THE SUN AND NEWS
Your Hometown Newspaper Serving the Middleville, Caledonia and Gaines Township Areas
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HANDFUL OF TK STATE QUALIFIERS JOINED BY TALENTED YOUNGSTERS
PAGE 8



MidVilla Flats under construction following groundbreaking ceremony

Molly Macleod
Editor

Construction is underway at the site of Middleville's newest housing development, MidVilla Flats. Developers and stakeholders gathered last week to celebrate the groundbreaking for the project.

Located on M-37, the MidVilla Flats, once complete, will create 144 "workforce housing" units. The apartments will be spread between six, three-story, 24-unit apartment buildings scattered across the 13.3-acre parcel that was once home to the Middle Villa Inn. One- and two-bedroom apartments ranging from 1,000 to 1,200 square feet will be offered.

The development will also incorporate community amenities such as pickleball courts, a grilling area, a gazebo, and a nature path that connects to local trails. The project also includes three commercial outlots. McDonald's reportedly has an interest in one of those lots.

Construction Simplified is managing the construction of the $25-million project. The apartments were spearheaded by Dutch Developers LLC, which consists of brothers Nate, Eric and Josh Heyboer.

"MidVilla Flats is a transformative development that's an investment in the future of Middleville, providing much-needed workforce housing. As the community rapidly grows, this project will improve accessibility for residents and create new opportunities for businesses in the area," said Nate Heyboer.

The project will put a dent in the county's housing shortage. It required cooperation

See **FLATS** on 6



What is left of a barn blown down on 76th Street west of Patterson Avenue after an EF-0 tornado went through Gaines Township on March 30. **Photo provided**

NWS confirms tornado touched down in Gaines Twp. on Sunday

James Gemmell
Contributing Writer

Many residents in Gaines Township and the surrounding area were left to clean up after a severe weather system, which reportedly included at least three tornados, swept through parts of southwest Michigan on Sunday, March 30.

Damage in the Caledonia and Dutton areas was spawned by a line of thunderstorms that brought heavy rain and high winds that uprooted trees and snapped power poles.

National Weather Service officials confirmed a twister touched down at 5:42 p.m. Sunday near 100th Street and Eastern Avenue, and traveled 4.2 miles in a northeasterly direction before dissipating near 84th Street and Hanna Lake Avenue at 5:47 p.m.

The NWS labeled the weather event as an EF-0 tornado, as it reportedly packed an estimated maximum sustained wind velocity of 80 mph and cut a swath of up to 150 yards wide.

During its five minutes on the ground, the twister inflicted significant damage to barns and outbuildings, toppling some of the structures. It also uprooted several trees and spewed debris.

"I'm just happy nobody was hurt," Gaines Township resident Timothy Zandbergen. "It damaged a lot of barns."

Zandbergen said the tornado tore off the roof of a barn on his property, located on the south side of 76th Street, between East Paris and Patterson avenues, in the Caledonia area.

"We did not have any animals there at the time, so that was fortunate," he added.

Zandbergen also said two barns on a neighbor's property on the north side of the road were leveled by the tornado and another barn was damaged.

And, the tornado damaged structures along 92nd Street near Kalamazoo Avenue.

The tornado touched down within two miles of where another EF-O tornado hit Gaines Township on April 11, 2021, near 100th Street and Eastern Avenue. NWS officials said that one traveled about half a

See **TORNADO** on 5

TK supe candidates slated to interview April 14-15

Molly Macleod
Editor

The search for Thornapple Kellogg Schools' newest superintendent is drawing nearer to its conclusion.

Four candidates are scheduled to interview for the top spot at TK schools later this month. Members of TK's board of education say they hope to have the district's new superintendent in place as soon as July 1.

On Monday, April 14, Troy Rheel will kick off the first round of superintendent interviews at 6 p.m. Rheel, retired, served as superintendent for the Hillsdale Intermediate School District. Robert Pouch will follow Rheel with his interview at 7:30 p.m. Pouch is currently superintendent of Morrice Public Schools.

Interviews continue on Tuesday, April 15. Cedar Springs Public Schools Director of Human Services & Elementary Academic Services Dan Scoville is slated to interview at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, followed by Bill Crane at 7:30 p.m.



Thornapple Kellogg Schools is making progress in its superintendent search. First-round interviews for the top job are slated for April 14 and 15. **File photo**

Crane is superintendent for Kent City Schools.

"We were pleased with the candidates interested in becoming the next leader for the Thornapple Kellogg Schools," said TK Schools Board of Education President Dave Smith. "The applicant pool has many quality candidates who may be an excellent fit for our school district and community. We are excited to learn more about the candidates' abilities and attributes as well as what each candidate has to offer our students, staff, parents, and community. As always, the board values input from the public and strongly encourages people to attend the interviews. It is our hope to have a new superintendent in place on July 1."

TK Schools has been searching for its next superintendent since former superintendent Craig McCarthy retired at the end of last year. In the meantime, Tom Enslen has served as TK Schools' interim superintendent.

The Michigan Leadership Institute has helped the district in its executive search. The four candidates selected for first-round interviews came from a pool of 15 applications, with candidates' experience ranging from current and past superintendents, principals and central office staff.

Interviews will take place at Thornapple Kellogg Schools Early Childhood Center, 3316 Bender Road, in Middleville. Members of the public are strongly encouraged to attend. The interviews will also be recorded and posted online after the conclusion of this round.

Middleville DDA approves plan for social district

Jayson Bussa
Contributing Writer

The Middleville Downtown Development Authority reviewed and signed off on a proposed social district for the village, bringing the project one step closer to fruition.

Under the Michigan Liquor Control Code (MLCC), municipalities may designate a social district containing common areas where patrons are allowed to consume alcoholic beverages that were purchased from adjacent and licensed establishments.

These social districts come in handy during the warmer months when outdoor programming like the village's Riverbank Music Series is scheduled.

Various stakeholders have discussed a potential social district in Middleville, and the DDA was tasked with reviewing and approving the plan before a village attorney would go to work drafting a resolution that would be presented to the village council for final approval.

Commons areas of the proposed social district would include portions of West Main Street and portions of High and Water Street along Sesquicentennial Park.

Members of the DDA board gave the plan a thumbs up with little to no discussion during its monthly meeting on Monday.

Not only will the village council need to sign off on the proposed social district but documents need to be submitted to the MLCC for approval. Main Street Committees will also assist in developing programming, marketing and engagement strategies for the social district.

ENTREPRENEURS WELCOME AT THIS YEAR'S MIDDLEVILLE MARKET

The Middleville Market is generally reserved for local makers who sell handmade wares. This year, the Middleville DDA intends to try something different to help local entrepreneurs gain exposure in the community.

Kassandra Clark, the Community Development Coordinator for the village, floated the idea to the DDA board of having a local entrepreneur section at the Middleville Market. This would entail two to three booths at each show in the 2025 season. They would be available on a day-to-day basis and can be used by businesses that don't necessarily have a product to sell, but rather, a service.

See **DDA** on 6

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View Newspaper Group announces launch of St. Clair Area View

ST. CLAIR — Leadership at View Newspaper Group is proud to announce the launch of the St. Clair Area View, which will first land in mailboxes on Friday, May 9, 2025.

"Our team is excited to bring this free, locally-owned community newspaper to readers in the St. Clair area," said View Newspaper Group Publisher Wes Smith. "The St. Clair Area View will connect readers to their community and our advertising clients to our readers, just as our other 21 locally-owned newspapers across the state do."

With the launch of the St. Clair Area View, View Newspaper Group is now home to 22 locally-owned, locally-connected newspapers across the state, further solidifying the group's position as Michigan's largest, independently owned newspaper group.

Founded in 2003 by Lapeer native Rick Burrough, View Newspaper Group's community newspapers have more than 352,000 copies in print each week covering 14 counties including: Lapeer, Oakland, Genesee, Livingston, Sanilac, Huron, Saginaw, Shiawassee, Montcalm, Ionia, Barry, Calhoun, Kent and St. Clair.

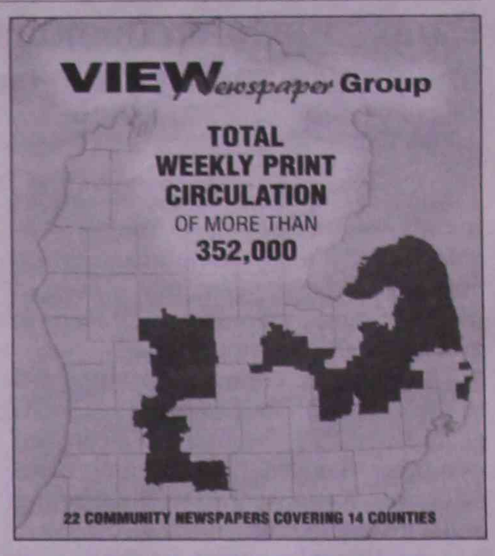
"At a time when some newspaper companies are cutting back, we are happy to say we continue to grow," said Burrough. "We saw a need for a local newspaper in the St. Clair area and after a lot of research and meeting with community members, we knew we were the right news organization to make that happen."

The St. Clair Area View will include coverage of area schools, local governments, nonprofits, businesses, high school sports, community members and much more. It will be delivered by the U.S. Postal Service to 17,000 homes in the St. Clair area two times a month. A digital version will also be available for free at www.mihomepaper.com.

View Newspaper Group Reporter and Community Relations Manager Casey Johnson has been named Editor of the St. Clair Area View. Johnson began her career with View Newspaper Group in 2011 as an intern at The County Press in Lapeer, while earning her journalism degree at Oakland University. Johnson worked in community journalism in Huron County until 2015, when she went back to school to obtain her state license in therapeutic massage. She practiced massage therapy full-time until joining the Sanilac County News in 2022.

View Newspaper Group Sports Editor Mike Gallagher will lead the St. Clair Area View in local sports coverage. A 2012 graduate of Peck High School, Gallagher played varsity football, baseball and track and junior varsity basketball. After high school, he attended Delta College and St. Clair Community College, where he was managing editor-in-chief of the SC4 student newspaper. He covered local sports for newspapers in Tuscola and Huron counties before joining the Sanilac County News as sports editor in 2019.

