THE SUN AND NEWS
Your Hometown Newspaper Serving the Middleville, Caledonia and Gaines Township Areas
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TK CLEARS EVERY HURDLE ON ITS WAY TO ANOTHER TITLE
PAGES 10-11



Caledonia fire chief honored at township board meeting

Karen Turko-Ebright
Contributing Writer

The Caledonia Township Board of Trustees hosted a special moment at its meeting Wednesday, May 7, as Fire Chief Scott Siler was presented with a "Patriot Award" from Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, and the U.S. Department of Defense.

The recognition honors employers who go above and beyond in supporting members of the National Guard and Reserve.

According to the honor, "Chief Siler's leadership reflects deep commitment – not just to public safety, but to the citizen warriors who serve our nation. From flexible scheduling to family support during deployments, his actions exemplify what it means to serve with heart."

In other business, actions approved last week include the following:

• The board unanimously approved a motion from Caledonia Township Board Treasurer Dr. Richard Robertson to transfer $9,900 of the Opioid fund balance to the Kent County treasurer for the use of their drug prevention mediation program.

See **CHIEF** on 4



From left, Paul Ryan, a retired Navy officer and representative of Employer Support of the Guard Reserve (ESGR), presented Caledonia Fire Chief Scott Siler with the Patriot Award. **Courtesy photo**



Some members of the recently formed Gaines Charter Township Fire Department get sworn in at the May 12 township board meeting. **Photos by James Gemmell**

Gaines Twp. and Byron Twp. finalize fire service split

James Gemmell
Contributing Writer

The Byron Township Board of Trustees stunned its counterpart in Gaines Township in July 2023 when it notified them that Byron would be severing its 73-year partnership in mutually running the Cutlerville Fire Station.

The Byron Township board again surprised the Gaines Township officials recently by submitting written notification in April that it intends to terminate a "Fire and Rescue Services Agreement" that requires the Gaines Charter Township Fire Department to provide services until Byron Township's new fire station in Cutlerville becomes operational. The agreement, which took effect in late July 2024, right after the partnership was officially dissolved, requires Gaines Township firefighters to assist neighboring crews in fighting fires in Byron Township.

The pending termination of the Fire and Rescue Services Agreement does not mean there will not be any mutual aid available on the Cutlerville side of Byron Township, if needed.

However, the agreement required six months written notice in advance of termination. Byron Township officials reportedly only gave five months notice.

At the Gaines Township board meeting Monday, May, 12, Township Manager Rod Weersing said the township will miss out on one month's payment from Byron Township as a result of the early end of the agreement.

The Gaines Township board voted unanimously, 7-0, to accept the early termination, though not without some criticism.

Weersing said Byron Township has been paying Gaines Township an average of about $60,000 per month to provide services since the agreement took effect last July.

"So then, we say penalty for early withdrawal, $60,000?" Clerk Michael Brew joked.

"It's not a bad idea, maybe 5 percent," Treasurer Laurie Lemke added.

Trustee Kathy VanderStel disagreed, stating Gaines Township should "take the high road."

"Let's be the grownups in the room and do this the right way, even though they're not," Trustee Tim Haagsma added.

The split between the townships in jointly running the Cutlerville Fire Station on 68th Street, near Division Avenue, officially took effect in July 2024. Under the terms of a 1950 Joint Operating Agreement, Byron Township was to provide 12-months notice before severing the partnership. However, in 2023, several Gaines officials reportedly said they were disappointed that Byron Township trustees did not discuss their decision prior to approving the separation.

See **SERVICES** on 5

Girl Scouts plant flowers at Middleville Veterans Memorial

Karen Turko-Ebright
Staff Writer

Several Girl Scout Troop 9116 members spent their Monday evening giving back to their community by planting flowers in three new large pots at the Middleville Veterans Memorial.

Troop leader Amanda Stora and her co-leader, Jennifer Baron, agree that the evening with their Scouts will be a memory they will always treasure.

"Our troop consists of Daisies and Brownies, which is the youngest rank in Girl Scouts, so for most of them, this was their first time being able to contribute to a community service," Stora explained.

With shovels in hand and troop leaders assisting nearby, eight out of 11 from the Girl Scout troop started digging.

All were busy watering, planting, and smoothing the soil for a few hours until the pots were filled with red, white and blue flowers. "It was truly a pleasure getting our hands dirty," Stora said.

The flowers are donated every year by Creekside Growers and Sue Dykstra, a local supporter of the memorial. Community donations covered the cost of the new large decorative flowerpots.

"It was special having Jerry Welsh give a brief explanation of Memorial Day and the significance behind the KIA (Killed In Action) Wall to the girls," Stora said. The wall lists 13 Middleville veterans who paid the ultimate price for our freedom.



Girl Scout Troop 9116 members spent their Monday evening giving back to their community by planting flowers in three new large pots at the Middleville Veterans Memorial. **Courtesy photo**

The annual flower planting service project is a long-standing tradition in the community. It was started in 2018 by US Army veteran Charlie Pullen, a former Middleville Village Council President involved in Barry County veterans' activities and a statewide veteran advocate. Pullen passed away in November 2020 due to complications from COVID-19.



TK Alumni Association honors Steensma

The Thornapple Kellogg Alumni Association honored Dr. Elizabeth "Betsy" Steensma with its "Distinguished Alumni Award" at the all-class banquet May 3.

According to organizers, about 135 people attended this year's banquet. Dick Stager and Laura Thede Hyde, represented the Class of 1948 as the oldest alumni attending, with others representing classes from the 1950s through 2013.

The Distinguished Alumni Award was one of the highlights of the evening, with the honor being presented to alumni who are outstanding in their fields. The awards are presented annually at the alumni banquet and prior to the homecoming football game in the fall.

Steensma, a member of the TK High School Class of 1998, is an acute care surgeon – board certified in general surgery and surgical critical care – covering trauma surgery, emergency general surgery and the surgical intensive care unit at Butterworth Hospital in Grand Rapids.

