the Northview Girls Invitational at 140 pounds and the 145-pound runner-up at the Kent County Championships.

Raini Braska, Thornapple Kellogg: A two-time state qualifier, Braska completed her third straight season with at least 20 wins this winter finishing with a mark of 20-10.

Braska placed second at districts and third at regionals to earn her spot in the state finals at Ford Field. Wrestling at 115 pounds in the regular season and 110 in the postseason, Braska won her weight class at the Plainwell Tournament in December and the Ron Russo Classic in January.

Brielle Dykstra, Thornapple Kellogg: Competing at 115 and 120 pounds throughout the season, Dynasty wrestled her way to 12 wins in her junior campaign.

See **TEAMS** on Page 15



Jayce Curtis

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CALEDONIA
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PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Thursday, April 17th, 2024 at 6:00 p.m., the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Charter Township of Caledonia will hold a meeting at the Caledonia Township Building, 8196 Broadmoor Ave SE, Caledonia, Michigan, concerning the application of Walter Bujak. The applicant is seeking a variance from the watercourse setback requirement for a replacement deck to be built on this parcel. A dimensional variance is needed due to the watercourse setback requirement stated in ZO Section 3.45. Such land is located at 6662 Thornapple River Dr. SE Alto, MI 49302 and is legally described as follows:

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All interested persons may attend the meeting and be heard with regard to the requested variance. Written comments concerning the proposed variance may be submitted to the Township Office, at the above-stated address, up to the time of the public hearing.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CALEDONIA

Posted: March 29, 2025

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TEAMS

Continued from Page 14

She was a medalist at the Hastings Saxons Invitational at 115 pounds and reached the blood round at districts before bowing out of the state tournament.

Emma Gibson, Thornapple Kellogg: A three time state qualifier, Gibson finally finished on the medal stand at the state finals placing sixth in the girls' 135-pound weight class.

She was 31-7 on the season and added district and regional championships to go along with a title at the Kent County Championships and a couple other tournament titles throughout the season.

Adelaide Holderman, Thornapple Kellogg: Holderman placed fourth as a sophomore in the girls' 170-pound weight class at the state finals closing the season with a record of 32-13.

Holderman was a district and regional runner-up this season, falling only to the eventual state champion at both of those tournaments.

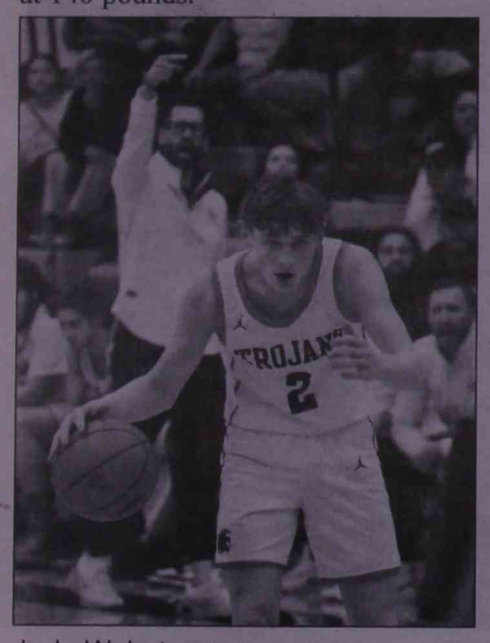
GIRLS' WRESTLING

Second Team

Shaylynn Myers, Thornapple Kellogg: A freshman competing at 145 pounds for TK, Myers won 11 matches this season.

Myers wrestled her way to the blood round of the girls' district tournament in Hastings at the end of the season.

Aubrey Sines, Thornapple Kellogg: Sines had 11 victories during her sophomore season competing at 140 pounds.



Jude Webster. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

She will look to bounce back after a junior after a tough exit from the state tournament falling to her teammate Alberts in the blood round of the district tournament in Hastings.

BOYS' BASKETBALL

First Team

Trey Hilton, Thornapple Kellogg: A junior forward, Hilton led TK in rebounding with 4.8 points with 4.8 per game.

Hilton was tied for second in scoring on the Trojan team with nine points per game and capable of scoring inside and out.

Jude Webster, Thornapple Kellogg: A senior guard for the Trojans, Webster led his team in scoring at 13 points per game with his ability to hit from outside and get to the rim.

Webster was named first team all-conference in the OK Gold this winter.

BOYS' BASKETBALL

Second Team

Lucas Ploeg, Thornapple Kellogg: A junior guard/forward, Ploeg tied for second on the TK team with 9 points per game this season.