View Newspaper Group Marketing Specialist Christy Hendrick will serve as sales lead for the St. Clair Area View. Hendrick earned degrees in English and journalism from Oakland University, and worked for the Macomb Daily as a features reporter for several years before obtaining her teaching license. She taught Pre-K in Port Huron following her journalism career. Hendrick has been in marketing and advertising at the Sanilac County News, Jeffersonian, Buyer's Guide, and Thumb Coast & Country since 2021.



"Our team of award-winning journalists looks forward to telling the great stories of this community," said Smith. "Equally as important, our team of advertising and marketing professionals looks forward to helping area businesses connect with customers through print advertising. Most of all we look forward to serving and connecting with a new group of readers."

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Our special chain is broken and nothing seems the same; but as God calls us one by one, the chain will link again.

Forever in my heart, Love Amy

Gaines Planning Commission tells Eden Forest townhouse applicants to come up with a better site plan

James Gemmell
Contributing Writer

The developers of the Eden Forest townhouse project in Gaines Township recently made some unauthorized changes to the site plan that prompted planning commissioners to tell them to go back to the drawing board.

The planning commission voted 6-0 to reject two of the proposed revisions at its March 27 meeting but approved two other changes. One planning commissioner was absent from the meeting at the township hall.

A conditional rezoning for the project from a residential (RL-10) designation to single-family (R-3) zoning was previously approved by the township.

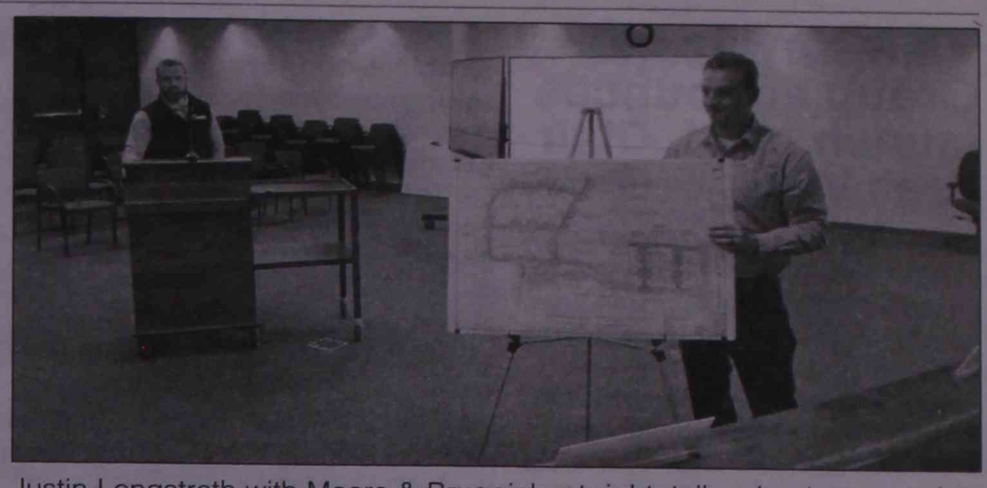
The Eden Forest development is at 1184 60th St. SE, which is immediately west of the Kentwood Community Church.

Brad Walsh with Orion Construction and 60th Street Ventures LLC recently submitted the revised site plan for the 18.2-acre property. It's part of a larger development in that area. The first two proposed changes were approved by planning commissioners, but the third and fourth proposed changes were rejected.

The first one called for the removal of one four-unit building along the southwest edge of the development to avoid impacting the adjacent wetlands. Because one of the four-unit townhouses (Building 17) was so close to a detention area, it was removed from the site plan. Instead, another nearby townhouse (Building 16) was converted from a fourplex into a sixplex. So, the total number of units was reduced by two from the overall site plan, from eight units to six units. That was the second proposal approved.

"The old Building 17, when we originally proposed that, there was just a corner that was getting into the wetland area. And after conversations with our wetland consultant and (the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes & Energy), it wasn't really going to be a good plan moving forward," Walsh explained to the planning commission.

The third proposal to realign part of a sidewalk from the west side of the main road (Chartway Drive) that comes into the development south of 61st Street to the east side of the road and add a mid-



Justin Longstreth with Moore & Bruggink, at right, talks about some points on a map showing the layout for the Eden Forest project. Orion Construction president Brad Walsh stands at the lectern. **Photo by James Gemmell**

street crossing did not go over well with planning commissioners, as mentioned. Nor did the fourth proposal to relocate a playground to a corner location adjacent to Chartway Drive and a private drive, Ramsgate.

Commissioners noted that the original site plan aligned the pedestrian path along the west side of the main drive, which created an unimpeded path from the north end of the development to the playground. But the revised site plan alignment would have required children to cross the roads twice to reach the playground on the west side of Chartway Drive.

"They had originally located the playground farther in from that intersection, away from the intersection," Community Development Director Dan Wells said. "Because they had to re-contour the stormwater detention basin, they had to move the playground toward that intersection. So, now it's going to be right on the corner. And we're still not clear exactly where that configuration is. They didn't specify it."

"One of the main features we like to have in a development like this is adequate playground space. And crossing twice to get there, I'm not sure that that's ideal," Planning Commission Chairwoman Connie Giarmo said.

"And then, the moving of the sidewalk over onto to the east side rather than continuing it all the way down the west side was an issue," Wells said. "When the original plan was approved, that was a point of discussion because, OK, kids who are living up here could easily go straight down to the playground, which is an attractive thing. Here (under the revised plan), they have to go down halfway, cross over the road, go down to the intersection, cross back over the road to get to the playground, which is a safety issue."

Walsh said the playground was originally proposed to be located behind an existing auxiliary building. But it was moved to the side of the building and close to the road while plans for the stormwater detention pond were being finalized.

Redrawing the detention basin prompted the developers to move the playground close to the intersection.

"We ran out of space, frankly. The pond just grew and the original location that we had back behind the building just didn't fit, because of the footprint of the pond expanding," Walsh told commissioners.

Part of the original project involved building a daycare facility adjacent to the church, and a playground was supposed to be built, as well.

"In speaking with the church, they had some concerns that the road was a little too close to that playground," Walsh said. "So, we shifted the road closer to the development and moved the sidewalk to the other side of the road, creating a buffer between the playground and the current building."

Justin Longstreth with the civil engineering firm Moore & Bruggink said after those conversations with the church, a section of the existing road was moved under the revised site plan 10 to 15 feet west of its originally planned location. The sidewalk was supposed to be on the west side of the road under the original site plan.

"Because we moved that over and to create a little bit of additional buffer, we just adjusted the sidewalk location so that it was located on the east side of the drive as opposed to the west side. But it still is proposed to be constructed," Longstreth said.

So, under the revised site plan the sidewalk would no longer be on the same side of the road as the playground. And that

See **EDEN** on 18



TORNADO

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mile with top winds of 80 mph.

The thunderstorms that whipped through southwest Michigan on Sunday, combined with a major ice storm in northern Michigan the night before, left more than 320,000 homes and businesses without power statewide.

If that wasn't enough, the NWS confirmed an EF-1 tornado near Edwardsburg in Cass County on Sunday. That twister packed 100-mph winds, traveled about two miles and damaged several homes and businesses during the three minutes it was on the ground. It also ripped the roof off a local marina and damaged boats.

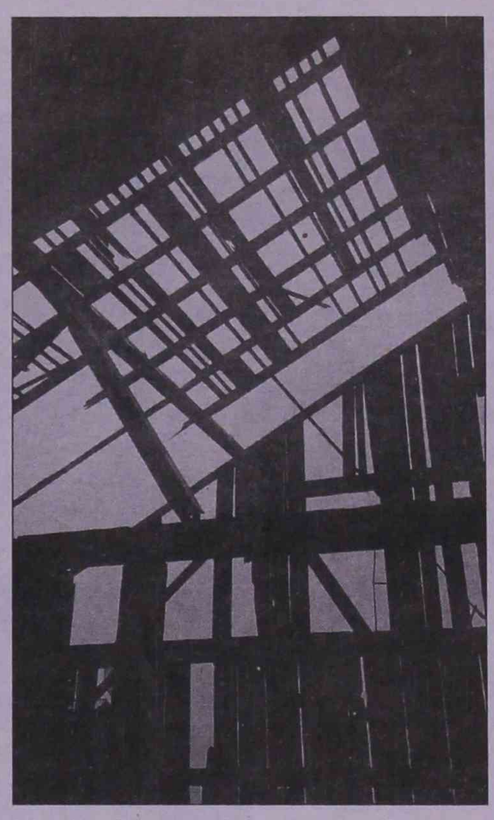
The NWS confirmed yet another tornado touching down Sunday, stating a EF-0 twister spun off around 6:05 p.m. north of 120th Street, near Poplar Avenue, east of Grant. The tornado reportedly was on the ground for about four minutes, or just under 3 miles, and had top winds of 65 mph.



The twister did extensive damage to a barn and some outbuildings at a farm in Caledonia. **Photo provided**



Damage on a property along Hanna Lake Avenue south of 84th Street.



Much of the roof was torn off a barn on Timothy Zandbergen's property on 76th Street.



The thunderstorms on Sunday put some traffic lights out of service, such as this one at 76th Street and Eastern Avenue in Gaines Township. **Photos by James Gemmell**

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Severe weather system causes little damage in Barry County

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

Barry County seems to have weathered a severe weather system, one that included thunderstorms, high winds and even tornadoes, that rolled through parts of southwest Michigan on Sunday, March 30, better than most without any residents being harmed.

Pattrick Jansens, Barry County Emergency Management director, said as of Tuesday afternoon that as many as 6,000 local residents were still without power as the result of the storm.

"People have been impacted," Jansens said. "Lots of power lines down."

According to Jansens, the storm damaged several homes and other structures, such as barns, which were hit by downed trees and limbs. News reports stated as many as five tornadoes touched down in the region, though none were sighted in Barry County.

"Our deputies were consumed with weather-related calls from trees and wires down, to accidents and a grass fire," said Barry County Undersheriff Kevin Erb. "Damage to property from falling trees and limbs was noted throughout the county.

"Fortunately, there were no reported injuries due to the weather."

Jake Welch, Barry County Road Commission managing director, said the system seemingly hit the southwest corner of Barry County the hardest, in areas including Hickory Corners and Middleville.