"I am extremely humbled to be here," she said in accepting the award. "If you think about our community and how important the people here are, everybody here is a testament to that. We are a foundation right here in this community that grows individuals, that fosters curiosity, that pushes people to learn and excel, and I'm so grateful for the education and the community that we have here that really did that.

"I will never be enough to deserve this honor," she added. "I will continue to work in every way that I can. I hope you realize how important what we have here is and what people take with them for the rest of their lives. More than anything, I am grateful for the community that helped raise me and gave me so many opportunities to grow. Thank you is simply not a big enough word."



Dr. Elizabeth "Betsy" Steensma was honored with the Thornapple Kellogg Alumni Association's "Distinguished Alumni Award" earlier this month. **Courtesy photo**

The May 3 dinner also provided alumni a chance to reminisce with each other, as well as look through old yearbooks, photos and memorabilia.

Upcoming events for the TKAA include the Alumni Golf Scramble on June 7 and the Homecoming on Oct. 10. — *DM*

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Obituaries

Diane Mary Croel



Diane Mary Croel, age 75, of Grand Rapids, MI joined her Lord and Savior on Monday, May 12, 2025. Diane was a woman of great faith, a loving devoted mother and aunt with an infectious smile. She enjoyed life and spending time with her family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Gary Croel; parents, John and Ginger Koryto; siblings: John, Dave, Roger, and Jean Koryto.

She will be lovingly remembered by her son, Scott Walker; sisters-in-law, Chris Koryto, Sherry Troutwine, Rose Putney; many nieces, nephews, greats and great greats.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held 11 a.m. on Monday, May 19, 2025, at Holy Family Church, 9669 Kraft Ave. SE, Caledonia, with Rev. Michael Cilibraise presiding. Burial will be held at Bowne Center Cemetery. Relatives and friends may meet the family Monday from 10-11 a.m. at the church.

Those who wish may make memorial contributions to Faith Hospice (https://faithhospicecare.org/) or Michigan Parkinson's Foundation (https://parkinsonsmi.org/). Condolences may be sent online at www.mkdfuneralhome.com.

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SERVICES

Continued from Page 1

Former Gaines Township Supervisor Rob DeWaard, now a township trustee, said at the time it was "disrespectful" to Gaines Township the way Byron officials handled the situation.

At the time, Byron Township Supervisor Donald Tillema said notifying Gaines Township officials in advance would not have made any difference, adding the township's booming population left the board with no choice but to approve building its own fire department in Cutlerville. The new fire station is being built along the east side of US-131, north of 68th Street.

Gaines Township trustees voted last year to buy out Byron Township's half of its equity ownership of the fire barn on 68th Street, west of Division Avenue, with the Cutlerville fire hall appraised at $1.88 million.

Gaines' cost to buy out Byron's equity share is about $940,000. The five-year buyout began in late July 2024, when the township began making 20-percent annual payments on that amount.

When the new Gaines Charter Township Fire Department was launched on January 1, 2025, that fire building in Cutlerville was renamed Station No. 1. And the fire barn on 68th Street in Dutton was renamed Station No. 2. Because the two stations merged, they are both part of the new Gaines Charter Township Fire Department.

Weersing wrote in an April 30 staff memo that he met with Tillema and the fire marshal on April 21 of this year to learn about Byron Township's intentions.

"At that meeting, they informed us that they were planning on having their new fire station 'go live' on September 22, 2025," Weersing said.

Weersing added that construction of Byron Township's new Cutlerville fire station is projected to be complete in early August, well ahead of the termination of the Fire Services agreement on Sept. 22.

"And then, (they're) planning on moving in their equipment, and having some time with their staff in their building before they go live," he said.

Gaines Township Trustee Rob DeWard recommended the board include a provision in its acceptance letter that the township must continue to be paid for fire and rescue services, if Byron Township's new fire department is not operational by Sept. 22. That language was included in the motion and approved in a unanimous, 7-0, vote to formally accept the termination notice.

Also, before the split, the two townships in 2023 agreed to share the $1.7 million cost for a new platform fire truck due to be delivered from Wisconsin-based Pierce Manufacturing this fall. With the townships no longer jointly operating a fire department, Gaines Township will now pay for the full amount.



Paid on-call and part-time members of the recently formed Gaines Charter Township Fire Department are sworn at the Gaines Township Board of Trustees' regular meeting Monday, May 12.

"We moved ahead with it, knowing that Gaines (Township) was going to pay for the full bill," Weersing said after Monday's meeting.

The platform truck will replace a more than 20-year-old, with the new 100-foot aerial ladder will enable firefighters to access the tops of larger buildings.

In related action at Monday's meeting, Gaines Township Clerk Michael Brew swore in the paid on-call and part-time firefighters who are members of the township's recently formed fire department. A similar oath was read in February for the department's full-time members.

Weersing called for the last radio calls for the former Cutlerville and Dutton fire departments to be played back for the audience at Monday's night.

"I do think it's a historical, pivotal moment," Township Supervisor Bob Terpstra told the firefighters. "You may have been on the force for a long time, but now it's the Gaines (Township) Fire Department. So, that's worth acknowledging, putting it in the history books."

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BUILDING BRANDS

Build your brand for growth

Hopefully you've all read the great news that View Newspaper Group is growing again! The announcement was made last month by Owner and President Rick Burrough that our group will launch our 22nd newspaper, the St. Clair Area View on Friday, May 9. The free community newspaper will be delivered via the U.S. Postal Service to 17,000 homes twice a month throughout the St. Clair area.

View Newspaper Group has grown through startups or acquisitions nearly every year since Burrough founded the company in 2003, which means I've written quite a few press releases on our growth. As I discovered when I sat down to write the latest release last month the thrill never goes away. I felt something magic course through my fingers as I typed.

While there's no doubt about the magical feeling our team has right now, the reality is, there's no sleight of hand at work when it comes to growing a business. It takes a lot of brain power, a lot of people power and a lot of time. There are so many things a business must do as a whole to prepare for growth. From updating technology and infrastructure to ensuring the right policies and procedures are in place, there are hundreds of steps to take to ensure success. Luckily, we have a team of experts in place to handle each of those jobs.



