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CAL LACROSSE GUYS GET A BIG EARLY VICTORY AT B.C.
PAGE 14



Dozens of Middleville homeowners forced to pay water, sewer bills they did not accrue

Jayson Bussa
Contributing Writer

Unpaid water and sewer bills for addresses in the Village of Middleville will be tacked on to each respective property owner's 2025 taxes in an effort to make the village's fund whole.

This means that property owners are left to pay the balance on unpaid utility bills that were left behind for them by the previous owner.

This was the conclusion that the village council arrived at during Tuesday evening's regularly scheduled meeting, where it addressed the issue that has smoldered since last month. The discussion turned heated as Village President Kevin Smith railed against the idea that property owners would be stuck paying a bill that wasn't theirs.

"I'll be honest, if I was on the receiving end of this, I would not…" Smith trailed off, shaking his head. "There's just no way."

The conundrum the village finds itself in lies in unpaid water and sewer bills that date back to 2022, which means the funds for these systems are short. There are $588.01 in unpaid utility bills from 2022, $5,019.16 from 2023 and $677.75 from 2024.

Most of the unpaid balances are below $200, but a few are above, including one property that has a balance of $979.35.

In many cases, a bill was not issued to the property owner before they moved, therefore, when the bill arrived,

See **BILLS** on 4



Continental Properties development director Jordan Teichen describes modifications in the latest proposal for an apartment project to be built in Dutton. **Photo by James Gemmell**

Developer gains momentum in pitch to build apartments in Gaines Twp.

James Gemmell
Contributing Writer

Continental Properties has moved another step closer to receiving approval for 14 new two-story apartment buildings in Dutton.

The Gaines Township Planning Commission voted 6-0 at its March 27 meeting to approve a revised preliminary Planned Unit Development, or PUD, site plan in the 6300 block of Hanna Lake Avenue, adjacent to M-6. One commissioner was absent.

A final site plan must be approved by the commission and the township board before the project can begin, with public hearings also held before any final decisions are made.

The property, which is currently farmland, is owned by Vernon and Linda Verduin. Vern told the Planning Commission previously that he would like to sell the property to Continental.

"We've been working closely with the family," said Continental Properties development director Jordan Teichen. "And it's important for them, as well, to continue their (century-long) legacy with their farming operation."

The development would be built on a 24-acre section of a nearly 40-acre property on the 6300 block of Hanna Lake Avenue. Each of the 14 buildings – one less than originally proposed – would contain 24 apartment units.

The updated plan includes improved amenities, a revised architectural plan for a clubhouse and more access to preserved open spaces. The proposal also calls for a five-acre public park with dedicated parking along Hanna Lake Avenue and an integrated walking path to enhance connectivity to sidewalks between M-6 and 68th Street.

"There is a multi-use path adjacent to the drain crossing, as well as an extensive sidewalk network

See **DEVELOPER** on 5



The overhauled digital sign in the village of Middleville now has new capabilities, such as displaying colors and animation. **Photo by Jayson Bussa**

Revamped village sign set in Middleville; council tweaks message policy

Jayson Bussa
Contributing Writer

The Village of Middleville's sign on the corner of West Main Street and M-37 flashed a colorful graphic this week about the upcoming spring season.

This was something not possible a few months before as the sign previously could not be updated by city officials nor could it feature animation or other similar features.

The sign was recently overhauled with new panels and internal components installed, allowing city officials to now update it remotely. They plan to utilize it a lot more to feature information that is important to community members.

"The design panels are in. Take a look at those when you drive by – they look really cool," Village Manager Craig Stolsonburg told the village council on Tuesday night during its regularly scheduled meeting.

"Now, we can update it from here. We don't have to go out in the wind or rain or whatever to update the sign," he added, noting that the radio system on the previous sign had failed, so it could not be updated remotely.

Because the new sign has been installed, the village council looked over the village's LED sign message policy, which lays out guidelines on what sort of information would be appropriate for the sign.

Officials have not looked over or tweaked the sign message policy since

See **MIDDLEVILLE** on 18



Village receives donation to help breathe new life into Calvin Hill Park

Jayson Bussa
Contributing Writer

A donation to the Village of Middleville will go toward helping revamp a local park that is in fairly desperate need of some TLC.

On Tuesday evening, during its regularly scheduled meeting, the village council heard from Village Manager Craig Stolsonburg about a recently received pledge from Drs. Craig and Deborah Mulligan for $15,000 to help upgrade the playground equipment at Calvin G. Hill Memorial Park.

The donation was being made in honor of Dr. Craig Mulligan's late father.

The park, located at 127-199 Ellis Street in Middleville, currently features a variety of outdated and potentially unsafe pieces of equipment, which need to be removed and/or replaced. It also features a basketball court and

See **DONATION** on 4



Calvin G. Hill Memorial Park in Middleville will be on the receiving end of an overhaul over the next coming years, replacing the old and outdated equipment that is still installed there. **Photo by Jayson Bussa**

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Cal voters to consider non-homestead millage renewal on May ballot

Molly Macleod
Editor

Voters in the Caledonia Community Schools district will decide next month whether to renew its non-homestead operating millage. The millage renewal, if approved by voters, will levy 18 mills on non-homestead properties over the next five years — meaning primary residences and some qualifying agricultural properties are exempt from the tax.

Additionally, voters are being asked to approve an extra half-mill "cushion" to be used in the event of Headlee rollbacks chipping away at the non-homestead millage in the coming years.

Caledonia Superintendent Dirk Weeldreyer said the non-homestead millage is critical for funding the district's core needs — staffing and operation.

"Our budget is like 87, 88 percent people," Weeldreyer said. "So, when your budget's 87 percent people, and you still have to always have lights, and you have to have heat, what do you cut? This is the question people ask, and I don't know where you'd begin. How could you cut? You'd be cutting 20 percent of your staff."

Failing to pass the non-homestead millage renewal could negatively impact property values in the district, he added.

Schools receive money from a variety of different sources. Many of the funds districts receive from state and federal sources are inflexible in where they can be spent. Weeldreyer pointed to the district's food service fund, which is a separate account that can only be used for food service purchases. The non-homestead millage supplies much of the district's general fund.

"Where this money, where this non-homestead operating millage is going is the general fund. That pays our salaries, that pays our heat, our light, the busses, the fuel, all that kind of stuff. Everything that you think of, more or less, is in that (general) fund," Weeldreyer said.

If voters renew Caledonia's non-homestead operating millage, the district can continue to levy the full 18 mills on non-homestead property owners — meaning it will receive its full per-pupil foundational allowance based on full-time equivalent students (FTE) in the district. Should the millage fail to pass and expire at the end of this year, Weeldreyer said CCS will not receive its full foundational allowance from the state, putting critical programs and services at risk.

This year, CCS received roughly $48 million through state foundational allowance funding. That makes up over two-thirds of Caledonia's $70.7 million in revenue for the 2024-25 school year.

One common question asked by voters is how bonds differ from a non-homestead millage. Weeldreyer said the non-homestead millage funds critical operations bond money cannot.

"This (the non-homestead millage) is for operating, which is totally different than bonds," Weeldreyer told *The Sun and News*. "We are not allowed to mix that money — that's why it's all tracked separately. We cannot, with bond money, we can't pay anything operational. It's only for building stuff."

State law mandates districts cannot levy more than 18 mills on their residents through a non-homestead operating millage. CCS is asking voters to approve an extra half-mill "cushion" next month in addition to renewing the non-homestead millage's Headlee-reduced millage rate, just under 18 mills. Weeldreyer explained that even with the cushion, the district can only levy 18 mills — no more.

The extra half-mill would only come into play in the event of a Headlee rollback, when millage rates are reduced when property values increase faster than the rate of inflation. Weeldreyer said the extra cushion allows the district to continue collecting its full foundation allowance from the state without having to go back to the voters for a "reset" of the millage at 18 mills.

CCS's current non-homestead millage, voted on in 2019, has been affected by Headlee rollbacks six out of the last seven years. Voters approved a 1.8-mill cushion when approving the 2019 non-homestead millage. Weeldreyer said that extra amount is projected to run out in the next five years, if not sooner. More than half has been used already.

"You can never collect more than 18

See **MILLAGE** on 6

Duncan Lake Middle School receives national honor

Duncan Lake Middle School has been nationally recognized by Solution Tree as a "Model Professional Learning Community at Work" for its sustained success in raising student achievement through a collaborative, results-driven culture of continuous improvement, according to a recent announcement by school officials.

Duncan Lake is reportedly one of only five schools in the entire state of Michigan to receive the designation.