Ploeg averaged 3 rebounds per game for the Trojan team while being a physical presence inside and out.

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

First Team

Reece Ritsema, Thornapple Kellogg: A sophomore forward, Ritsema averaged a double-double with 10.1 points and 11 rebounds per game. Her combination of size, skill, speed and aggressiveness make her a beast around the basket.

She was named all-conference in the OK Gold this winter.

Lydia Schilthroat, Thornapple Kellogg: Honorable mention all-conference in the OK Gold during her senior season at point guard for the Trojans.

Schilthroat averaged 6.7 points, 4.2 rebounds and 2 steals a game.

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Second Team

Tealy Cross, Thornapple Kellogg: Injury stymied her junior season a bit, but the junior guard still managed to contribute 3 points, 2.9 rebounds and 2 steals a game.

Offensively, Cross uses her speed to get to the basket and score in transition and on the defensive end she is a feisty on-ball defender.

Taylor Lloyd, Thornapple Kellogg: The Trojans' leading scorer with 13.9 points per game as a freshman this winter.

Lloyd was able of attacking and getting to the basket and also an outside threat who set a school record with eight three-pointers in a January win over Grand Rapids Union in Middleville.

COMPETITIVE CHEER

First Team

Payton Gater, Thornapple Kellogg: A returning all-state performer from TK's 2024 state finals squad, she made the move to back spot to fill team needs after being a base in each of her first two seasons. She was named all-conference and all-district this year.

"Payton always proves to be a dynamic asset to the team in any way needed," TK head coach Madelynn Lula said.

Mia Hilton, Thornapple Kellogg: a junior flyer for the Trojans, Hilton was named all-conference, all-district and an all-region award winner this season.

"Mia is a returning flyer with talent that continues to grow beyond our expectations. She has a very decorated reputation in the cheer world already and will continue to chase being an all-conference, district, and region athlete in her senior year," coach Lula said.

Claira Kovich, Thornapple Kellogg: A junior who earned all-conference, all-district and all-region honors for the second season in a row.

"Claira is also a returning flyer with talent and heart that is unmatched by many," coach Lula said.

Lilly McKeown, Thornapple Kellogg: A senior backspot for TK in her third year competing at TK and her tenth year in a competitive cheer program. She was named all-conference in the OK Gold this winter.

"Lilly is a dedicated athlete who fought hard through an injury this season without missing a step," coach Lula said.

COMPETITIVE CHEER

Second Team

Kaylee Clarke, Thornapple Kellogg: A junior, Clarke was named all-conference and all-district this winter. A front spot as a freshman, she just spent her second season as a flyer.

""Kaylee has grown as an athlete far beyond what we ever could have expected when we first met her. She continues to prove to be abundantly coachable, selfless and is full of raw talent," coach Lula said.

Sienna Schalk, Thornapple Kellogg: A junior, Schalk earned all-conference and all-district honors for

See **TEAMS** on Page 16

Village of Middleville COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the March 11, 2025 Regular Council Meeting, that were approved on March 25, 2025, are posted at the Village Hall at 100 E Main Street and on the website at www.villageofmiddleville.org.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CALEDONIA BOARD OF TRUSTEES Meeting Minutes

The minutes for the March 5, 2025 Township Board of Trustees Meeting that were approved on March 19, 2025, are posted at the Township Offices at 8196 Broadmoor Ave., and on the website at www.caledoniatownship.org.

IRVING TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING SYNOPSIS

March 18, 2025

Meeting called to order at 6:30pm at 3425 Wing Rd. Hastings, Michigan 49058

Present: Lydy, Buehler, Brummel, Nagel, Stout

Agenda approved with amendments

Approved February 18, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Fire and Sexton Reports presented

Barry County Community Mental Health presentation

Passed eight resolutions

Approved to pay bills in the amount of $6,564.59

Upcoming Meeting date: Board Meeting April 15, 2025 6:30pm

Adjourn 7:10pm

Full minutes are available at Irvingtownship.org or at 3425 Wing Rd, Hastings, MI 49058.

Prepared by
Deputy Clerk, Shelly Lake.
Attested to by Supervisor,
Dan Lydy.

TEAMS

Continued from Page 15

TK this winter. A returning base for the Trojans, she competed in all three rounds.

"She was able to learn how to back spot overnight to help her team during a time of sickness on the team," coach Lula said. "Sienna has been competing in cheerleading for most of her life and has settled into a very comfortable leadership role this year."

