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

TROJANS CELEBRATE RARE WIN OVER WAYLAND SOFTBALL
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Voters pass millage renewal for Caledonia Community Schools

Molly Macleod
Editor



Dr. Dirk Weeldreyer

Voters approved a non-homestead operating millage renewal on Tuesday that will set up Caledonia Community Schools to receive its full per-pupil funding from the state for the next five years.

Voters in the CCS district approved the renewal by a healthy margin this week, with 2,915 voters in Kent and Allegan counties approving the measure and 1,597 voters rejecting it.

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.

Tuesday's renewal ensures the district will continue to receive its full non-homestead portion of its operating funding — roughly $15.6 million each year.

"We are incredibly thankful to our community for showing continued support for our students, staff, and schools," said CCS Superintendent Dr. Dirk Weeldreyer. "This vote reflects a shared belief in the importance of strong public education and a willingness to invest in the success of every Caledonia student. We're grateful to walk alongside a community that values education so deeply."

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CHS crowns prom king and queen



Caledonia High School students Patrick VanderKolk and Hannah Dupuis were crowned as the 2025 Senior/Junior High School Prom king and queen at the annual event May 3. Pictured: The newly crowned couple stand with 2024 prom royalty Micah Nagel (far left) and Alexa Pearson (far right). **Photo by Nevaeh Kurtz**

View Newspaper Group welcomes new staff writer

View Newspaper Group is pleased to announce the hiring of Karen Turko-Ebright as a full-time staff writer.

Ebright has been covering news in Barry County since 2019 as a freelance writer. Her new role will expand her beat, adding Caledonia, Middleville and the Yankee Springs area to her current territory, which already includes Barry Township, Orangeville, and the Gun Lake area.

"I have worked with talented editors and am excited to add current Editor Molly Macleod to the list," Ebright said. "She is welcoming to me. I am grateful to be a part of the team at the View Newspaper Group."

Previously, Ebright reported for MLive as a full-time news reporter in Kent and Allegan counties for two years, covering communities in West Michigan for the Advance weeklies.

"I'm thrilled to have Karen expand her role on our team," said Macleod. "Her experience, tenacity and sense for news will be an asset to the communities she reports on."

Her journalism background includes television and radio broadcast news reporting, plus some news production. Ebright graduated from Grand Valley State University in 1991, earning a bachelor of science in communication with an emphasis in journalism and film and video. Ebright worked several television newsroom internships in West Michigan and Lansing before she was hired as a television news reporter at WBKB in Alpena for two years. She then landed a job at the WOTV 41 News bureau in Battle Creek.

"I sat on the assignment desk for

See **WRITER** on 2

Mobile Farm to Fork field trip gives Caledonia students a taste of agriculture and farming



Aiden VanDeWert, Weston Atwood and Lukas Palmitier are teaching Caledonia Elementary students about cattle. Cattle can be used for beef or dairy. Rascal here is a Jersey Angus cross; Jerseys are a dairy breed and Angus cows are a beef breed. **Photos by Stacey Bender**



High School Students Kaelan Brocock and Luke Rohfaff taught the Caledonia Elementary students all about the life cycle of plants and how to care for growing plants. The kids planted a green bean seed to take home and watch it grow.

Karen Turko-Ebright
Staff Writer

She's a food science educator at Caledonia High School and has been in the field since 2010. Stacy Bender's love for the subject runs deep.

"My family is rooted in agriculture, so it's tradition for me," she told *The Sun and News*. Bender understands the importance of farming and what it brings to everybody.

That's why she sees the big picture and likes to start teaching from the ground up at the elementary level to breed future food science professionals.

The Agri-Cal Food Science classes put on the Mobile Farm to Fork field trip for Caledonia Elementary on April 25.

The high school students put together posters with key terms, breeds, animal purpose, products, by-products and more to share with the children.

"Without agriculture farmers, we have no food or resources that provide us the stuff we need day in and day out to survive as a society," Bender explained.

A mobile Farm-to-Fork field trip makes learning about food science fun for youngsters. Bender's high school students were instructed to make mini lesson plans for the educational event, including stations for each animal.

The animals took center stage as kids were given chickens and ducks to hold, along with leashed and harnessed rabbits to walk. Added to the lineup of animal celebrities were bottle-fed tamed goats, Uma, Evie, and Jay, who played a game of chase with the kids.

Week-old bottle lambs, Marshmallow and Graham Cracker, were gently petted and welcomed into the students' arms.

Rascal the calf greeted the children with warm eyes at the beef/dairy cow station. He is a cross between a dairy breed (Jersey) and a beef (Angus). When Rascal was a day old, he had a broken leg and spent six weeks in a cast.

In addition to the animal stations, students learned about the life cycle of plants, care needs, and had the opportunity to plant a green bean seed, then take it home to watch it grow.

WRITER

Continued from Page 1

approximately two months until I picked up a camera and started shooting video and reporting news stories for WOTV 41, covering stories in Battle Creek and Kalamazoo," Ebright said.

After the TV station downsized and ceased operations, Ebright continued her writing career, reporting remote print freelance assignments for various community news outlets, including an online travel company, while she and her husband raised their two daughters in West Michigan.



Karen Turko-Ebright

"I am grateful to continue working in the news industry writing stories that make a difference in local towns," Ebright said.

She likes small towns. After all, she grew up in Washington Township when fields, trees and dirt roads were her landscape while running long stretches. Ebright said that makes her sound like a marathon runner, but that's not the case. She's only run half-marathons, including the River Bank Run a handful of times, the Holland Tulip Time race, plus numerous 10K races.

Those hometown runs continued but extended to the northern part of Michigan to the small town of Suttons Bay, where her husband, Dan, grew up and went to school. They have been married for 32 years and live in West Michigan. Together, they have two daughters. Madison recently graduated from Grand Valley State University and Bella will graduate this month from City High/Middle School in Grand Rapids.

In her free time, Ebright enjoys spending time with her family and running and hiking trails with her Australian Shepherd, Milo.

ABOUT VIEW NEWSPAPER GROUP

Founded in 2003, View Newspaper Group is a locally-owned, locally-connected community newspaper group covering 14 Michigan counties. As Michigan's largest independently-owned newspaper group, the company publishes 22 newspapers with print editions reaching more than 352,000 households each week, plus an additional 500,000 monthly online readers. For more information, visit mihomepaper.com or contact View Newspaper Group Brand Manager Emily Caswell at ecaswell@mihomepaper.com.

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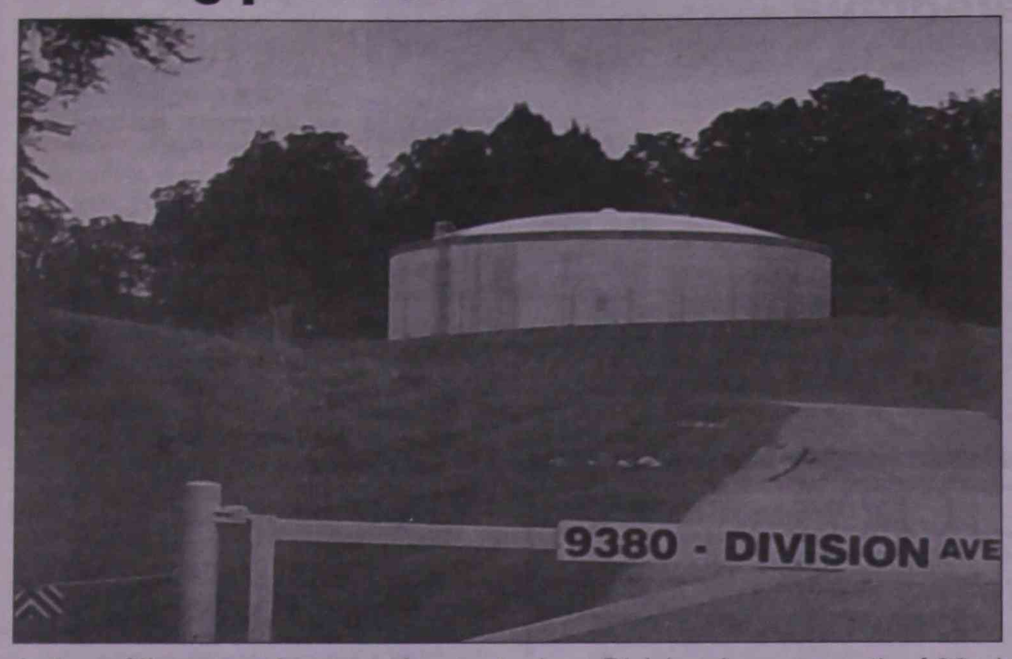
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Bidding process for construction of water storage tank in Gaines to begin



A view of the ground-mounted water tank on Division Avenue south of 92nd Street in Byron Township, used by Byron and Gaines townships. **Photos by James Gemmell**



The Gaines Township Board will meet on May 12 and May 19 at the township hall.