EMILY CASWELL
ecaswell@mihomepaper.com

Part of my job is to keep our brand strong and poised for growth, because a company cannot grow without a strong brand. I don't do this alone, it takes every View Newspaper Group team member to make our brand what it is today.

If you're looking to grow your business, building your brand is a great place to start. Below are tips to help you do just that.

• **Clearly define your brand:** Before you can grow your brand, you must define what exactly your brand is. You do this first by conducting a brand audit to determine a number of things, including where your brand stands in the market versus where you'd like it to stand. It's a lengthy, but valuable process. Once the research portion is done it's time to create a strong brand identity, which includes a mission, vision, logo, tagline, colors, brand standards and more. With those items in place it's important to keep them consistent, which over time helps to clearly define your brand.

• **Ensure each team member is a brand ambassador:** Your team members are the best ambassadors a brand can have. They talk to friends, neighbors and family members daily and help your brand grow with every interaction. It's important to ensure each member knows the brand inside and out. Everyone on the team should have a practiced 30-second elevator speech about the brand and their role in it. As an added bonus, a growing business means more perks — like opportunities for advancement — for team members. Happy brand ambassadors are the best brand ambassadors

• **Advertise your brand:** Your brand can't grow if no one knows it exists. There are two keys when it comes to building any brand — consistency (see item No. 1) and frequency. Achieve frequency by exposing your brand to the community in as many advertising and marketing avenues as possible as frequently as possible.

• **Deliver on your brand promise:** A brand promise is a one-sentence promise that matters to your audience, is unique to you and above all – believable. This promise should indicate what your product is and who it's for. View Newspaper Group's brand promise reads: "View Newspaper Group is a locally-owned newspaper group committed to making meaningful connections for our readers and our clients." Delivering on our brand promise leads readers to pick up our papers and attend our events and it leads clients to us when they have a need to reach their consumers. All of those items add up to growth.

• **Give back:** Whether through time, talent or treasure, it's important that your organization's brand is associated with giving back. It's proven to be good for business, and more importantly, it's the right thing to do. View Newspaper Group is dedicated to giving back to the communities we serve. In 2024 we gave back more than $180,000 in cash donations, as well as thousands of dollars more in trade advertising space and editorial coverage of

See **BRANDS** on 7

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Gaines trustees mull offer for potential park as part of proposed development

James Gemmell
Contributing Writer

Members of the Gaines Township Board of Trustees are pushing back any decision on whether to accept an offer on a 3.6-acre piece of property that would eventually be turned into a park in Dutton.

Board members cited concerns about the potential long-term costs of maintaining the park as one of the reasons they are hesitant to accept the offer, while discussing the issue at their monthly meeting on Monday, May 12. It's also part of a broader discussion township officials have had in recent weeks concerning the development of local parks and trails.

In delaying its decision, the board did not vote on the office Wisconsin-based Continental Property, which is seeking approval to build 14, two-story apartment houses just south of the M-6 freeway. The three-acre park property would be part of the development project.

Vernon and Linda Verduin's family have owned the farmland property, the site for the proposed development, for more than a century and have previously stated they want to sell it to Continental. The dedicated park space would meet the township's zoning requirement that a public benefit or amenities be included in future residential projects.

Continental Properties development director Jordan Teichen said the township's master plan calls for a multi-family use on the property. But the land would have to be rezoned from the current Residential-4 (mobile home) and Residential-10 designations to a Planned Unit Development.

The Gaines Township Planning Commission approved a revised site plan and preliminary PUD for the parcel on March 27. A final PUD must be approved by the Planning Commission and the township board before the project can begin.

Continental Properties will be seeking a site-plan review and approval from the planning commission at its May 22 meeting. Commissioners will then give a recommendation to the township board, which would decide on whether to give final approval for the rezoning.

The location of the proposed park would be south of the clubhouse and west of the Anderson Drain that runs through the property.

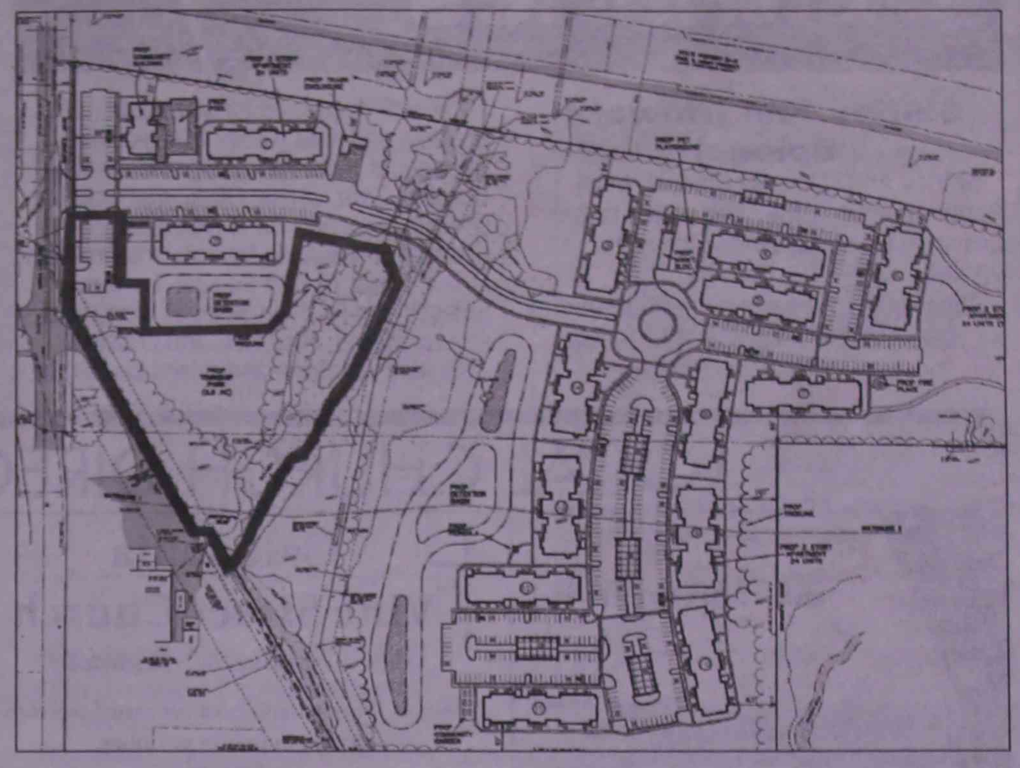
"We would deed that land over to the township – should the township accept it – for open-space programming," Teichan said. "There is dedicated parking along Hanna Lake for visitors of the park. (Runoff) would drain into our detention pond facility."