"It was a bad storm," Welch said. "(But) it wasn't too bad of a storm for us."

The BCRC deployed extra crew members to help deal with any storm damage and help clear debris from county roadways.

"We had a bunch of trees across roads," Welch said. "That was only temporary.

"I'm not aware of anything that was closed longer than Monday morning," he added. "We're back to business as normal for us."

Timing might have also played a role in Barry County's good fortune in riding out the storm. Welch said there were no reports of any flooding across county roads due in part to the fact that most or all of the snow in the area had melted a couple of weeks ago.

"That's the one that will catch you," he said, referring to the combination of spring thaws and early season rains sometimes causing local flooding.

Beside dealing with Sunday's storm, Barry County officials are watching events further north. According to Welch, road crews from neighboring Kent County are heading north to assist with cleanup efforts in Lower Northern Michigan, which was hit by an ice storm over the weekend that left thousands without power.

So far, Welch added the BCRC has not received any such request, though the county agency stands ready to respond.

"We'd do what we could to help," he said.

And, with more inclement weather expected during the week, Jansens said he is encouraging local residents to "have a plan" and "be prepared."

Jansens added that Barry County residents may find tips on how to weather severe storms and other related information on the BCEM's Facebook page.



Construction Simplified, joined by representatives from Dutch Developers LLC and elected officials from the Village of Middleville and Thornapple Township, broke ground last week at the site of the future MidVilla Flats. **Courtesy photo**

FLATS

Continued from Page 1

and approval from multiple levels of government throughout the county.

"The one thing that I really want to bring to bear is the village, the township, the county — it is my intent, it's always been my goal to work together and find common ground, especially when it comes to projects like this. Affordable housing is absolutely our highest priority. This represents that commitment," said Middleville Village President Kevin Smith.

The project's developers echoed Smith's motivations.

"We were looking at doing this to resolve the lack of housing in Middleville. A healthy housing market can help those looking for affordable housing, such as first-year teachers and new residents, and benefit the growth of Barry County," Heyboer said.

Pre-leasing for MidVilla Flats is set to begin in July. Should everything go to plan, the first building will be ready for occupancy as soon as September of this year. The entire project is projected to be completed in April 2026.

DDA

Continued from Page 2

"Many residents now operate service-based or home-based businesses including photographers, wellness providers and direct sales consultants," Clark wrote in a memo to the DDA, which she read from during Monday's meeting. "These entrepreneurs contribute to our local economy and are seeking in-person opportunities to connect with the community and build brand visibility."

Village officials would need to draft a code of conduct that would dictate what sorts of services would be appropriate to sell and other rules of engagement.

DDA ENCOURAGES ENGAGEMENT FROM LOCAL RESTAURANTS DURING SUMMER MUSIC SERIES

Clark also turned her attention to planning for the Riverbank Music Series, a live outdoor concert series that extends through the summer at Sesquicentennial Park.

The conversation turned to whether or not food trucks should be invited to the premises. Clark's plan was to invite food trucks that would provide desserts and sweet treats so that they wouldn't interfere with the food offerings from restaurants located within the village.

She said she also plans to set up signage on the premises of the music series that displays menus for those local restaurants in order to funnel business their way.

Members of the DDA board raised concerns about incorporating food trucks, encouraging Clark to engage solely with local restaurants to get them involved.

Clark said she would be engaging with local restaurants and businesses to give them a heads-up on when, and how, to participate.

"I don't want them to feel like they have to compete," Clark said. "This is my way of testing out the waters to see whether or not they will engage like they say they will. Next year, I plan to evaluate did it work out and did the restaurants participate."

Sporting News

Less experience for TK boys' track team this year

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Trojans have five state qualifiers a year ago and four of them were seniors.

The one holdover for the Thornapple Kellogg varsity boys' track and field team is senior Jacob Draaisma, a first-year varsity runner last year who quickly became one of the top cross country and track and field athletes around.

He was the OK Gold Conference runner-up in the 1600-meter run a year ago and then qualified for the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 2 Track and Field Finals in the 800-meter run. He got under the two-minute mark for the first time at regionals and then placed 14th at the state finals in the race.

Getting to the state finals could be a little tougher this spring as the Trojan program makes the move up to Division 1 from Division 2.

The list of top returning performers for the Trojans also includes senior sprinter Lucas McNabnay, seniors Jake Kelley and Kyle Porritt in the throws, sophomore Brandon Velting in the sprints and sophomore Luke Archer in the pole vault.

Velting was part of a TK 4x200-meter relay team that placed second in the OK Gold last spring, but he is the only returning member of that foursome. TK closed last conference season with a couple strong performances in the pole vault as Archer passed 10 feet 6 inches for the first time at the conference meet and fellow vaulter Hunter Tietz, now a senior, cleared 9-6 for the first time there.

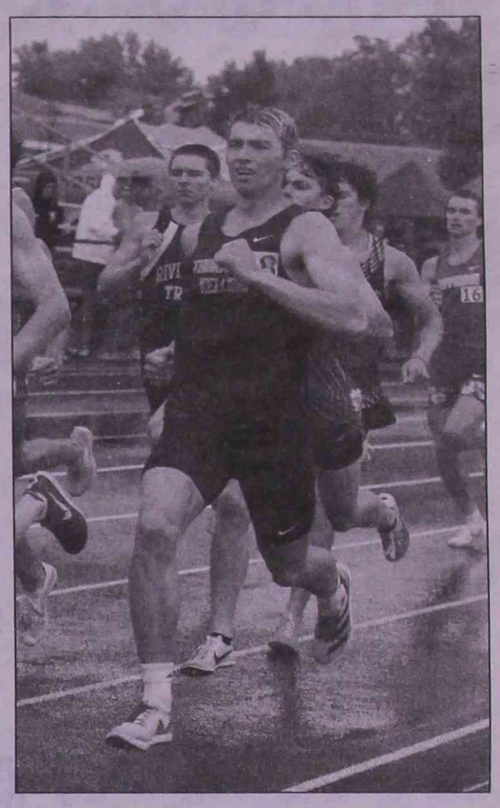
TK co-head coach Matt Wonders, who is leading the program once again with Chad Ruger, said he sees sprinters Lucas Ploeg, Maddox VanEngen, Elliot Neff, hurdler Brecken McWhinney and throwers Isaac Fleischmann and Adam Lozada as being some key newcomers to the varsity team.

"Our team is filled with hard workers," Wonders said. "They have an uncanny ability to compete. They are a truly gritty group."

The team will need to rely on that a bit as there is less experience on the roster than in previous seasons.

"Our message to our team is to compete in everything," Wonders added. " Our goal is to be competitive in every race and every meet."

The first OK Gold Conference meet of the season is a double dual in Middleville where the TK teams will take on Wyoming and Grand Rapids Union. Wonders said he expects Wayland to be the top competitor in the conference this spring, and the Trojans already got a look at the Wildcats last Friday at the Wayland Invitational where the Wayland boys outscored runner-up Plainwell by more than 175 points.



Jacob Draaisma

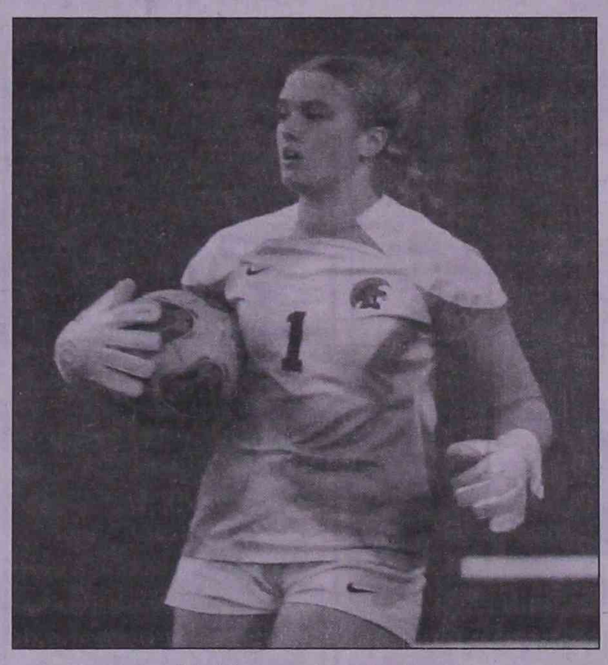
Senior duo set to lead TK along with big junior class

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

There are some good leaders back for the Thornapple Kellogg varsity girls' soccer team this spring with a total of 11 girls back from the 2024 roster.

Even with that big of a group, it is a fairly young squad filled with juniors and a few sophomores and freshmen set to contribute too. The senior duo on the team this spring is made up of midfielder Madilyn Chivis and defender Emma Geukes. Geukes has been a great leader for the Trojan varsity for a couple of seasons already. Chivis is an outstanding distributor of the ball and should prove to be one of the Trojans' top scorers as well. Both girls have won all-conference honors in the past.

The heartbeat of the TK program is its junior class. There are a dozen juniors on the varsity roster. It is a group led by attacker Tealy Cross, goalkeeper McKenna Hoebeke, midfielder Paige Abshagen, defender Megan Schuurmans and the group also includes varsity returnees Cami Stahl, Ember Hondorp, Charlie Manrose, Ella Fischer and Natalie Borrink.



McKenna Hoebeke

There are a handful of freshmen and sophomores who should contribute to the varsity, and may move up and down between the JV and varsity throughout the year. The roster includes a number of club players across the formation.

The TK ladies are off to a 3-1 start so far with a 1-0 mark in the new OK Gold Conference thanks to a win this week over West Catholic.

It should once again be a battle between the Thornapple Kellogg girls and the tough South Christian program at the top of the conference standings. The two teams finished their conference regular season in a 1-1 draw a year ago, the only blemish through the conference regular season for either side.

Those two teams will meet in Middleville Saturday, April 19, at 11:45 a.m. TK returns to action after break visiting Wayland April 15 and playing host to Wyoming April 17.

SPRING SPORTS PREVIEWS

Handful of TK state qualifiers joined by talented youngsters

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

There are new challenges for the Thornapple Kellogg varsity girls' track and field team that won the OK Gold Conference championship and placed second at regionals a year ago.