James Gemmell
Contributing Writer

Gaines Charter Township officials say a planned project to install a water-storage tank along Patterson Avenue should be going out to bid by mid-May.

It is one of several developments township staff and engineers are examining in a busy month that has Board of Trustees meetings scheduled for May 12 and May 19 at 6 p.m., and a planning commission meeting on May 22 at 7 p.m.

Township Manager Rod Weersing told *The Sun and News* the ground-mounted water tank would have a capacity of 2 million gallons and be paid for through the township's water fund. The 40-foot tank will be located about half a mile south of 68th Street.

The costs associated with the project will be split evenly between Byron and Gaines townships. An exact cost estimate has not been determined yet. The townships are the fastest-growing ones in Kent County, based on U.S. Census data.

A construction permit will be required from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes & Energy (EGLE) before work begins.

In 2021, the township board began discussing the possibility of using some of Gaines' American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) economic-stimulus funds to pay for construction of a water tank.

Gaines Township has one existing connection to the Wyoming water system, from which it draws its municipal water supply. Rob DeWaard, now a township trustee, said when he was the township supervisor in 2021 that a break in the water line from Wyoming into Gaines is inevitable at some point in time. And he said when that day comes, it could leave the township's approximately 35,000 residents without a public water supply.

"But by building this (second) interconnect, which I think would cost $15 million, that would give us a loop that would allow us in. If something breaks here, we'd have another source of water," DeWaard said at the time. "I think that's just good practice to have that, if we can."

But township board members opted not to allocate a portion of Gaines' $2.87 million in ARPA funds to install an extra water tank. And the estimated $20 million cost to add a second connection to the Wyoming water system exceeded budget limitations.

Then, they received a notification from the City of Wyoming in the summer of 2024, informing the Byron-Gaines Utility Authority (BGUA) that it would need to increase its water-storage capacity.

"Right now, the authority does not have enough storage for the summer months, so (the City of Wyoming) is

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Obituaries

Shirley M. Mayhew

Shirley M. Mayhew, aged 84, passed away peacefully on May 3, 2025, in Middleville, Mil. Born on September 12, 1940, in Suttons Bay, MI, she was the daughter of William and Claribel Challender.

Shirley graduated from Traverse City Central High School in 1959. She dedicated 30 years of service to Fables Restaurant before her retirement from the local grocery store in Middleville. Her commitment to her work was only surpassed by her devotion to her family and community.

A skilled knitter, Shirley created over 2,000 baby hats, warming the heads and hearts of countless infants. Her handcrafted hats and mittens also provided comfort to many children at local schools and churches. An adventurous spirit, she savored the experience of traveling by train across the country, embracing the beauty and diversity of the landscapes and communities she visited.

Shirley was a devout member of the Middleville United Methodist Church, where she volunteered her time and talents with joy and humility. Her faith and dedication to service were sources of inspiration to all who knew her.



She is survived by her loving husband of 34 years, Brad Mayhew; son, Glenn (Kathy) Meredith; daughter, Dianna Palmer; daughter-in-law, Laura Meredith; and a host of adoring grand and great-grandchildren, all of whom will miss her deeply.

Shirley was preceded in death by her parents, William and Claribel Challender; son, Mark Meredith; and son-in-law, William Palmer.

Shirley's family will receive friends on Saturday, May 10, 2025 at the Beeler-Gores Funeral Home from 9-10 a.m. Her funeral service will be conducted at 10 a.m. with Pastors Ron Worley and Tony Shumaker officiating. Private burial will take place at Irving Cemetery.

Memorial donations to Middleville UMC food pantry will be appreciated.

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

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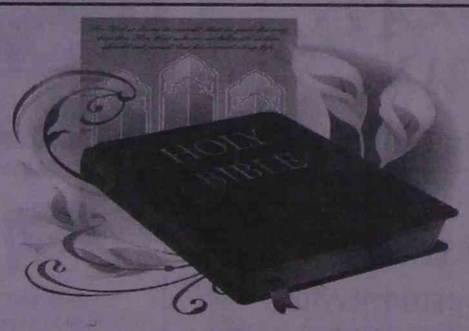
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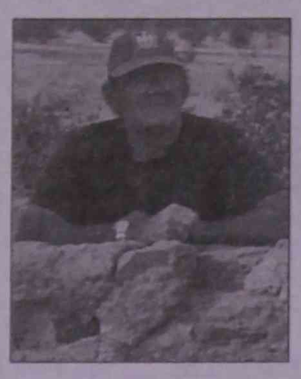
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Obituaries

Terry D. Rosenberg



Terry D. Rosenberg passed away peacefully in Eloy, AZ, on February 10, 2025, at the age of 84. Born on June 15, 1940, in Middleville, MI, Terry was the son of Claude and Mary (Boley) Rosenberg.

Terry had enlisted in the Navy and later embarked on a diverse career path. He worked for Arnold's Amusements, WG Wade Shows, and Diversco Gravel. His entrepreneurial spirit shone when he owned his own tire and wrecker service in Kalkaska. Throughout his life, Terry drove trucks for many companies and held a variety of jobs that showcased his versatility and work ethic.

Terry's zest for life was evident in his numerous interests and involvements. A devout member of the Parmelee United Methodist Church, he also enjoyed fellowship at the Golden Harvest Cowboy Church in Arizona City, AZ. Terry's love for the outdoors was unmistakable, with over 50 joyous years spent in Eloy, AZ.

He was a valued member of the Barry County Gas and Steam Engine Club and relished the simple pleasures of exploring the desert, and even finding abandoned vehicles for cash rewards. He was a jack-of-all-trades that could fix almost anything, and an extremely talented welder. He enjoyed riding motorcycles, even going to Sturgis Motorcycle Rally one year with his brothers Dodie and Mike. Terry's love for birds, and his musical talents on the dulcimer and accordion were known to all who loved him.

Terry was a loving patriarch, leaving behind a large and adoring family.

He is survived by his children, Tammy (Ed) Jackson, Tim Rosenberg, Tom (Dana Newsome) Rosenberg, Jim (Kelly Hull) Rosenberg; stepchildren, Dawn (Jim) Losinger, Alan (Lydia) Brog, Jody (Sheryl) Brog; 40 grandchildren; 40 great-grandchildren; and five great-great-grandchildren. He also leaves his siblings, Jackie Gerard, Mike (Lynda) Rosenberg, and Susan (Bob) Parsley, as well as many nieces and nephews.

Terry was preceded in death by his loving wife, Janet (Thaler) Rosenberg; his grandson, Matthew Allen James; his sister, Nancy (Bob) Anders; his brother, Dodie (Rosie) Rosenberg, and his brothers-in-law, Gary Gerard and Paul Parsley.