According to the announcement, the recognition reflects years of focused work by staff to implement the PLC process – an approach centered on the belief that the most effective path to student success is through ongoing, job-embedded learning for educators. That includes a focus on learning, a culture of collaboration and a commitment to results.

"We are honored to be recognized as a model PLC school," said Jaym Abraham, principal at Duncan Lake. "This achievement reflects the intentional work of our entire staff and their unwavering dedication to doing what's best for students. It reaffirms that when we focus on learning, and support one another as professionals, great things happen for kids."

Schools are recognized based on strict criteria, including demonstration of a commitment to PLC concepts, implementation of the concepts for at least three years and clear evidence of improved student learning over that period.

According to the Champions of PLC at Work, educators in the schools and districts selected for recognition have shown "a sustained commitment to helping all of their students achieve at high levels. They have been willing to alter the structure and culture of the organization to reflect their commitment. We applaud them and congratulate them for achieving this very significant milestone on the never-ending PLC journey."

As a result of receiving the recognition, Duncan Lake Middle School will be featured on allthingsPLC.info, a Solution Tree resource hub for educators. — *DM*

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BILLS

Continued from Page 1

they were no longer at that location and the unpaid bill was never addressed during the property transaction process, leaving it unpaid.

The village, by law, has to collect the unpaid sums, so the current property owners are left on the hook for it, as they will be added to the 2025 tax roll.

During a March 25 meeting, the council asked staff to apply this ordinance to only non-owner-occupied properties and attempt to collect the balance through a collection agency or some other method. Village Manager Craig Stolsonburg spoke with the village's attorney to learn that the method was not legal. The attorney pointed to an ordinance that spelled out how the village should address this situation.

The ordinance states: "The water/sewer rates and charges shall be a lien on the respective premises served by the system. Whenever water/sewer rates and charges shall be unpaid for six months or more, they shall be considered delinquent to the tax assessing officer of the village, who shall enter the delinquent sewer rates and charges, interest and penalties, together with an additional penalty equal to 15 percent of the total, upon the next tax roll as a charge against the premises affected and such charge shall be collected and the lien thereof enforced in same manner as ad valorem property taxes levied against such premises."

By the attorney's summation, the village's hands were tied, and Trustee Robert Bishop echoed that on Tuesday.

"There are laws that restrict all this so there is no point in even discussing this because the decision was made above our pay grade and has to change probably at the national level," Bishop said. "So, discussing it here is just a waste of time."

The council wondered how a property owner might be able to pursue reimbursement from the previous owner who accrued the expenses. Bishop said they could pursue small claims court.

"It does cost money to do all this stuff, but that's the legal system," Bishop said. "Yeah, it sucks, but that's what we got. I don't get why we're having a discussion about something we can't change."

"Because I don't understand it and when I don't understand something, I'm entitled to be able to understand it," Smith said. "I appreciate your input thus far, though, and it has been very useful. ...I'm about to cast a vote on whether someone is charged $975 on their taxes that they weren't expecting this year. I owe it to them to be able to have that conversation. Hopefully, that's clear."

"Was it not clear what the lawyer said?" Bishop asked.

"It doesn't matter, because that's an opinion," Smith continued. "There are options and I want to make sure we're exhausting them at this table with what we control. If we can control it, I would much rather it be in our hands than the hands of a lawyer. Because at some point, all of us will be asked this question, 'Why did I get $975 tacked on to my taxes?' My answer isn't going to be 'It's the system, I'm sorry, it sucks.'"

At the end of the meeting, Smith apologized to Bishop for the tense exchange and explained he was frustrated at the situation.

Holding his nose, Smith voted to approve the measure along with trustees Richard Hamilton, John Osterbaan and Bishop. Tracy Gillhespy voted no and two board members were absent.

Stolsonburg said that the village would look to take proactive measures to avoid such situations in the future, such as providing a property owner with an estimate of their final bill and escrowing the funds to ensure the bill is paid.

DONATION

Continued from Page 2

an updated play structure for children.

Along with the donation, some sizable funds are available to start overhauling the park. The village council had previously approved $100,000 in the contractual line item for parks and recreation. This same line item has been included in previous budgets and has never been expended.

Village staff also plans to apply for a country grant of up to $15,000 along with any other grant opportunities that might be available.

Village officials drafted a master plan for the park in 2022, envisioning a completely overhauled space that potentially would include a splash pad. Council members wanted to make sure that the donation helped them to further the plan that was already in place.

"I would encourage this board to be very thoughtful of what goes in there because we have a lot of opportunity for that park to do a lot of cool things," Village President Kevin Smith said. "I think that, in the past, we've made some moves at Calvin Hill Park that probably – we could have done better."

"So, as long as we're paying really close attention to it, we have some really large projects coming up and I want to be very thoughtful of it," Smith added. "All of them require our attention and commitment. I would like to see Calvin Hill be something very, very special. My only concern is that we're adding another project on top of a very large list."

The council and Stolsonburg agreed that a good starting point would be to remove the equipment that is potentially dangerous.

"I think it's something we can pick away at," Stolsonburg said. "Every other year do another piece somewhere."

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DEVELOPER

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throughout the (proposed) community," Teichen said.

A boulevard would be extended down to Hanna Lake Avenue to provide a more welcoming entrance to the development. A roundabout would be added to the east side of the property, under the revised site plan.

"I appreciate the boulevard," Planning Commissioner Ryan Wiersema said. "I appreciate the roundabout concept.

"I really appreciate those aspects. I appreciate the park," he added, "I think that's a good idea."

The parcel is zoned Residential-4 (mobile home) and Residential-10, and would be rezoned to a PUD designation to allow more flexibility with the layout. The township's Future Land Use Map designates it as Multi-Family Residential.

The updated PUD is the third iteration of the site plan, as the Menominee Falls, Wisconsin-based developer continues to tweak it to meet township approval.

Besides the apartment buildings, the site would feature the clubhouse, a leasing office, a 24/7 fitness center, a resort-style pool with a sundeck, community garden, pet playground, car and dog wash station, a pergola and fire pit.

To address commissioners' concerns about the township's ability to maintain the proposed park, Teichen said Continental plans to present a proposal to the township board at its April 14 meeting, which will start at 6 p.m. at the township hall.

Another concern expressed by Planning Commission members in January was related to the Authentix-style housing brand Continental had originally proposed, stating they wanted a higher-end product than the "attainable housing" concept. That led to Continental coming up with other proposed improvements, including varied building styles, floor plans and color schemes.

"We are introducing the disc golf course," Teichen said. "On the most current site plan, we are showing a walking path through the open space on the east side of the property."

As for the architectural enhancements to the clubhouse, he said there would be upgraded exterior materials for a high-quality finish and more visually pleasing facades to improve the streetscape.

"The color scheme of this building will align with our residential building color scheme," Teichen said. "We would be including masonry around that front entrance. So, this is a significant departure from what we were showing previously.

"But we heard your comments on it (needing to be) in line with the architectural aesthetic of the rest of our buildings," he added. "We feel that this is more in line with the other structures that we're proposing, architecturally."



A preliminary site plan for a development Continental Properties is proposing to build on Hanna Lake Avenue, immediately south of M-6. **Source: gainestownship.org**

Previously, Teichen stated the studio apartments would rent for $1,300 per month, one-bedroom units would cost $1,450, two-bedroom units $1,775 and three-bedroom units would cost $2,050 per month.

Commissioner Talimma Billips said she was pleased with the progress the developer has made in revising the site plan.

"I think we've come a long way with this project," added Connie Giarmo, Planning Commission chairwoman.

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Officials confirm Kent County's first measles case in over a decade

The Kent County Health Department, in partnership with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, recently confirmed a case of measles in a Kent County resident.

This diagnosis is the county's first confirmed measles case since 2013 and Michigan's second case of the year.

"Measles is a highly contagious disease that continues to circulate both in the U.S. and globally," said Dr. Adam London, KCHD health officer. "This case is a reminder of how quickly measles can spread and the importance of vaccination. We urge residents to check their immunization status and to get vaccinated, especially if planning to travel internationally or into areas with active measles outbreaks."

The infected adult recently traveled abroad before returning to the U.S. and traveling between Michigan and New Jersey. Individuals who were present at the following locations on the specified dates and times may have been exposed to measles.

Measles spreads easily through the air when an infected person breathes, coughs, or sneezes. It can stay in the air for up to two hours after an infected person leaves, continuing to infect others.

