THE SUN AND NEWS
Your Hometown Newspaper Serving the Middleville, Caledonia and Gaines Township Areas

SCOTS AND SAILORS PLAY TO DRAW, REMAIN SECOND IN GREEN
PAGE 11



NO. 54 SATURDAY, MAY 3, 2025 www.sunandnews.com

TK Schools interim superintendent resigns

Karen Turko-Ebright
Staff Writer

Despite selecting its next permanent leader this week, Thornapple Kellogg Schools is currently operating without a superintendent after interim superintendent Tom Enslen announced his immediate resignation on Monday.

In an email to the Thornapple Kellogg Schools Board of Education Monday morning, Enslen announced that he was stepping down as TKS interim superintendent. The following email is from Enslen.

"I am stepping down as your interim superintendent, effective immediately. The current state of our governance team (school board and superintendent) is dysfunctional, and I don't feel supported enough to continue in this regard," Enslen said. "I truly have enjoyed my return here, and it's been wonderful rekindling relationships and making new friends. This is a great district, and I hope your new superintendent will love this place as much as I do. I am forever grateful for the opportunity I have been afforded, and I wish you all the best. Warmest regards, Tom."

The TK Board of Education approved a contract with Enslen to begin serving the TK district January 1, 2025, after Superintendent Craig McCarthy announced his retirement last December.

BOE Vice President Derrick Brock said in response to Enslen's email that Rob Pouch, the district's newly named school superintendent, will start his position in two months.

"The school board is excited to welcome its new leader and is looking forward to a bright future ahead," Brock said.

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Over 60 people showed up Tuesday at second-round interviews for a new superintendent inside the Thornapple Kellogg Early Childhood Center on Bender Road in Middleville.

TK Schools selects Pouch as new superintendent

Karen Turko-Ebright
Staff Writer

After a months-long search process, Thornapple Kellogg Schools has named Rob Pouch as its next superintendent.

Pouch served as the superintendent of Morrice Area Schools for the last five years and as the principal at Linden Middle School from 2017 to 2021.

After the first round of superintendent interviews last month, Pouch remained a candidate, moving into second-round interviews at Tuesday, April 29's meeting.

After candidates answered numerous questions, TKS Board of Education President Dave Smith polled seven board members, including himself, to decide between Pouch and fellow candidate Bill Crane. While three board members raised their hands for Crane, four other hands tipped the scale in favor of Pouch.

"I am thrilled and excited to join the TK community. I'm looking forward to working with their board, staff and community to ensure the students of TK are college, career and world ready,"

See **POUCH** on 2

Caledonia Community Schools urging voters to approve millage renewal Tuesday

Hunter McLaren
Contributing Writer

Caledonia Community Schools board members urged voters to approve the district's non-homestead millage renewal request at the ballot box next week.

All districts in Michigan are required to levy 18 mills on non-homestead properties to receive their full per-pupil funding from the state. Unlike a bond proposal, the non-homestead millage funds go directly to the school's operating budget and pay for things like staff salaries, student programs and other day-to-day operating costs. As a non-homestead tax, the millage will not affect homeowners — it will primarily affect businesses and rental properties.

Board president Tim Morris stressed the importance of the millage to the district during the board meeting last week.

"This is a big deal. It's 22 percent of our budget, nearly $16 million," he said. "We're here because of how the state funds this portion of schools. We didn't create it, we didn't want it this way, but we're dealing with what we have here."

"Not passing this would be catastrophic and devastating to the immediate school year. I cannot tell you how important it is to pass the operating millage," Morris said.

Tuesday's special election comes as the district is nearing

See **MILLAGE** on 3



Rob Pouch was named the new superintendent of Thornapple Kellogg Schools at the end of second-round interviews on Tuesday, April 29. **Photos by Karen Turko-Ebright**

POUCH

Continued from Page 1

Pouch told *The Sun and News*. He and his family are already in the transition of relocating back to West Michigan.

"We had two quality candidates, and the decision was very difficult to choose between the two, but ultimately the majority favored Rob," Smith said.

Other board members echoed Smith, including BOE Vice President Derrick Brock, who said during the community meet-and-greet and the candidates' tour of the school district on Monday, he had a chance to talk to administrators. He said he heard a common theme about both candidates.

"Some administrators said they did not think we could go wrong, that these candidates are fantastic," Brock said. "Thank you to those who have come before us and helped lay the foundation to make the district attractive and pull in these candidates."

Pouch said he is grateful to the community and the school board for their support.

"We recently sold our house in Howell, Michigan, and are fortunate to have a summer cottage in Ottawa County where we can reside until we can find what we are looking for in TK," Pouch explained. "My wife and I have five kids; we just sold a 30-acre hobby farm."

TK Schools has been searching for its next superintendent since former superintendent Craig McCarthy retired at the end of last year.

Pouch will start his role as superintendent on July 1.

A fun fundraiser



The Caledonia Women's Club hosted its third annual Bunco Fundraiser at the Holy Family Catholic Parrish in Caledonia on Saturday, April 26. About 60 members of the women's club reportedly came together to enjoy an evening of Bunco, refreshments, prizes and fun. According to club members, they appreciated all of the support they received locally, especially from Caledonia's business community. **Courtesy photo**

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Gaines voters to decide on operating millage renewals

James Gemmell
Contributing Writer

Two school-related proposals will appear on Tuesday's special election ballot in Gaines Charter Township.

Both requests are for the renewal of the non-homestead operating millage in the Caledonia Community Schools district and for the Kentwood Public Schools, respectively.

"This renewal is vital to maintain critical funding for student programs, staffing, school safety, and essential services," according to a statement on the Caledonia Schools website.

It states that the operating funds account for about 22 percent of the district's operating budget. The Caledonia district held a series of public informational sessions about the ballot proposal in March and April at its administration office and at the Caledonia Resource Center.

All school districts in Michigan are required to levy 18 mills to receive full per-pupil funding from the state's foundation allowance. The tax does not apply to a homeowner's primary residence. But it applies to non-homestead properties, including businesses, rental properties, and vacation homes.

In-precinct and absentee ballot voting are available for the May 6 election.

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1351 N. M-43 Hwy.
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Gaines officials discuss township's priorities at special board meeting

James Gemmell
Contributing Writer

Members of the Gaines Township Board of Trustees are trying to distill some general ideas and preferences for the township's future growth into a concrete list of priorities they could soon begin to act upon.

The board held a two-hour special township board meeting on April 28 that ended with trustees ranking their individual priorities by applying sticky notes to eight large poster boards set up in the lower-level conference room at the township hall.

The posters listed various categories for discussion and mentioned preliminary recommendations that came out of township committee meetings. The categories included a township vision statement, affordable housing, the township's promotional brand, priorities for Prairie Wolf Park, potential upgrades for the Gaines Township branch of the Kent District Library, potentially adding more parks and trails, and upgrading public safety.

Gaines Township Supervisor Bob Terpstra asked trustees to initial the sticky notes and put them on items they think deserve top priority. Terpstra said the composite ranking of each item will be disclosed at the township board's May 12 meeting.

The first poster was about developing a township vision statement. The next focused on housing priorities and the right term to use. For example, whether to use the phrase "affordable housing" or "synchronist housing."

"Whatever happened to 'accessible housing'?" said Trustee Rob DeWard. "This is for the public.

"You're going to have to define synchronist housing. I'm a college graduate and I've never heard of that word before."

Terpstra said the term "accessible housing" often takes on the connotation of being ADA-compliant.

"Accessible kind of implies that you want to aim to provide housing for everybody over several different income levels," added Dakota Swan, assistant township planner. "This is my personal opinion. I think housing is a human right. I think everybody should have a place to go and sleep at night."

Trustee Dan Fryling disagreed with the idea that everyone is entitled to housing.

"I believe that people deserve a house, as long as they're willing to work for it," he said.

Treasurer Laurie Lemke said affordable housing may be difficult to find in Gaines Township.

Township officials questioned whether what could be done to address housing, and whether the township could retain its rural, agricultural heritage at the same time.

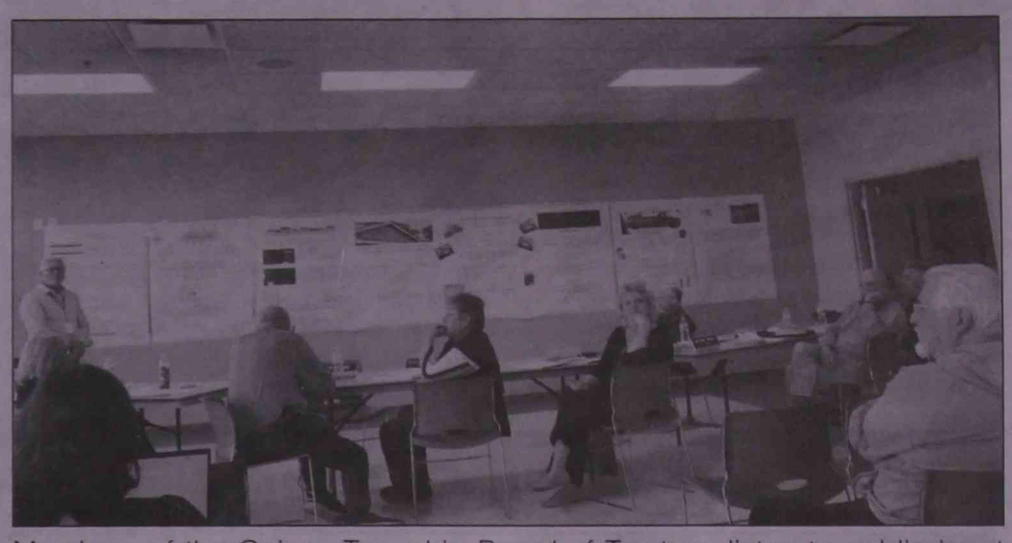
"I would be disappointed if we had all kinds of affordable housing in the $200,000 range, if there was too much of that," said Brad Waayenberg, a member of the Gaines Township Planning Commission. "Because once you cheapen down an area … it just waters it down for everybody."