A group of four returning all-state athletes, and a number of other girls capable of pushing for those kinds of honors, are back to lead the way on the score sheet for the Trojan team as its faces a bump up into Division 1 for MHSAA competition and a reworked OK Gold Conference.

The Trojans should still be the favorites in the reworked conference, but girls will have to be just a little bit better to meet state qualifying times and distances with the move up to D1.

That group of returning all-staters includes senior Brooklyn Harmon in the hurdles, sophomore jumper Ellie Harmon, senior distance runner Ava Crews, junior hurdler Mia Hilton and junior middle distance runner Payton Gater.

Brooklyn was the OK Gold Conference champion in the 100-meter hurdles and the 300-meter low hurdles in 2024, placed third in both races at the D2 State Finals, and was a part of the OK Gold Conference winning 4x400-meter relay team along with her sister Ellie and Hilton. Gater was a part of that 4x400-meter relay with that trio at the D2 Finals and they combined for a sixth place finish.

Ellie was the conference long jump champ and qualified for the finals in that event. Hilton placed third in the 300 hurdles at the finals last season. Crews qualified for the state finals in 2024 in both the 1600-meter run and the 3200-meter run, and set her PR at 11 minutes 24.06 seconds in the 3200 at the finals.

TK also brings back senior Emma Dykhouse who would be one of the Trojans' top contenders should it need a decathlete thanks to her abilities in the jumps, throws and sprints. Senior thrower Lilly McKeown will be back to push for distance with Dykhouse in the shot put and discus.

Sydney Martin is a returning sophomore in the sprints who will hope to score in those quick races along with junior newcomer Jordan Fitros. TK head coach Maggie Wilkinson said her team

See **QUALIFIERS** on 12



Brooklyn Harmon

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SPRING SPORTS PREVIEWS

TK hopes to be near top in new Gold golf competition



Kylan Pratt **Photos by Brett Bremer**

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Trojans are looking forward to seeing what the reworked OK Gold Conference competition will be like this spring.

The Thornapple Kellogg varsity boys' golf team enters the 2025 season with a line-up filled with experienced varsity golfers. There are four guys back from the Trojans' regional five from the 2024 season – a list that includes the team's regional leaders Parker Dahley and Will Nathan now a sophomore and a senior. Dahley also had the Trojans' top score a the OK Gold Conference Championship a year ago – placing 27th overall in a really tough field.

The group of returning seniors for the Trojan team this season also includes Kylan Pratt and Ryan Skidmore from that regional line-up last year as well as Owen Corner, Blake Hardy and Evan Liu and Tyler Voss who were all with the program a season ago.

"Our goal this year is to be competitive within the conference and get better throughout the season," Tk head coach Bob Kaminski said. "We are looking forward to competing in our new conference and hopefully being in contention by the end of the season."

TK was fifth in the tough OK Gold a year ago which saw South Christian place fourth and Forest Hills Eastern place sixth at the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 2 Finals while Grand Rapids Catholic Central senior Will Preston win the individual state title.

Catholic Central is gone from the Gold this spring and so is Forest Hills Eastern. The Sailors only lost one guy to graduation though and Wayland had a decent young team a year ago.

League newcomer Wyoming will host the first conference jamboree April 16. The weather hasn't allowed the Trojans to get any of their early season matches in yet.

The group of newcomers looking to help improve the varsity scores includes juniors Cody Forsythe, Quentin

See **GOLF** on 20

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SPRING SPORTS PREVIEWS

Trojan softball has great group up the middle

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Trojans are hoping to get to the point where they are surprising some people this spring.

Thornapple Kellogg varsity softball coach Ashley Garrett said she sees a squad with solid pitching depth and strong bats from top to bottom in the line-up as the 2025 season gets underway.

It is a young squad overall and some girls are shuffling positions around, but at the top the Trojans have some excellent leaders to carry the load while everything gels. Kylee Hoebeke returns for her senior season after signing on to join the Grand Valley State University program next season and earning all-state honors a year ago. She hit .621 with 8 home runs in her junior season. She will once again man the shortstop position and also take turns in the circle.

Adelaide Holderman had a strong freshman season with the TK varsity and Garrett said she ill be the Trojans' anchor pitching from the circle this spring.

Up the middle, the Trojan team also brings back senior Kenzie Bouma in centerfield. She was an all-conference honoree along with Hoebeke last season and hit .358.



Kylee Hoebeke

Behind the plate, Garrett is happy to add freshman Anna Romph who the Trojan coach says has a high softball IQ and all of the tools to be a highly successful high school player.

The TK ladies were bested in their first two ballgames of the season last Thursday at Hamilton. The Hawkeyes took 8-3 and 14-6 wins.

In game one, Hoebeke was 2-for-4 with a pair of doubles and two runs scored. Left fielder Aubree Stevens in the number two spot had two singles and two RBIs. TK also got his from Bouma and first baseman Jenna Robinett.

Hoebeke tripled and drove in a run in game two. Robinett had two more hits and Romph went 3-for-3 with two runs scored. TK also got two hits from Allison Wolowicz and had 12 total hits as a team.

Holderman started both games in the circle.

TK is scheduled to host Plainwell April 17 and then play host to the Barry County Invitational with Hastings, Delton Kellogg and Lakewood April 19. Garrett said her girls are looking forward to going after those rivals and then getting started in the new OK Gold Conference.

TK opens conference play on the road at West Catholic April 21. Garrett said she expects Wayland, South Christian and Northview all to be especially tough in the conference.

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TK baseball got taste for success in 2024 postseason



Jayce Brummel

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Trojans get to have a few fun Saturdays on their home diamond in the early season.

Thornapple Kellogg will host the annual Barry County Invitational in Middleville April 19 and then the team's annual Wood Bat Invite May 3.

The Trojans won an improvised Barry County Invite last season in Middleville, an event traditionally hosted by Hastings, and finished off the season with a 17-17 overall record under head coach Nick Iveson who is back for his fourth season leading the program this spring.

"This is a team that has some high goals," Iveson said. "We are looking to finish on the upper half of the league standings this season along with a run in the [state] tournament. Last season we won two postseason games and fell in the district final. That experience has been great motivation for a lot of our guys to put ourselves back in that position and improve upon it."

Leading the way in holding those expectations is a solid senior group of returnees that includes first baseman Jayce Brummel, outfielder Jacob Davis and Bradley Moerman all of whom will see time at pitcher, outfielder Anson VBerlinde, catcher Connor Dombkowski and middle infielder Spencer Ybema.

"We have an experienced group with a lot of depth at pitcher," Iveson said. "We have a lot of great athletes, and we will look to put pressure on opposing teams with our speed on the base paths."

A couple of varsity newcomers coach Iveson is looking forward to having help out are junior middle infielder Carsyn Redman and sophomore middle infielder Micah Dock.

It has been a bit of a tough start so far for TK. Zeeland East took two from the Trojans last Thursday in Middleville, and the TK boys fell in a pair of ballgames against former OK Gold Conference foe Grand Rapids Catholic Central. The Cougars took a 14-6 win over the TK boys in Grand Rapids last Friday, March 28.

Redman was 2-for-2 with two walks in the number two spot for the Trojans in that Friday afternoon defeat. He scored two runs and drove in one. The only other two hits were singles from Dock and Ybema. Dock walked once and scored two runs in the lead-off spot for TK. Ybema, hitting in the three hole, had a walk, a run and an RBI. Brummel also drove in a run and scored one for the Trojans.

See **BASEBALL** on 12



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Falcons rally in sixth to beat Scots in opener

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Fighting Scots managed to sneak one game in before spring break, falling 5-2 at West Catholic Tuesday afternoon.

The Caledonia varsity baseball team built a 2-0 lead through four innings, but the Falcons rallied for five runs in the bottom of the sixth to steal the win.

Two Falcon errors, a walk and a sacrifice fly off the bat of Ethan Sova in the top of the third brought home the first Caledonia run of the season.

Ty Lewandowski singled into left and stole second to get the Scots' fourth inning rally going. Jaeger Tidey singled him home from second.

The Scots had just four hits all game. Aydin DeBoer and AJ Roszkowksi both singled once.

Aryn Taylor started for the Scots and threw two shut out innings, striking out three, walking one and giving up two hits. Alex Spinney, Trevor Walter and Ryan Wysocki followed with one scoreless inning of relief each.

The Falcons finally managed to get to Gabe Trudeau in the bottom of the sixth scoring five runs on five hits.

Caledonia will head to Middleville April 16 to take on the Thornapple Kellogg Trojans and then will host the Cal Tournament April 19.

QUALIFIERS

Continued from Page 8

graduated three of its top sprinters a year ago so the addition of Fitros and freshmen Amya Gater and Kayla Price are key. Gater is already off to a great start to her first varsity season, and should contribute in sprints, hurdles, jumps and middle distance races.

"We have an amazing core group of girls that naturally lead this team," Wilkinson said. "They all□ are looking out for one another on and off the field. This team wants to win and compete."

She said a big thing for the team will just be staying healthy all spring.

BASEBALL

Continued from Page 11

With Catholic Central, Cedar Springs, Kenowa Hills and Forest Hills Eastern moving out of the OK Gold Conference, the league brought in West Catholic, Northview, Grand Rapids Union and Wyoming.

"We are looking forward to competing against new teams," Iveson said. "Northview has a solid program along with South Christian who was a top team in the Gold last season."

The conference season gets started April 15 as the Trojans visit West Catholic for a doubleheader. The format remains the same for conference play, with the Falcons coming to Middleville April 17 to finish off the three-game conference series. In between those ballgames, TK will host Caledonia April 16.

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Four goals by Cross take down Saxons at TKHS

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Junior attacker Tealy Cross converted on a penalty kick midway through the first half and then added three more goals throughout the course of play to lead the Thornapple Kellogg varsity girls' soccer team to a 5-1 win over Hastings Friday in Middleville.

The victory is part of a 3-1 start to the 2025 season for the Trojans who opened OK Gold Conference play Monday with a 4-0 win over West Catholic in Middleville.

Senior Kalli Koning converted a penalty kick for Hastings Friday after junior teammate Dez Mathis drew a foul in the box TK goalbox.

The Saxons are now 1-4 overall this season.