Symptoms typically begin 7–14 days after exposure, though they can surface as late as 21 days after exposure, and may include:

- High fever (may spike to over 104°F)
- Cough
- Runny nose
- Red, watery eyes (conjunctivitis)
- Tiny white spots on the inner cheeks, gums and roof of mouth (Koplik Spots) 2-3 days after symptoms begin
- A rash that is red, raised, blotchy; usually starts on face, spreads to trunk, arms and legs 3-5 days after symptoms begin

People who were at the above locations during the specified times should monitor for these symptoms for 21 days after exposure. Anyone experiencing symptoms is urged to call their healthcare provider before seeking in-person care to prevent further spread. "Measles can lead to serious complications, especially in young children, pregnant individuals, and those with weakened immune systems," said Dr. Kristin Oldenberg, KCHD medical director. "Fortunately, the measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine is safe and highly effective at preventing measles. Two doses of the vaccine provide 97 percent protection against the disease."

For more information on measles, visit the MDHHS website. — *DM*

Parental resilience: A protective factor in preventing child abuse

April is "Child Abuse Prevention Month."

And, child abuse prevention is a complex effort that requires support, education, and positive measures to strengthen families, according to a statement released by the Family Support Center of Barry County.

"One of the most critical protective factors in preventing child abuse is parental resilience – a parent's ability to manage stress, overcome adversity and adapt to challenges while maintaining a stable and nurturing environment for their children" said Bill Mattson, FSCBC's executive director.

Raising children comes with inevitable pressures, from financial struggles and job demands to personal hardships and emotional strain. Without the ability to cope effectively, stress can escalate into frustration, which increases the risk of harsh parenting and, in extreme cases, abusive behaviors. Parental resilience acts as a buffer, helping caregivers navigate difficulties in a way that promotes positive interactions with their children rather than negative ones.

According to the FSCBC statement, resilient parents are better equipped to handle setbacks, seek support when needed, and model healthy coping mechanisms for their children. That, in turn, fosters a more secure and nurturing home environment where children feel safe, valued and loved.

Research has shown that parents with strong resilience are more likely to use positive discipline strategies, communicate effectively and maintain emotional stability, all of which contribute to healthier child development.

Building parental resilience requires access to resources, community support and opportunities to develop problem-solving skills, the release stated.

Parenting programs, mental health services, peer support groups and stress management tools can all play a role in strengthening a caregiver's ability to cope with challenges. By investing in parental resilience, society helps to break cycles of abuse and neglect, ensuring that children grow up in environments where they can thrive.

As communities come together to promote child abuse prevention, prioritizing parental resilience is essential. Encouraging parents to seek help when needed, providing support systems, and reducing the stigma around parental struggles can create a more compassionate and understanding society – one that safeguards the well-being of children and their families for generations to come.

For more information on factors that protect children from child abuse, contact the Family Support Center by calling 269-945-5439. — *DM*



MILLAGE

Continued from Page 3

mills. Your bill will never show anything more than that. And, in order to get our full amount, we have to have 18 or we lose the full (foundational allowance). We lose it if they vote no, or we lose those little pieces that come off of it — and it's not new in that sense," Weeldreyer said.

Voters have several opportunities to ask questions and learn more about the non-homestead millage renewal in the coming weeks. On Tuesday, April 22 and Tuesday, April 29, Weeldreyer and district staff will host a "Community Conversation" from 6 to 7 p.m. at the new Caledonia Resource Center, 9757 Kraft Ave.

More information on the non-homestead millage renewal can also be found at the district's website, calschools.org/non-homestead.

Election Day is Tuesday, May 6. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. that day.

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SPRING SPORTS PREVIEWS

Roster biggest it has ever been for CHS boys' team

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Caledonia lined up 32 guys to run the 100-meter dash in its season opening dual with Lowell.

That wasn't even a third of the team.

Caledonia varsity boys' track and field coach Ben Thompson said the Fighting Scot program is the largest it has been in his 20-plus years of coaching with over 100 boys on the team.

"The overall attitude is positive and hard working," Thompson said. "It might take us a bit but we will be successful by the end of the year."

The Caledonia boys were 4-2 in duals in their final season in the OK Red Conference last season and ran to a fourth place finish at their MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 1 Regional and a fifth-place finish at the D1 MITCA Team State Meet.

All seven guys from that squad either graduated are no longer with the team, but there is some talent back for the Fighting Scot team.

The returning senior group is powered by sprinter Josh Maier, high jumper Andrew Tava, distance runners Kort Thompson, Ethan Buer, Aidan Edgar, pole vaulter/sprinter DJ Potgeter and hurdler/sprinter Dalton Ed.

Key returning junior contributors include Jonas Howell in the hurdles and sprints, pole vaulter Ben Moss, throwers Liam Moore and Cody Meyers, middle distance runner Eli Velting, distance runner Luke Smith, and long jumpers Colton Heyboer and Austin Tufts. Sprinter Aaron Collins is one of the top sophomores back.

Newcomers will be big contributors too this spring with juniors distance runners Noah Johnston and Nathan Johnston top additions along with freshmen distance runners Sean Thompson and Bennett Snapper and freshman sprinter Robert Restau.

Coach Thompson said all his graduations from last spring leave a lot of opportunities for youngsters to step up and score for the team.

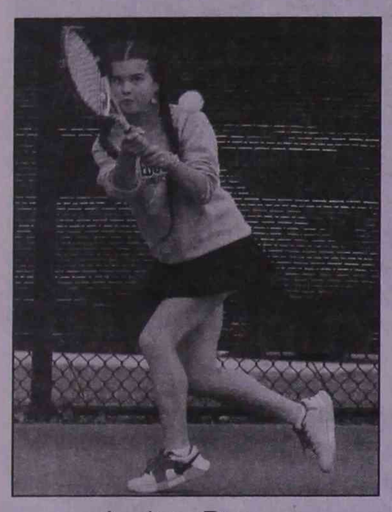
The Scots were bested in their one OK Green Conference dual prior to spring break, at Jenison April 1.

They will be back at it in the con-

See **TEAM** on 13



Noah Johnston **Photos by Jayson Bussa**



Audrey Duong

Good experience in balanced CHS tennis line-up

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Caledonia varsity girls' tennis coach Mike Wilson called it a "brutal" tryout season as a lot of girls with similar skill levels worked to earn spots in the varsity line-up.

One decision wasn't too tough. Freshman Berkley Nelson earned the first singles spot and coach Wilson said she is the first freshman first singles player in the program since he took over in 1997.

With her at the top and a strong group of returners behind her, the Scots are looking to compete in the OK Green Conference this spring and maybe improve on their sixth place finish from regionals a year ago.

The OK Red Conference was always brutally tough from top to bottom, and Jenison makes the move over to the OK Green this season with the Fighting Scots. The Wildcats were a few points better than the Scots when Jenison hosted its annual early season invitational this year. They'll be tough to contend with in the conference and coach Wilson expects Byron Center to be a solid squad too.

Behind Nelson in the singles line-up, the Scots bring back junior Audrey Duong at number two, senior Claire Teunessen at number three and have sophomore Gretchen VanderEide up at fourth singles from her fourth doubles position a year ago. Teunessen and Duong each bumped up one spot in the singles line-up from a year ago.

At the top of the doubles line-up, the

See **TENNIS** on 18







SPRING SPORTS PREVIEWS

CHS girls have a lot of top point scorers to replace

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

With 82 girls on the roster there are a lot student-athletes who can step up and score points for the Caledonia varsity girls' track and field team this spring.

The Fighting Scots have a lot of spaces in their line-up to fill as the team is looking to replace eight of its top ten point scorers from the 2024 season in which the Scots placed seventh in the OK Red Conference, seventh at regionals and eighth at the MITCA Team State Meet.

Caledonia head coach Ben Howell, who is entering his 21st season as a coach and teacher at Caledonia and his seventh leading the high school girls' track and field program, said one of the big goals this season is to qualify for the MITCA Team State Meet again this season.

Leading the way in working to get back there is a group of returners that includes senior distance runner Hannah Dupuis, senior sprinter Avalynn Klapmust, senior jumper/hurdler Emmi Mince, junior jumper/thrower/sprinter Jolie King, and sophomore sprinters Olivia Hawkins and Isla Sheely.

Hawkins was one of the top hurdlers in the OK Red Conference a year ago placing sixth in the 300-meter low hurdles race at the conference championship meet as a freshman. She was also a regional medalist in both the 300-meter hurdles and the 100-meter hurdles.



Olivia Hawkins

Coach Howell said that his team has a number of new athletes on the team this year, freshman through seniors, that will really be key contributors for us throughout the season.