He added the area south of 76th Street in the township should be kept more rural.

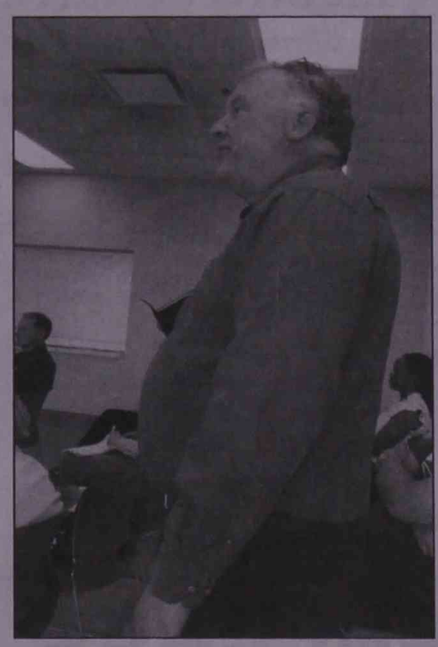
"This is why people move here," Waayenberg said.

Gaines Parks & Trails Committee member Brian Diemer agreed, adding the township should preserve what it

See **GAINES** on 8



Members of the Gaines Township Board of Trustees listen to public input during a special meeting April 28 in the lower level of the township hall.



Brad Waayenberg, a member of the Gaines Township Planning Commission, speaks to the board of trustees from the audience section.

MILLAGE

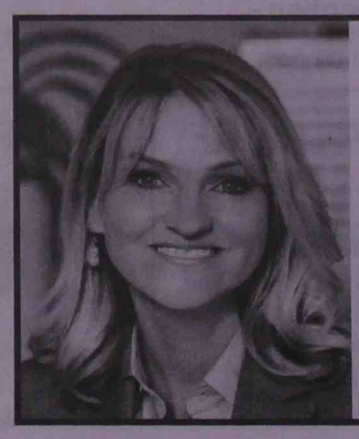
Continued from Page 1

the completion of its 2023 bond proposal project. Board members said they were pushing back ratifying bonds for the final projects in the proposal in an effort to get as much value for the district as possible in a volatile market. Superintendent Dirk Weeldreyer said the district would be working with financial advisors on a daily basis to achieve the best possible outcome.

"Investors become reluctant to jump into the bond market when interest rates could go up the next day. It's kind of a waiting game right now," Weeldreyer said. "We will do the best we can for the taxpayers, which is to hold off on this and watch market conditions and strike when it is best and most advantageous for us."


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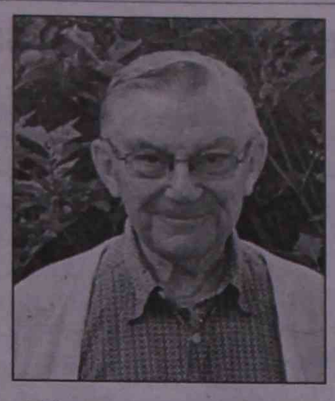
Obituaries

John Herman Miedema

John Herman Miedema, age 97, of Caledonia, MI was received into the arms of his Lord on Saturday, April 26, 2025, surrounded by his loving family.

He will be lovingly remembered by his children, Bob and Barb Miedema, and Al and Linda Miedema; his grandchildren, Brian and Karen Miedema, Melissa and Eric Reitsma, Rob and Mary Miedema, Brent and Kathy Miedema, Rachel and Andrew Weaver, Emily Miedema, Nicole Murphy, Phil and Andrea Miedema, Joy Miedema, and Tricia Miedema. John was blessed with 25 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild. He is also survived by his siblings, Louis Miedema, Art and Wilma Miedema, Ida Westendorp, and Jim and Marie Miedema. He is remembered by many nieces and nephews.

John was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 67 years, Carol Miedema; his daughter, Cheryl Miedema; his siblings and in-laws, Janet and Jay Wiersma, Ken and Wilma Miedema, Florence Miedema, Ed Westendorp, Judy and Wayne VanHouten, Marge and Roger DeMann, Marilyn and Frank DeJong.



John was a faithful member of Trinity United Reformed Church. He had a steadfast faith, which remained strong throughout his life. A special thanks goes to Steve Huisijen and family who faithfully picked him up each Sunday so he could continue to attend worship in his later years.

The family greeted relatives and friends on Thursday, May 1, at Trinity United Reformed Church, 7350 Kalamazoo Ave. SE followed by the funeral and committal service with Rev. James Admiraal officiating. Interment at Dutton Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to The Esther School, (www.estherschool.org).

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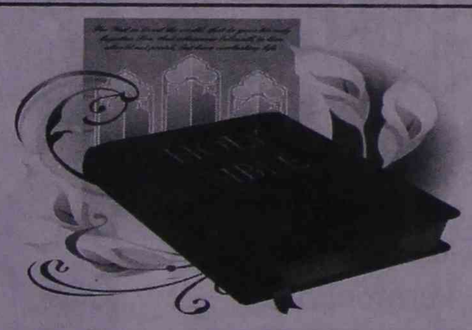
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MIDDLEVILLE TOPS 546

The April 28 meeting opened with roll call and the secretary's report. There are two new fish in the fishbowl; one fish jumped out.

This week, the chapter held its awards ceremony. Maryellen was the winner for Division 3 with a 26.6-pound loss for 2023. She also received an award for a perfect resume for 2024. Sue was the winner for Division 3 with a 16.4-pound loss for 2024. Linda was acknowledged for her hard work and great attendance. All winners received petunia plants. Virginia was given a mixed bouquet of flowers for being a good leader. A small celebration was then held.

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.

The chapter is looking for anyone interested in a group that supports weight-loss journeys without any shame.

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

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THE SUN AND NEWS
VIEW Newspaper Group

Twp. planning commission approves StoneCo operating plan

James Gemmell
Contributing Writer

Middleville-based paving materials supplier StoneCo has received the go-ahead from the Gaines Township Planning Commission to implement its 2025 operating plan.

Planning Commission members voted, 6-0, at their April 24 meeting to approve the annual plan with some conditions. One commissioner was absent from the meeting held at the township hall.

As part of a township ordinance stipulation, the Planning Commission must review the company's mining operations each year near 100th Street and Kalamazoo Avenue.

StoneCo, also known as Michigan Materials & Aggregate Co., is a subsidiary of global building products company CRH. It mines crushed limestone, sand and gravel that is used to supply state and local road commissions with paving materials.

The company had applied to the township to conduct additional filling operations in the gravel pit area of the Barnaby parcel, which is just east of Kalamazoo Avenue and south of 100th Street. StoneCo previously completed all mining on the site and is currently working on reclamation of the pit.

"They are having to recondition it and get it back into restorative shape," said Dan Wells, Gaines Township Community Development director.

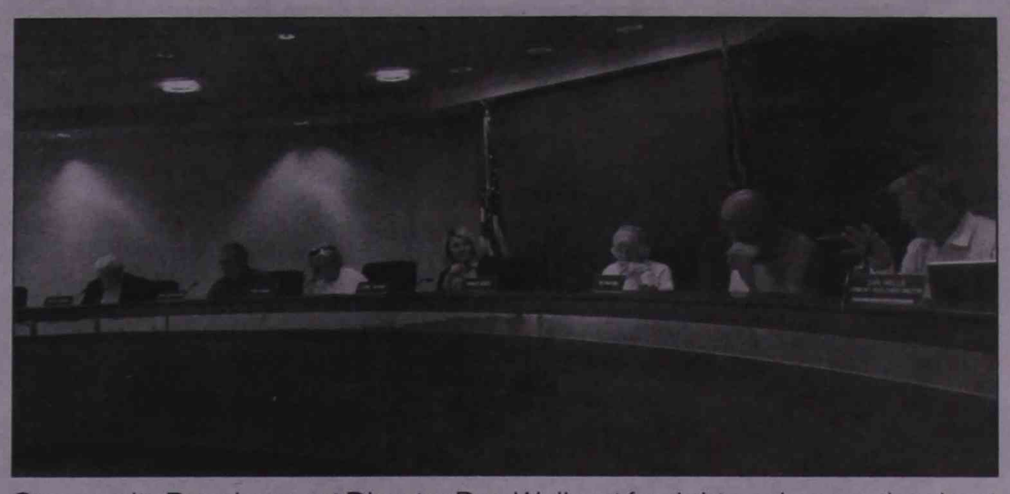
The annual review is for the 72-acre site at 1856 100th St. SE.

StoneCo will work with contracting company Kamminga & Roodvoets (K&R) to bring between 100,000 and 200,000 cubic yards of clean fill for placement along the south road frontage of 100th Street, east of Kalamazoo Avenue. According to township staffers, a level area will be created that could potentially be used for building homes.

"We don't need this to meet our reclamation requirements. It's strictly additional," said Garrett Singer, an assistant operations manager with StoneCo.

Singer said the clean fill is sand and gravel that will be coming from the US-131 rebuilding project in Byron Township between 76th and 100th streets. K&R truck traffic already has been driving down 100th Street for years to a separate StoneCo project site west of Peas Avenue.

"So, they're really just driving a little bit further (east) down the road across Kalamazoo and into the Barnaby pit," Wells said.



Community Development Director Dan Wells, at far right, makes a point about the StoneCo project at the April planning commission meeting.



This map shows where StoneCo is conducting operations along 100th Street in Gaines Township, east of Kalamazoo Avenue. **Source: gainestownship.org**

"We're going to bring the material in off from 100th Street," Singer added. "Our driveway's going to have two entrances. We've already been approved by the (Kent County) Road Commission. It's going to be a one-way drive. So, they'll enter on the west side and exit on the east side."

Township planners figure that will mean about 10 to 20 trucks will be making the rounds there on most days. Bulldozers and other construction vehicles will be spreading the soil around and compacting it.

Township staffers said StoneCo will also need to secure environmental permits from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

Wells said StoneCo approached township officials three months ago about the proposed project. They discussed it with the township engineer, who will inspect the fill material on site to make sure that it is free of debris.