Cross and her teammates were able to take advantage of a fairly young Saxon back line-

"She is very aggressive, and she can shoot from the outside," first-year Hastings head coach Megan Deal said. "We are just lacking experience on the outside I would say. We have so many seniors that are more centers, mids and forwards, not necessarily defense.

"Last year, Tim [Schoessel] did more of a diamond back with the four and I am doing more of a straight back. We're working out the kinks. We have a freshman that plays more on the outside and an exchange student, so it's new for them, but they're athletic enough to get back there and pull their weight. It's kind of a newer team."

The TK team has just two seniors too in Emma Geukes and Madilyn Chivis. Cross is part of a massive junior group.

"We all still have that close bond that we've all had my whole career," Cross said. "We all had such a good bond over the past three years. A lot of us have stuck together. There were nine of us freshmen year. That whole nine is still playing and still here, minus a few of the ACL injuries. We're all here together. We're all here training every day."

Cross had her own knee injury which popped up during club play in November. It hindered her junior varsity basketball season, but she feels pretty close to 100 percent now. She didn't appear hindered on any of her four goals Friday.

She drew the foul that earned TK a penalty kick with 23:33 to go in the first half, and she converted on the PK to give TK the lead. With 16:16 to go in the first half, the Trojans stole away a Saxon throw-in deep in the Saxons' end and Chivis soon chipped a pass to Cross in the center of the attacking third for an open chance on goal that put their team up 2-0.

TK took that lead into the half, and Koning's PK cut the TK lead in half. It was only a one-goal game for about four minutes. Cross ran on to a through ball behind the Saxon defense and put a shot by Hastings keeper Sadie Handord with 27:22 to go in the game. Cross pushed TK's lead to 4-1 by heading in a corner kick by Chivis with 12:51 to play in the game.

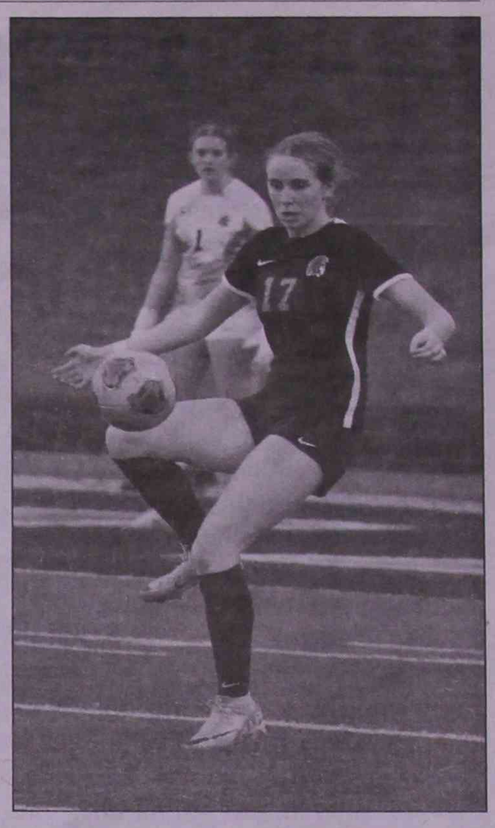
Chivis finished off the scoring by burying a shot with 2:59 to go after a little chip into the center of the attacking zone by teammate Alexa Eden.

"We were just moving the ball well," Cross said. "We were connecting. We all have this cross-town rivalry, so there is that extra fun out there playing against club teammates. We all had good energy, good vibes and we all wanted to work together. It was just fun."

The TK ladies are off for spring break now. They'll return to play at Wayland April 15.



Thornapple Kellogg junior Tealy Cross fires a penalty kick into the net during the Trojans' win over Hastings in Middleville Friday, March 28. **Photos by Brett Bremer**



TK junior defender Ella Fischer settles the ball in her end of the field during the Trojans' win over visiting Hastings in Middleville Friday, March 28.

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Long battles end Scot victory over TK ladies

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Fighting Scots and Trojans closed out an early season dual on the courts at Caledonia High School with a little extra tennis Thursday afternoon, March 27.

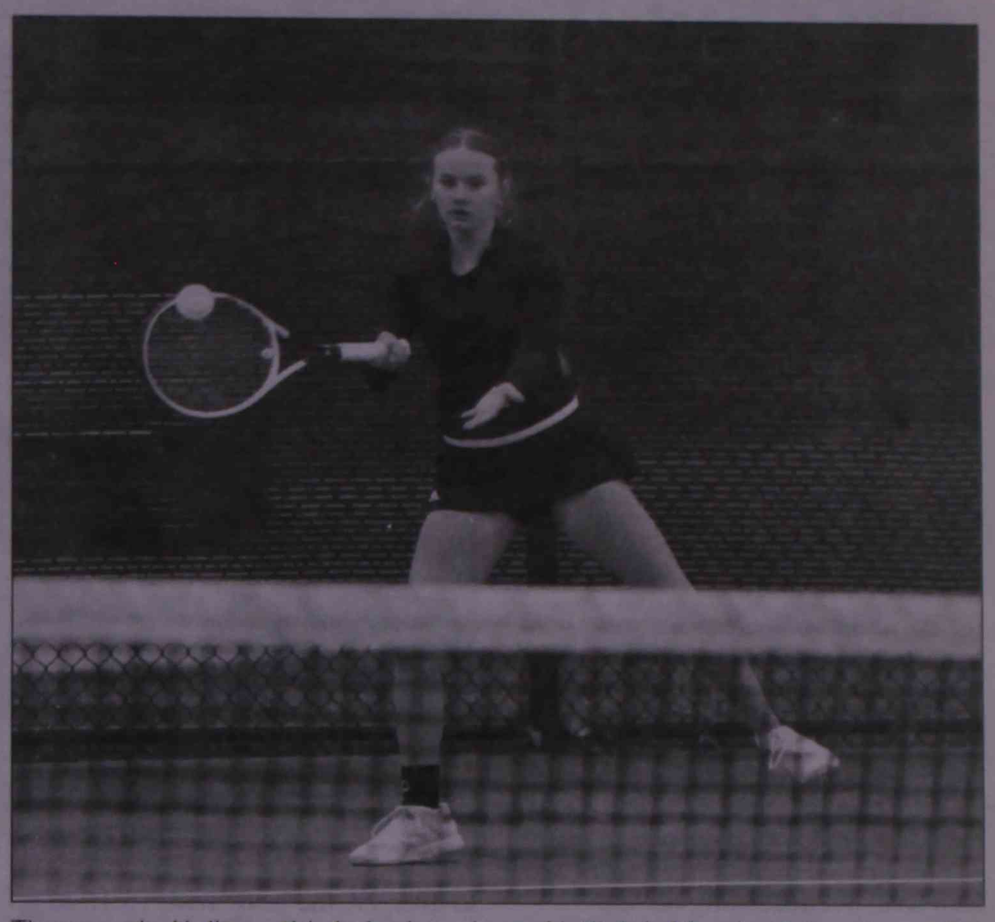
Fighting Scot second singles junior Audrey Duong fought off Thornapple Kellogg junior Jordan Pranger 10-5 in a super tiebreaker to close out their match, and Thornapple Kellogg junior Natileigh Merchant held on for a 10-6 win in a super tiebreaker in her third singles match with Caledonia senior Claire Teunessen.

"That was just a tight match the entire way [at second singles]. They were so evenly matched, and it could have went either way, as the scores show. Just a couple points here and there made all the difference," Caledonia head coach Mike Wilson said. "The same thing with Claire at third singles. She just battled and refused to quit. Again, a couple points a different way and the outcome could have been a little different."

That victory for Merchant earned the one team point for the Thornapple Kellogg varsity girls' tennis team in a 7-1 loss to the host Scots. Teunessen did her very best to try and make it a shut out rallying from 5-2 down in the second set to eventually win a tiebreaker and force the super tiebreaker to decide the match.

"She just battled all the way back, made a couple of adjustments and got it going, just basic stuff, a couple technical things – give herself a little more space on the ball and coming over on the top," Wilson said of Teunessen's tweaks.

There was a lot of new on both sides of the net for the two squads. Freshman Berkley Nelson is the first ninth grader at first singles for the Fighting Scots in as long as Wilson can remember (and that is since 1997), and she took on Trojan senior Isabelle Schilthroat who was playing a first singles match for TK for the first time. Nelson came out on top in that one 6-1, 6-0.



Thornapple Kellogg third singles player Natileigh Merchant knocks a shot back at her foe from Caledonia during her win in the dual with the Scots Thursday, March 27, at Caledonia High School.



Fighting Scot freshman Berkley Nelson hits a high bouncing ball back at her opponent from TK during their first singles match at Caledonia High School March 27. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

"She has a lot of experience. She is very solid. She is the one. She belongs at first singles," Caledonia head coach Mike Wilson said.

"She has been coached really well. She is very adaptable. She can hit a wide variety of shots, and that is just where she is so good at taking a couple of things and putting them into action right away. If something is not going her way, it's a very quick conversation and she gets out there and does it. It is fun," Wilson added.

Throughout the rest of the line-up, the Scots won straight set matches. Gretchen VanderEide took a 6-1, 6-1 win over TK's Emilia Sandborn at fourth singles.

On the doubles side, Sawyer Mertz and Anna Homrich scored a 6-2, 6-3 win over TK's Jalyn Grimes and Natalie Culver at number one; Zoe Fleming and Hailey Markwat outscored TK's Molly Alden and Cayla Brouwer 6-4, 6-0 at number two; Kebe Fitzell and Emery James beat TK's Marta Osa and Carli Ogle 6-0, 6-3 at number three; and Maya White and Hellen Komera topped TK's Leighton Leslie and Chloe Yates 6-3, 6-2 at number four.

Wilson said he had to try a lot of different combinations to finally come up with his final doubles line-up. A lot of those duos are new. He expects it will be a really solid line-up as the season progresses.

"I think we're definitely coping with the stress of playing," TK head coach Philippe Sylveste said. "We're coping

See **BATTLES** on 17

Scots finally overtake Hawkeyes in the ninth

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Caledonia varsity softball team went to bat in the first inning, the third inning, the fourth inning, the fifth inning, the sixth inning, the seventh inning, the eighth inning and then the ninth inning trailing the Hawkeyes on the scoreboard.