He likes his team's depth overall, but said it is hard to tell how things will shake out in the new OK Green Conference. Byron Center should be tough. The Bulldogs were third in the D1 Regional the Scots also competed in last season with most of its top performers underclassmen. Mona Shores had some really fast youngsters too who helped their team to a third-place finish in the OK Green in 2024.

The CHS girls are already 1-0 in the conference with a win over the Jenison girls who made the move from the OK Red into the OK Green this year.

The Caledonia girls return to conference action Monday at Muskegon, April 14, and then will head to Hastings Friday, April 18, for an invitational. The Scots don't get to host their annual Soderman Relays this spring with construction ongoing at Ralph E. Myers Stadium.

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CHS baseball looks to keep run of success going

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Caledonia varsity baseball team got one ballgame in before spring break.

The Scots will have a little bit more time to tune-up before the beginning of their first OK Green Conference season. The Caledonia boys head to Middleville to face the Trojans on Wednesday, April 16, and then will host their own Cal Tournament Saturday, April 19.

The OK Green Conference season starts with a doubleheader at Reeths-Puffer April 22. The format in the OK Green will be for teams to play a doubleheader on a Tuesday and then finish off three-game conference sets on Thursday at the other school most weeks.

It has been a good run of late for the Fighting Scots who have won their way into the MHSAA Division 1 Regional Finals in each of the past two seasons.

AJ Roszkowski, Trever Walter and Cam Myers are back this spring after being a part of both of those extended postseason runs. Myers is back on the mound after being tabbed to be the guy to start on the mound in the Scots' regional championship ballgame against Hudsonville at Central Michigan University last spring.

The Fighting Scot team also brings back pitcher Aryn Taylor, Ben Kieliszewski, center fielder Ethan Sova, Garrett Johnson, catcher Jackson McNew and first baseman Talen Verburg from last year's roster.

Roszkowski is taking over the shortstop spot for the Scots and filled the lead-off spot in the line-up during the season opener. Walter got a turn on the mound in the opener as well, a 5-2 loss to West Catholic April 1, along with the starter Taylor and other varsity newcomers Alex Spinney, Gabe Trudeau and Ryne Wysocki.



Cam Myers

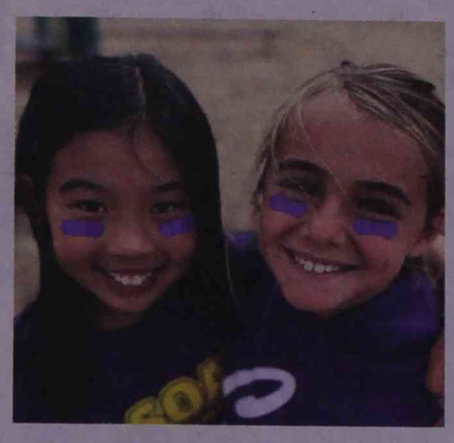


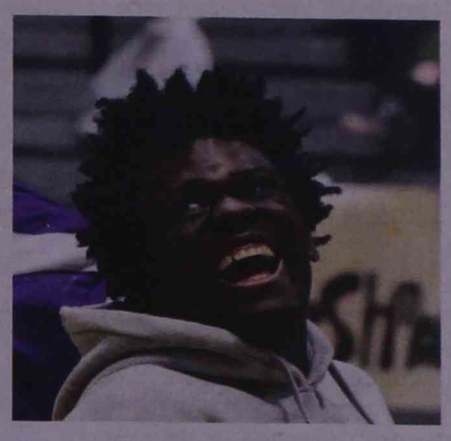
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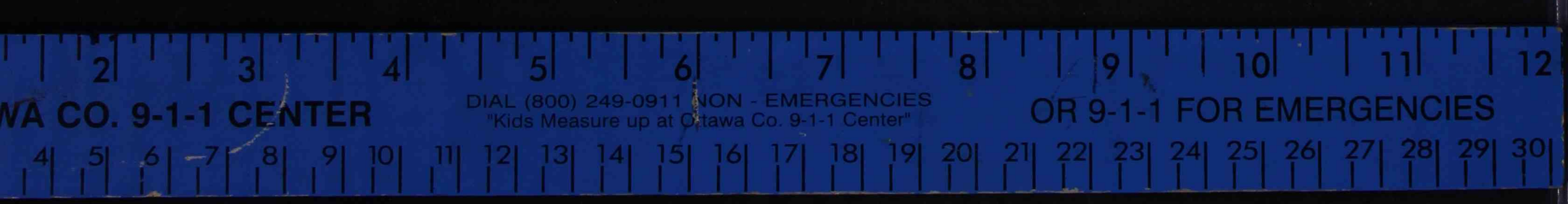
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At Caledonia Community Schools: People Make the Difference

Cal

Crafting Dreams

At Caledonia High School, we believe learning should be as unique as the students who walk our halls. For junior Andrew Barnum, that belief took shape—literally—when he decided to build his own electric guitar. Already a cellist since fourth grade, Andrew fell in love with string instruments and wanted to expand his skills by learning guitar. But instead of settling for an off-the-shelf instrument, he turned to YouTube, sketched out a design, gathered materials, and built one himself—from body to neck to electronics.



That first build turned into a passion. With the encouragement of industrial technology teacher Kyle Scholten, Andrew pursued an independent study where he handcrafted a custom guitar for science teacher Ben Howell, known for playing music in the middle of chemistry lessons. It wasn't just about woodworking—it was about honoring the impact of a teacher and blending creativity with craft.

Andrew says classes like woodworking taught him real-world skills like self-discipline, time management, and the freedom to experiment. Mr. Scholten saw something special in Andrew: "He had the drive and motivation. He took an idea and turned it into a reality."

At Caledonia, students are encouraged to dream big with the support of teachers who believe in their potential.

Hooked on Community

At Kraft Meadows Intermediate School, leadership can come from the most unexpected places—like a crochet hook in the hands of a sixth-grader.

When Olive Roush pitched the idea of starting a crochet club to STEM teacher Becky Sowerby, no one imagined it would become the most popular after-school club at Kraft Meadows Intermediate. But with 30 eager students and more on a waiting list, it quickly grew into a tight-knit community.

Olive leads with patience and passion, helping classmates stitch everything from scarves to stuffed animals. For many students, the club has become more than a place to create—it's where friendships form and confidence grows. With support from generous community donations, the club has flourished. As backpacks fill with penguins and dinosaurs, one thing is clear...the creativity, leadership, and connection on display are exactly what set Caledonia apart.

In Caledonia, we believe in the power of students to lead, inspire, and bring people together. And in this cozy classroom filled with yarn and laughter, that belief is stitched into every loop and knot.

It's stories like this that show how leadership, creativity, and connection thrive at Caledonia.

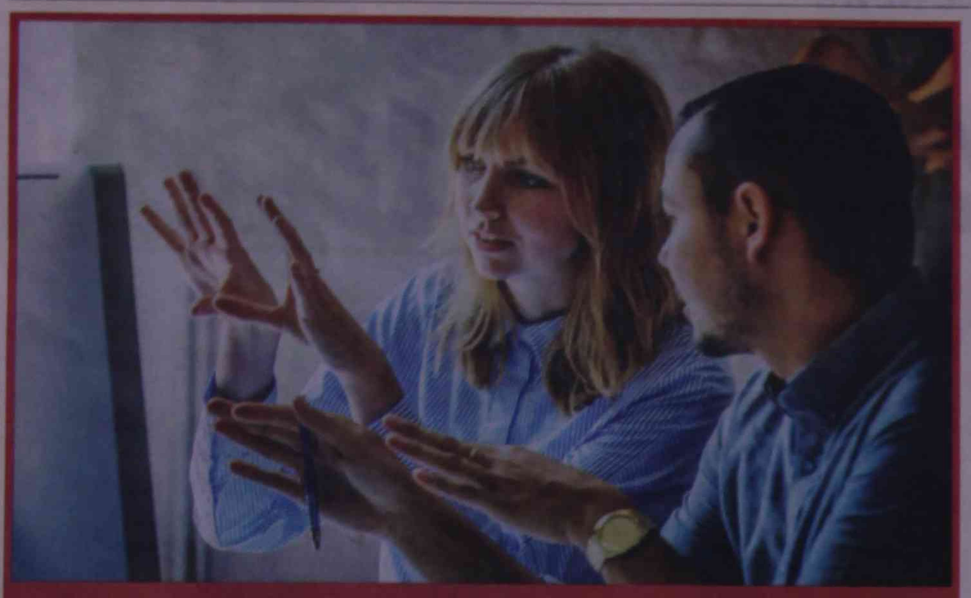




Empathy in Action

Empathy is more than a word—it's a way of life at Caledonia Community Schools. Mrs. Sinclair's class at Paris Ridge Elementary recently showed just how powerful empathy can be. When one of their classmates arrived with their very first broken bone, the entire class lit up with smiles and support. Markers came out, well-wishes flowed, and everyone wanted a turn to sign the cast.