The township's Sand & Gravel subcommittee reviewed the proposal, as well, and made a positive recommendation to the Planning Commission.

"We thought it was a pretty reasonable proposal, that they would bring in clean fill and compact it so that the edge of 100th Street could potentially become usable space," Wells said. "Right now, it's just sloped down from the road right of way.

"So, it might end up with some build-

See **PLAN** on 9

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Arts grant applications due May 20

The GFWC-Gun Lake Women's Club is once again offering Summer Arts Experience grants to high schoolers in the Gun Lake area. Applications for the grants are being accepted now through May 20.

Each year, the Gun Lake Women's Club offers financial help to incoming ninth- through 12th-graders in area districts for theatrical, musical, creative movement/dance, literary and visual arts programs. The Summer Arts Experience grants can help fund experiences like theater camps and other creative arts programming.

High school students at Delton Kellogg Schools, Thornapple Kellogg Schools, Martin Public Schools, and Wayland Union Schools are eligible for the grants.

Applications for the Summer Arts Experience grants are due by May 20. Students can apply for the grants at barrycf.org. Anyone with questions about the application process is asked to contact Annie Halle at annie@barrycf.org or call 269-945-0526. — *MM*

Kellogg Bird Sanctuary offers free admission for moms on Mother's Day



The W.K. Kellogg Bird Sanctuary is once again offering free admission to moms this Mother's Day, May 11. **Courtesy photo**

AUGUSTA — Moms can enjoy the spring migration season, along with spring flowers and trees in bloom at the W.K. Kellogg Bird Sanctuary this Mother's Day.

The W.K. Kellogg Bird Sanctuary will continue the tradition of offering free admission to moms on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 11. Sanctuary hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The sanctuary's Storybook Walk title for May is "Mama Built a Little Nest," by Jennifer Ward. Pages from the book will be located along the accessible, ¾-mile paved path to read while walking.

The May theme in the Overlook Building—an indoor space along the paved path—is "Be a Backyard Birder." Visitors can explore the worlds of nature and art through birds and birding-related activities.

The W.K. Kellogg Bird Sanctuary is located at 12685 East C Ave., one mile north of M-89 and just west of 40th Street.

Anyone with questions is asked to contact the Kellogg Bird Sanctuary at birdsanctuary@kbs.msu.edu or 269-671-2510. — *MM*

Blood drive set for May 13 in Caledonia

Participants in a May 13 blood drive may not only help save lives, but they may also set themselves up to win a pair of tickets to a Detroit Tigers MLB game.

According to organizers, the Versiti-Blood Center of Michigan is partnering with Caledonia Community Church to host a blood drive at Holy Family Catholic Parish on Kraft Avenue in Caledonia on Tuesday, May 13, from 1-6:30 pm.

Organizers stated the goal for the upcoming blood drive, which is open to the public, is 55 pints. Anyone 17 or older is eligible to donate blood, and 16-year-olds are eligible to donate with parental permission.

Rules for the sweepstakes for the two tickets to a Tigers ballgame during the current 2025 season may be found online at versiti.org/takemeouttotheballgame.

If interested in donating blood, persons may sign up at versiti.org/ccc or call Char Mello, blood drive chairperson, at 616-901-2803. Donations by appointment are preferred but walk-ins are welcome, as time allows. — *DM*

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Scots rally after falling in finale with Rockets

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

That's why Jason Burghardt likes baseball – at least part of why.

The next chance comes quick.

The chance to earn an OK Green Conference sweep against Reeths-Puffer got away from the Fighting Scot varsity baseball team Thursday, April 24, as it fell at home 8-4 to the Rockets after winning both games of their conference doubleheader in Muskegon two days earlier.

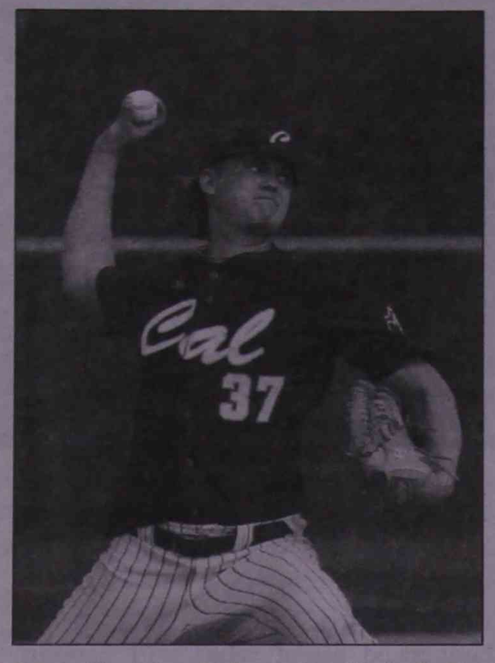
Tomorrow did come quick, and the Scots bounced back to score 5-4 and 11-7 wins over Sparta in a non-conference doubleheader in Caledonia Friday, April 25.

"We just kind of shot our foot on a couple of things, but I still like where we're at," Burghardt said after the loss to the Rockets last Thursday. "It's still early, so I think at this point we're still getting live at-bats there, and reps defensively and still getting work there. I think all the things we need to fix just come with time. You just have to work through it, and hopefully it doesn't cost you a game. If it does, big picture, you're figuring things out the things you need to work on in practice.

"We had a big senior class last year. I feel like we have a handful of new faces there with some pieces that were there before, so you have that little bit of a learning curve. But I really like this group. The nice thing is they're coachable, they do the things they're supposed to do. You can always trust that those things are going to work themselves out sooner rather than later."

The Scots have gotten a good glimpse at what a season of improvement can mean at the end of the year in each of the past two seasons winning district championships and heading to Mt. Pleasant for regional final contests.

The Scots hurt themselves with five errors in the one loss to the Rockets Thursday. Reeths-Puffer built a 6-0 advantage with four runs in the top of the fourth inning. The Scots battled back within



Aryn Taylor pitches for Caledonia during its OK Green Conference contest with visiting Reeths-Puffer Thursday, April 24, in Caledonia.

6-4 with two runs in the home half of the fourth and two more in the bottom of the fifth.

Fighting Scot starting pitcher Aryn Taylor gave up six runs in four innings, but only two of them were earned. He struck out six, walked two and allowed five hits.

"He didn't have his best stuff, but he had enough," Burghardt said of Taylor. "One thing he has gotten better at is striking guys out when he needs to, when there are guys on limiting the damage there. It also helps if we can make a couple more plays behind him. That is a thing that just happens

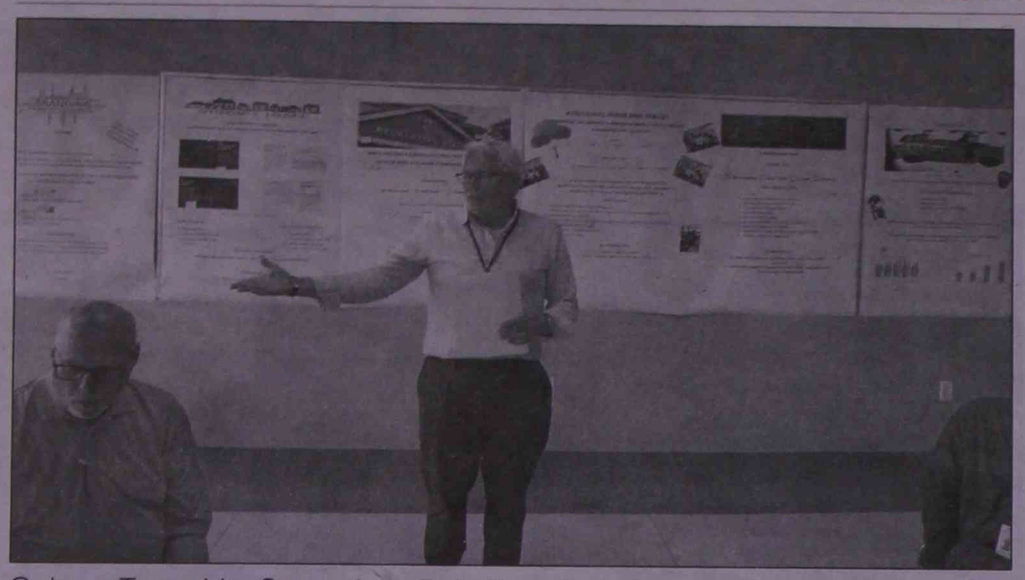
See **SCOTS** on 14



Caledonia head coach Jason Burghardt offers a fist bump to Ethan Sova after he tripled past the Reeths-Puffer center fielder in the bottom of the fifth inning Thursday, April 24, in Caledonia.

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Gaines Township Supervisor Bob Terpstra leads discussion focused on developing a long-range vision for growth in the township at a special meeting of the Gaines Township Board of Trustees on April 28.



Gaines Township Supervisor Bob Terpstra leads discussion focused on developing a long-range vision for growth in the township at a special meeting of the Gaines Township Board of Trustees on April 28. **Photos by James Gemmell**

GAINES

Continued from Page 3

has in the way of a rural feel in certain areas.

"I would encourage that we keep thinking about the heritage, the history," Diemer said. "And celebrate that, don't lose that stuff. And build from there."

As for potentially developing more parks and trails, Terpstra said the township board will be asked at its May 12 meeting whether to adopt a resolution submitted by the Parks & Trails Committee to create a Parks & Grounds Department.

Some of the committee's recommendations include expanding and connecting existing trails, creating and maintaining an all-trails phone app, developing Cody Mills Park on 84th Street, improving the Paul Henry Trailhead and restoring the 138-year-old DeTray School located at the corner of 100th Street and East Paris Avenue. The school is owned by the Gaines Historical Society.

"If the township could somehow regain that property, that would give us another park," Lemke said. "We could also help with that restoration. That school is starting to decay. And it would also preserve our heritage."

"A lot of money is (already) invested in that building," said GHS president Shirley Bruursema. "It's not deteriorating as much as we think."