The Scots ended the ninth in front.

Amber Fairchild, hitting out of the number eight spot for the Fighting Scots, knocked a bases-loaded RBI single towards center field to score teammate Malia Burke from third with nobody out in the bottom of the ninth for an 8-7 walk-off win over visiting Hamilton Tuesday.

Fairchild was 3-for-5 at the plate for the night, contributing to a 14-hit Caledonia attack. Even with that offensive output, the Scots found themselves down 5-1 going into the bottom of the sixth inning.

Singles by Addy Olin and Fairchild started the Scots' comeback there. Olin scored on a fielders' choice from teammate Maddison Boucher to get one run back.

CHS pitcher Addi Veldt worked her way out of a two on, none out jam in the top of the seventh to keep it a 5-2 ballgame.

The Scot bats really came to life to start the bottom of the seventh. Hudsyn Tanner doubled to center field and Burke followed with a single to put runners at second and third with nobody out. Molly Lieske singled into left, and both Tanner and Rian Restau, who was on to run for Burke, came around to score as the ball got by the Hawkeye left fielder. Lieske wound up at second base. She moved to third on a wild pitch and then came in to score on a ground out off the bat of Olin.

The two teams went into extra innings tied at 5-5. With the extra innings runner starting at second base in the eighth both teams pushed one run across to go into the ninth tied 6-6. A two-out single by Veldt brought in the Scots' run in the eighth.

Hamilton got one run in during the top of the night, and the Scots brought their extra-inning runner, Tanner, home quick in the bottom of the ninth with a lead-off single by Burke into center and then an RBI sacrifice fly into left from Lieske.

Olin took two pitches in her ensuing at-bat and then drilled a double into right field that moved Burke to third. The Hawkeyes' intentionally walked Aliya Hernden to load the bases and set up force plays all around the diamond, but Fairchild delivered her game winning hit.

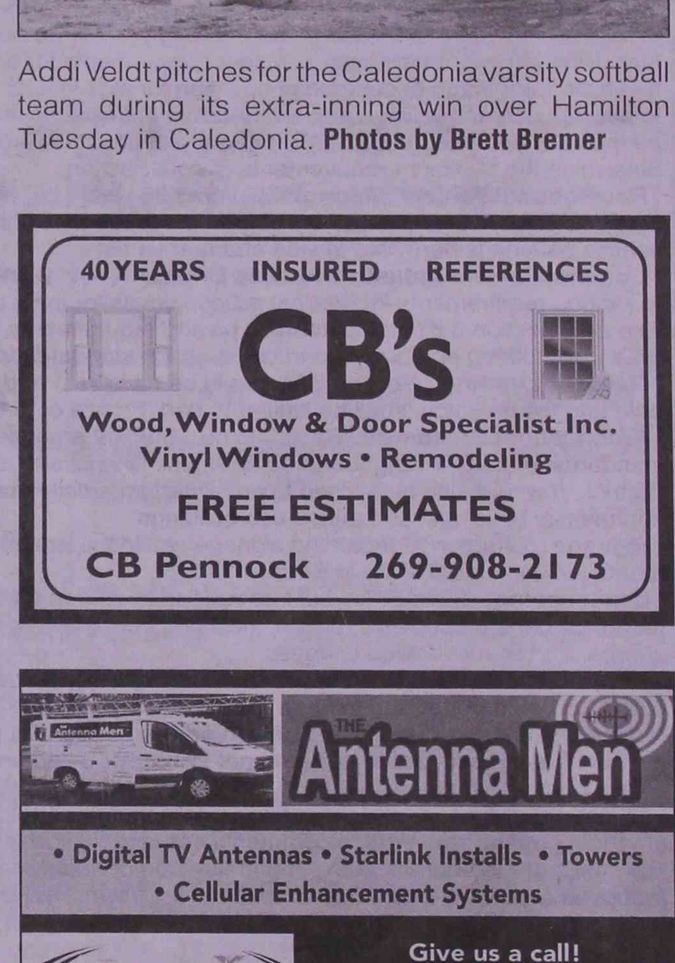
Veldt, Tanner, Burke and Olin finished the ballgame with two hits each.

Veldt threw the first eight innings from the circle for the Scots striking out eight. She gave up four earned runs on five walks and ten hits. Olin got the win in relief pitching the ninth.

The victory on the cold, breezy afternoon pushed the Scots to 4-1 on the season. They split a doubleheader with Rockford in their season opener March 27 and then took two from Coopersville March 28.

Tanner was 3-for-3 with a home run and three RBIs in the Scots' first win over the Coopersville Broncos last week, an 11-8 victory. CHS took game two 10-3.

The Scots have 71 hits through five games so far this season.



Addi Veldt pitches for the Caledonia varsity softball team during its extra-inning win over Hamilton Tuesday in Caledonia. **Photos by Brett Bremer**



The Fighting Scots' Hudsyn Tanner rips a double into right center field to start her team's three-run rally that tied its ballgame with Hamilton at 6-6 in the bottom of the seventh inning Tuesday in Caledonia.


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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CALEDONIA COUNTY OF KENT, MICHIGAN

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the of the Caledonia Charter Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on April 21, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Hall, 8196 Broadmoor Avenue, Caledonia, Michigan, to consider an amendment to the text of the Zoning Ordinance. Some of the proposed changes include:

Definitions. Section 2.2 would be amended to define a private garage as an accessory building or space within a dwelling or building for storage of vehicles and other items.

Accessory Buildings. Section 3.10 would be revised to permit up to one accessory building that is not more than 200 square feet in area, and that the square footage for the accessory building shall not count towards the maximum square footage in the applicable zoning district.

Residential Accessory Buildings. Section 3.11, regarding residential accessory buildings, would revise the regulation of residential accessory buildings, including dimensional requirements for accessory buildings in Table 3.2

Driveways and Private Streets. Section 3.29, which includes requirements for driveways and private streets in all zoning districts, would be amended. The revisions would include changes to the categorical requirements for private driveways or private streets, depending on the number of lots that would be served, adding a definition of the term "roadbed," requiring shared driveways to have 33-foot wide easements, and prohibiting driveway easements from private roads within site condominium developments.

Design and Construction Requirements for Driveways and Private Streets. The minimum design and construction requirements in Section 3.29 for private streets and driveways would also be revised. This would include changes to roadbed requirements for private streets serving nine to fifteen lots, to turnaround requirements for private streets that terminate at a dead end and are longer than 150 feet, requiring traffic calming devices to be reviewed and approved the Township Fire Chief, requiring private streets to be extended to neighboring parcels for connectivity to existing or future development, revising the shoulder requirements for private streets, and requiring a vehicle turnoff and pedestrian connection for mail kiosks. It would also be amended to allow principal dwellings that exist prior to the establishment of a private street to be incorporated into the private street and not count toward the number of homes that determine the minimum requirements of construction.

Recreational Vehicle Parking. Section 3.36 would be revised to include the A Agricultural and R-R Rural Residential Districts to the list of districts where recreational vehicle parking is permitted in side and rear yards.

Commercial and Industrial Access Drives. A new Section 3.61 would be added to include requirements for internal access drives for industrial and commercial uses. The new Section 3.61 would address paving requirements, curbs, frontage treatment, greenbelt buffers, and design and construction standards for internal access drives.

Outdoor Lighting. Section 3.50 would be revised to add a requirement that light pole and fixture colors shall be limited to dark bronze or black.

Architectural Standards. Section 3.59 would be amended to apply architectural standards to the C-1 Neighborhood Business District and the C-2 General Business District. It would also be revised to apply certain architectural standards to offices, commercial buildings, and mixed-use buildings.

Signage. Chapter 19 regarding signage would be amended by revising the requirements for illuminated signs in Section 19.2(d).

Landscaping. Table 28A would be revised to amend the size and spacing requirements for certain species of plants, including certain evergreens, large deciduous shrubs, and small deciduous trees.

Temporary Uses or Structures Requiring Zoning Inspector Authorization. Section 3.22 would be revised to allow the Zoning Inspector to issue a permit for a temporary accessible unit during construction or remodeling of a principal dwelling, and to provide that the accessible unit may not exceed 160 square feet and must be removed within 15 days after a certificate of occupancy for the principal dwelling is received.

All interested persons may attend the public hearing and comment on the proposed amending ordinance. Written comments concerning it may be submitted to the Township, at the address above, up to the time of and during the public hearing. The proposed amending ordinance is on file at the Township Hall and may be reviewed, or a copy obtained, during Township office hours.

Dated: April 2, 2025
PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CALEDONIA

GAINES CHARTER TOWNSHIP
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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

Summary of Request: Special Land Use request to build a new 3,200 square foot accessory building in the A-B zoning district, for a total of 5,843 square feet of accessory buildings on the property.

Property Address: 9744 Meadow Valley, Caledonia, MI 49316

Parcel Number: 41-22-26-400-025

Applicant: Gerald Lawrence Almy III

Date and Time of Hearing: April 24th, 2025, at 7:00 pm

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

Any interested party may appear and be heard on said proposal. Information related to this request may be inspected, by appt., during regular business hours at the Planning Department window located in the Gaines Charter Township Offices. For information related to this request, contact Dan Wells at (616) 980-6188 or dan.wells@gainestownship.org. To be entered into the public record, signed written comments must be received by 5:00 PM on April 24th, 2025.

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

GAINES CHARTER TOWNSHIP
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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

Summary of Request: Stoneco 2025 Operating Plan

Property Address: 1856 100th Street SE

Parcel Number: 41-22-33-100-022

Applicant: Garrett Singer, Stonecol

Date and Time of Hearing: April 24th, 2025, at 7:00 pm

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

Any interested party may appear and be heard on said proposal. Information related to this request may be inspected, by appt., during regular business hours at the Planning Department window located in the Gaines Charter Township Offices. For information related to this request, contact Dan Wells at (616) 980-6188 or dan.wells@gainestownship.org. To be entered into the public record, signed written comments must be received by 5:00 PM on April 24th, 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.

BATTLES

Continued from Page 14

with we're in the lead, we're not in the lead, we're in the lead, we're not in the lead, and that is hard. It is hard emotionally to manage, but overall it is pretty good. I think the girls were surprised at how well they played in relationship to their nerves maybe and what they expected.