Emma Syswerda, Thornapple Kellogg: A freshman who earned all-conference honors in the OK Gold. She took over a spot as a base for TK with some middle school experience before getting to the varsity.

"Emma quickly took to the intensity of our program and gained all of the necessary skills to compete in all three rounds," coach Lula said.

BOYS' SWIMMING & DIVING

First Team

Caden Bliek, GR Gars: Bliek drooped his personal best times in the freestyle sprints at the OK Rainbow East Division Championship while scoring in both races for his team.

He turned in a personal best time of 24.75 seconds in the 50-yard freestyle and 57.55 in the 100-yard freestyle.

Ty Denney, GR Gars: A top freestyle sprinter for the Gars, Denney placed third in the 50-yard freestyle with a time of 23.68 seconds at the OK Rainbow East Division Championship.

He also placed fifth in the 100-yard freestyle at the conference meet in 52.86 and was a contributor to the Gars' relays throughout the year.

Luke Hemker, GR Gars: A top breaststroke performer for his team and in his conference, Hemker set his personal best at 1:15.71 in the race while placing ninth at the OK Rainbow East Division Championship.

Hemker competed in the medley relay for the Gars throughout the season too.

Dominic Jakubowski, GR Gars: Jakubowski scored for the Gars in the 50-yard freestyle at the OK Rainbow East Division Championship with a 14th-place time of 25.98. that was anew personal best.

Jakubowski also set a personal best 100-yard freestyle time at the conference meet of 58.92.

Ethan Klopfenstein, GR Gars: Klopfenstein capped his senior season by winning the 100-yard backstroke championship at the OK Rainbow East Division Championship with a personal best time of 56.34 in the race.

He earned all-conference honors while also being one of his team's top racers in the butterfly. He set his personal best in the 100-yard butterfly at the conference meet at 55.67.

Sreyas Murmu, GR Gars: Murmu got into the A finals of both the 100-yard backstroke and the 100-yard butterfly at the OK Rainbow East Division Championship this season.

He turned in a personal best time of 1:06.62 in the backstroke to place seventh and was eighth in the butterfly in 1:04.16 to place eighth in the butterfly.

Nolan Send, GR Gars: A senior, Send had a top individual finish at the OK Rainbow East Division Championship of fourth in the 200-yard freestyle where he turned in a personal best time of 1:57.30.

Send also had a top ten finish in the 500-yard freestyle at the conference meet and worked to chase a state cut with the Gars' 200-yard freestyle relay team. He had some of his team's top times in the 200-yard freestyle and the 500-yard freestyle throughout the season.

Hunter Tietz, GR Gars: A senior, Tietz earned all-conference honors in the OK Rainbow East Division this season. He had the fastest time of the season in the 50-yard freestyle this season for the Gars clocking in at 23.61 seconds at the Loy Norrix Invitational.

He placed second at the conference meet in the 100-yard backstroke and third in the 200-yard individual medley while also working with the 200-yard freestyle relay team to try and chase down a state cut.

Gabriel Van, GR Gars: A freshman, Van swam to a 17th-place finish in the prelim's of the 100-yard butterfly at the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 1 Boys' Swimming and Diving Finals this season turning in a personal record time of 53.44 seconds in the race.

He earned all-conference honors in the OK Rainbow East Division, winning the 100-yard butterfly, and had the top Gars' time in the 50-yard freestyle, the 100-yard freestyle, the 200-yard freestyle, the butterfly and the 200-yard individual medley this season.

Haiden Vruggink, GR Gars: Vruggink was one of the top distance swimmers for the Gars' team this winter.

He placed seventh in the OK Rainbow East Division with a time of 2:04.52 in the 200-yard freestyle. He was eighth in the 500-yard freestyle with a personal best time of 5:43.76 in the prelim's at the conference meet.

BOYS' SWIMMING & DIVING

Second Team

Ethan Magnuson, GR Gars:

See **TEAMS** on Page 17



Jenna Robinett

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

YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

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

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing will be held on April 17, 2025, commencing at 7:00 p.m. at the Yankee Springs Township Hall, 284 N. Briggs Rd., Middleville MI, within the Township, as required under the provisions of the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act and the Zoning Ordinance for the Township.