It might seem like a small gesture, but it meant the world to their classmate. By putting themselves in their friend's shoes, these young students demonstrated what it truly means to care. By putting kindness into action, these students showed the heart of who we are. That's what sets Caledonia apart.



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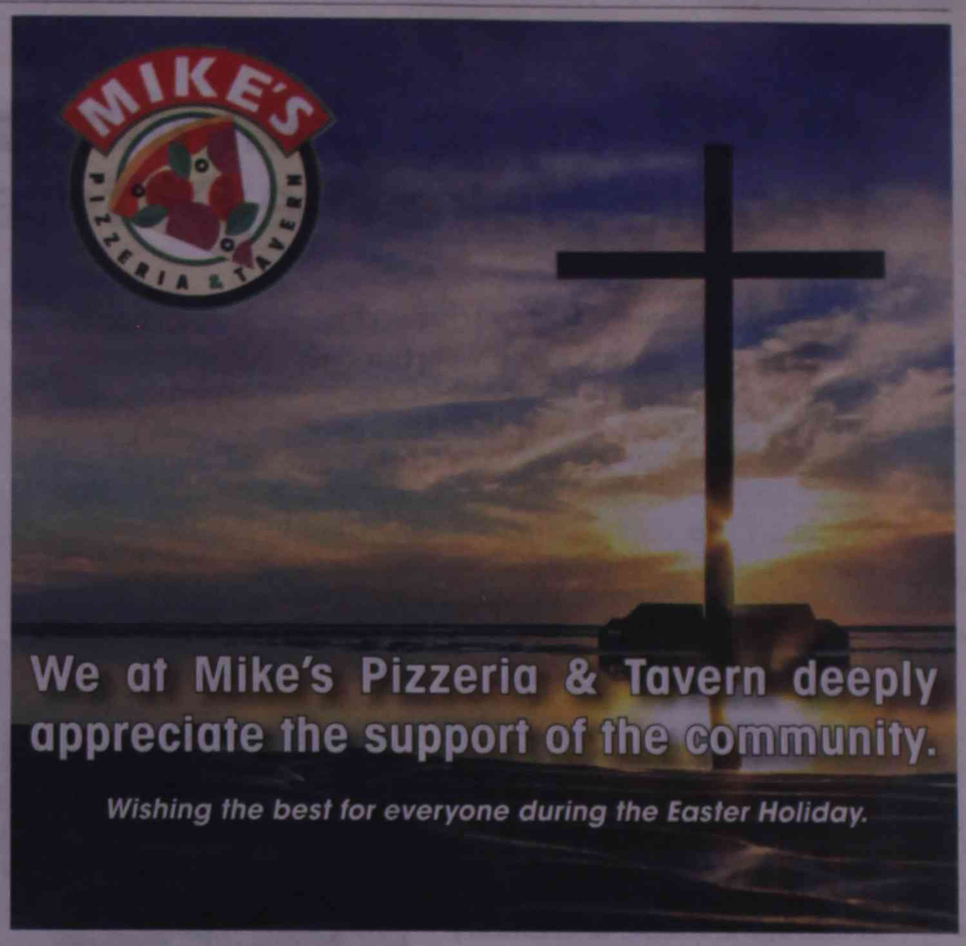
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SPRING SPORTS PREVIEWS

Scots should be in middle of competitive OK Green golf race

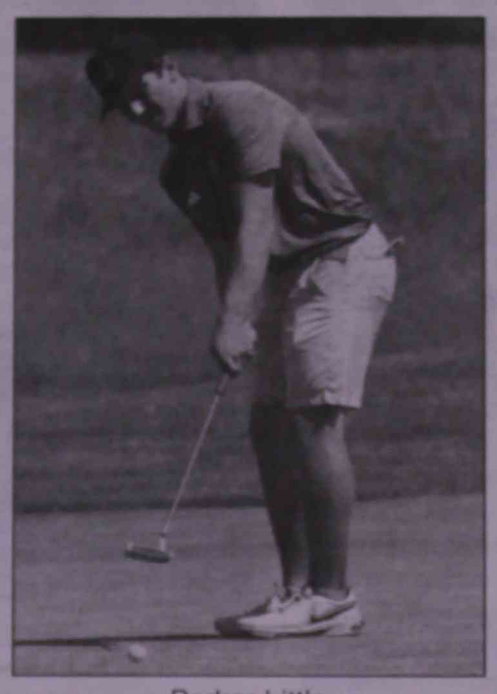
Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Caledonia varsity boys' golf team has four of its five regional golfers and five of its six conference meet golfers from last season back for the 2025 season.

Senior Parker Little was the Scots' top golfer at regionals a year ago, finishing 25th in the Scots' D1 Regional in Muskegon. The team was 11th as a whole, and back on the roster from that team are senior Mason Kern, senior Levi Verburg and junior Camden Quigley too. Little was the Scots' leader a year ago at the OK Red Conference Championship meet finishing in a tie for 11th.

A couple more guys who played key rounds, like at the OK Red Conference Championship, are back too in junior DJ Robinson and senior Lukas Keson.

The Scots had a couple of early season contests postponed due to the weather. They are slated to open the new OK Green Conference season at a jamboree at Railside Golf Club Wednesday, April 16. The Scots will then travel to the Kent County Classic April 17 and the Thornapple Kellogg Invitational April 18.


Parker Little

Caledonia will host a conference jamboree at Saskatoon April 28.

New OK Green Conference foes Caledonia, Jenison, Mona Shores and Reeths-Puffer were all within two strokes of each other at their regional tournament a year ago with some top players coming back, so it should be a very competitive conference season.

TEAM
Continued from Page 7

ference Monday, April 14, at Muskegon and then the Scots got to Hastings for an invitational Friday, April 18.

As construction continues at Ralph E. Myers Stadium the Fighting Scots don't have a home meet on the schedule for this season.

The OK Green Conference competition will be tough this spring. Byron Center won the OK White Conference a year ago and has a lot of speed back from that squad, but the Scots should have a good shot at finishing in the top half of the conference standings at the very least.

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Community Schools
Let's Go Fighting Scotts

Cal lacrosse guys get a big early victory at B.C.

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Fighting Scots headed into spring break on a high.

The Caledonia varsity boys' lacrosse team improved to 2-2 overall in the early season with a 16-8 conference victory at Byron Center.

"That was a huge win for us as a program," Caledonia head coach Kolin Heron said. "We haven't beaten them the last four years. I know a lot of those seniors wanted that one against those guys right down the street, and so that was a big one and for me, going to Byron Center, that was a big one for me too."

The Scots lifted their coach onto their shoulders during the victory celebration, but the coach gives all the credit to the players.

"That was pretty cool," Herron said. "I appreciate them for that, but at the end of the day they were the ones out there on the field there playing. I just put the guys on the field. I am very proud of them. Byron Center is a very good team. They won the region last year, and they're going to beat some teams this year again."

Coach Herron sees his team as an athletic, physical group. He wants his guys to play hard and fast while also respecting opponents, and he's seen them taking care of that business already this season. Playing that style will be most successful as the Scots continue to gel and get better in transition.

"We're always looking to improve, whether that's defensively, offensively," coach Herron said. "I think the two big things for us right now that we're focused on is clearing the ball, from defense to offense, and then on the ride, so trying to slow that process down when we had a turn over or saved shot or whatever, trying to stop them from moving from defense to offense so quickly. Those are two things that we've spent a lot of time working on. We're seeing progress in that for sure. It's somewhat just learning how to play together, learning how guys move, but thankfully a lot of them have played together for a while. "



Lincoln Senti

That group of guys that has played together for a while mixes talent and experience. The Scots had senior Ethan Fisher back for that Byron Center ballgame after he missed some time in the early season. He had five goals, an assist, six ground balls and two caused turnovers in the win. He was an all-conference player as a junior and coach Herron thought he was right on the cusp of being an all-state honoree.

"He is a guy who has been up on varsity since he was a freshman. We look to him to lead a lot for us both offensively and defensively, because he plays midfield," Herron said.