Terry's family will receive friends on Saturday, May 17, 2025, 10 to 11 a.m. at the Beeler-Gores Funeral Home where his memorial service will be conducted at 11 a.m. Private burial will take place at Mt. Hope Cemetery.

Memorial contributions to the Barry County Gas and Steam Engine Club will be appreciated. Please visit www.beelergoresfuneral.com to share a memory or leave a condolence message for Terry's family.



One upcoming trip Barnhill is reportedly looking forward to is the chance to visit Washington D.C. and meet with legislators. A trip to Atlanta and the national competition is also on her calendar.

TKHS student selected as representative for SkillsUSA

Devon Barnhill, a student in Kent Career Technical Center's criminal justice program, was recently selected to represent Thornapple Kellogg High School as a regional representative for SkillsUSA Michigan for 2025-26, according to an announcement by local school officials.

"I'm very excited about it," said Barnhill, a junior at TKHS. "I feel like I'm very lucky to have this opportunity."

Barnhill reportedly learned about SkillsUSA through her classes at KCTC and was encouraged to seek a leadership role with the organization.

"Everyone is there to succeed," said Barnhill. "You have to put in the effort, and you will be successful."

SkillsUSA Michigan represents more than 5,000 student members across 100 chapters statewide and is one of the largest career and technical student organizations in the state. As a state officer, Barnhill will undergo leadership training, assist in organizing the SkillsUSA Michigan State Leadership and Skills Conference, and represent the organization at various events and conventions throughout the year.

One upcoming trip Barnhill is reportedly looking forward to is the chance to visit Washington D.C. and meet with legislators. A trip to Atlanta and the national competition is also on her calendar.

"All my hard work has paid off," she said. "Everyone in SkillsUSA is incredible. It's very much a feeling of pride to be able to be part of this."

Barnhill added she enjoys her classes at KCTC that are helping her narrow her career interests. "It's so much fun and I love the classes I'm able to take there. I'm very grateful for that. It's really exciting to be able to explore different careers."

Initially, she was somewhat interested in engineering but quickly realized that wasn't quite the right fit. She also considered the idea of becoming a police detective, but as she gained more information, she realized that wasn't exactly her goal either.

For now, she's interested in working with DNA analysis and through SkillsUSA has already been able to meet and talk with representatives from the Michigan State Police forensics program.



Devon Barnhill, a student in Kent Career Technical Center's criminal justice program, was recently selected to represent Thornapple Kellogg High School as a regional representative for SkillsUSA Michigan. **Courtesy photos**

When she's not busy at KCTC, Barnhill is very actively involved at TKHS. She is a member of the color guard for the school's marching band and plays clarinet in symphonic band. She also golfs, is a pole vaulter for the track team and is a member of the Teens Against Tobacco Use.

In her spare time, Barnhill said she enjoys reading and helping raise beef steers on her family's farm.

"I'm very grateful for TK for giving me the opportunity to attend KCTC and for the experiences I've been able to have there to help prepare me for my future," she added. — *DM*



Gaines Township consulting engineer Jeff Gritter.

MIDDLEVILLE **TOPS 546**

The May 5 meeting opened with roll call and the secretary's report. There are two new fish in the fishbowl; one fish jumped out.

Maryellen's program came from the May/June TOPS magazine titled "Attitude is Everything." What you think becomes your mindset. Negative thoughts grow into habits that become difficult to change. You need to take charge and change things for the better. Start by removing negative words like "can't," "don't", "won't", "not" and "never" from your vocabulary. Don't associate with Debbie Downers to succeed in making change happen.

Be kind to yourself. What you eat equals how you look and feel. The more you think negatively, the more you will stay right where you are. Visualize every morning how you wish to look when you reach your goal. Over time, your brain will help you achieve your goal. You can change any part of your life by simply changing your mindset.

Linda won the Ha-Ha Box.

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 shame.

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

TANK

Continued from Page 3

requiring us to add storage," Weersing said.

The BGUA, located at 1381 84th St. SE, is jointly operated by Byron and Gaines townships. It was formed in 2002 and performs the operation and maintenance of the water and sewer systems for both municipalities.

The two townships get their municipal water from the City of Wyoming, which has a water-treatment plant in Holland. It intakes water from Lake Michigan, treats it and distributes it through underground water mains.

Currently, there are three municipal storage tanks in Byron and Gaines townships that hold a total of 4 million gallons of water. An elevated water tower is located on 60th Street west of Wing Avenue. A ground-mounted water tank sits along Eastern Avenue near 92nd Street. And, in Byron Township, a ground-mounted tank is located on Division Avenue south of 92nd Street.

"Right now, the authority does not have enough storage for the summer months, so (the City of Wyoming) is requiring us to add storage," Weersing said last July.

As of press time, township engineer Jeff Gritter was still calculating the estimated cost for the new water storage facility. He is a senior civil engineer with Byron Center-based consulting firm Vriesman & Korhorn.

But some officials have said it would cost more than $5 million to build and install a ground-mounted tank and pipelines.

Gritter has said in the past that a new water tower probably would take a year to design and construct.

In other business

Weersing said that a new platform ladder truck for the Gaines Charter Township Fire Department is scheduled to arrive by October from Appleton, Wisconsin-based Pierce Manufacturing Co. It was ordered more than two years ago to replace a fire truck that is more than two decades old.

Byron and Gaines trustees voted unanimously at a joint meeting of the township boards in October 2022 to split the cost for the $1.7 million fire truck. Gaines officials voted last year to allocate $1.2 million in ARPA funds toward the purchase of the 100-foot aerial ladder truck. It will enable firefighters to access the tops of larger buildings in the township from a platform.

The new Gaines Charter Township Fire Department was established on January 1 after Byron Township opted to no longer jointly operate the Cutlerville Fire Department. Gaines is now running the fire stations on 68th Street in Cutlerville and on 68th Street in Dutton. Byron is building its own along US-131 north of 68th Street.

Township priority rankings

Gaines Supervisor Bob Terpstra said he will announce at the May 12 board meeting how township trustees recently ranked their top priorities for future growth in Gaines. They held a special meeting April 28 to consider various categories such as upgrading parks and trails, improving public safety, and plans for the local library as part of a broad vision for township growth. The township board will consider whether to adopt a resolution submitted by the Parks & Trails Committee to create a Parks & Grounds Department.

Hoffman Meadows Phase 3

The Gaines Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing at its May 22 meeting to approve what is called a tentative preliminary plat for 50 single-family lots as part of the third phase of the four-phase Hoffman Meadows subdivision. A final plat approval would be needed after that before construction could begin.

Phases 1 and 2 have previously received final township approvals. The first phase was completed in 2023 for 40 single-family home lots on 15 acres on the northern half of the development. The second phase was launched last year.

The project would be at 2319 Crystal Meadows, which is west of Hanna Lake Avenue and south of 60th Street. Chris VanderHoff is the property owner, and the engineering firm is Feenstra & Associates.

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Kettle Lake teacher receives 'Excellence in Education' award



Caledonia Community Schools announced recently that Mary Frey (left), a kindergarten teacher at Kettle Lake Elementary, was honored with the Michigan Lottery's Excellence in Education Award. Here, she is joined by Michigan Lottery Commissioner Suzanna Shkreli. **Courtesy photo**

Caledonia Community Schools announced recently that Mary Frey, a kindergarten teacher at Kettle Lake Elementary, was honored with a Michigan Lottery's Excellence in Education Award.

Frey, known for her passion, dedication, and deep personal investment in her students' growth and success, was surprised with the award earlier this month, according to a release by CCS officials. She reportedly received a $2,000 cash prize and will be considered for the Michigan Lottery's Educator of the Year honor, which comes with an additional $10,000 cash prize.

The Michigan Lottery established the educational awards in 2014 to celebrate exceptional public-school educators across the state. Award winners are selected based on their excellence in advancing student achievement, dedication to their work, inspiration to others, leadership and positive impact on students.