He added that one of the goals of the township's 2024 master plan is to enhance the local park system and that a township-wide survey in 2023 showed about 80 percent of residents expressed a desire for more park development.

But, first, township officials are seeking to answer the question of who would operate and maintain the park.

"They will build the parking and they'll do some initial maintenance, but the question is who'll take it long-term?" Gaines Township Community Development director Dan Wells said. "If this is for the public, does the town-

See **PARK** on 7



A layout sketch shows Continental Properties' site development plan for a multi-family development adjacent to M-6 in Dutton, with the proposed dedicated parkland outlined. **Source: gainestownship.org**

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Monday
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Schedule for Cemeteries & Addresses

Alaska
9:00 AM, 68th St. and
Thornapple River Drive

Blain
9:45 AM, 1270 68th St.

Dutton
10:30 AM, 7000 Hanna Lake Ave.

Holy Corners
11:15 AM, 84th and Kraft

Caledonia
12:00 Noon, 503 Elm St.

Mrs. Sprague is turning in her final assignment!



After 31 incredible years at Thornapple Kellogg Middle School, Rojean Sprague is hanging up her teaching badge and starting the next adventure. Mom, we are so proud of the ways you've nurtured, encouraged, and inspired thousands of TK kids from your classroom. Please join us in saying congratulations by sharing a sweet note or your favorite memories!

Love, Ross & the kids

All letters can be mailed to:
Mrs. Rojean Sprague
PO Box 101
Middleville, MI 49333

Obituaries

Shirley Ann (Nowak) Spiegel

Shirley Ann (Nowak) Spiegel, born September 14, 1936, was called to her heavenly home on Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2024.

She was predeceased by her husband of 54 years, Conrad Richard (Dick) Spiegel, and son, Konrad Nicholas Spiegel.

She will be missed by her children, Stephen and Kate (Caliri) Spiegel, and James and Heidi Spiegel; grandchildren, Dorothy, Sam, Grace, Olivia, and Isabella; siblings, Tom and Rose Nowak, and Leonard and Joanne Nowak; and brothers-in-law, Msgr. Robert Spiegel, Fr. Tom Spiegel, and Fr. John Spiegel; along with several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Shirley was born and raised alongside her younger brothers in Alpena, where she raised rabbits and graduated as valedictorian from her high school class. She often expressed deep gratitude for Dick's provision, who happened to have a daily need for greeting cards when Shirley was working at a card store in Grand Rapids and smiled broadly when he recalled the orange pant suit she wore on their first date.



Dick's successful business ventures allowed Shirley to generously give to numerous nonprofit organizations throughout her life.

While raising her three sons, Shirley picked up many hobbies, including country painting, crewel embroidery, and flower gardening, always striving to have the outcomes match her particular vision for whatever was at hand. She was an active and faithful member of Holy Family Catholic Church in Caledonia where she served as an usher.

Shirley was known for her tenacious spirit and ability to boldly express her opinions, including her insistence on feeding the wildlife at their Caledonia residence despite critters coming near the home's foundation.

When it came to animals, Shirley's tenderness was evident, from the care of her favorite cat, Samson, to proudly displaying pictures of James's many cats on her bulletin board, cooing "little rascals" to Stephen's rats, and even petting the mechanical dog in the sunroom at Boulder Creek Assisted Living where she passed in her sleep under the care of hospice.

A Memorial Service will be held 11 a.m. on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 at Holy Family Church, 9669 Kraft Ave. SE.

Memorial contributions in Shirley's honor may be made to Habitat for Humanity of Kent County or to West Michigan Humane Society. Condolences may be sent online at www.mkdfuneralhome.com.

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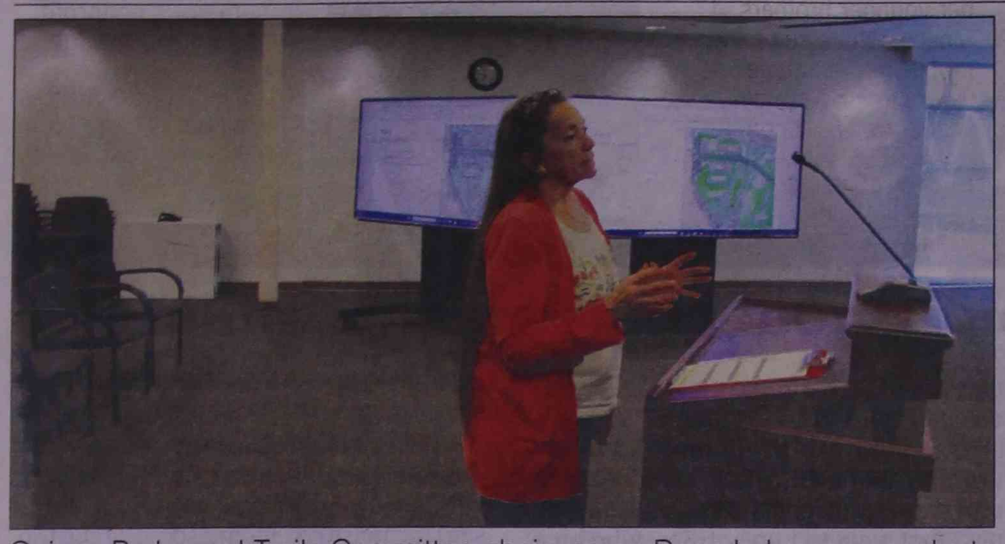


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Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 a.m.
Community Group.....11:00 a.m.
James L. Collison, Pastor
www.yankeespringsbiblechurch.org

CHIEF

Continued from Page 1

- Fire Chief Scott Siler's salary received approval from the board to be increased to $102,000 annually, effective immediately.
- The board approved a recommendation to have Fishbeck, an architecture and engineering firm based in Grand Rapids, complete the development of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Operation and Maintenance Manual for the Caledonia Wastewater Treatment Plant at a cost of $35,000.
- Board members agreed to increase the Caledonia Independence Day Celebration budget from $15,000 to $25,000, with $20,000 reserved for fireworks, adding $1,000 out of the remainder allocated for support services.
- Lastly, the board unanimously approved a bid to relocate Caledonia Stadium's water main, not exceeding $80,000.00.