She added the Michigan Township Association has stated that the township cannot donate money to the school's restoration.

Resident Steve Kornoelje told the board he has been thinking about park development for a long time and the need to acquire land for it.

"If you don't start now, where is the land going to be 10, 15 years from now?" he said. "It's not going to be there (for park space)."

DeWard recommended that the township board put a ballot question to the public on whether to fund the various parks and other improvements through a millage request or a special assessment.

"Let them vote on it," DeWard said. "And then we'll have the money to do it.

"The other thing is we should be making every effort we can to get (state or federal) grants to help us with this. There are sources of funding out there, but we need to pursue them."

In discussing public safety, Township Clerk Michael Brew said he is concerned about more and more crime filtering into the township's neighborhoods, adding the top priority should be to examine why it is happening and to upgrade public safety.

"I know at least three individuals who have moved out of Gaines Township because crime is coming into the neighborhood and they're saying, 'I can't raise a family here because of this,'" Brew said.

Parks & Trails Committee Chairwoman Dana Lehmann said she is concerned about what will happen when all the residents move into the future Prairie Wolf Station town center that is being built on 84th Street across from Prairie Wolf Park. According to Lehmann, there is no entrance gate to keep people out at night.

"It closes at dusk," she said. "Who's going to police it?

The township's deputy fire chief, Justin Holmes, said the department is having difficulty retaining part-time fire staff because they move on to larger cities where firefighting is "more adventurous."

He added state standards require that fire departments have four members on the scene of any fire before they enter a burning structure.

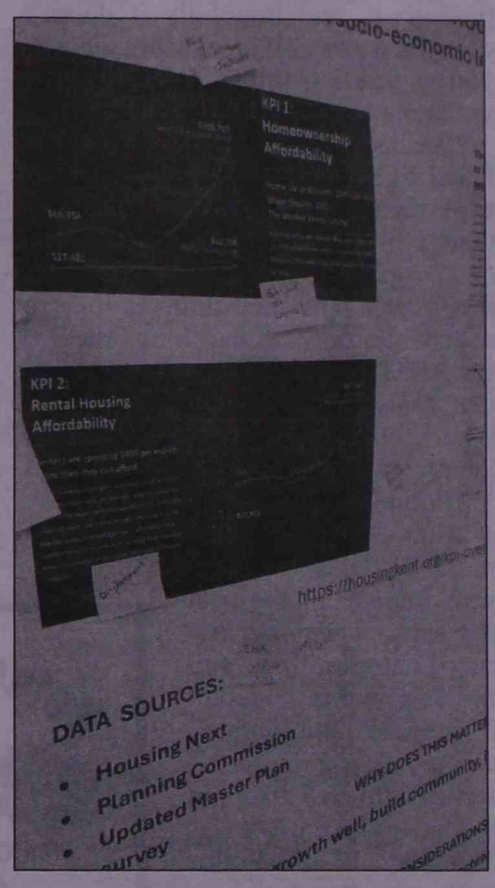
"They should not be arriving on the scene dictating who lives and who gets help in nine minutes," Holmes said. "Fire will not wait for us."

According to Holmes, the department employs plenty of firefighters, but many leave after the township has invested considerable time and money into training them.

Waayenberg suggested a longevity bonus should be made available to the new firefighters to incentivize them to stay on the job for at least five years.

"We don't have a firefighter level in our department," Township Manager Rod Weersing said. "We have engine operators, we have lieutenants and captains. So, we're missing that step, which really comes after the training.

"And that's why we're training people and (then) losing them, because they get a better opportunity than part-time and paid-on-call," he added. "So, that's one of the things we're looking at putting in next year's budget, the firefighter position."



A poster that reflects potential priorities to be considered for the Gaines Township Board when it comes to housing.

PLAN

Continued from Page 5

able parcels. Probably, kind of large lot/rural residential-type structures."

He added that septic systems could be installed at a potential future housing site, negating the need for municipal sanitary sewer pipes to be extended to the site.

The rest of the pit in that location will remain in place.

"I'm fairly confident this should go off without any problems," Wells said.

StoneCo has been mining gravel at four pits on adjacent properties in that vicinity for several years. Currently, the only active site is the Jeplawy parcel at 10287 Kalamazoo Avenue, just south of the Barnaby parcel.

The Planning Commission will conduct a separate review of the 29-acre Jeplawy site later this year, per township ordinance. A PUD rezoning for it was approved in July 2023 for a mine expansion.

A public hearing was held at the April Planning Commission meeting.

"There has not been truck traffic in there (in the past), so it's kind of disappointing to see that that's going to happen," said Kathy VanderStel, who lives near the mining site on Kalamazoo Avenue and is a member of the township board. "I've been assured it's probably just one year that that's happening. So, I think we can live with a year of that going on."

She added the soil on the Barnaby parcel has not been seeded yet and wondered if that could be done soon to control dust from the project. StoneCo officials had stated dust control will be done by water trucks, as needed, and street sweeping will be performed by K&R.

"I'm really concerned about the mud that's going to pile up on 100th Street, because that's sticky stuff, and with the first rain and the trucks rolling out of there," VanderStel said. "But they (StoneCo) have assured me they will keep on top of that with sweepers."

"And they did us, as well, so we're going to hold them to that," Planning Commission Chairwoman Connie Giarmo added.

Singer said he was not sure when StoneCo's contractor was planning to seed the western portion of the property, which will not be touched by the inbound clean fill.

After the public hearing closed, Planning Commissioner Brad Waayenberg suggested that soil-density tests be completed to make sure that it is compact enough to allow for houses to be developed on-site. And, Commissioner Tim Haagsma said a one-year time limit should be placed on the project.



Garrett Singer, StoneCo's assistant operations manager, addresses the Gaines Township Planning Commission at its April 24 meeting. **Photos by James Gemmell**

"K&R's been hauling on Peas Avenue forever, but that's a little different than wanting to keep hauling here," Haagsma said. "I think we should get to a point where we should be done with this. I'm also a little concerned that we don't know when the seeding (will be done).

"Neighbors have to deal with something that has nothing growing on it. And when the wind comes, it's going to blow dust.'

In approving the 2025 operations plan, the Planning Commission added certain conditions, including giving the township engineer the authority to test the compacted soils for density, clean-filling the site during the 2025 calendar year and seeding the property within the first growing period of the spring.

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Sporting News



Caledonia's Molly Lieske knocks a single into center field during game two of her team's OK Green Conference doubleheader with visiting Jenison Tuesday. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

Scot offense quiet in pair with visiting Jenison girls

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Caledonia girls scored once in the first inning and then were held scoreless for the next ten as the Jenison varsity softball team took two wins in Caledonia Tuesday.

The Wildcats outscored the Scots 3-1 in the opener and then earned an 11-2 win in game two.

Wildcat pitcher Claire Meritt held the Scots to two runs on five hits and two walks in game two while striking out ten.

A pitching change didn't help out the Scots too much. Alli Wright threw the opener for the Wildcats. She allowed one run on five hits and four walks while striking out three.

Hudsyn Tanner doubled to lead off the bottom of the first of game one for the Scots. She went to third on a pop out and then raced home on a two-out single by teammate Addy Lash to tie the game at 1-1

Jenison answered right away with a run in the top of the second to go back in front and then tacked on one more run in the top of the fifth.

Lash finished that first ballgame 2-for-3 at the plate. Malia Burke and Maddison Boucher had the only other Caledonia hits.

In game two at the plate, Boucher was 2-for-4 with two RBIs. Tanner and Aliya Hernden both doubled once and Molly Lieske had a single for the Scots.

Lieske threw game one and went the distance in the circle for the Scots and allowed just two earned runs on six hits and three walks. She struck out two.

Addi Veldt threw game two for theScots and was hit for 11 runs, but only five earned. She gave up 12 hits and five walks and struck out eight.

The two losses drop the Scots to 0-5 in the OK Green Conference so far this spring. They were slated to play their third contest with the Wildcats Thursday, May 1, in Jenison.

The Scots have their set with Muskegon next week going on the road for two Tuesday and then playing one in Caledonia Thursday, May 8. The Caledonia girls host their own Fighting Scots Softball Invite Saturday, May 10.



Fighting Scot shortstop Hudsyn Tanner fires to first for an out after knocking a ground ball down and then scooping it up during game two of her team's OK Green doubleheader against visiting Jenison Tuesday in Caledonia

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Scots and Sailors play to draw, remain second in Green

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Bulldogs were the big winners, and they weren't even there.

Caledonia and Mona Shores played to a 1-1 draw at Scotland Yard in Caledonia Tuesday evening. Both teams moved to 3-1-1 in conference play with the draw, putting them a game and a half back of the Byron Center varsity girls' soccer team in the OK Green Conference standings – meaning either team would need help to catch the Bulldogs during the second half of the conference season. Byron Center beat them both during the first run through the slate.

Freshman Olivia Foster scored in the first half to give Caledonia lead Tuesday, but it was short-lived as Mona Shores found the equalizer before the half.

The Fighting Scots had one or two charges on the Sailor goal in the final minutes, but most of the final 20 minutes saw the Sailors on the offensive. Fighting Scot goalkeeper Ella DeRuyter and her defense were able to clear away a handful of Mona Shores corner kicks, and DeRuyter made a solid save on a quick counter attack by the Sailors' Ava Freye who was breaking in on her goal.

Fighting Scot senior back Joslynn Wilcox started one good long surge up for the Scots carrying all the way from her spot in the defensive third to the offensive end where she found teammate Olivia Stauffer open heading to the corner. Stauffer earned a corner kick for the Scots. That corner was directed on net, but saved by the Sailor keeper.

The freshman Stauffer also ripped a shot from the left side that was snagged by the Sailor keeper in the closing minute.

Mona Shores saw its record go to 8-2-1 overall this season.

Caledonia moved its overall record to 5-5-2 overall this season. The Scots were slated to host Reeths-Puffer for another OK Green contest Thursday, May 1. The Scots go to Jenison for a league game Tuesday, May 6, and then will be home for a conference contest with Muskegon Thursday.