Long stick midfielder Leighton Fink is back for a senior season and had seven ground balls and five caused turnovers in four matches so far this season. The team is also bringing back senior face-ff man Crew Paalman, senior attacker Brady Hilaski, and talented attacker Teagan Chu who has been an excellent distributor of the ball in the early going.

The returning juniors include captain Sam Hoag, a leader on the defensive end as well as attacking midfielder Rylan Bultema who saw a bit of time on the varsity as a sophomore last season.

The team brings back big-bodied sophomore attacker Logan Senti and fellow sophomore goal-scorer Emmett Haan.

Sophomore goalie Landen Moore is taking over in net.

"Collectively, they are probably the most talented team I have had in the last four years, and even when I played, collectively I haven't seen a team this talented," coach Herron said. "They all make each other better every day whether it is in practice or in games."

The Fighting Scots are 2-2 so far this season. They will play host to Detroit Catholic Central Tuesday and then travel to Muskegon to face Mona Shores Thursday. Caledonia will also be a part of the Portage Northern Tournament Saturday, April 19.

Yankee Springs Township
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2025 YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP

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Scot softball roster filled with nine seniors this spring

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Fighting Scot head coach Kaylie Schertzing has been leading the varsity softball team for five years and she has her biggest senior class yet.

She has nine seniors on her 2025 roster at Caledonia, and said there is a lot of talent and leadership in her group.

The class is led in part by the trio of outfielder Addy Lash, pitcher Molly Lieske and catcher/infielder Malia Burke.

They've already helped the Scots off to a 4-1 start to the season. Caledonia split a doubleheader with former OK Red Conference foe Rockford, took two from Coopersville and scored a walk-off win over Hamilton before spring break.

Beyond the great senior group, coach Schertzing said she is also look for key contributions from sophomore pitcher/infielder Addison Veldt, junior shortstop Hudsyn Tanner and junior outfielder Maddison Boucher.

So far Schertzing is liking her team's defensive versatility.

The team was 14-16 overall a year ago, and based on how things went Schertzing said she is looking forward to her pitchers working to improve their ERA and for everybody to work to find ways to improve the team's overall offensive production.

"This team is eager to build on the success we had last year and surprise some people," Schertzing said. "We've had a really strong start to the season, so I am excited to see where we go from here. We're in a new league, so it's going to be fun to compete and see how we stack up in the OK Green."

There are some tough teams to compete with in the reworked OK Green. Jenison has moved into the conference from the OK Red along with the Scots, and Byron Center and Reeths-Puffer look to be pretty tough in the conference this season too.

The Scots will continue to prep for the conference season with home doubleheaders against a couple OK Red squads. They host Grandville Tuesday, April 15, and Hudsonville Wednesday, April 16. The Scots also visit Kenowa Hills April 18.



Addy Lash

The OK Green season starts with a doubleheader at Reeths-Puffer in Muskegon April 22 and then the Rockets come to Caledonia for one game April 24.

Yankee Springs Township
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YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF RESOLUTION

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

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that at a public meeting on April 3, 2025 commencing at 11:00 a.m. at the Yankee Springs Township Hall, 284 N. Briggs Road, Middleville, MI 49333, the Yankee Springs Township Board of Trustees adopted Township Resolution Number 04-03-2025; *Resolution Establishing Temporary Moratorium on Applications for Mining, Quarrying, and Gravel, Sand, Earth, and Mineral Removal.*

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the above resolution is available for review on the Township website, yankeespringstwp.org, and at the Township Offices at 284 N. Briggs Road, Middleville MI, 49333.

YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Rob Heethuis, Supervisor
Tom Hopkins, Clerk
Yankee Springs Township Hall
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Middleville, MI 49333
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SYNOPSIS
VILLAGE OF MIDDLEVILLE, MICHIGAN
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
March 25, 2025

The regular meeting of the Village Council of Middleville, Michigan, was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Kevin Smith. Present: Bishop, Gillhespy, Hamilton, Osterbaan, Peters, and Williams. Absent: None

ACTIONS TAKEN

1. Motion by Peters, seconded by Hamilton, to approve the agenda as amended adding to Reserved Time item (c) Independence Day Fireworks. Voice Vote: All Yeas. **Motion Passe**d
2. Motion by Hamilton, seconded by Peters, to approve the Consent Agenda as printed.
   a. Approval of Minutes for the Regular Council Meeting of March 11, 2025
   b. Approval of Bills as of March 19, 2025, for $111,874.33
   Roll Call Vote: All Yeas. **Motion Passed**
3. Motion by Peters, seconded by Williams, to approve the DDA Riverbank Music Series Event for June 6, 2025 through August 29, 2025. Voice Vote: All Yeas. **Motion Passed**
4. Motion by Hamilton, seconded by Peters, to approve Resolution 25-05 Temporarily Suspend Enforcement of Certain Provisions of the Village Ordinance. Roll Call Vote: All Yeas. **Motion Passed**
5. Motion by Peters, seconded by Williams, to approve Resolution 25-04 Exemption of Fees for Peddlers, Vendors, Transient Merchants and Solicitors. Roll Call Vote: All Yeas. **Motion Passed**
6. Motion by Peters, seconded by Bishop, to approve Resolution 25-06 Decertify 85' of Arlington Court from the Village of Middleville. Roll Call Vote: All Yeas. **Motion Passed**
7. Motion by Peters, seconded by Gillhespy, to approve Resolution 25-07 Certify 245' of Arlington Court into the Village of Middleville. Roll Call Vote: All Yeas. **Motion Passed**
8. Motion by Peters, seconded by Gillhespy, to rescind Resolution 25-01. Roll Call Vote: All Yeas. **Motion Passed**
9. Motion by Williams, seconded by Bishop, to approve Resolution 25-08 Local Unit of Government Match with Donated Funds. Roll Call Vote: All Yeas. **Motion Passed**
10. Motion by Hamilton, seconded by Gillhespy, to approve Village of Middleville Personnel Policies dated March 25, 2025. Roll Call Vote: All Yeas. **Motion Passed**
11. Motion by Hamilton, seconded by Smith, to apply delinquent utility bills, as of December 31,2024, on in-active non-owner-occupied accounts, and to apply delinquent utility bills, as of December 31, 2024 on active accounts to 2025 tall roll per Chapter 70 of the Village Code o Ordinances. Roll Call Vote: All Yeas. **Motion Passed**
12. Motion by Williams, seconded by Peters, to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 pm. Voice Vote: All Yeas. **Motion Passed**

Respectfully submitted: Rhonda Van Polen, Village Clerk, Village of Middleville

The complete text of the minutes is posted on the Village Website http://villageofmiddleville.org or may be read at the Village Hall between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm, Monday through Thursday and 8:00 am-noon on Friday.

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.

Soccer squad working to fill holes from graduations

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Caledonia varsity girls' soccer team has a few days to prep yet for its OK Green Conference opener.

The Caledonia girls are 2-3 already this spring having scored a 1-0 win over former OK Red Conference foe Hudsonville April 1, before heading into spring break. The Scots travel to Reeths-Puffer to open the conference season Tuesday, April 15.

The Scots will be home to take on Jenison in a conference match Thursday, April 17, and then will be back at Scotland Yard Saturday, April 19, for a non-conference match with Grand Ledge.

The Hudsonville team the Scots beat by a goal to start the month was one that the Scots upset in the MHSAA Division 1 District Finals a year ago.



Joslynn Wilcox

Coach Taylor Kastens was a part of that squad

See **SQUAD** on 20

GAINES CHARTER TOWNSHIP

NOTICE
PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Public Accuracy test for the May 6, 2025 Special Election will be conducted on Tuesday, April 22, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the Gaines Township Community Room, lower level, located at 8555 Kalamazoo Ave SE., Gaines Township, Michigan

The Public Accuracy test is conducted to demonstrate that the program and computers that will be used to tabulate the results of the election have been prepared in accordance with law.

Michael Brew, Clerk
Gaines Charter Township

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Youth movement happening for CHS girls' lacrosse

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

It's a young roster for the Caledonia varsity girls' lacrosse team this spring.

The Fighting Scots have seven freshmen on the roster and nine sophomores. Head coach Kendra Venema said she has a handful of girls in the program who have never played lacrosse before.

Things are going okay so far for the young Scots. They're 1-3 overall this season, but went into spring break on a good note thanks to a 16-9 win at Zeeland East March 31.