Gaines Parks and Trails Committee chairwoman Dana Lehmann speaks to the township board about the research that is needed before the township decides on potentially taking ownership of future park space in Dutton. **Photo by James Gemmell**

PARK

Continued from Page 3

ship want to ultimately have control of this? We would then do whatever amenities we wanted to do, probably in conjunction with DNR grants.

"What's in the best long-term interest of the township? Do we want to control these pocket parks or these smaller parks? Or do we just want to say, 'Hey, look. Since you're putting in the development project, you have to maintain it long term,'" he added.

Whether the space would be a true public park, if it is in the control of a private entity (Continental), is another question officials are seeking to answer.

"I don't think that's quite fair to the developer, in my opinion, if it's public property," Trustee Tim Haagsma said. "It just seems kind of disingenuous that we want (the park) for us, but we want them to pay to maintain it."

Haagsma said, if township residents want more parks, then they should also be asked to pay for the associated maintenance costs.

"And if they do, fine," he added. "And if they don't, we asked. We can't do much more than that.

Trustee Kathy VanderStel said she agreed with Haagsma's evaluation of the situation.

"I'm not sure it's fair to say the developer has to maintain that long-term when it's a public park," she said.

"I would love to see this be a public park," added Township Clerk Michael Brew. "That would be fantastic, but the devil is in the details of maintaining it. I don't know, at this point, that we have the funds, the availability and all the rest of that stuff to take that on without either getting a public works department – which would take a couple years to implement – or finding ways with our current staff to maintain it."

Park maintenance typically includes regular cleaning, lawn mowing, landscaping, infrastructure repairs and dealing with graffiti and vandalism.

Teichan said the Verduin family legacy would be memorialized through the park dedication.

"It's a chicken-and-egg thing," Township Supervisor Bob Terpstra said. "We're not ready but can we get ready?"

Dana Lehmann, who chairs the township's Parks and Trails Committee, agreed the township is not ready yet to decide on whether to accept ownership of the potential park space.

"We need to research how parks and grounds work," she said, while proposing the township's engineer evaluate the property. "We need to do our homework.

"But I'd like to see what our engineer comes back with on what's feasible," she added.

Wells said the township board could consider various options, such as agreeing to purchase the parkland in a couple of years and allowing the developer to maintain it until then. He said another possibility would be to split the costs for maintenance.

During the board's discussions, Haagsma added there's also the issue of a lack of available park space available in the township that needs to be considered.

"So, whenever we get a chance to get some, I think it behooves us to, at least, figure out if there's something we can do," he said.

Also, during Monday's meeting, board members considered a resolution put forward by the Parks and Trails Committee to establish a public works department. The trustees did not act on the resolution but agreed to discuss the issue further at a later date.

"We're endorsing what they're trying to do," Trustee Rob DeWard said. "However, we're not committing to it at this point until we see some numbers."

BRANDS

Continued from Page 6

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Emily Caswell is the Brand Manager for VIEW Group, the branding division of View Newspaper Group.

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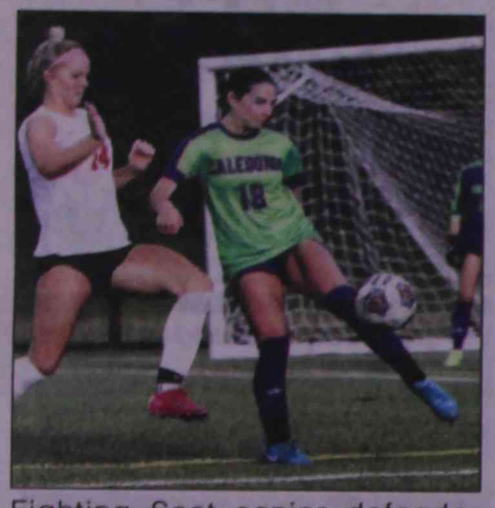
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Sporting News



Fighting Scot senior defender Joslynn Wilcox clears the ball away from her box as Byron Center's Ella Alexander jumps in on the play during the second half Monday at Scotland Yard.

Scot comeback bid a goal short against Bulldogs

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Byron Center clinched the 2025 OK Green Conference championship fending off the Fighting Scots 2-1 at Scotland Yard Tuesday in Caledonia.

The Bulldog varsity girls' soccer team improved to 9-0 in the conference this season with one game to play. The loss dropped the Scots to 6-2-1 in conference play, tied with Mona Shores in second place in the conference standings heading into a meeting between the Scots and Sailors Thursday, May 15, in Muskegon.

The Bulldogs took a 2-0 lead in the first half and controlled play.

"We changed things up in the second half to put Byron Center's backline under pressure more," Caledonia head coach Taylor Kastens said. "We were able to get them to cough it up a few times. Late in the game, Averi Rosted pressured their backline to make a bad pass that went to Laney Elles, who hit a beautiful shot that went off the crossbar and Emily Stauffer was able to finish it back post."

The Scots had an earlier flurry like that late in the first half too as Rosted fired a corner kick from right to left in front of the Bulldog net. The Bulldog defense managed to head it away to the top of the box where Fighting Scot senior was waiting for a rebound. She hit a bouncing ball high in the air that clanged off the cross bar above the Bulldog keeper Nora Shans. Scot sophomore Kayla Briseno was right there to get a head on the rebound, but couldn't get much behind it and Schans blocked it down for her teammate Jordyn Zimmer to clear out of the box.

The Scots moved their overall record to 8-6 2 with the defeat. Byron Center improved to 13-1-3 and was looking to finish off an undefeated conference season at home against Jenison Friday, May 16.