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

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

1. **SEU 25-03-05; Parcel ID: 16-370-005-00, 2739 Sandon Circle, Wayland, MI 49348**. A request by Rich and Starr Adams, the property owners, for a special exception use permit to operate a commercial Short-term rental pursuant to the Yankee Springs Zoning Ordinance, ***Article X, Short Term Rentals***.
2. **ZOC 25-03-01; Whispering Pines Condominiums, Whispering Pines Road, Wayland MI 49348**. Parcel IDs:16-370-001-00, 16-370-002-00, 16-370-003-00, 16-370-004-00, 16-370-005-00, 16-370-006-00, 16-370-007-00, 16-370-008-00, 16-370-009-00, 16-370-010-00, 16-370-011-00, 16-370-012-00, 16-370-013-00, 16-370-014-00, 16-370-015-00, 16-370-016-00, 16-370-017-00, 16-370-018-00, 16-370-019-00, 16-370-020-00, 16-370-021-00, and all condominium common areas. Public Hearing of a proposed rezoning of the property from "Resort and Recreation" to "Gun Lake Residential Lakefront" pursuant to the Yankee Springs Zoning Ordinance, ***Article XIX, Amendments to Zoning Ordinance and Official Zoning Map***.
3. **SEU 25-02-04; Parcel ID: 16-370-013-00, 2734 Sandon Circle #13, Wayland, MI 49348**. A request by Christopher and Patricia Gonser, the property owners, for a special exception use permit to operate a commercial Short-term rental pursuant to the Yankee Springs Zoning Ordinance, ***Article X, Short Term Rentals.***
4. **SEU 25-02-05; Parcel ID: 16-215-014-20, Lot 22 Streeters Resort Plat, Middleville MI 49333.** A request by Robert and Patricia Albaugh, the property owners, for a special exception use permit to build an outbuilding pursuant to the zoning ordinance, ***Article XII, section 12.7 Outbuildings***.
5. **Such other business as may properly come before the Planning Commission**.

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

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

YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
By: Shana Bush, Chairperson
Yankee Springs Township Hall
284 N. Briggs Rd., Middleville, Michigan 49333
(269) 795-9091

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TEAMS

Continued from Page 16

The top diver for the Grand Rapids Gars this winter. He placed sixth at the OK Rainbow East Division Championship and was 25th at regionals.

Magnuson also competed in the 200-yard freestyle relay at times this season for the Gars.

BOYS' BOWLING

Second Team

Chase Buter, Thornapple Kellogg: Buter had the top average for the TK boys of 144.

He rolled a 225 as a high game this winter.

Landen England, Thornapple Kellogg: England had a 138 average for the season.

He rolled a high game of 192.

GIRLS' BOWLING

First Team

Kenzie Hoogterp, Thornapple Kellogg: Hoogterp put together a 130 average this winter and rolled a high game of 179.

She earned honorable mention all-conference in the OK Gold and was the Trojans' top scorer at regionals at the end of the season.

Jenna Robinett, Thornapple Kellogg: Robinett led the TK girls with a 140 average on the season and had a high game of 183.

She earned all-conference honors in the OK Gold this season.

GIRLS' BOWLING

Second Team

Casey Phillips, Thornapple Kellogg: Phillips had a 130 average on the season and got better and better as the season went on.

She had a high game of 163 late in the year.

TROJAN

Continued from Page 10

ish in the pole vault from junior Luke Archer as he cleared 10-0. Sophomore Camden Peter was 24th in the high jump at 5-4. The top relay finish for the TK boys came in the 4x600-meter relay with the team of senior Case Dykhouse, sophomore Layne Schilthroat, sophomore Elijah Frazer and freshman Jackson Hasty 23rd in 6:51.04.

Sophomore Brandan Velting added a 25th-place time of 54.42 seconds in the 400-meter run.

The TK ladies had a number of girls finish as high as the top 25 in events. Hilton, a previous state medalist, also had a personal record run of 1:01.81 in the 400-meter dash that had her seventh. Amya Gater was 19th in that one in 1:05.11.

Trojan senior state medalist Ava Crews placed seventh in the 1600-meter run with a time of 5:16.72.

Payton Gater, Amya Gater, Kietzman and sophomore Isla Tillema teamed up to place seventh in the girls' 4x600-meter relay with a time of 7:28.24.

Dykhouse wasn't the only top performer in the shot put for TK. Senior Lilly McKeown earned a mark of 29-5.25 that put her 16th and junior Marlee Shuford was 21st with a put of 27-11.5. Sophomore Lydia Slagel was 16th in the pole vault clearing 7-0. Payton Gater scored a 21st-place high jump finish clearing 4-8.