The Scots' last win came at Muskegon April 22. Byron Center bested the Scots last Thursday, April; 24, in Byron Center and then the Scots played to a 0-0 draw in a non-conference match with Mattawan Saturday in Caledonia.



Caledonia senior Delaney Ellese (9) heads the ball away from Mona Shores' Makinley Younts during their OK Green Conference match Tuesday evening at Scotland Yard in Caledonia. **Photos by Brett Bremer**



Fighting Scot goalkeeper Ella DeRuyter gets off her line to punch away a Mona Shores corner kick from above the Sailors' Makinley Younts (8) and Olivia Naylor (25) during the second half Tuesday at Scotland Yard in Caledonia.

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- Buyer's Guide & News
- Ad-Visor & Chronicle
- Battle Creek Shopper News
- The Sun and News
- The Reminder

Wildcat softball shuts out TK ladies twice in Middleville

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Trojans took a Saturday off for prom, but will host their second Saturday tournament in three weeks today, May 3, in Middleville.

The Thornapple Kellogg varsity softball team will be looking to bounce back after two tough OK Gold Conference losses against visiting Wayland Wednesday evening in Middleville.

The TK ladies were bested 9-0 in game one and then 11-0 in game two, a contest that ended in a walk-off home run by the Wildcats' Madi Ludema in the bottom of the fifth.

Anna Romph was 2-for-2 at the top of the line-up for TK in that second game and Kylee Hoebeke and Adelaide Holderman both singled once. Wildcat pitcher Harmony Laker struck out six in five innings, allowing four hits. She didn't walk a batter.

Ludema pitched game one for the Wildcats, shutting out TK on six hits and two walks. She struck out nine.

The six TK hits included a single and a double by Kenzie Bouma, a double from Hoebeke and a double from Jena Robinett as well as singles by Kennah Cocco and Romph.



Thornapple Kellogg centerfielder Emily Stevens makes a leaping grab just shy of the fence during game two of her team's OK Gold Conference doubleheader against Wayland in Middleville Wednesday. **Photo by Brett Bremer**



CHS girls win all four doubles flights in dual with Lowell

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

A doubles sweep helped power the Caledonia varsity girls' tennis team to a 6-2 win over Lowell Tuesday at Caledonia High School.

Lowell sophomores Gracie Lyonnais and Kaila Richards took a 6-2 win in the opening set of their dual with the Scots' top doubles team of senior Sawyer Mertz and sophomore Anna Homrich, but the Scots rallied for a 6-4 win in the second set and then won a super tiebreaker 11-9 to clinch the match.

The Scots fought off the need to play a super tiebreaker along the rest of the doubles line-up. Scot seniors Zoe Fleming and Hailey Markwat took a 6-0, 7-5 win at second doubles over the Lowell duo of Sienna Berg and Lilah Cone. At third doubles, the Caledonia team of junior Kebe Fitzell and freshman Emery James won 7-5, 6-3 over Vivyenne Skinner and Natalie VanLaan.

Completing the doubles sweep for the Scots was the number four team of juniors Maya White and Hellen Komera who took a 6-3, 6-2 win over the Red Arrows' Brooklyn Haywood and Nadine Cozzio.

Fighting Scot freshman first singles player Berkley Nelson scored a 6-0, 6-0 win over Lowell senior Ariana Fredricks. The Scots also had sophomore Gretchen VanderEide score a 6-1, 6-2 win over Lowell senior Quinn Massey at fourth singles.

Lowell got wins from Kaylee Royer at second singles and Izzy Mosier at number three. Mosier fought off a charge by Scot senior Claire Teunessen. Mosier took the opening set 6-2, Teunessen bounced back for a 6-3 win in set number two, and then Mosier pulled out a 10-7 win in a super tiebreaker to take the match.

The Scots were back in action Wednesday at Holland and fell 6-3 to the Dutch. VanderEide took a singles win for the Scots outscoring Rilee Hoebbel 6-4, 6-3. The other two points for Caledonia came on the doubles side in fourth and fifth doubles matches. White and Komera beat Holland's Lucy Green and Remi VanFarowe 6-4, 4-6, (10-8) at fourth doubles for the Scots. In a race fifth doubles match this season, the Scot team of Molly Liggett and Chelsea Tran took a 6-3, 6-1 win over Holland's Lena D'Addona and Emma Palmateer.

The Scots were bested 7-1 by Hudsonville and 8-0 by Grand Rapids Catholic Central at their own Caledonia Invitational last Saturday.

White and Komera earned the Scots their one point with another win in a super tiebreaker. They outscored Hudsonville's Delaney Colvin and Malia VanZee 5-7, 7-5, (10-5).

The Caledonia girls were schedule to host Grandville Thursday afternoon, May 1, and will be back in action Tuesday against visiting Unity Christian. The OK Green Conference Championship Tournament is on the schedule for Thursday, May 8.

TK has two guys in 80s at Tom Collins tournament

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Thornapple Kellogg varsity boys' golf team placed 20th Thursday at Gull Lake's Tom Collins Memorial tournament at Gull Lake View Golf Course in Augusta.

Gull Lake took the day's championship with an overall score of 303. Otsego and Portage Central both shot a 319, with Otsego earning the runner-up spot on a tiebreaker. Hackett Catholic Pre was fourth with a score of 320 ahead of Vicksburg 325, Kalamazoo Christian 327, Charlotte 328, Byron Center 329, Zeeland West 330 and Mattawan 331.

Sophomore Parker Dahley led the Thornapple Kellogg team with a score of 87. Senior Will Nathan scored an 88 and senior Ryan Skidmore a 90. The TK team had seniors Kylan Pratt and Tyler Voss tie for the team's fourth score with 94s.

Gull Lake senior Hank Livingston shot a three-under 69 to win the day's individual title. Loy Norrix senior Isaac Scavarda (74) and Vicksburg senior Rilley Briggs (75) rounded out the top three.

Gull Lake had three guys in the top ten. Sophomore Jaxon Chapdelaine

See **TOURNAMENT** on 19

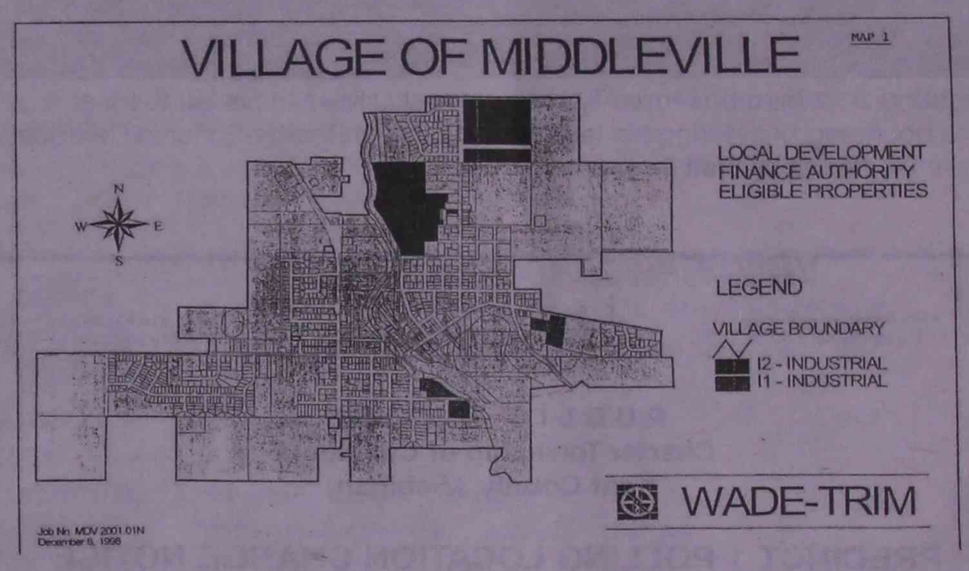
VILLAGE OF MIDDLEVILLE
BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED AMENDMENT NO. 5 TO VILLAGE of MIDDLEVILLE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE AUTHORITY DEVELOPMENT AND TAX INCREMENT FINANCING PLAN

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Village Council of the Village of Middleville will hold a public hearing on the proposed Amendment No. 5 to the Village of Middleville Local Development Finance Authority's Development and Tax Increment Financing Plan in accordance with the Michigan Recodified Tax Increment Financing Act (Act 57 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 2018, as amended). The hearing will be held on Tuesday, May 27, 2025, at 7:00 p.m., local time (or shortly thereafter) at the Village Hall located at 100 East Main Street, within the Village.

The existing boundaries of the Authority's District are described as follows by map and general property description:

VILLAGE OF MIDDLEVILLE
LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE AUTHORITY DISTRICT BOUNDARIES



The existing Development and Tax Increment Financing Plan (the "Plan"), as amended by Amendment Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4 to the Plan, and the proposed Amendment No. 5 to the Plan, are available for public inspection at the office of the Village Clerk at the Village Hall located at 100 East Main Street, Middleville, Michigan.

All aspects of Amendment No. 5, the Plan, and any other information that the Village Council deems appropriate, are open for discussion at the public hearing. At the hearing, citizens, taxpayers and property owners may be heard with regard to Amendment No. 5 to the Plan. Written comments concerning Amendment No. 5 may be submitted to the Village office, located at 100 East Main Street, Middleville, Michigan, up to the time of the public hearing.

Authorized by the Village Council of the Village of Middleville on the 22nd day of April 2025.

Dated: April 22, 2025

Rhonda Van Polen, Clerk
Village of Middleville



Fighting Scot third baseman Ty Lewandowski slides to his left to try and get to a bouncing ball during his team's contest with Reeths-Puffer in Caledonia April 24. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

SCOTS

Continued from Page 7

some days and you've got to move on. Composure wise, and kind of that stuff from him it is exciting to see. That's the fun stuff as a coach to see that growth from a player."

Alex Spinney threw 2.2 innings of relief and was charged with the two runs the Rockets added to their lead in the seventh. Talen Verburg stepped on the mound to get the final out, but walked two before he got it.