Mona Shores was set to head into its Thursday evening match with the Scots with an 11-3-3 overall record. Kastens said its nice to be facing some of the top teams in the area heading into districts.

The Scots open postseason play at home, Thursday, May 22 taking on Northview at 6 p.m.

Last Thursday, the Caledonia girls took their second OK Green Conference win of the season over the Muskegon girls outscoring them 12-0 at Scotland Yard.

The contest against Byron Center was also the Fighting Scots' annual Mental Health Awareness Game, with the Scots donning green and purple jerseys and a presentation from Jon Reibel at the half. Reibel the founder of Drip Over Skill which started producing natural eye black. Caledonia senior Joslynn Wilcox is a part of the company's ambassador program, and through that relationship Drip Over Skill sponsored some mental health training sessions for the Fighting Scot program this season.



Caledonia sophomore Averi Rosted (right) and Byron Center sophomore Ella Leyendecker leap in to try and get to the ball first during the first half of their OK Green Conference meeting at Scotland Yard in Caledonia Monday.
Photos by Brett Bremer

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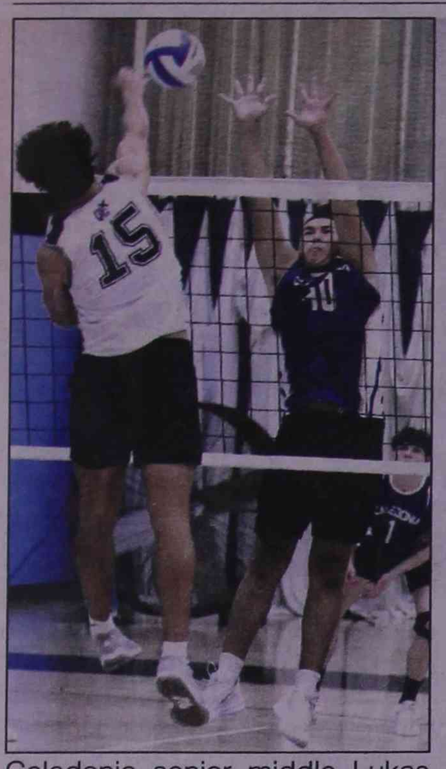
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CHS boys face conference's best in final volleyball contests



Caledonia senior middle Lukas Palmitier (right) tries to slow down an attack from South Christian's Ike Schrotenboer during the GR South Conference finale at Grand Rapids Christian High School Wednesday. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

It was a co-op effort on the Caledonia High School boys' volleyball club this spring, the final season before the sport becomes an official MHSAA sanctioned event in the spring of 2026.

The Fighting Scots added players from Thornapple Kellogg and Wayland to their squad.

"I think we've come a long, long ways," Caledonia senior Lukas Palmitier said. "The beginning of the year I was a bit nervous, but after our first preseason tournament, I got a lot of faith in us and how we could do good things."

"We didn't really know each other very well, like we don't return that many players, then we were co-oping with other schools, so we'll have new guys. We just didn't know each other very well. We know each other a lot better now."

There are still times where everybody is smoothing out the chemistry as the 2025 season winds down. The Fighting Scots closed action in the GR South Conference with a tough night against the conference leaders at Grand Rapids Christian High School Wednesday. The Caledonia squad fell 25-21, 25-21 against the host Eagles and then fell 25-15, 26-24 against the conference champs from South Christian. The Sailors, last year's Division 2 state runners-up, finished off a perfect 10-0 conference season with the win.

The Scots close GR South play at 6-4. The Eagles finished in the runner-up spot at 8-2.

Overall, the Caledonia boys have put together a 14-9 record this season. They'll take on a tough Rockford team to start the Division 1 state postseason this week.

Palmitier said improved communication in the second set was really a big key to the Fighting Scots giving the Sailors a battle there at the end.

"In our serve receive, we'll say seams left or right, and then that's usually Parker Knoop, and he's the one telling us about that. That improved a lot in that second set."

Coach Palmateer said she also noticed improved positivity and a better mindset with that improved.

The Scots actually served to take that second set. Junior middle Deacon Sidebotham fired a kill from the right side to put Caledonia up 24-23, but his set-point serve caught the net. A Sailor block and an attack from Palmitier that sailed just long gave the match to the Sailors.



Fighting Scot junior setter Christian Moorlag puts a pass up as South Christian's Caleb Plune protects his side of the net and Caledonia middle Deacon Sidebotham looks on during their GR South Conference match at Grand Rapids Christian High School Wednesday.

"We've got lots of young, like raw talent, I think," Caledonia coach Avery Palmateer said Wednesday evening. "A lot of our returners, guys that have been here for like three, four

See **VOLLEYBALL** on 16



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TK clears every hurdle on its way to another title

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The TK ladies did a little bit of everything to simply dominate the OK Gold Conference Championships Thursday at Houseman Field in Grand Rapids.

Their second consecutive undefeated OK Gold Conference Championship had long been decided when senior Brooklyn Harmon picked up steam coming around the final turn of the 4x400-meter relay race, spurred on by the opportunity to lap a runner in front of her on the final straight away.

The next time Harmon and the Trojans were rounding the final turn it was at the end of a victory lap hoisting the conference championship trophy. The Thornapple Kellogg varsity girls' track and field team, which was a perfect 6-0 in conference duals this spring, outscored runner-up Wayland 206-104 at the top of the standings Thursday.

Harmon led a 1-2-3 sweep of the top spots in the two hurdles races for the Trojans with junior Mia Hilton and freshman Amya Gater in second and third behind her. The TK team had four of the eight point scorers in the 100-meter hurdles and five of the eight in the 300-meter low hurdles. Freshman Addison Rocco was seventh in the 100-meter hurdles and sixth in the 300-meter low hurdles, with fellow freshman Kayla Price seventh in the 300s.

Harmon won the 100-meter hurdles in 15.33 seconds with Hilton second in 16.50 and Gater third in 17.48. Rocco had a time of 22.73. In the 300-meter low hurdles, Harmon won with a time of 46.06. Hilton came in at 46.39 and Gater in 49.17. Rocco (54.88) and Price (55.20) both set new personal records in those 300 hurdles.