"Mary Frey's dedication to each student, evident in her detailed care and personal investment to each individual in her classroom, is truly remarkable," said Lottery Commissioner Suzanna Shkreli. "She inspires students to have 'ah-ha' moments and fosters kindness that ripples throughout the entire school and beyond. She is a true hero to her students and an asset to her school."

According to CCS officials, Frey has been an educator for 22 years, spending the last 15 years at Kettle Lake. A graduate of Michigan State University, she holds a bachelor's degree in early childhood development and elementary education, as well as master's degree in literacy.

Frey said she believes teaching kindergarten offers a unique opportunity to build a foundation for lifelong learning.

"Kindergarten is such a precious time when little ones are discovering their own abilities, interests, and independence," she said. "It is a privilege to witness so many 'ah-ha' moments and to foster a love of learning from the very beginning."

Frey was nominated for the award by a parent who highlighted her daily personal updates, community outreach projects, and lasting impact on students and the broader school community. One notable example of her leadership reportedly is the Kettle Lake Kindness Project, which began with her class creating Valentine's Day cards, notes of encouragement and snacks for Helen Devos Children's Hospital staff and later expanded into a schoolwide movement of kindness. — *DM*

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Local teacher named Educator of the Year by Down Syndrome Association

Micalah Waskiewicz, a teacher at Kraft Meadows Intermediate School in Caledonia, has been named the 2025 Educator of the Year by the Down Syndrome Association of West Michigan (DSAWM).

The award was presented at the annual Winner's Cup Benefit held on May 3 at the Kent Country Club.

Waskiewicz was recognized for creating a nurturing, inclusive environment where students with Down syndrome feel understood, supported and celebrated.

Parents recognized Waskiewicz for her work with their kids.

"From day one, my son has been completely comfortable at his new school with Mrs. W. I had the immediate feeling that she just understood him," said the parent who nominated Waskiewicz for the award.

Another parent noted, "I have never felt more included than with my son being in her classroom."

A student told his parent, "Mom, that is a person that gets me. She understands me. She takes care of me and makes me feel safe!"

"I am so blessed to work with incredible kids, and I love what I do," Waskiewicz said. — *KTE*



Micalah Waskiewicz, a teacher at Kraft Meadows Intermediate School in Caledonia, has been named the 2025 Educator of the Year by the Down Syndrome Association of West Michigan. **Photo courtesy of Caledonia Schools**

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Letter carriers collecting food donations for Stamp Out Hunger drive

Every second Saturday in May, letter carriers in more than 10,000 cities and towns across America collect the goodness and compassion of their postal customers who participate in the NALC Stamp Out Hunger National Food Drive — the largest one-day food drive in the nation. Barry County is no stranger to this effort, and letter carriers around the area will participate in the drive today.

Led by letter carriers represented by the National Association of Letter Carriers (AFL-CIO), with help from rural letter carriers, other postal employees and other volunteers, the drive has delivered more than 1.82 billion pounds of food the past 30 years.

Carriers collect non-perishable food donations left by mailboxes and in post offices and deliver them to local community food banks, pantries and shelters. Nearly 1,500 NALC branches in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam and the Virgin Islands are involved.

The United States Postal Service, National Association of Letter Carriers, National Rural Letter Carriers' Association, AFL-CIO, United Way, Vericast, Valpak Direct Marketing Systems, CVS Health, Kellogg's, and United Food and Commercial Workers International Union are all supporting this year's Stamp Out Hunger food drive.

To donate, just place a box or can of non-perishable food next to your mailbox before your letter carrier delivers mail on the second Saturday in May. The carrier will do the rest. The food is sorted, and delivered to an area food bank or pantry, where it is available for needy families.

One in ten Americans face hunger every day in America. This drive is one way locals can help those in their own city or town who need help. — *MM*

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Sporting News



Caledonia junior Rylan Bultema fires a shot into the net for a goal during his team's win over visiting Harper Creek Saturday at Scotland Yard.



Caledonia sophomore Austin Osborn weaves his way through the midfield with Harper Creek's Logan Converse giving chase during their non-conference match at Scotland Yard Saturday, May 3. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

Big wins keep coming for Caledonia LAX guys

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

A one-goal, overtime loss against Hudsonville is the only blemish on the Caledonia varsity boys' lacrosse team's record since March.

The Fighting Scots have won 11 of their last 12 and are currently ranked 11th in the state's Division 2 power rankings – one spot behind the Forest Hills Northern team they soundly defeated Tuesday evening in Grand Rapids.

Caledonia bounced back from the one-goal loss to Hudsonville with a 20-10 win at West Ottawa last Thursday, May 1, beat visiting Harper Creek 16-3 Saturday at Scotland Yard, and then went to Forest Hills Northern for a 16-6 win Tuesday.

On their home turf against a young Harper Creek team Saturday, the Fighting Scots got four goals and an assist from senior Brady Hilaski. Senior Silas Haan, junior Rylan Bultema and sophomore Lincoln Senti had three goals apiece. Sophomore Emmett Haan added two goals and sophomore Ryder Born scored once.

Junior Camden Robinson scored two early goals for the Beavers who trailed 4-2 with 3:42 to go in the first quarter before late goals from Emmett Haan and Bultema pushed the Scots to a 6-2 lead by the end of the quarter.

Caledonia dominated possession throughout the afternoon, and got to unload the bench.

"It is good to get some dudes in there for sure. We got to play a lot of people at a lot of different positions, so that is a good thing," Caledonia head coach Kollin Herron said. "Most of that is learning for the future. There is a difference between good teams and great teams. Great teams don't mess around in games. When we put guys in different positions it is mostly for, hey what are we looking for for the future, or trying to get some defensive guys some offensive playing time. That way they can pass and catch the ball a little bit more, and we can get them comfortable with that … it's focused different positions."

While a Harper Creek team with just one senior on the roster has to rely on youngsters quite a bit, the Scots are learning that they have a mix of senior and underclassmen they can really lean on this spring.

"Emmett Haan, he's a sophomore, we're looking him to probably step up into a captain role when he gets older, and [senior] Ethan Fisher is a big one for us. Unfortunately, he has an ankle issue right now … even when he is hurt he is on the sideline leading guys and encouraging them," Herron said Saturday.

"For a sophomore, for a young kid, when Ethan isn't on the field [Emmett] is the one calling our offense. He is being a leader out there, and he is encouraging guys, he is sticking up for guys on the team, pushing them to be better in games and to be better in practice. In games like this, it is sometimes gets hard to stay focused when you're up that big on a team, but I think he really helps our guys stay level-headed and focused during the games."

Herron said his guys had a lead in

See **CALEDONIA** on 14



Trojans celebrate rare win over Wayland softball

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Some Saturday tournament trophies just mean a little more.

The Trojans won't forget this one any time soon.

Thornapple Kellogg's varsity softball team bounced back from getting swept in its OK Gold Conference doubleheader with visiting Wayland in Middleville April 29 by beating the Wildcats 7-5 in the finals of Saturday's Thornapple Kellogg Invitational.

It is the first win for the Trojans over the Wildcats since their 2019 district tournament, the first varsity softball win over Wayland for any of the TK ballplayers, and the first varsity win over the Wildcats for TK head coach Ashley Garrett as a coach or a player.

Scoring four runs in the top of the fourth inning pushed TK in front of the Wildcats 7-4 and they held on the rest of the way. Centerfielder Kenzie Bouma was 2-for-4 at the plate in the win with an RBI and three runs scored.

"Honestly, you just really have to go in and just know that your teammates are counting on you to be there for them," Bouma said. "We lost to Wayland, I think it was Tuesday, and this this was a game where I was just really motivated to be there for my teammates at the right time and keep my eye on the ball, and not let the mental game get in the way."

"We really wanted it. We know we have lost to Wayland in the past, and it was really the perfect time at our own home invite to have this be our chance at redemption. That felt good."