In the long jump, the TK girls' team had Payton Gater 14th (15-8), Amya Gater 15th (15-6.5) and Dykhouse 18th (15-2).

Classifieds

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COMMERCIAL-RENT

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT: 7884 Eastern Ave, Suite A,B Grand Rapids. $20.00 ANNUAL /SF 2205 sqft available. RE/Max of Grand Rapids Margaret Peric (616)204-9792 margoperic@remax.net

IN MEMORY

IN LOVING MEMORY- Paul L. Dykstra, husband, Dad and Grandpa, who passed away 5 years ago April 3, 2020; and Paul "Spike" Dykstra, son, brother and Uncle, who passed away March 7, 2023. We think of you so often, the things you did and said, you never really left us, you just went on ahead. We continue to remember you with warm and loving thoughts. Sadly missed by Sheila Dykstra, Brenda and Carl Blough and families.


RE/MAX
RE/MAX OF GRAND RAPIDS
Margaret (Margo) E. Peric
Commercial/Residential Full Time Agent
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Office: (616)957-0700
Email: margoperic@remax.net

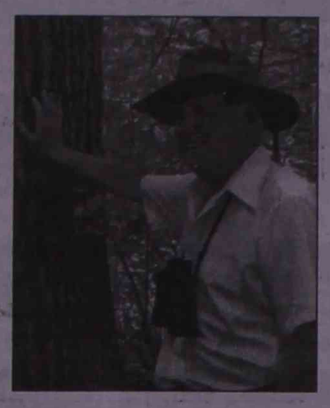

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Obituaries

William James Callan



William James Callan, age 94, of Middleville, MI passed away on Friday, March 21, 2025.

He was born on the family farm in Grandville, MI on February 14, 1931. Bill's love of farming, nature, and gardening continued throughout his life. He was a United States Army Korean War veteran and earned a Bronze Service Star, National Defense Service and United Nations Service Medals.

Bill retired from General Motors after 22 years and was an accomplished machinist and electrician. Prior to that he worked at General Electric for 12 years.

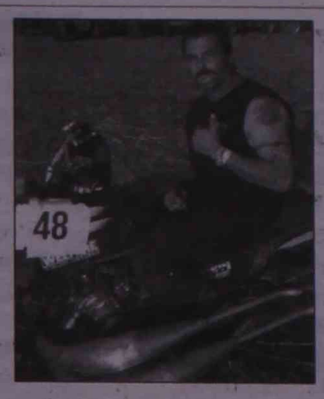
He was preceded in death by his wife of 61 years, Mary (Kindlarski) Callan in 2019; daughter, Ann Hammond; granddaughter, Laci Washburn.

He will be lovingly remembered by his son, John (Georgia) Callan; grandchildren: Matthew (Sharon) Callan (Danielle, Matthew, Jr., Maya), Molly Callan, Mark Heyboer, Max Heyboer, Chelsea Lozano; as well as several beloved nephews and nieces.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held 11 a.m. on Friday, March 28, 2025 at Holy Family Catholic Church, 9669 Kraft SE, Caledonia, with Rev. Michael Cilibraise presiding. Interment St. Patrick Cemetery. Relatives and friends met the family on Friday from 10-11a.m. prior to the service at the church.

Those who wish may make memorial contributions to Holy Family Catholic Church or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Condolences may be sent online at www.mkdfuneralhome.com.

Timothy 'Tim' 'Tiny' Wade Jr.

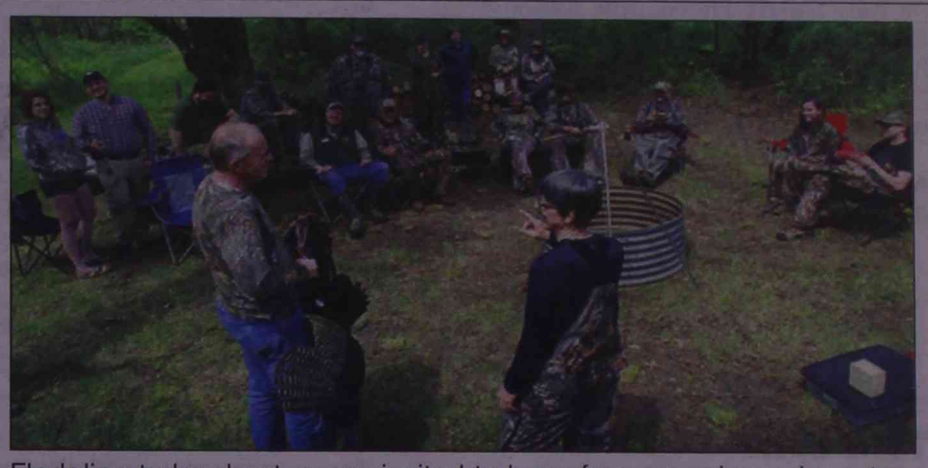


Timothy 'Tim' 'Tiny' Wade Jr., age 48, of Caledonia MI passed away Monday March 17, 2025.