The Scots managed eight hits, but could only turn them into two runs. Rocket pitchers didn't issue a walk.

Ethan Sova was 2-for-4 with a triple a run scored and an RBI for the Scots. AJ Roskowski was 2-for-4 with a double and a run scored. Ty Lewandowski singled and drove in a run. Verburg had a single too. Cam Myers and Jackson McNew had one RBI each. McNew was 2-for-3 with a pair of singles.

The Scots are now 3-2 in the OK Green Conference this season. They opened this week's series with Jenison with a split in Caledonia Tuesday. The Wildcats took game one 10-0, but the Scots rallied for a 3-2 win in game two.

Lewandowski had a lead-off walk in the bottom of the first of game two Tuesday and scored on a Wildcat error.

Jenison tied things at 1-1 in the top of the second, but the Scots came right back to score twice in the home half of the inning. Trevor Walter singled and Ben Kieliszewski walked to start the inning, eventually Spinney singled to the left side to drive in one run and a second run came home on a fly-out to center by Lewandowski.

The Scots were outhit 9-3 with all three hits coming in those first two innings.

Myers went the distance on the mound giving up nine hits and two walks in seven innings. He struck out six and only one of the two runs against him was earned for the Scots.

The Scots and Wildcats were set to close their conference set in Jenison May 1. The Scots head to Muskegon for two conference games Tuesday and the Big Reds come to Caledonia for one Thursday, May 8.

8196 Broadmoor Ave. SE
Caledonia, MI 49316
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Fax: 616.891.0430

PUBLIC NOTICE
Charter Township of Caledonia
Kent County, Michigan

PRECINCT 1 POLLING LOCATION CHANGE NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Precinct 1 (Village) polling location has CHANGED for the upcoming Caledonia Community Schools Special Election to be held on May 6, 2025 in the Charter Township of Caledonia, Kent County, Michigan

For this election ONLY, Precinct 1 registered voters will vote at
Caledonia Christian Reformed Church
Located at 9957 Cherry Valley Avenue SE Ave, Caledonia MI 49316
(lower level)

This change is for the May 6, 2025 Special Election ONLY.
Precinct 1 voters will return to their prior polling location for all future elections.
Questions? Please contact:
Charter Township of Caledonia Clerk's Office
8196 Broadmoor Avenue SE
Caledonia MI, 49316
616-891-0070, ext. 215

8196 Broadmoor Ave. SE
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Phone: 616.891.0070
Fax: 616.891.0430

PUBLIC NOTICE
Charter Township of Caledonia
Kent County, Michigan

PRECINCT 4 POLLING LOCATION CHANGE NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Precinct 4 polling location has **CHANGED** for the upcoming Caledonia Community Schools Special Election to be held on May 6, 2025 in the Charter Township of Caledonia, Kent County, Michigan

For this election ONLY, Precinct 4 Caledonia Community Schools registered voters will vote at
Lakeside Community Church
Located at 6201 Whitneyville Avenue, Alto MI 49302

This change is for the May 6, 2025 Special Election ONLY.
Precinct 4 voters will return to their prior polling location for all future elections.
Questions? Please contact:
Charter Township of Caledonia Clerk's Office
8196 Broadmoor Avenue SE
Caledonia MI, 49316
616-891-0070, ext. 215

TK wins every relay in Gold victories over West Catholic

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

A sweep of the four relay races helped power the Thornapple Kellogg varsity boys' track and field team to an 83-54 win over visiting West Catholic Tuesday in Middleville.

The TK boys upped their OK Gold Conference record to 2-2 with the win, and the TK girls moved to 4-0 in the conference with a 102-35 victory over the Falcons.

The TK boys opened things on the track with the team of senior Case Dykhouse, sophomore Elijah Frazer, sophomore Layne Schilthroat and senior Jacob Draaisma winning the 4x800-meter relay in 10 minutes 19.70 seconds. They beat the Falcon foursome in the race by more than 40 seconds.

That was the first of four wins for Draaisma. He led a sweep of the three scoring spots in the 1600-meter run for the TK boys finishing in 5:22.41. Freshman Jackson Hasty was second and sophomore Ethan Strait third in that one.

Draaisma also won the 800-meter run in2:10.49 and the 3200-meter run in 11:45.43.

Sophomore Brandan Velting and junior Lucas Ploeg went 1-2 in the 400-meter dash for TK. Velting won in 54.07 and Ploeg was second in 54.92. Those two teamed with senior Lucas McNabnay and sophomore Elliott Neff to win the 4x400-meter relay in 3:45.93.

McNabnay, Neff, freshman Maddox Vanengen and Velting wont he 4x200-meter relay in 1:38.98 and the team of senior Claudio Costa, McNabnay, Vanengen and sophomore Jackson Smith won the 4x100-meter relay in 47.95.

TK got wins in both of the boys' throws. Junior Adam Lozada took the shot put with a mark of 41-.5 and senior Kyle Porritt set a PR with a throw of 126-2 to win the discus.

Junior Luke Archer added a PR of 11-6 in the pole vault to win that one.

The TK ladies won all four relays on the day too and dominated in the field events with a sweep of the shot put and girls placing first and second in every other field event.

Senior Emma Dykstra took the shot put for the TK ladies with a mark of 35-.25 with teammates Lilly McKeown and Marlee Shuford second and third. Shuford won the discus with a personal record throw of 85-0 and McKeown was second in that one.

Junior Payton Gater won the high jump and sophomore teammate Kimberlin Zavalza-Nava placed second with both of them clearing the bar at 4-8. Freshman Amya Gater won the long jump at 15-5.5 with Payton second in that one just two inches short of her sister. Those two Gater sisters also went 1-2 in the 400-meter dash with Payton winning in 1:03.02 and Amya dropping her PR to 1:03.86.

Sophomore Raylee Preston won the pole vault with a personal record vault of 8-0 and junior Mia Hilton was the runner-up also clearing 8-0.

The TK ladies also swept the top three spots in the 100-meter hurdles led by a winning time of 16.78 seconds from senior Brooklyn Harmon. Hilton was second and Amya Gater third. Harmon won the 300-meter low hurdles too in 47.84.

The TK team had sophomore Leigha Jager, junior Madison Kietzman, sophomore Avery Bushman and sophomore Estfani Sanchez Vega win the 4x200-meter relay in 1:58.88. Vega, Kietzman, sophomore Sydney Martin and Dykhouse won the 4x100-meter relay in 53.61.

TK opened the day with freshman Breanna Schut, sophomore Carmen Reynolds, sophomore Peyton Hardy and sophomore Alaina McCrumb winning the 4x800-meter relay in 11:36.70.

The team of Jager, junior Claira Kovich, Amya Gater and senior Ava Crews won the 4x400-meter relay in 4:37.54.

Crews took the 1600-meter run for the Trojans in 6:00.96.

A handful of Trojans were a part of the GR Elite Challenge at Houseman Field Saturday. Brooklyn Harmon took a victory in the 100-meter hurdles with a time of 15.45. Payton Gater had a great day with a personal record time of 1:01.09 that put her in third in that race and she improved her PR in the long jump to 16-1 to place third in that one.

Amya Gater, Hilton, Brooklyn Harmon and junior Jordyn Fitros added a runner-up time of 1:46.92 in the 4x200-meter relay.

8196 Broadmoor Ave. SE
Caledonia, MI 49316

CALEDONIA TOWNSHIP

Phone: 616.891.0070
Fax: 616.891.0430

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CALEDONIA
COUNTY OF KENT, MICHIGAN
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on May 19, 2025 at 7:00 p.m., the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Caledonia will hold a public hearing at the Caledonia Charter Township Hall, 8196 Broadmoor Avenue, within the Township, on the application of Craig Hoppen, on behalf of J&H Family Stores, to amend the approved Valley Point South Industrial Park PUD (the "PUD") and to amend the Final Development Plan for the PUD as to Parcel 6 of the PUD. The proposed amendment would add gasoline service stations as a permitted use within the PUD, and would amend the site plan for the PUD to allow for the construction of two proposed new buildings within Parcel 6 of the PUD: a gasoline service station, with drive-through facilities, and a retail building with drive-through facilities. The lands that are the subject of this request are owned by Broadmoor-84 LLC, and located generally at 8300 Broadmoor Avenue SE, Caledonia, Michigan 49316, and are legally described as follows:

Parcel No. 41-23-17-400-063

PART OF THE SE 1/4 OF SECTION 17, TOWN 5 NORTH, RANGE 10 WEST, DESCRIBED AS: COMMENCING AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID SECTION; THENCE SOUTH 88 DEGREES 24 MINUTES 20 SECONDS WEST ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID SECTION 451.75 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING OF THIS DESCRIPTION: THENCE SOUTH 88 DEGREES 24 MINUTES 20 SECONDS WEST ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID SECTION 42.09 FEET TO THE NORTHEASTERLY LINE OF A CLEAR VISION CORNER RIGHT OF WAY: THENCE NORTH 52 DEGREES 31 MINUTES 31 SECONDS WEST ALONG THE NORTHEASTERLY LINE OF A CLEAR VISION CORNER RIGHT OF WAY 284.71 FEET TO THE EASTERLY LINE OF BROADMOOR AVENUE (120.00 FEET WIDE); THENCE NORTH 27 DEGREES 40 MINUTES 56 SECONDS WEST ALONG THE EASTERLY LINE OF BROADMOOR AVENUE 453.11 FEET; THENCE EASTERLY 104.15 FEET ALONG A 150.00 FOOT RADIUS CURVE TO THE RIGHT, THE CHORD OF WHICH BEARS NORTH 82 DEGREES 12 MINUTES 35 SECONDS EAST 102.7 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 77 DEGREES 53 MINUTES 55 SECONDS EAST 355.93 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 04 DEGREES 34 MINUTES 50 SECONDS EAST 290.00 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 01 DEGREES 35 MINUTES 40 SECONDS EAST 223.52 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING.