"It was good. It was pleasantly surprising to see them go and compete, and compete. It wasn't a freebie. That was good."

TK had a scrimmage at Vicksburg before the dual, but it was their first competition of the season.

"I have targets now I can work on. I have things, I can help the girls move along. I am excited," Sylveste said.

The CHS girls are now 2-1 in duals this season and they also scored a fourth-place finish at the early season Jenison Invitational and beat Hamilton Tuesday afternoon this week.

"Everyone is playing up a little bit. We had a brutal try-out," Wilson said. "It was really tight. We had so much competition there. Today was a good day. We've had some practice and we could see some of those things in action a little bit more. That has been a good thing."

Sprinters power CHS girls to win in Green opener

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Caledonia varsity girls' track and field team opened the 2025 OK Green Conference season with a 79-58 win on a chilly evening in Jenison Tuesday.

The victory moves the Fighting Scots to 2-0 in duals so far this season.

The Scots had success all over, but the sprinters really got the job done. Freshman Brynn Ward won the 100-meter dash in 13.29 seconds leading a sweep of the three scoring spots in the race for her team. She also won the 200-meter dash in 27.57 with the Scots going 1-2 in that one.

Sophomore Isla Sheely was the runner-up in both of those races, and she won the 400-meter dash in 1 minute 3.99 seconds in another event in which the Scots swept the three scoring spots.

Melanie Genao Grullon, who was third in the 100-meter dash, led off the 4x100-meter relay for the Scots and combined with juniors Jolie King and Joelyn Abraham and Avery Seif to win in 54.60. Seif, senior Alaina Palmer, senior Avalynn Klapmust and Ward took the 4x200-meter relay win in 1:53.11.

Caledonia also had the team of sophomore Olivia Hawkins, sophomore Evie Huttenga, sophomore Maya Terryn and Klapmust win the 4x400-meter relay in 4:28.32.

CHS senior Hannah Dupuis ran her fastest 3200-meter race ever to win in 12:22.29. The Scots also had sophomore Olivia Hawkins win the 100-meter hurdles in 16.70 and the 300-meter low hurdles in 49.04.

In the field, Lakely Bottom won the high jump for the Scots by clearing the bar at 4-8.

Jenison took an 89-54 win over the Caledonia boys.

The CHS boys had three wins on the night with Jonas Howell taking the 300-meter intermediate hurdles in 41.85, Cody Meyers the discus with a throw of 133-10.5 and Kaleb Huyser flying 19-3.25 in the long jump.

Caledonia boys' head coach Ben Thompson said he was also really impressed with junior Noah Johnston going toe to toe with Jenison senior Seth Conner, one of the top distance runners in the state, to place second in the 800-meter run and the 1600-meter run. Johnston had a PR of 4:29.30 in the 1600 finishing less than two seconds behind Conner. Johnson had a time of 2:04.80 in the 800, just over a second back of Conner.

"It was also amazing to see all of the team at the end of the meet cheering our 4x400 meter relay team on," Thompson said. "We are building a great culture."

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Caledonia Community Schools

has posted an RFB for
Bid Pack 1 Caledonia Monument Sign package.

All RFB information can be found on the district website:

https://www.calschools.org/bond/

PUBLIC NOTICE
Charter Township of Caledonia
Kent County, Michigan

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Public Accuracy Test for the May 6, 2025 Special Election has been scheduled for Monday, April 28, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. at the Caledonia Township Hall located at 8196 Broadmoor Ave, Caledonia, Michigan.

The Public Accuracy Test is conducted to demonstrate that the computer program used to tabulate the votes cast at the election meet the requirements of the law.

Joni Henry
Clerk, Charter Township of Caledonia

GAINES CHARTER TOWNSHIP
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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

Summary of Request: Special Land Use request to build a 2,857 square foot accessory building in the A-R zoning district.
Property Address: 3241 Muff Ridge Lane, Caledonia, MI 49316
Parcel Number: 41-22-26-301-005
Applicant: Eve Wynalda
Date and Time of Hearing: April 24th, 2025, at 7:00 pm
Location of Hearing: Gaines Charter Township Offices, Board Room 8555 Kalamazoo Avenue SE, Caledonia, MI 49316

Any interested party may appear and be heard on said proposal. Information related to this request may be inspected, by appt., during regular business hours at the Planning Department window located in the Gaines Charter Township Offices. For information related to this request, contact Dan Wells at (616) 980-6188 or dan.wells@gainestownship.org. To be entered into the public record, signed written comments must be received by 5:00 PM on April 24th, 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.

EDEN

Continued from Page 4

means pedestrians will have to cross two roads to get to the playground.

Under the revised site plan, a speed hump would be installed mid-block. Wells said a steep slope is the reason why the sidewalk crosses the road in the new plan. Longstreth referred to it as a raised crosswalk.

"It's not a speed bump. It's a way to slow traffic down and still it is an elevation above the pavement grade. But it's done over a longer distance so it's not as much of a jolt. But it's a material change and an elevation change so that it slows traffic down as it crosses over," Longstreth said.

Planning commissioner Ryan Wiersema said he was concerned about the speed hump being placed on the revised site plan without the township fire department being consulted first about safety codes. But the project applicant clarified that the speed hump will not impede emergency access by fire trucks.

Planning commissioner Tim Haagsma said he had a problem with the developer's plan to move the playground.

"It's like all of a sudden, 'We're going to stick it there next to the building,' and it's kind of like an afterthought. It looks like it almost touches the building. That's the concern I have with that."

"I agree with you that that playground just doesn't look like it belongs there," Planning Commission Vice Chair Ronnie Rober said. "Like it was thrown in, 'Oh, man, we have to have a playground. Let's throw it there, that's an empty space.' And I don't like the idea of this road with the bumps and everything. Once people get used to it, they're going to still go flying through it … and visitors are going to fly down that road, bumps or no bumps."

Giarmo expressed concern about the two crossings that would be needed to get to the playground.

"The reason why we had it on the other side of the road to begin with was the unimpeded walk from top to bottom of the development," she said.

Haagsma said vegetation near the wetlands could potentially obscure visibility.

"Not only did they take the sidewalk and move it to the other side of the road but it's smack against the east side of the road through that curve. So, there's no buffer between," he said.

After the discussion at the meeting, the planning commission took a series of votes, all of which were approved unanimously. The first was to approve the removal of the four-unit building near the wetlands and to allow the increase of the unit count of an adjacent building from four to six.

The second motion was to postpone items three and four that were listed in the staff report. Those called for realignment of part of the pedestrian path from the west side of the road to the east side of the road and added a mid-street crossing. Also postponed was the proposed relocation of the playground.

Haagsma noted that the project applicant made a change in the site plan to move Chartway Drive without asking for planning commission approval.

So, another motion was made that the planning commission require the project applicants to ask for a realignment of the road when it comes back to the township with its next site plan proposal. Once again, the motion carried 6-0.

"I didn't know until it was brought up tonight that the road was moved," Haagsma told the applicants. "That concerns me greatly, okay? When you just decide to do something different that doesn't sit well with the planning commission. You've been chastised by me. Just consider that, alright?"

"We didn't change the road location in an effort to deceive the planning commission," Longstreth said. "We were trying to be good neighbors to the daycare and didn't realize that moving the road over by 10 feet was going to be as big of a deal as what it is. So, I apologize for that."

Staff recommended that all the crossing areas be striped, and that the applicant specify in the next site plan details about the playground location, the playground equipment and what kind of fencing will be installed.

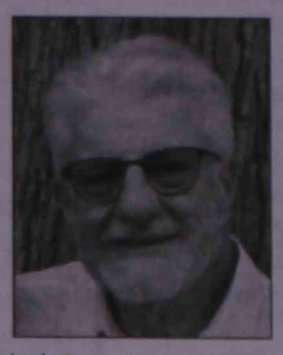
"We usually require sidewalk on both sides of the road. And we didn't here," Giarmo said. "And then they have it moved over. It makes us really unhappy, and a little bit uncomfortable with what happened. What I would like to see is sidewalk on both sides now."

The developers will have to come back with an improved site plan that addresses all of the planning commission's concerns, if they want to move forward with the project.

As part of a larger project, the township board adopted an ordinance in July 2023 to rezone some property to accommodate Orion Construction's proposal to build 152 market-rate townhome units west of the church. A separate development called for 124 units to be built on a parcel north of the church.

Obituaries

Richard Scott Koning



Richard Scott Koning claimed his promise of eternal life on April 1, 2025, at the age of 69. Now his weakness has turned to wonder, his suffering to splendor, his discomfort to delight and his faith to fulfillment.

Rick was born on July 5, 1955 in Grand Haven, MI. He was married to his loving wife, Julie, for 27 years. Rick worked at General Motors for 30 years as an Electrical Engineer. He had a love for everything outdoors, especially fishing and hunting. Rick loved going on camping trips, boating, spending time with his family and friends, and had a passion for serving his church.

Rick is survived by his loving wife, Julie; his sons, Scott Koning, Paul Koning, Tim (Danielle) Koning, Jesse (Tina) VanBemden, and Mitch (Morgan) VanBemden; his daughters, Missy (Matt) Tava and Val (Matt) DeLong: 13 grandchildren; one great-grandchild and another on the way, many nieces and nephews. Siblings, Kathy (John) Gascho, Nancy Morgan, and Jimmy Koning.

Richard was preceded in death by his parents, Forrest and Dorothy Koning and brother, Ron Koning.

Rick's family will receive friends on Friday April 4, at Peace Church, Middleville. Visitation is from 1 – 3 p.m. The funeral service, officiated by Pastor Ryan Kimmel, will take place immediately after. Refreshments will follow the service.

Memorial contributions can be made to David's House Ministries or Friends at Peach Church.

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

MIDDLEVILLE TOPS 546

The March 31 meeting opened with roll call and the secretary's report. There is one new fish in the fishbowl.

Virginia finished the "TOPS Motivation and Reality of Healthy Weight Management" series. Everyone who struggles with weight loss knows it takes time, effort, commitment, exercise and healthy food choices.

Emotional eating is a common practice. It is used to tranquilize anger, frustration, depression and stress.

To manage anger, you need to validate it, accept it, vent it, write it down, talk with someone, and release it. Deep breathing and exercises also help. The only person your anger hurts is you.