"We all really work together and we're super close. So, I feel like we kind of have like a hurdle community at our school and we're always helping each other out," Harmon said. "I would not be where I am today without Mia Hilton. She's one of my like one of my best friends and she's insane, like we push each other to be better every single race and I mean, you saw it and going around the curve [in the 300 hurdles], we were like right next to each other, and like we were conscious of that because we ran at Wayland on Monday and we both ran a huge PR because of each other. I am so thankful that I have her to run with.

"She's the sweetest girl, and she's just like so insane and we push each other to be better. Like, celebrating our wins together is the best part," Harmon added. "That's another thing about like our hurdle community at TK."

Hilton was the runner-up in the 100-meter hurdles Thursday, but only got into the final by the narrowest of margins. She was second in her preliminary heat and finished with the eighth-best time of the prelim's after a crash two thirds of the way through her heat.

"The third to last hurdle my knee gave out, and I like paused because I didn't know what happened," Hilton said.

She hit the hurdle and came closer to going under it than over it. She recovered to get the hurdle down and go over it and then somehow finish her heat behind only her teammate Rocco. While it was a stressful moment, in the end it only helped display how far ahead of the field the TK girls were.

"We all just love like practicing together, and I think it helps that we really like hurdling," Hilton said. "It's just crazy like at practice we just are like bouncing off the walls, and we are just ready to hurdle half the time. We're just getting through the warm up so that we can jump over the hurdles. We help each other a lot with like our blocks and starts, and since Brooklyn's like really good she'll basically coaches us all, and our coaches are amazing too."

Harmon was third in both the 100 hurdles and the 300 hurdles at the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 2 Track and Field Finals in in 2024. She also earned a state medal with the TK 4x400-meter relay team last year along with current teammates Hilton, Payton Gater and her sister Ellie Harmon. An injury kept Brooklyn from competing in the state finals in 2023. Hilton placed eighth at the state finals in the 300 hurdles in 2023 and 2024.

Hilton called the freshman Gater "a beast." Amya broke Hilton's TK freshman record in the 100-meter hurdles this spring and Harmon's freshman record in the 300-meter low hurdles.



Thornapple Kellogg senior Hunter Tietz pulls himself up towards the bar in the pole vault competition at the OK Gold Conference Championship May 7. Tietz set his PR in the event to place seventh, one of two TK boys scoring in the event.

Harmon was joined in the 4x400-meter victory at the conference championship by Amya Gater, Payton Gater and Hilton. They had a time of 4 minutes 11.42 seconds

The Trojans ended the day with a relay win and started it with a relay win as senior Ava Crews put on an impressive late charge to chase down the leader from South Christian on the final lap of the 4x800-meter relay to win that one with teammates Alaina McCrumb, Isla Tillema and Madison Kietzman. They finished with a time of 10:24.67 – a little over half a second faster than the South Christian foursome in the race.

That was just the start of a stellar day for the senior Crews who won the 1600-meter run in 5:19.11 and the 3200-meter run in 12:12.47. She added a runner-up time of 2:28.43 in the 800-meter run in between.

. The Trojans were chasing the Sailors for much of that 4x800-meter relay.

"Once it came to me, I was just like pushing all the way through trying to slowly catch her," Crews said of South Christian's anchor Tiffany DeMaagd. "And then that last like 200, I caught her to the point where I was like right

See next page



TK and South chase Gold championship Monday

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Trojans got to celebrate on their own senior night Monday in Middleville.

Now they hope they'll get to celebrate on South Christian's senior night Monday, May 19.

The Thornapple Kellogg girls and the Sailors remained undefeated in OK Gold Conference varsity girls' soccer action heading into their second match-up of the season. The first ended in a 1-1 draw. The 9-0-2 Trojans outscored Northview on senior night in Middleville Monday and followed that up with a 6-1 win at Grand Rapids Union Wednesday. The 10-0-1 Sailors took their own 8-0 win over Northview Wednesday.

South Christian clinches the conference championship outright with a win or a tie on Monday. TK earns the trophy with a victory over the Sailors.

TK honored senior attacker Madilyn Chivis and senior defender Emma Geukes and their parents during a halftime ceremony inside Bob White Stadium in Middleville Monday and then really picked up their play in the second half to put away the Wildcats early.

"They have been awesome all the way through, coming in as freshmen all the way through," TK head coach David Wood said of his two seniors Monday. "From a soccer stand-point you couldn't ask for anything better, the work rate, their technical application. They're awesome. As teammates and as people they have really brought the group together. It is just such a nice group we've got. The chemistry has been great, and it is a lot down to what they have been able to do.

"They don't leave anyone behind. They really bring the group together when we're at practice and in everything that we try to do."

Tealy Cross and Alexa Eden scored first-half goals for the Trojans, and then TK scored five times in about 32 minutes in the second half to finish off the Northview girls.

The two first half goals were pretty good ones. An excellent through ball ahead and a well-timed run gave Cross a breakaway chance. Her first shot with her right foot was deflected by the Northview keeper, but a Wildcat defender then tumbled over her keeper and the ball came down to Cross who got the chance to fire it into the open net with her left foot. Eden's goal came on a laser of a shot from the top left of the box a few minutes later.

Chivis was the lone Trojan to finish with multiple goals Monday. She ripped a free kick from about 25 yards out midway through the second half and then fired a corner kick from left to right later that went off the Wildcat keeper's hand and into the net.

TK also got goals from Hailey Lee, Cami Stahl, Ella Fischer and Meghan Skidmore in the second half.

"Honestly, they were just trying to make sure they could connect a little bit better just finding that extra player we had in there. In the second half, we were able to connect a little bit better through the midfield and the goals that we scored, they were good," Wood said.

The Trojans moved their overall record to 11-2-2 with their win over Union on Wednesday.

"This final push is just making sure that we can continue to play well," Wood said. "I firmly believe that when we come up against anybody we can play well on our day. It is as much just about keeping our routine, keeping everybody healthy, moving and I feel like we're in a good spot as a team."