The Wildcats shut out the Trojans in their OK Gold doubleheader last week with 9-0 and 11-0 wins, with game two ending on a walk-off home run in the fifth inning that boosted the Wildcat lead to double figures.

"I just think that we had a talk Thursday about being there for each other. I think that really helped us, bringing that into this game. Putting that into play and being hyped for each other. Even when we were down we didn't get down. The mental game you don't let that get in the way, look at the scoreboard and keep competing and you'll win."



The Thornapple Kellogg varsity softball team celebrates with its plaque after beating Wayland 7-5 in the championship game of the TK Invitational in Middleville Sunday. The win over Wayland was the first since the 2019 district tournament for the Trojans. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

TK put a lot of work in on its "mental game" last week.

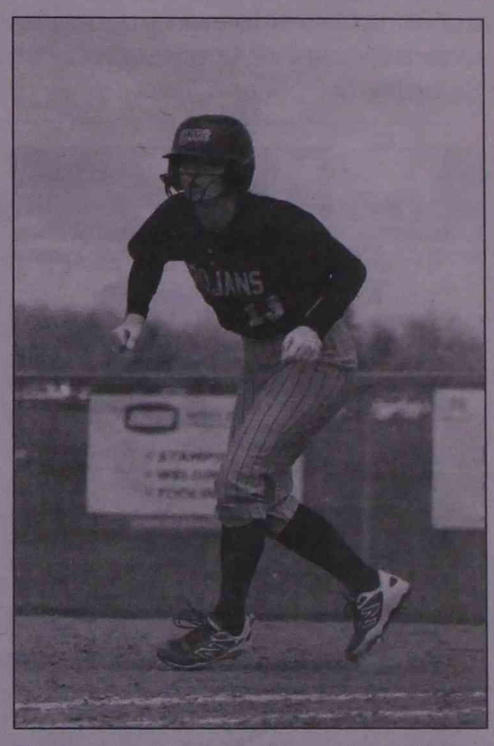
"I told them on Tuesday that it wasn't a skill thing. That is not why we lost. Wayland just has a littler higher softball IQ and softball savvy than us right now," coach Garrett said, "and we really worked on that the last couple days in practice and they put it to use today. We actually did classroom session. We talked about different things. We talked about different base running things. We talked about our approach at the plate and what pitch we're looking for and just little things like that. My team has a bunch of girls that play travel ball, it was just getting them to realize what is going around them and thinking a play ahead."

TK had seven hits in the win. Bouma was the only girl with multiple hits. She drove in a run with a single in the top of the third, and managed to work her way out of a pickle between first and second to finish safely at second after the throw in from the outfield initially tried to cut down a Trojan runner at the plate. That hit tied the game at 3-3 at the time.

TK got singles from McKenna Hoebeke, Adelaide Holderman and Jenna Robinett. Holderman, Robinett, Aubree Stevens and Chloe Bossenberger had one RBI each.

A couple of Wildcat errors got the Trojans' go-ahead rally started in the

See next page



Thornapple Kellogg's Chloe Bossenberger gets a jump off first base during her team's win over Wayland in the championship game of the TK Invite Saturday in Middleville.

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TKHS girls close undefeated run through OK Gold duals

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Thornapple Kellogg varsity girls' track and field team will look to finish off an undefeated OK Gold Conference season this afternoon, May 8, at the conference championship meet hosted by Wyoming at Houseman Field in Grand Rapids.

The TK ladies finished off a 6-0 season of conference duals with victories over Wayland and South Christian at Wayland Union High School Monday. The Trojans beat the host Wildcats 104.5-32.5 and the South Christian girls 100-37.

The Wayland boys are in the same position as the TK girls having improved to 6-0 in conference duals with wins over the Trojans and Sailors Monday. The TK boys close the season of conference duals at 2-4.

The TK hurdlers are really hitting their stride as the season winds down. Senior Brooklyn Harmon, junior Mia Hilton and freshman Amya Gater placed 1-2-3 in both the 300-meter low hurdles and the 100-meter hurdles for the TK girls Monday. All three improved their personal record time in the 300 hurdles. Harmon won in 45.74, Hilton was second in 43.36 and Gater placed third in 47.61. Harmon was third and Hilton eighth in that race at the 2024 MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 2 Track and Field Finals.

In the 100s Monday, Harmon won with a time of 15.25 seconds, Hilton was second in 15.93 and Gater improved her PR to 16.65 to place third.

Junior sprinter Jordyn Fitros had another big afternoon for the TK ladies. She won the 100-meter dash in 13.00 and the 200-meter dash in 26.67.

TK senior Ava Crews had a pair of individual wins too taking the 1600-meter run in 5 minutes 43.43 seconds and the 3200-meter run in 11:40.74.

South Christian junior Chloe Rinzema prevented a sweep of the wins in the individual races on the track by the TK ladies. She took the 400-meter dash in a PR of 58.46 seconds and she won the 800-meter run in 2:27.40 just besting a season-best time of 2:28.68 from Crews.

The TK ladies won the three sprint relays. Sophomore Elile Harmon, junior Madison Kietzman, sophomore Estefani Sanchez Vega and sophomore Sydney Martin wont he 4x200-meter relay in 1:51.52. The team of Kietzman, Sanchez Vega, Martin and senior Emma Dykhouse won the 4x100-meter relay in 52.57 seconds.

To close the evening, the TK team of junior Payton Gater, Brooklyn Harmon, Hilton and Amya Gater won the 4x400-meter relay in 4:16.98.

Dykhouse also improved her shot put personal record with a mark of 35-10 and senior teammate Lilly McKeown was second with a put of 29-3.

The only victories for the TK boys came from senior Jacob Draaisma who took the 800-meter run in 2:00.47 and the 1600-meter run in 4:32.92.

Hurdlers had a good day on the boys' side too overall. Wayland sophomore Alex Hubbard and senior Malachi Rodriguez set PRs in placing 1-2 in the 110-meter high hurdles. South Christian junior Daniel Egler won the 300-meter intermediate hurdles, with TK sophomore Brandon Velting second in that race with a PR of 42.88 that left him just four hundredths of a second behind. The two guys behind him set PRs too.

TK teams were second in the 4x200-meter relay, the 4x100-meter relay and the 4x400-meter relay. The 4x100-meter race was an especially close one with the South Christian team of seniors Bryce Kenyon and Sammi Anema, sophomore Jesse VanDeGriend and junior Ethan White winning in 45.63 seconds. The TK team of sophomore Elliott Neff, senior Lucas McNabnay, freshman Maddox Vanengen and sophomore Jackson Smith was a little over a second back in 46.71 and the fastest Wayland team in that race was just eight hundredths of a second behind TK.

The foursome that included Wayland senior Landon Dunahoo was DQ'd in that 4x100. He was a part of wins in his three other events. He took the 100-meter dash in 11.51, the 200-meter dash in a PR of 22.84 and raced as a part of the Wildcats' winning 4x200-meter relay team.

Last Saturday, May 3, the TK ladies took the championship and the boys were third at the Cougar Invitational hosted by Grand Rapids Catholic Central.

Both teams had a pair of event wins. The TK ladies had the team of Brooklyn Harmon, Fitros, Amya Gater and Hilton win the 4x200-meter relay in 1:46.76 and junior Payton Gater won the high jump by clearing 4-10.

The TK boys' had junior Brayden Muma win the discus with a throw of 109-7 and Derious Robinson win the long jump with a personal record leap of 18-8.75.

Continued from previous page

top of the fifth. Holderman had an RBI single, and Stevens and Bossenberger put together back-to-back, two-out doubles to extend the TKJ lead.

Stevens was the winning pitcher. She allowed two runs, one earned, on five hits and two walks across the final five innings. She struck out one. Robinett started in the circle for TK allowing three runs on five hits. She struck out one too.