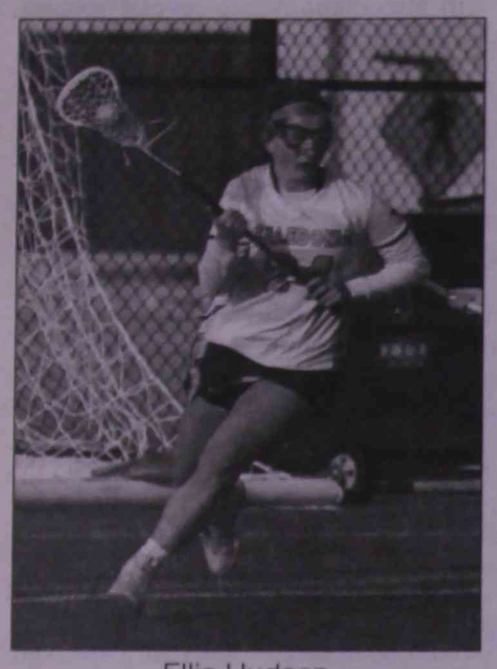
The Caledonia girls return to action at Mattawan Tuesday, April 15, and then will be home at Scotland Yard for matches with West Ottawa April 16 and Lowell April 18.

There are some good senior leaders back for the Scots. The team has senior goalkeeper Alivia Neubauer-Keyes back in net and she already celebrated her 200th varsity save this spring.

The Scots have seniors Ellie Hudson and Mya Burgess back on the attack along with Kenna VanLente and also returns seniors Ella Rounds and Elena LaFranca.

Caelyn Crocker, Vivian Fink, Tessa DeYoung, Morgan Barthel, Keira Paalman, Ella Ganzevoort and Jennifer Schiefla are all sophomores who were on the varsity squad as freshmen last spring.

The freshman group for the Scots includes Kelsie Baker, Rylee Bos, Ashlyn Crocker, Lilliana Klein, Mallory Graham and Quinn Ziegler.



Ellie Hudson

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KENT COUNTY DRAIN COMMISSIONER
NOTICE DAY OF REVIEW OF APPORTIONMENTS AND REVIEW OF DRAINAGE DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

DATE: Thursday, April 24, 2025
TIME: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Kent County Drain Commissioner's Office, 775 Ball Ave NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503
QUESTIONS: (616) 632-7910

The Kent County Drain Commissioner will hold a Day of Review of Apportionments and Review of Drainage District Boundaries on the above date, time, and location. The Day of Review is an opportunity to review the tentative apportionments of benefit for each parcel and municipality within the drainage districts. Maps of the proposed drainage district boundary revisions can be found on the Drain Commissioner's website at: https://www.kentcountymi.gov/817/Drain-Commiossioner under Petition Projects and Notices.

A general description of the lands by section number proposed to be added or deleted from the drainage district, as recommended by a licensed professional engineer or surveyor for the drain, is as follows:

Drain	Municipalities	Portions of Sections Added	Portions of Sections Removed
EMMONS LAKE	GAINES CHARTER TOWNSHIP	13,24, 25	-
	CALEDONIA CHARTER TOWNSHIP	8,9,16-21, 28-30, 32-33	20-21, 28-30, 32-33
	VILLAGE OF CALEDONIA	20, 29	20, 29

The Drain Commissioner, engineers and/or other staff members will be available to assist individuals throughout the day and make revisions to the boundaries or apportionments where necessary. There is no need to schedule an appointment for a specific time on the Day of Review. The computation of costs for the drains will also be available at the Day of Review. Drain assessments are collected in the same manner as property taxes and will appear on your winter tax bill. If drain assessments are being collected for more than one (1) year, you may pay the assessment in full with any interest to date at any time and avoid further interest charges.

Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in the Day of Review should contact the Drain Commissioner's Office at the number noted above (voice) or through the Michigan Relay Center at 7-1-1 (TDD) at least 24 hours in advance of the Day of Review to request mobility, visual, hearing, or other assistance.

Comments on the apportionment of benefits and drainage district boundaries may be submitted to the Drain Commissioner in writing before the date of the Day of Review to 775 Ball Ave NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503, or electronically to drinfo@kentcountymi.gov . Comments may also be submitted in writing or verbally at the Day of Review. Comments submitted in advance must be received by the Drain Commissioner prior to the Day of Review to ensure consideration.

You may appeal the Drain Commissioner's decision to revise the district boundaries to the Kent County Circuit Court within ten (10) days, and you may also appeal the determination of apportionments to the Kent County Probate Court within ten (10) days.

The following is a list of any county, township, city, and village to be assessed at large in Kent County in the drainage district: **Gaines Charter Township, Caledonia Charter Township, Village of Caledonia**

The following is a description of the lands constituting the drainage district:

Emmons Lake Drain: Sec 13, 24, 25, T5N, R11W, Gaines Charter Township, Sec 7-9, 16-21, 28-30, 32-33, T5N., R10W, Caledonia Charter Township, Sec 20, 29, T5N, R10W, Village of Caledonia, Kent County, Michigan

The following additional information can be found on the Drain Commissioner's website at https://www.kentcountymi.gov/817/Drain-Commissioner under Petition Projects and Notices

- A map of the lands constituting the drainage district
- The Notice of Letting that includes:
  - Number and length of sections, the average width of each section, and if the drain will be closed, the amount and specifications for all tile or pipe required;
  - Location, number, type and size of culverts or bridges to be installed; if any; and
  - Conditional upon with the contract will be awarded.

Dated: April 2, 2025 Kenneth J. Yonker, Kent County Drain Commissioner

TENNIS

Continued from Page 7

Scots have senior Sawyer Mertz and sophomore Anna Homrich. Mertz joins Teunessen as a team captain this spring. Both Mertz and Homrich were in the varsity doubles line-up in 2024 as were seniors Zoe Fleming and Hailey Markwat who are teamed up at number two for the second year in a row.

"We had to try a lot of different combinations to come up with the final [doubles] line-up," Wilson said after an early season victory over Thornapple Kellogg. "We have kids that haven't played together. This year, a couple JV players made it. That has been good. Emery [James] playing with Kebe [Fitzell] at third doubles, Emery is a freshman, so they're still getting used to each other. I think that is going to be a good combination. I think the doubles line-up is going to be pretty solid all the way through."

Fitzell, a junior, and James are filling the third doubles spot while juniors Maya White and Hellen Komera take over at number four doubles.

Komera is up from the JV a year ago, and Wilson said he expects fellow juniors Molly Liggett and Chelsea Tran to get some time at fifth doubles when needed.

The Scots are 1-2 in duals so far this season. They jump right into the OK Green Conference action here after break with a dual at Byron Center Monday, April 14. The Scots will got to East Kentwood for a match Tuesday, take on Reeths-Puffer at a conference dual in Caledonia Wednesday and then head back to East Kentwood for a tournament Saturday, April 19.

LOCAL CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

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

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

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

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

HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH
9669 Kraft Ave., Caledonia
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www.holyfamilycaledonia.org
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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



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

Plant-based cooking class scheduled for April 27

Area residents will hear from plant-based cookbook author and national board-certified health and wellness coach JoAnn Rachor at a plant-based cooking class later this month. The free class will be held Sunday, April 27, from 3 to 5 p.m.

Rachor will take attendees through engaging cooking demonstrations, complete with tasty food samples. She will also demonstrate several recipes from both of her cookbooks.

All those who attend the class will receive a free copy of one of Rachor's books.

The class will be held at the Hastings SDA Elementary School at 888 Terry Lane in Hastings.

This event is sponsored through the Hastings Seventh-day Adventist Church health ministry department.

More information and registration can be found by texting or calling Janice Cleary at 269-804-9959. — *MM*

MIDDLEVILLE

Continued from Page 2

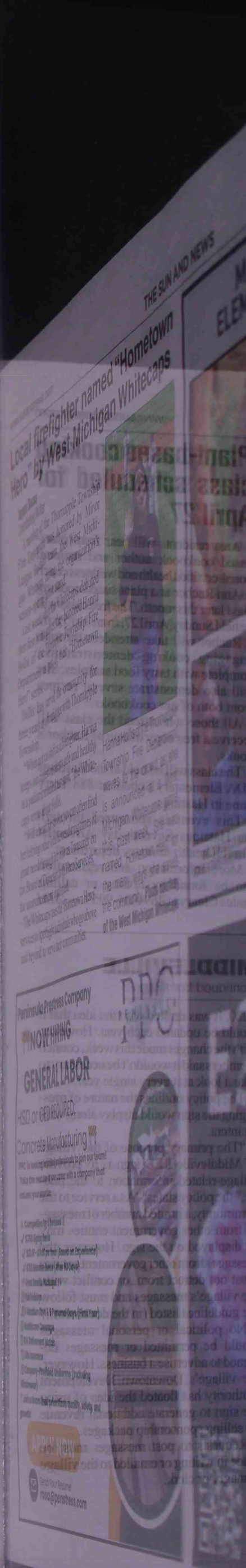
2020. It was drafted with the idea that it would be updated each year. However, with the changes made this week, council members said it wouldn't be necessary to take a look at it every single year.