All interested persons may attend the public hearing and comment on the proposed ordinance to amend the approved PUD and site plan for the described lands. Written comments may be submitted to the Township at the above-stated address up to the time of and during the public hearing. Interested persons may contact the Township Offices or consult the Township website at https://www.caledoniatownship.org/ up to the time of the meeting for any updates concerning the manner of holding the hearing.

Dated: April 29, 2025

PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CALEDONIA

KENT COUNTY DRAIN COMMISSIONER
NOTICE OF MEETING OF BOARD OF DETERMINATION
LISTENING VALLEY NO. 2 DRAIN

DATE: Thursday, May 15, 2025
TIME: 7:00 P.M.
LOCATION: Caledonia Charter Township
8196 Broadmoor Ave, Caledonia, MI 49316
QUESTIONS: (616) 632-7910

A Board of Determination will meet at the above date, time, and location to hear all interested persons, receive evidence, and determine whether the proposed maintenance and improvement of the Listening Valley No. 2 Drain is necessary and conducive to the public health, convenience or welfare, as set forth in the petition, dated March 11, 2025, pursuant to Chapter 8 of Public Act 40 of 1956, as amended.

A presentation will be made to the Board of Determination, which outlines a brief history of the Drainage District, and describes the roles, responsibilities, and decisions made by a Board of Determination. The presentation is to provide background for landowners and municipalities in the drainage district and to facilitate the dissemination of information and the receipt of testimony of landowners in the Drainage Districts. The Board of Determination will make its decisions at the end of the meeting.

Proceedings conducted at this public meeting will be subject to the provisions of the Michigan Open Meetings Act. Information regarding this meeting may be obtained from the Kent County Drain Commissioner's Office located at 775 Ball Ave NE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503. Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in the meeting should contact the Drain Commissioner at the number listed above or through the Michigan Relay Center at 7-1-1 (TDD) at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting to request mobility, visual, hearing, or other assistance.

Anyone aggrieved by the decisions of the Board of Determination may seek judicial review pursuant to MCL 280.72a.

Ken Yonker
Kent County Drain Commissioner

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 112 square foot roofed porch on an existing 2,304 SF accessory building for a total of 3,513 SF of accessory buildings on the property.
Property Address: 9889 East Paris Avenue, Caledonia, MI 49316
Parcel Number: 41-22-26-400-009
Applicant: Steven Redmond, Homeowner
Date and Time of Hearing: May 22nd, 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 ay 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 May 22nd, 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

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 3,456 square foot accessory building in the Suburban Residential zoning district.
Property Address: 148 79th Street, Grand Rapids, MI 49508
Parcel Number: 41-22-18-165-011
Applicant: Jay Niewiek
Date and Time of Hearing: May 22nd, 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 ay 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 May 22nd, 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

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

Summary of Request: A Tentative Preliminary Plat featuring 50 single-family lots that make up Phase 3 of the Hoffman Meadows plat.
Property Address: 2319 Crystal Meadows St E, Caledonia, MI 49316
Parcel Number: 41-22-09-276-002
Applicant: Chris VanderHoff
Date and Time of Hearing: May 22nd, 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 ay 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 May 22nd, 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

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

Summary of Request: Request to rezone one 45.8-acre parcel from ARR (Agricultural/ Rural-Residential) to VR (Village Residential).
Property Address: 1264 100th Street SE, Byron Center, MI 49315
Parcel Number: 41-22-32-200-005
Applicant: Randy Koetje; Koetje Builders & Developers
Date and Time of Hearing: May 22nd, 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 ay 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 May 22nd, 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.

Scots can't quite outrun Bulldogs in OK Green duals

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

A senior foursome raced to victory in the 4x400-meter relay to clinch a two-win night for the Byron Center varsity boys' track and field team at Mona Shores High School Tuesday.

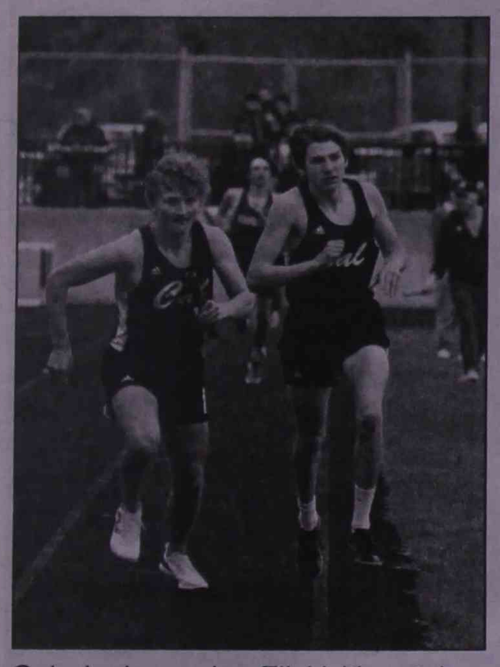
The Bulldogs needed the win in the night's final relay to hold onto a victory over the Caledonia boys in their OK Green Conference dual.

Both Caledonia teams took OK GreenConference wins over Mona Shores, but both teams fell to Byron Center at the three-team meet. The Byron Center boys secured a 73-64 victory over the Fighting Scots. Caledonia defeated Mona Shores 73-64 too. The Bulldog boys were 2-0 for the day with a 96-36 win over the Sailors.

Caledonia's boys are 3-2 in conference duals this season after the split.

The Bulldog boys dominated the sprints sweeping the top three spots in the 100-meter dash, the 200-meter dash and the 400-meter dash, and they won the 4x100-meter relay, the 4x200-meter relay and the 4x400-meter relay.

Caledonia held its own in the distance races and swept the 800-meter run points with three guys running a new PR at the top of the standings.



Caledonia senior Eli Velting takes off with the baton during a relay at Lowell's Kathy Talus Memorial Invitational Saturday. **Photos by Jen Howell**

Junior Eli Velting won in 2 minutes 0.17 seconds. Senior Ethan Bauer was second in 2:05.30 and junior Luke Smith third in 2:05.71.

Junior Noah Johnston won the 1600-meter run for the Scots in 4:35.92 and senior Kort Thompson won the 3200-meter run in 10:18.24.

Smith, sophomore Grant Feldpausch, Buer and Velting teamed up to win the 4x800-meter relay in 10:15.88.

CHS also had the only two guys to clear 12 feet in the pole vault with senior David Potgeter winning the event and junior Benjamin Moss matching his height to place second.

In the girls' competition, Caledonia defeated Mona Shores 83-54 and fell 87-50 to the Bulldogs. The Byron Center girls added a 100-37 win over Mona Shores.

It is the first loss of the conference season for the Fighting Scots who are now 4-1 in OK Green duals.

The Byron Center girls swept all four relays, with Caledonia teams second in each race.

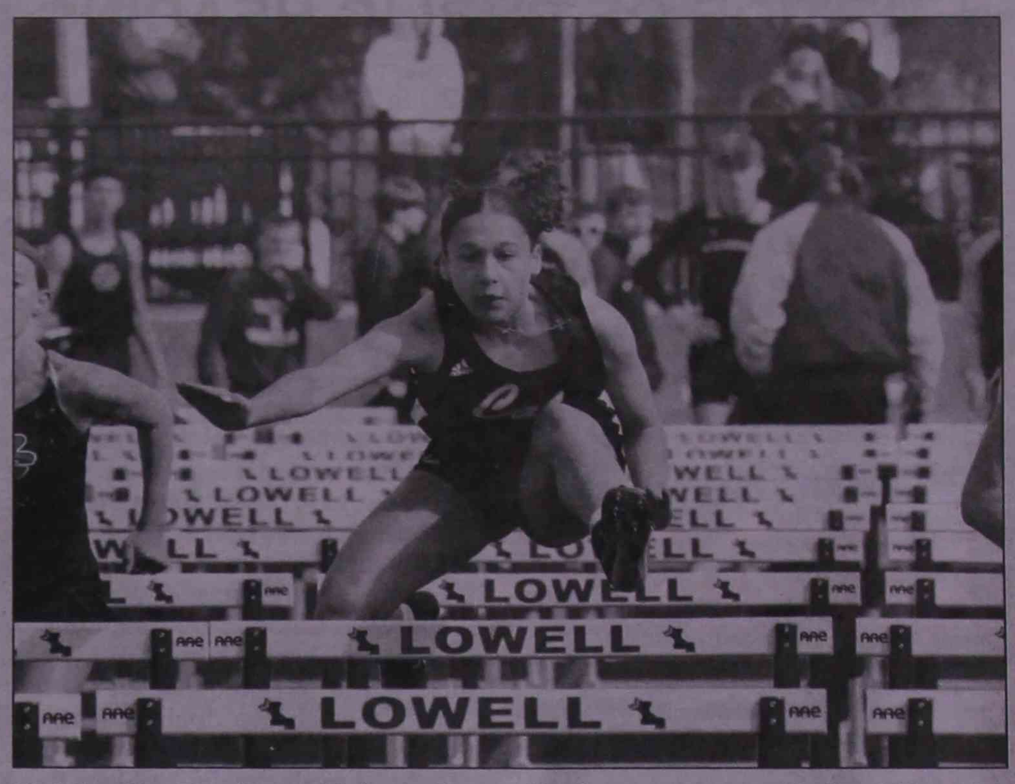
The discus was one of the top events for the CHS girls with junior Jolie King winning with a throw of 87-10 and senior Chiara Marta second at 82-2. The Scots were 1-2 in the 3200-meter run too with senior Hannah Dupuis winning in 12:19.69 and senior Kiley Bommarito second in 13:03.06.

Scot sophomore Isla Sheely set her personal record in winning the 400-meter dash in 1:01.06.

Bryon Center senior Lauren Milward beat out Scot freshman Brynn Ward in the 100-meter dash and the 200-meter dash, but Ward ran her fastest sprints yet. She dropped her PR to 13.25 in the 100 and to 26.92 in the 200. Caledonia also got a personal record run in a runner-up finish from sophomore Maya Terryn in the 800-meter run as she hit the finish line in 2:29.86.