Wildcat starting pitcher Harmony Laker allowed seven runs in five innings in the circle, but only one was earned. She walked one and struck out nine. TK got to her for seven hits. Madi Ludema closed things out for the Wildcats with two shut out innings.

"The thing we really worked on was getting our trigger out of the way and getting our front foots down so we can rotate and hit the ball," Garrett said of her team's improvements at the plate between games against the Wildcats. "And they did so much better with it. I was a little nervous. Comstock Park's pitching was not Wayland's pitching, so I was a little nervous with how they were going to adjust and they did it right out of the gate. It was fun to see."

TK opened its day at the tournament with a 16-1 win over Comstock Park.

Holderman pitched and allowed one unearned run in four innings. She struck out seven and walked one.

The TK offense had nine hits in the win including doubles from Alyssa Schaefer, Stevens and Bouma. Bouma was 3-for-3 in that one with two runs scored and two RBIs. Stevens was 2-for-2 with two runs scored and five RBIs, and she also walked twice. Allison Wolowicz was 2-for-3 with two runs scored and three RBIs.

Wayland earned its spot in the tournament championship game with a 23-0 win over Delton Kellogg to start the day.


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Wooden bat tourney title goes to TK boys

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Moving guys around the bases in the top of the fourth and fifth innings put the Trojans in front of Unity Christian in the championship game of the Thornapple Kellogg Wooden Bat Invitational in Middleville Saturday.

The Trojans turned those busy base paths into a few runs, something the Crusaders weren't able to do as TK pulled out a 6-3 victory to win a home tournament for the second time this season.

Jayce Curtis led off the top of the fourth for Thornapple Kellogg with a single into centerfield. He stood at second base with two out when Connor Dombkowski delivered a pop single into centerfield that allowed him to come around to score breaking what had been a 3-3 tie. Dombkowski would score too without the benefit of a hit stealing second and then third and coming home as a throw to get him at third got away from the Crusaders.

Carsyn Redman led off the top of the fifth with a walk for TK. He stole second and went to third on a groundout by Anson Verlinde. A Cam Walter double into centerfield brought him home.

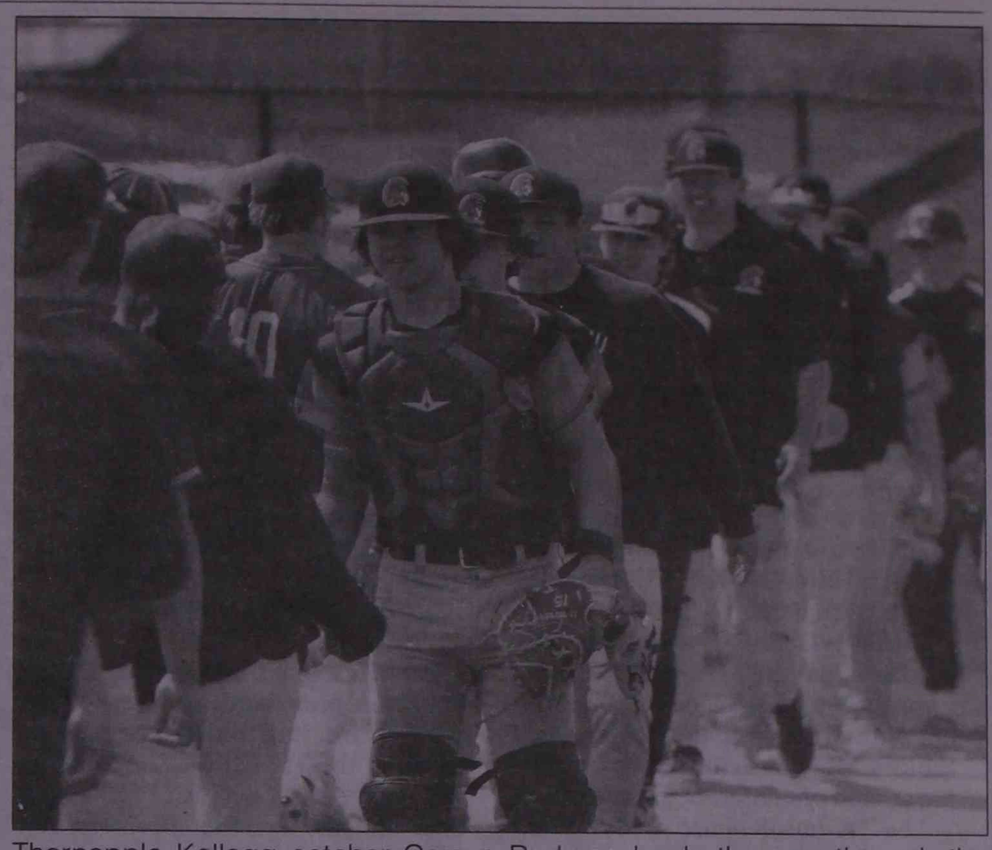
The Crusaders had their chances to cut into that Trojan lead and couldn't do it.

Unity Christian put its first three baserunners on in the bottom of the fifth inning, and its first two on in the bottom of the sixth.

In the fifth Trojan starter Micah Dock got a pop out and a strike out, and then a little roller to first base that Jayce Brummel scooped up and flipped over Dock covering the bag to get TK out of the inning unscathed.

In the bottom of the sixth, with Walter now on the mound, Unity Christian put its first two on thanks to an error and a walk. Walter induced a pop out into left and a pop up to first for the first two outs. The two Crusader baserunners moved up on a wild pitch with two out, but Dombkowski made a nice play on a ground ball at third and fired first to end another threat.

Dock got the win in the championship game going five innings. He gave up two earned runs (three total) on six hits, three walks and four strikeouts.



Thornapple Kellogg catcher Carsyn Redman leads the way through the handshake line with the Unity Christian Crusaders after the Trojans' victory in the championship game of the TK Wooden Bat Invitational Saturday in Middleville. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

Walter threw two scoreless innings giving up one hit, striking out one and walking one while earning a save.

At the plate, Walter was 2-for-4 with an RBI. Dombkowski, Brummel and Curtis had the other three TK hits.

TK started the day with a 4-3 win over East Kentwood.

The Falcons did move guys around late in the ballgame scoring twice in the bottom of the sixth and once in the bottom of the seventh to pull within a run after TK built a 4-0 lead.

The six hits in the ballgame for TK were all singles, one each for Dombkowski, Redman, Verlinde, Brummel, Zach Eldridge and Cooper Rasey. Curtis, Rasey and Verlinde had one RBI each. Dombkowski, Redman, Brummel and Eldridge each scored a run.

Jacob Davis was the winning pitcher he threw four scoreless, hitless innings. He walked one and struck out three. Redman tossed the final three innings. He struck out two, walked two and gave up three hits. Of the three runs against him, only one was earned.

The Trojans struggles in the OK Gold Conference did continue this week as they fell to 1-11 with three losses to Northview

See **TITLE** on 13



Thornapple Kellogg's Connor Dombkowski hustles home to score a run during his team's win over Unity Christian in the championship game of the TK Wooden Bat Invite Saturday in Middleville.



Scots no-hit Muskegon twice in quick doubleheader sweep

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Caledonia varsity softball team took two lopsided wins at Muskegon Tuesday afternoon outscoring the Big Reds 18-0 and 19-0 in their OK Green Conference doubleheader.

Nine hits, 11 walks and three Muskegon errors as well as five hit batters allowed the Scots to score their 18 runs in the opener.

Doubles by Addy Lash and Rian Restau were the only extra-base hits for the Scots.

Maddison Boucher was 2-for-3 at the top of the Scots' line-up with two runs scored and an RBI.

Lash was 2-for-2 with a walks, two runs and two RBIs, and Sophia Gauthier was 2-for-2 with a walk, three runs scored and four RBIs.

Hudsyn Tanner walked three times, scored a run and drove in a run.

Lauren Parker pitched for the Scots and no-hit the Muskegon girls in the three-inning ballgame. She struck out seven and walked two.