The policy outlines the nature of messaging the sign would display along with its intent.

"The primary purpose of the Village of Middleville LED sign is to provide village-related information to the public," the policy states. "As a service to the community, a limited number of messages from other government entities may be displayed on the sign. However, the messages from other government entities must not detract from, or conflict with, the village's messages and must follow the guidelines listed (in the document)."

No political or personal messages would be permitted or messages designed to advertise a business. However, the village's Downtown Development Authority has floated the idea of using the sign to generate additional revenue by selling sponsorship packages.

Requests to post messages must be made in writing or emailed to the village manager or clerk.



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Local firefighter named "Hometown Hero" by West Michigan Whitecaps

Jayson Bussa
Contributing Writer

A member of the Thornapple Township Fire Department was honored by Minor League Baseball team the West Michigan Whitecaps during the organization's season-opening home stand.

Last week, when the Whitecaps debuted their first home games, they honored Hanna Hollis of the Thornapple Township Fire Department as part of their "Hometown Hero" series.

Hollis has served the community for three years as a firefighter with Thornapple Township.

"When not on shift as a firefighter, Hanna keeps our tiniest residents safe and healthy as a pediatric medical assistant," the Whitecaps wrote about Hollis.

"With a heart for service, you can often find her helping other local heroes during times of great need through her role as Treasurer on the Board of Directors with Hero Services," the announcement continued.

The Whitecaps uses the "Hometown Hero" services to spotlight individuals who go above and beyond to serve their communities.



Hanna Hollis of the Thornapple Township Fire Department waves to the crowd as she is announced at a West Michigan Whitecaps game this past week. She was named "Hometown Hero" for the many ways she serves the community. **Photo courtesy of the West Michigan Whitecaps**

MARGERY MARTIN ELEMENTARY TREE FUND





DELTON KELLOGG EDUCATION FOUNDATION

How to Plant a Forest

Arbor Day is a special day at Delton Kellogg Elementary thanks to beloved educator, Mrs. Martin. Her legacy provides white pine saplings to every student to plant and enjoy. Started in 2010, this fund now boasts thousands of trees, some of which could be over 30 feet tall by now.

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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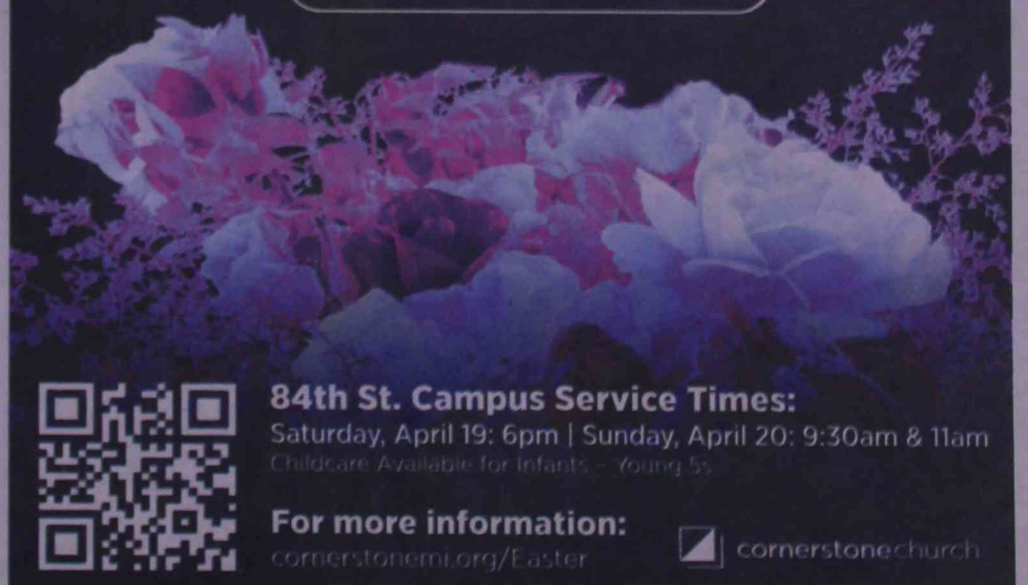
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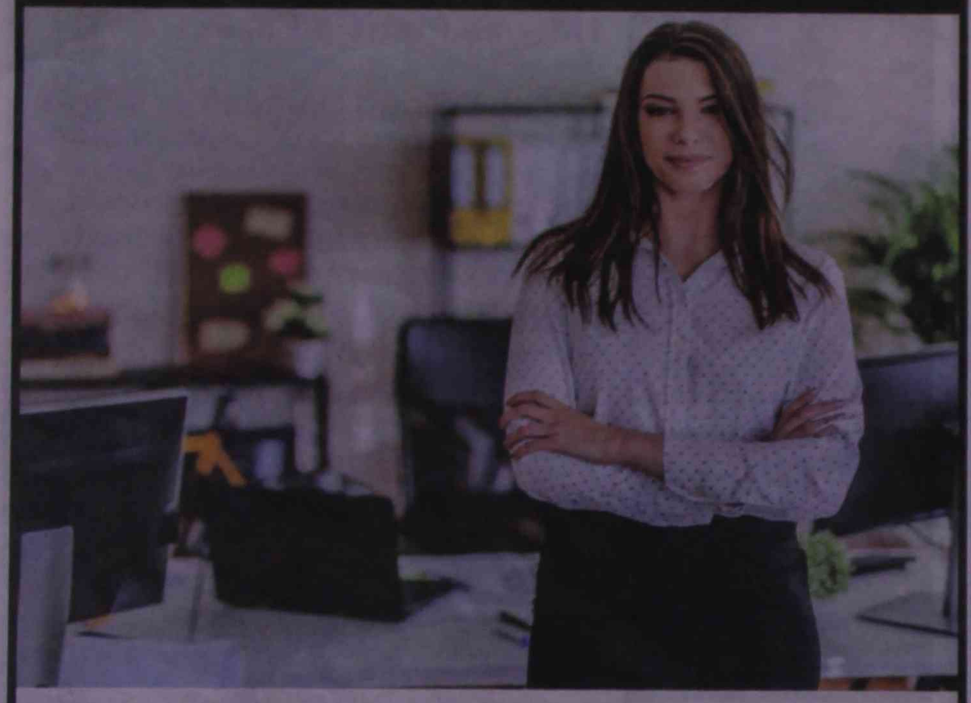
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84th St. Campus Service Times:
Saturday, April 19: 6pm | Sunday, April 20: 9:30am & 11am
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- Oxford Leader
- Lake Orion Review
- Clarkston News
- The Citizen
- The Lowell Ledger
- The Hastings Banner
- Buyer's Guide & News
- Ad-Visor & Chronicle
- Battle Creek Shopper News
- The Sun and News
- The Reminder

SQUAD

Continued from Page 16

as an assistant coach, and she is back for a fourth season with the team but now as the head coach.

Overall that Caledonia team was 9-6-2 a year ago.

The top performers back from that squad include senior center midfielder Josie Wilcox, senior forward Laney Elles, junior forward Baylee Devries and sophomore defender Averi Rosted.

Coach Kastens really likes her team's chemistry so far in the early season and sees a depth of talent that will help make the squad successful. That depth has been boosted by some young additions to the program like sophomore defender Kayla Briseno and freshman defender Myla Gortmaker.

Overall, the team does have a bit of inexperience on the varsity level though. One of the big things the Scots have to work on as they move forward is the ability to finish on the offensive end.

Coach Kastens said really this is a season that brings a mix of excitement and challenges.

"We're adjusting to the loss of several key players due to graduation and injuries," Karstens said. "If we can stay healthy, we have the potential to be very dynamic. Our lineup has plenty of depth, which will help keep us competitive throughout the season. With the strong opponents we face this spring, we'll be battle-tested and well-prepared for playoffs. We're confident in having a successful season, with several players steeping up to take on crucial roles.

"We expect to be competitive in every game, though we need to focus on finishing games and staying organized– something our young back line is still learning. There will be highs and lows, and not everything will go our way, but our ultimate goal is to compete for hardware in the OK Green and the post-season."

She said she sees Byron Center and Mona Shores as the top contenders for a conference crown.

Easter Services

Sunday, April 20
9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

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