Dupuis set her PR in the 1600 at 5:26.93 to place third in that race. There were a couple of good girls' hurdles races too with Byron Center senior Natalie Formsma blazing to wins in the 100-meter hurdles and the 300-meter low hurdles. Scot sophomore Olivia Hawkins was the runner-up in both races with times of 16.30 in the 100s

See **DUALS** on 19



Fighting Scot freshman Melanie Genao Grullon earns a spot in the 100-meter hurdle finals with her preliminary performance Saturday at Lowell's Kathy Talus Memorial Invitational.

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

YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

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

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing will be held on May 15, 2025, commencing at 7:00 p.m. at the Yankee Springs Township Hall, 284 N. Briggs Rd., Middleville MI, within the Township, as required under the provisions of the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act and the Zoning Ordinance for the Township.

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

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

1. **SEU 25-04-06; Parcel ID: 16-370-020-00, 12747 Whispering Pines Drive, Wayland, MI 49348.** A request by Peter Schneider and Ann Heuer, the property owners, for a special exception use permit to operate a commercial Short-term rental pursuant to the Yankee Springs Zoning Ordinance, ***Article X, Short Term Rentals***.
2. **Public Hearing for Proposed Ordinance:** *Zoning Ordinance – Private Residential Ponds, and Agricultural or Farm Ponds.*
3. **Such other business as may properly come before the Planning Commission.**

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

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

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

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Your Community Connection

PUBLIC NOTICE
GAINES CHARTER TOWNSHIP
BOARD MEETING SYNOPSIS
April 14, 2025

The Gaines Charter Township Board held a regular meeting on Monday, April 14, 2025, and took the following actions.

1. Reviewed the Consent Agenda.
2. Approved the Meeting Agenda
3. A Public Hearing was held on the Proposed New Zoning Ordinance.
4. Approved of Consent Agenda
5. Approved the Proposed Updated Zoning Ordinance
6. Approved the Cooks Crossings Enclave Water and Sewer Development Contract
7. Approved the River Birch Apartments Phase 4 Water and Sewer Development Contract
8. Tabled the Parks and Trails resolution supporting development of a Parks and Ground / Public Works Department
9. Approved the Employee Handbook Update for Earned Sick Time Act (ESTA) 2025
10. Approved the Prairie Wolf Park Boardwalk repair
11. Approve the server room fire suppression system keeping all the equipment in the server room and updating all of the controllers a cost of $17,135.
12. Approved Revize website improvements and the purchase of AI chat search module and online forms module at a cost of $8025 for 2025 and $6075 after 2025.
13. Removed the Logan's Liquor License Renewal and Certification from the table placed at the March 2025 Gaines Charter Township Regular Board Meeting.
14. Approved the Logan's Liquor License renewal and certification.
15. Approved the High Performing Teams Training for additional employees of the township.
16. Granted township staff the ability to re-negotiate contract extensions for up to an additional three years for D.J's, Jack's, and JND Snowplowing.
17. Adjourned the meeting at 08:22 p.m.

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

Michael Brew
Gaines Charter Township Clerk

TK evens OK Gold tennis mark with three duals in three days

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Thornapple Kellogg varsity girls' tennis team is 2-2-1 in OK Gold Conference duals this spring after going 1-1-1 in conference duals Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

The Trojans suffered a 6-2 loss to visiting West Catholic on a blustery day in Middleville Tuesday. That dual was stuck between a 4-4 tie with Wayland Monday and an 8-0 win at Grand Rapids Union Wednesday afternoon.

TK varsity girls' tennis coach Philip Sylvestre said he sees his young team making progress.

There were close bouts throughout the line-up in Middleville Tuesday against the West Catholic girls. The Trojans' lone singles victory was a 6-3, 7-5 third singles win from junior Natileigh Merchant over Falcon freshman Elyse Foster.

TK also picked up a point at fourth doubles where the team of Carli Ogle and Ava Zellmer outscored the West Catholic freshman duo of Mia Palachecki and Ashley Kurner 6-4, 7-6.

The Falcons won in two quick sets at first doubles, but the other two doubles wins for West Catholic were pretty tightly contested. The West Catholic freshman duo of Alana Ryan and Olivia Marti rallied for a 3-6, 6-4, 6-4 win over TK's sophomore duo of Molly Alden and Cayla Brouwer at second doubles. At number three, the West Catholic team of freshman Ava Eitniear and junior Jolie Mondroski won in two close sets, 6-4, 7-6(5) over TK senior Natalie Culver and sophomore Chloe Yates.

TK and Wayland finished in a 4-4 tie Monday in Middleville.

Alden and Brouwer took a 7-5, 6-3 win over the Wayland team of Teagan Robinson and Hayden Keena at number two, and TK took three singles victories.

Trojan senior first singles player Isabelle Schilthroat outscored Wayland's Lauren Bultsma 6-4, 6-1. At second singles, TK's Jordan Pranger beat Wayland junior Emily Omness 6-4, 6-2.

Merchant and Wayland junior Charlotte Markowski split sets at third singles before Markowski retired from the match.

TK wasn't far from pulling out a win. Emilia Sandborn split sets with Wayland's Brynna Cain at fourth singles before Cain pulled out a 6-2 win in set number three to pick up a point.

The first doubles match between Wayland seniors Katie Harter and Nikol Yanakieva and TK's team of senior Elise DeBoer and the junior Zellmer and the fourth doubles match between Wayland's Hannah Bogeman and Isabella Bogeman and the TK team of Ogle and Jordan Price both ended in 7-5, 6-4 Wayland wins.

Schilthroat pulled out a three-set win over Union's Charlotte Beresford Wednesday in Grand Rapids, outscoring the Red Hawks' number one 7-5, 1-6, 6-1.

The rest of the Trojans all won in straight sets and the TK doubles teams only dropped one game across eight sets.

Pranger bested Union senior Haley Ramos 6-1, 6-4 at second singles; Merchant downed Heidi XU 6-1, 6-2 at number three; and at fourth singles Sandborn downed Amarah Williams 6-0, 6-0.

Last Thursday, the TK ladies were bested 7-1 in a non-conference dual by visiting Grandville. Merchant got TK's lone win with a 6-2, 6-1 victory over Grandville freshman Alexis Dorazio at number three singles.

Again, there were a few really close doubles matches. DeBoer and senior Jalyn Grimes at first doubles were edged in the end in a super tiebreaker. Alden and Brouwer at number two doubles fell in two close sets including a tiebreaker at the end of the first set that the Bulldog team pulled out 13-11 before finishing the match with a 6-4 win in the second set.

The TK ladies were set to head to Zeeland for a quad Thursday afternoon and will be at the Holland Christian Quad today, May 3. The OK Gold Conference season concludes with a dual at South Christian Monday and the conference tournament at the end of the week. Doubles contests will be held May 8 at South Christian High School and singles contests May 9 at TKHS.



Thornapple Kellogg first singles player Isabelle Schilthroat hits a serve during her contest with West Catholic's top player in Middleville Tuesday. **Photos by Brett Bremer**



Thornapple Kellogg first doubles player Elise DeBoer hits a forehand return during her contest with teammate Jalyn Grimes against West Catholic's number one doubles team Tuesday afternoon in Middleville.

Scots make it six wins in a row by beating Eagles

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Caledonia varsity girls' lacrosse team keeps winning and keeps ticking off big individual milestones.

The Fighting Scots knocked off Hudsonville 13-11 at Scotland Yard Wednesday to stretch a win-streak to six matches.

Ellie Hudson had six goals in the win. Caelyn Crocker, Morgan Barthel, Mya Burgess, Kenna VanLente and Quinn Ziegler all contributed goals as well in the win over the Eagles for the Scots.

Caledonia head coach Kendra Venema said that goalie Alivia Neubauer-Keyes was "a beast in net." The Scots' unofficial stats had her down for a career-high 19 saves to go along with three ground balls.

In the past few weeks, the Fighting Scots celebrated Hudson reaching 100 varsity goals and 200 varsity points and Burgess reaching 100 varsity draw victories.

The win over Hudsonville was the second win in three days for the Caledonia girls. They defeated the Buccaneers in Grand Haven 15-7 Monday.

Vivian Fink led the way offensively with four goals for the Scots. Keira Paalman, Hudson, Burgess, VanLente and Quinn Ziegler all had goals. The offense got a boost from VanLente and Fink teaming up to win ten draws.

The Caledonia girls were set to face Forest Hills Central. The Rangers entered the match ranked fifth in the state's Division 2 power rankings. The Scots will be back in action at Grandville Monday and at Jenison Wednesday. MHSAA regional competitions begin May 15.

DUALS

Continued from Page 17

and 48.12 in the 300s.

The CHS teams competed last Saturday too at Lowell's Kathy Talus Memorial Invitational.

Both teams were second to Hudsonville on the day at the seven-team meet.

Moss won the pole vault clearing 12-0 for the Caledonia boys and the 6800-meter distance medley relay team of senior Aidan Edgar, Smith, Johnston and Thompson won with a time of 20:42.32.

The CHS girls had the 800-meter sprint medley relay team of senior Alaina Palmer, junior Joelyn Abraham, Terryn and Ward win in 1:58.80 and the 4x100-meter relay team of sophomore Mariah Peterson, Palmer, Sheely and King win in 53.80.

Hawkins was also the 300-meter hurdles champ in 48.17 and King wont he long jump with a season-best leap of 15-3.25.

TOURNAMENT

Continued from Page 13

shot a 76 to place fifth individually and senior Joseph Blondia was eighth with a 77. Rounding out the top four for the tournament champs was junior Luke Coffinger with an 81.

The OK Gold Conference got together for 18 holes at The Mines Golf Club in Grand Rapids Wednesday.

South Christian took the day's victory with an overall score of 300 strokes. Wayland was second at 331 ahead of West Catholic 339, Northview 344, Grand Rapids Union 349, Thornapple Kellogg 360 and Wyoming 441.

Dahley led TK with an 83. Seniors Nathan and Skidmore both scored 92s and senior Kylan Pratt added a 93.

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