He was preceded in death by his father, Timothy Thomas Wade Sr.; mother, Judith Kay Anderson; grandparents, George and Edith Anderson.

Tim is survived by his daughters, Kaylee Anne Wade (Jeremiah Edwards), Bailey Haight; grandchildren, Haizee Reynolds, Kain Reynolds, Daphne Wade, Dalia Wade, Pierce Hight; mother-in-law, Penny Wade; cousin, Eric Anderson; special friends, Tammie Morse, Billie and Brenda Kindle, Bill and Glenda Kindle, Trenton, and his beloved dragons, Tink and Tank.

Tim graduated from Caledonia.



Fledgling turkey hunters are invited to learn from experienced mentors at Pierce Cedar Creek Institute next month. **Courtesy photo**

National Wild Turkey Federation teaching new hunters at PCCI next month

New adult hunters can learn to hunt wild turkeys next month from experienced mentors at Pierce Cedar Creek Institute in Hastings.

The event, sponsored by the National Wild Turkey Federation, is one of many events it is sponsoring next month aimed at educating new turkey hunters.

Hunters will gather at Pierce Cedar Creek Institute in Hastings from Friday, April 25 through Sunday, April 27.

The cost is $225, which includes two nights' lodging, Friday evening dinner, breakfast snacks, Saturday lunch and Saturday evening wild game sampling.

This event is limited to eight new hunters (two hunters per mentor) and is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Registration can be found at your. nwtf.org/events/login/.

For more information, contact Jen Davis at jdavis@nwtf.net or 734-680-6049. — *MM*

RODNEY & RENA SCHAD
A LEGACY OF GENEROSITY



A former US Marine and his wife of 50 years, created a scholarship fund for TK graduates who pursue a career in Industrial Arts, CAD/CAM, engineering, industrial design), providing a legacy for over 30 years. Even today, their endowed fund grows from the ongoing generosity of family and friends, honoring life and legacy of the Schad family.

If you want to learn more on leaving a legacy, please call Bonnie Gettys or Annie Halle at 269-945-0526, to help ensure that your gifts can support your hopes and dreams.

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The Village of Middleville Planning Commission meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 1, 2025 at 7:00 pm has been cancelled.

The meeting has been rescheduled for Tuesday, April 15, 2025 at 7:00 pm

Rhonda Van Polen
Village Clerk

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Legal advice offered at no cost to Barry County seniors

The Legal Services of South Central Michigan-Battle Creek office will conduct over-the-phone interviews for legal advice and possible representation, without charge, to interested Barry County seniors this month.

Those who wish to speak with an attorney should call the 269-224-5040 between 9 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on Friday, April 11.

Legal Services of South Central Michigan-Battle Creek office is a nonprofit organization that provides legal assistance, representation and education to low-income people in Calhoun and Branch counties and seniors in Barry, Branch, Calhoun and St. Joseph counties. The advice and counsel is funded primarily by the Area Agency on Aging Region 3B through the Michigan Aging and Adult Services Agency under the Older Americans Act of 1965.

— *MM*

IRVING BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE 2025-2026

Will be conducted at
3425 Wing Rd, Hastings, MI –
Tel # 269-948-0633

April 15, 2025 6:30pm
May 20, 2025 7:00pm
June 17, 2025 7:00pm
July 15, 2025 7:00pm
August 19, 2025 7:00pm
September 16, 2025 7:00pm
October 21, 2025 7:00pm
November 18, 2025 6:30pm
December 16, 2025 6:30pm
January 20, 2026 6:30pm
February 17, 2026 6:30pm
March 17, 2026 6:30pm

MIDDLEVILLE TOPS 546

The March 24 meeting opened with roll call and the secretary's report. There is one new fish in the fishbowl. Two fish fell out.

This week, the chapter members discussed their experiences at last weekend's Spring Workshop in Battle Creek.

Linda lost the Ha-Ha Box.

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

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

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

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
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Church: (269) 795-2391

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Sunday Masses..... 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
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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

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
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