The Scots had eight hits and worked 13 walks in game two. A double by Claire Hoop was the only extra-base hit. Molly Lieske and Hoop had two hits apiece. Lieske was 2-for-3 with two walks, three runs scored and four RBIs. Hoop closed the night 2-for-2 with a walk, two runs scored and three RBIs.

Malia Burke matched Lieske for a team-high four RBIs. Addi Veldt walked four times hitting the number three spot for the Scots. She had an RBI and two runs scored.

Amber Fairchild was the winning pitcher in game two with another three-inning no-hitter for the Scots. She struck out eight. An error to start the bottom of the second allowed the only Muskegon hitter to reach base in the ballgame.

The Scots and Big Reds were set to meet in Caledonia for a third ballgame Thursday, May 8.

Big late inning powers Jenison to series win against Scots

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Jenison took the rubber match in its OK Green Conference series with the Caledonia varsity baseball team in Jenison Thursday, May 1.

The Wildcats answered a game-tying rally by the Fighting Scots with six runs in the bottom of the fifth inning on their way to an 8-4 win.

Caledonia falls to 4-4 in the OK Green Conference this season with the defeat.

Jenison only had one more hit than the Scots in the ballgame.Cam Myers was 2-for-2 with a double and a walk at the plate to lead the Caledonia offense. He scored one run. AJ Roszkowski tripled once, scored a run and drove in a run. Alex Spinney had a double, and Talen Verburg, Jackson McNew and Ty Lewandowski each singled once. Verburg and Ben Kieliszewski both drove in one run.

Aryn Taylor started for the Scots and was hit for five runs in 4.2 innings. He struck out three, walked three and gave up four hits. The Wildcats got to Spinney, who came on for Taylor, for three runs before G Trudeau closed things out with 1.1 innings of scoreless relief work.

Ben Slagter got the win for the Wildcats giving up four runs on seven hits and one walk in six innings. He struck out eight.

The Fighting Scots had their OK Green ballgames with Muskegon canceled this week. They were slated to visits Gull Lake Friday evening for a ballgame and will return to conference play with a set against Byron Center in the week ahead. The Bulldogs host the Scots for two Tuesday afternoon and then come to Caledonia for one Thursday, May 15. In between, the Scots host North Muskegon Wednesday.

Thornapple Kellogg will play host to the Scots Friday, May 16.

The Scots followed up that loss to Jenison last week by hosting Kalamazoo Christian for one May 2. The Comets took a 3-1 win with single runs in the top of the fourth, fifth and sixth innings. The Scots had 1-0 lead after scoring in the bottom of the first, but couldn't get another runner around despite outhitting the Comets 7-6.

Roszkowski opened the ballgame with a single through the left side for the Scots. He went to second on a sacrifice bunt from Ethan Sova, to third on a single by Myers and then stole home with Myers stealing second behind him.

Back-to-back singles to open the third inning didn't amount to a run for the Scots though, and again the Scots couldn't move a runner around after a lead-off single in the fourth, or the fifth when they opened the inning with a single and a walk.

Sova started on the mound for the Scots and allowed one earned run in 4.2 innings. He struck out one and gave up three hits. Roszkowski gave up one earned run in the final 2.1 innings. HE struck out two and gave up three hits. Neither guy walked a batter.

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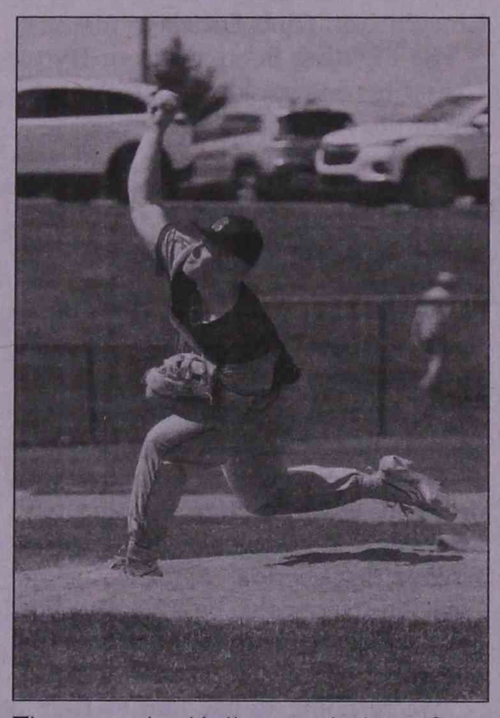
this week. The Wildcats took 10-2 and 5-0 wins in Grand Rapids Monday.

Verlinde was 2-for-2 with a walk in the opener, and Dombkowski and Davis both had hits. Singles by Dock and Redman were the only hits for TK in the game two shutout. Caleb Munson earned the shut out win for the Wildcats in game two with a complete game effort that saw him strike out five and walk one.

The Wildcats finished off the sweep with a 5-0 win in Middleville Wednesday afternoon.

Davis tossed the first five innings for TK at home giving up three earned runs on five hits and one walk. He struck out six. He was also 2-for-3 at the plate with a pair of singles. TK had six hits in all, all singles.

The Trojans play their series with Grand Rapids Union in the OK Gold in the week ahead. TK plays host to the Red Hawks for two Monday and then will go to Belknap Park in Grand Rapids for one with the Red Hawks Wednesday, May 14.



Thornapple Kellogg pitcher Cam Walter works to earn the save in the Trojans' victory over Unity Christian in the championship game of the TK Wooden Bat Invite in Middleville Saturday.

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Stauffer free kick finds net to get Scots win at Jenison

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Jenison packed things in the defensive end, but the Fighting Scots found one quick answer at the start of the second half.

The Caledonia varsity girls' soccer team scored a 1-0 win over Jenison in an OK Green Conference match on the road Tuesday to improve to 5-1-1 in conference play this season.

Emily Stauffer put, what head coach Taylor Kastens called "a beautiful free kick" into the upper 90 of the Wildcat net half a minute into the second half for the only goal of the game.

The Fighting Scots outscored the Wildcats 4-0 in their first meeting, prompting the Jenison squad to put forth a stronger fortification around its net this time around. The Scots still managed 12 shots on goal in the game. We only found the back of the net once out of 12 shots on target.

Ella DeRuyter, the Scots' senior keeper, did not face a single shot at the other end of the field.

That win Tuesday came on the heels of a 5-0 shut out of visiting Reeths-Puffer last Thursday, May 1.

Caledonia was set to return to conference action at home against Muskegon Thursday, May 8, and concludes the conference season with a couple of tough match-ups against Byron Center in Caeldonia Tuesday, May 13, and at Mona Shores Thursday, May 15.

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Trojan soccer improves Gold record with two shutout wins

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Thornapple Kellogg varsity girls' soccer team bounced back from an April 30 draw against West Catholic in OK Gold Conference play to take lopsided wins over Wayland and Wyoming this week.

The Trojans improved to 2-0 against both the Wildcats and Wolves with the wins and are now 7-0-2 in the conference this spring, trailing only the 8-0-1 South Christian girls who they will face at South Christian High School May 19 in the regular season finale.

Tealy Cross had two goals in the win over visiting Wayland Monday. Madilyn Chivis, Alexa Eden and Brooklyn Nichols each scored once.

"We played really well in the game, we possessed and controlled the game well," Thornapple Kellogg head coach David Wood said. "The team has really started to kick into gear after a time with some players out with injuries. I am very happy with how things have been going, we are ready to keep pushing to the end of the conference season and into districts."

The two shutouts push the Trojan total to six on the season.

The TK ladies return to conference play Monday at home against Northview and then will face the Union girls in Grand Rapids Wednesday.

TK is now 9-2-2 overall this season.

Scots win jamboree at Lincoln Golf Club

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Caledonia varsity boys' golf team won the OK Green Conference jamboree hosted by Reeths-Puffer at Lincoln Golf Club Tuesday.