To manage frustration is a lot like how to manage anger. Putting the frustration into perspective is another step.

Depression is serious and can be debilitating. Medications are helpful. Counseling is also important. Both together, is the best.

Stress wreaks havoc on a diet because it requires more energy, and we go to sugary foods. Instead, do deep breathing exercises and meditation exercises.

Exercise helps the most. It gives you energy and helps relieve tension. Keep some form of exercise going even when stressed. Compartmentalize situations and remove yourself from stress is always helpful. Take a 15-minute relaxation break every day. It recharges you and prevents stress and tension. Try yoga, daydreaming, or closing your eyes for 15 minutes and rest.

Family and friends will influence you. Sometimes they are helpful, sometimes not. Communicate to them what you are doing and why. Ask them to be supportive. The only person that can do it is you. Make the right choice!

Virginia was the best loser for the month of March.

Linda won the Ha-Ha Box.

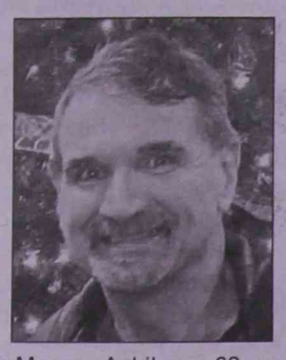
The meeting closed with marching in place as the group recited the TOPS pledge.

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.

Obituaries

Charles Monroe Aubil



Charles Monroe Aubil, age 62, passed away on March 31, 2025.

Born on March 11, 1963, in Hastings, MI the son of the late Charles and Marian (Winger) Aubil. Charles dedicated 22 years of his life as a skilled welder and painter at Steelcase. His professional journey also saw him offering his talents to Maynard's for 13 years, Caledonia Schools for a brief yet memorable year, and providing his expertise to Pennock Hospital for four years.

An active member of Peace Church, Charles found great joy in his faith and fellowship. He was a true outdoorsman at heart, reveling in hunting and fishing, which brought tranquility and adventure into his life in equal measure. A devoted Detroit Lions and University of Michigan fan, he wore his colors with pride. Charles's love for the open road was best experienced atop his cherished Harley, a passion only paralleled by his enjoyment of traveling to Florida, where the sun welcomed him year after year.

Survived by our wife of 41 years Amy (Kits) Aubil; children, Maria (Ryan) Ringeisen, Mindy Aubil, Jesse Aubil; granddaughters, Adaline and Anastasia Ringeisen; siblings, Ruthie (Ron) Blain, June (Phil) Olzak, Bonnie (James) Ciluffo, Char Callow, Larry (Linda) Aubil; many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Funeral services will take place on Friday, April 4, 2025 at Peace Church at 11 a.m. Pastor Bob Hudberg will officiate.

Private burial will take place at Mt. Hope Cemetery. Memorial donations to Peace Church Proclaim Fund will be appreciated.

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

Arrangements made by Beeler-Gores Funeral Home.

Patricia "Pat" Ruth Bruce



Patricia "Pat" Ruth Bruce, age 76, peacefully passed away with her two daughters by her side, on January 26 2025, and went home to be with the lord.

She was preceded in death by her father and mother, Duane and Ruth White; sisters, Jan and Judy, and her infant sister, Brenda Jean.

She is survived by her two daughters, Amy Bruce and Tara (Gary) Vickers. Her brother, Bill White and sister, Wendy (Greg) Colyer; brother-in-law, Lee Purdy and many nieces and nephews.

Pat grew up in Caledonia, MI on the family farm. She loved caring for all the animals with a particular love of horses. She also loved driving the tractors out in the field.

Pat was a loving mother and a superb Grammy to her furry grand dog and grand cats. Her greatest passion in the last 20 some years, was quilting. She made hundreds and hundreds of lap quilts for cancer patients through out Grand Rapids and Lake Orion.

A memorial luncheon will be April 13, 2025 at 1 p.m. at the Legion Hall in Caledonia.

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Church: (269) 795-2391

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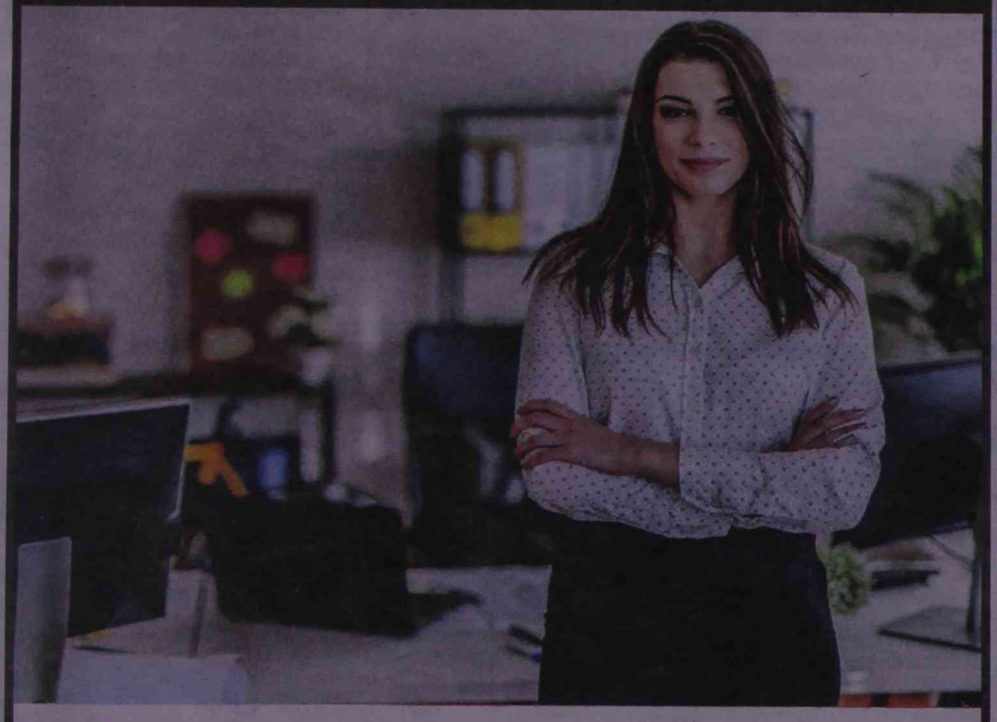
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- Ad-Visor & Chronicle
- Battle Creek Shopper News
- The Sun and News
- The Reminder

TK ladies victorious at their first invitational of 2025

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Thornapple Kellogg varsity girls' track and field team took the championship at Friday's Wayland Invitational.

Already one of the state's top hurdlers, TK senior Brooklyn Harmon set her personal record in the 100-meter hurdles to win that race. She clocked in at 15.06 seconds, and she was one of three TK ladies in the top four in that race. Freshman Amya Gater placed third in 16.72 and junior Mia Hilton was fourth in 16.86.

There were three TK ladies in the top ten in the 300-meter low hurdles too led by Hilton who was the runner-up in 46.91. Gater placed fourth in 50.01 and freshman Addison Rocco was ninth in 58.27. All three ladies set their PR in that race.

Harmon, Gater and Hilton also teamed with Amya's big sister, junior Payton Gater, to win the 4x400-meter relay at the end of the day in 4:12.59.

In the field, TK senior Emma Dykhouse won the shot put with a personal record throw of 35-4 and senior teammate Lilly McKeown also set her PR with a seventh-place mark of 30-9.

TK also had runner-up finishes in the girls' meet from Amya Gater in the long jump at 15-4 and Hilton in the pole vault with a PR of 9-0. Payton Gater was third in the high jump at 4-6 and third in the long jump at 15-3.75, while also adding a runner-up time of 1:01.47 in the 400-meter dash. Dykhouse added a fifth-place long jump mark of 14-8.5. Kimberlin Zavalza-Nava was fourth in the high jump for TK also clearing 4-6.

TK senior Ava Crews placed second in the 1600-meter dash for TK in 5 minutes 34.48 seconds and second in the 800-meter run with a time of 2:32.31.

The TK ladies outscored runner-up Plainwell 852-707 at the top of the seven-team standings. Coopersville was third with 702.5 points.

TK ladies filled the top of the standings. In the 100-meter dash TK had Jordyn Fitros fourth, Dykhouse fifth and Sydney Martin ninth. In the 200, Fitros was third and Martin seventh. Behind Payton Gater in the 400, Claira Kovich was ninth and Madison Kietzman tenth. Int he 800, TK had Isla Tilleman fifth and Peyton Hardy seventh. There were three TK ladies in the top ten in the 1600 too with Hardy eighth and Breanna Schut tenth. In the 3200 TK had Carmen Reynolds seventh and Alaina McCrumb ninth.

TK also had teams third in the 4x100-meter relay, third in the 4x200-meter relay and fourth in the 4x800-meter relay.

Wayland took the boys' championship on the day with 893 points. Plainwell was second in the boys' meet with 718 points. The TK boys placed fifth as a team.

TK senior Jacob Draaisma got his outdoor season off to an outstanding start winning the 1600-meter run in 4 minutes 44.17 seconds and the 800-meter run in 2:03.82.

The TK boys had a pair of top ten finishes in two field events. Camden Peter was sixth in the high jump at 5-4 and Jackson Smith also cleared 5-4 to place eighth. Junior Luke Archer was sixth in the pole vault clearing 9-6 and senior Hunter Tietz placed ninth getting over the bar at 9-0. Senior Jake Kelley added a tenth-place mark of 38-9 in the shot put.

Trojan sophomore Brandon Velting set his PR in a couple sprints placing sixth in the 400-meter dash in 53.96 and tenth in the 200-meter dash in 24.75. Another sophomore, Ethan Strait, was seventh in the 3200-meter run in 11:47.42 for TK and he also placed tenth in the 1600 in 5:24.52.

GgolF

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Phillips and Frank Wilkinson and senior Jordan Rowley.

"We really like our team's potential. They are a very hardworking team and are very supportive of their teammates," coach Kaminski said.

Missing out on those early season matches and inconsistent opportunities to be outside have led the Trojans, and likely most teams, with some work to do around the greens.

"It is early in the year but we need to work on our short game. Being able to recover from a missed shot with a good short game is critical for consistency," Kaminski said.

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