The Fighting Scots beat out Byron Center by one stroke, 158-159, at the top of the standings.

Scot junior Camden Quigley led his team with a one-over-37 to finish second individually. The Scots also got a 39 from senior Parker Little, a 40 from senior Mason Kern and a 42 from senior Sam Miersen.

Mona Shores was right behind the top two teams with a 160 ahead of Reeths-Puffer 164 and Jenison 167.

Byron Center junior Cassius Bont shot an even-par-36 to finish as the day's top scorer.

CALEDONIA

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the match with Hudsonville it dropped back on April 29, and they let it get away. It is the only conference defeat of the season so far for the Scots. They were looking to clinch a share of the conference title with the Eagles, who dropped a conference contest with Mona Shores, with a win in their conference finale Friday against Zeeland East. The Scots also had plans to host their military appreciation event that evening.

"We're going to use that as fuel to get us through playoffs and get us that regional championship. April was good month for us … we're getting towards playoffs now and starting to play really good. Just gotta get some guys healthy," Herron said.

The Scots have their first playoff opponent set. They'll host Lowell in an MHSAA Division 2 Regional opener in the coming weeks. The Scots and Red Arrows also face off in a regular season game in Lowell today, May 10. Mattawan comes to Caledonia for the regular season finale Monday, May 12.

There is still time to make tweaks and improvements.

"Definitely spent a lot of time working on the clear and the ride. Definitely have spent a lot of time working on our face-offs, which have gotten a lot better," Herron said. "just fine tuning the little details so that way when we get to the playoffs we can play a full four quarters. That is what we have been putting a lot of emphasis on the past few weeks, putting together a full four quarters, because when you get to the playoffs anybody can beat you."

Trojans finish middle of the pack at Hastings Invitational

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Thornapple Kellogg varsity boys' golf team shot its way to fourth at the Hastings Invitational hosted by the Saxons at The Legacy at Hastings Friday, May 2.

Sophomore Parker Dahley led the Trojan team while finishing in a tie for seventh individually.

Hastings junior Daniel Jensen hit an eight iron with a little draw from the tee box up the hill on the par-3 number 18 to help him close his round with a rare birdie on that hole.

"Apparently it hit near the hole and I had ten feet left for birdie," Jensen said. "That felt nice, especially after a double on 15. It felt nice."

Jensen was one over through his first 12 holes Friday before that double bogie on number 15, one of the toughest holes on the course, but he bounced back with a birdie on the short, par-5 number 17 and then another on that par-3 18. He said despite playing a lot of rounds at The Legacy, he can't remember the last time he birdied 18 and it certainly isn't something he has done often. He was the only one to birdie 18 Friday.

Jensen closed his round with a two-over-74 to win the day's individual championship at the nine-team tournament.

Ionia won the day's team championship with an overall score of 324. Hastings was second at 350 ahead of Lakewood 353, Thornapple Kellogg 358, Battle Creek Lakeview 367, Lowell 367, Pennfield 385, Potter's House Christian 392 and Lowell 'B' 404.

"It's okay," Jensen said of a 74. "I could have played better, but I am happy with that.

"I could have putted a lot better. I left some birdies out there," he added.

Ionia and Lakewood are Capital Area Activities Conference White Division rivals. Lakewood head coach Jason Solgat said his team has gotten used to finishing in third place this season after placing there at a couple recent tournaments and conference jamborees. He hasn't seen Ionia shoot as well previously as the Bulldogs did Friday.

"Another thing here, three strokes out of second or so, and I know a kid that started with a quad and I know a kid that started with a double bogie," Solgat said. "After three holes of golf, we were +12 already. I'd rather see that mid-round or not at all. We've got to learn just to come out of the gates … when we start playing to our potential we're going to be good."

Ionia had four guys among the top seven scorers led by freshmen Bryce Schmid and Carson Schmid. Bryce shot a 76 to finish second individually behind Jensen. Carson shot a 78.

Lakewood was led by senior Cole Thrun who was third individually with a 77. Solgat said strong putting and improved tempo up and down the fairways helped Thrun put together a good score.

Lakewood sophomore Bryson Boucher shot an 87 to finish in a tie for seventh with Dahley and Ionia junior Cole Petersen. The tournament champs from Ionia also had junior Adam Kramer in fifth place with an 83.

Hastings freshman Andrew Barton finished in a tie for tenth overall with an 89. The Saxons also got a 92 from junior Bronson Elliott and a 95 from senior Hunter Pennington.

Lakewood's top four was filled out by a 93 from senior Kenny Dutkiewicz and a 96 from sophomore Vance O'Mara.

Thornapple Kellogg got a 90 from senior Owen Corner, a 90 from senior Kylan Pratt and a 91 from senior Ryan Skidmore.

TK was back in action Tuesday hosting a dual with Hopkins at Yankee Springs Golf Course. The Trojans took the win by the score of 180-189.

Sophomore Easton Sytsma led the TK team with a 42. Senior Tyler Voss scored a 44, Corner a 46 and senior Blake Hardy shot a 48.

Hopkins senior Luke Dame had the day's top score, a 41.



TK senior Owen Corner fires a tee shot on number ten during the Hastings Invitational at The Legacy Friday, May 2.



Thornapple Kellogg sophomore Parker Dahley rolls a putt towards the hole on the number nine green during the Hastings Invitational at The Legacy Friday, May 2. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

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CHS track teams finish on top at three-team EGR Classic

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Caledonia varsity boys' and girls' track and field teams beat out the Pioneers and Grand Rapids Christian Eagles to win titles Saturday at the East Grand Rapids Classic.

The Caledonia boys won with an overall score of 186 points ahead of Grand Rapids Christian 128 and EGR 105. The CHS girls had 160 total points ahead of Christian 136 and EGR 108.

In a meet with a handful of different events among the 16 competed, Caledonia junior Eli Velting set a Caledonia school record in the 600-meter run with a time of 1 minute 24.49 seconds, beating out his nearest competitor by more than two and a half seconds.

The Caledonia boys also had victories from Bennett Snapper in the 1600-meter run, Jonas Howell in the 110-meter high hurdles and the 300-meter intermediate hurdles, in three relays and in four field events.

Liam Moore and Cody Meyers teamed to win the discus relay for the Scots. Andrew Tava and Parker Lipsman won the high jump relay. Ben Moss and DJ Potgeter won the pole vault relay. The long jump relay win went to Kaleb Huyser and Colton Heyboer.

Meyers, Moore and shot put performers Ian DeHaan and Peter Paarlberg won the 4x100-meter throwers relay for the Scots. The CHS team also had Potgeter, Howell, Velting and Josh Maier win the 4x400-meter relay and the team of Aidan Edgar, Snapper, Mason Morrell and Thompson win the 4x3200-meter relay.

The CHS girls had two field event wins. Jolie King and Mackenzie Krentz took the discus relay, and King teamed with Zuzanna Poradzka to win the long jump relay.

Olivia Hawkins won the 100-meter hurdles and the 300-meter low hurdles for the Scots, and teamed with Maya Terryn, Brynn Ward and Isla Sheely to win the 4x400-meter relay. The Caledonia girls also had the team of Isabelle Horning, Addison Cook, Abigail Tava and Evie Huttenga win the sprint medley relay.

The CHS teams were set to go to Jenison Friday, May 9, for the OK Green Conference Championships.

Last Friday, May 1, a handful of Scot two-milers competed in the Shepherd Blue Jay Invite. Senior Kort Thompson, Johnston and senior Hannah Dupuis all ran their fastest 3200-meter races ever, and Thompson and Johnson turned in the second and third fastest times ever for Caledonia guys in the race. Thompson was 18th overall with a time of 9 minutes 28.66 seconds and Johnston clocked in at 9:29.98 in 21st place.

Dupuis placed 28th in the girls' race with a time of 11:23.29.

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