TK travels to Battle Creek to face Harper Creek in the opening round of the MHSAA Division 2 state tournament next Wednesday, May 21. The Beavers moved to 12-3 and clinched an undefeated Interstate-8 Athletic Conference Championship with a 4-0 win at Jackson Parma Western Wednesday.



Thornapple Kellogg junior Cami Stahl gets by Northview's Daisy DeShane (right) to fire a shot at the Wildcat net during the second half of the Trojans' 8-0 OK Gold Conference win over the visiting Wildcats in Middleville Monday
Photo by Brett Bremer

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The Village of Middleville is seeking qualified applicants to fill DPW Summer help positions. The hours of work will be Mon.-Thurs. 6 am-3:30 pm and Fri. 6 am-10 am. Salary will be $15 an hour. These positions will start at the end of May/early June to late August. Applicants MUST be 16 years old with a valid driver's license.

Specific duty areas include mowing, string trimming, yard waste pick-up, park cleanup, and light to medium lifting. Upkeep all flower beds around the Village and Downtown area. Assist the DPW Staff as needed with various other duties.

Interested applicants must submit a resume and cover letter and complete the Village of Middleville employment application. Applications will be accepted and considered until position(s) are filled. Applications and a job description are available at the Village office, 100 East Main Street, Middleville, Michigan 49333, or on the Village website: www.villageofmiddleville.org.

Scots tie B.C. for top spot at Green track championship

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Caledonia varsity girls' track and field team closed out a great day in Jenison by running to a victory in the 4x400-meter relay at the OK Green Conference Championship Friday, May 9, that pulled them into a tie with the conference champs.

The Fighting Scot team of sophomores Evie Huttenga, Olivia Hawkins and Isla Sheely took the victory with a time of 4 minutes 12.13 seconds that beat out the runner-up Byron Center foursome by more than six and a half seconds.

That left the two teams tied with 167.5 points at the end of the meet, giving the overall conference championship to the Bulldogs based on the results of the regular season duals. Another fraction of a point somewhere Friday and the Scots would have shared the conference title with the Bulldogs.

Caledonia head coach Ben Howell said his girls were projected to finish about 30 points behind the Bulldogs and just exceeded expectations all throughout the meet.

That 400 meters was a distance that really suited the Scots Friday. Sheely was the conference's individual champ in the 400-meter dash with a time of 1:01.72, and junior teammate Brooke Bender and Huttenga placed third and fourth respectively in the race with new PRs. Bender hit the finish line in 1:03.15 and Huttenga in 1:04.83.

Hawkins added the 4x400 win to an earlier championship in the 300-meter low hurdles. She won that race in a PR of 47.21. Hawkins also had her fastest 100-meter hurdles race yet as she turned in a runner-up time of 15.79 in that race.

Sheely was a three-time champ. She also teamed with sophomore Avery Seif, Bender, and Klapmust to win the 4x200-meter relay in 1:48.10.

The Scots had a fifth championship with senior Hannah Dupuis running her fastest 3200-meter race yet to win in 11:19.48.

The CHS girls had three in the top six in both distance races. Dupuis also set her PR in the 1600-meter run with a time of 5:22.12. Seniors Adysen Daman and Kiley Bommarito went fifth and sixth in that one. Adysen Daman and sophomore Akaela Daman went 5-6 in the 3200-meter run.

All those conference champions earned all-conference honors for the CHS girls as well as Brynn Ward, Melanie Genao Grullon and Jolie King based on their point totals at the meet.



The Caledonia varsity girls' track and field team celebrates finishing in a tie for first at the OK Green Conference Championship Friday, May 9, at Jenison High School. The Scots matched Byron Center's 167.5 points on the day. **Photo provided**

Ward, a freshman, was third in the 200-meter dash and sixth in the 100-meter dash. She also was a part of the Scots' third-place 4x100-meter relay team.

King, a junior, was second in the discus with a personal record throw of 100 feet 5 inches and she placed fifth in the shot put with a mark of 29-8. Sophomore teammate Mackenzie Krentz was third in that discus competition with a PR of 91-5, and the Scots also had senior Chiara Martin place seventh. King added a PR of 17-.5 in the long jump that had her third in that event too.

Genao Grullon earned her points with a fourth place finish in both of the hurdles races. She set PRs in both events, and she was a part of the 4x100-meter relay team with Ward, sophomore Mariah Peterson and senior Alaina Palmer.

CHS freshman Lillian Ward set her PR in the pole vault at 8-6 to place fifth and sophomore Anna VanderWal placed seventh with a PR of 8-0 in that one. The Scots also got a PR in a scoring performance from VanderWal in the 800-meter run. She was eighth in that race, and sophomore teammate Maya Terryn placed fourth in that race with a PR of her own.

Jenison was third in the day's girls' standings with 135 points ahead of Mona Shores 72, Reeths-Puffer 52 and Muskegon 33.

Other medalists for the CHS girls throughout the day included Lakely Bottum, Allie Dryburgh, Emma Bowman, Emmi Mince, Mariah Peterson,

The Byron Center boys beat out Jenison by seven points to claim the boys' conference title. The Bulldogs finished with 166 points ahead of Jenison 159, Caledonia 117, Mona Shores 71, Reeths-Puffer 69 and Muskegon 45.

Liam Moore, Cody Meyers, Noah Johnston, Kort Thompson and Eli Velting earned all-conference honors throughout the day for the CHS boys. They all earned that honor based on points.

The Scots had a few runner-up finishes in the distance races. The junior Velting was the runner-up in the 800-meter run with a PR of 1:59.82. Another junior, Johnston, was second in the 1600-meter run with a PR of 4:25.16 and third in the 3200-meter run. Senior Kort Thompson was second in the 3200-meter run in 9:48.29 and also fourth in the 1600.

Moore and Meyers earned their points in the throws. Moore put up a PR of 46-11.5 in the shot put to place second in that event and he had a throw of 143-11 in the discus to place third in that one. Meyers had a shot put PR too, of 41-7.5, to place fifth in that one. He was fourth in the discus with a throw of 138-11.

Junior Benjamin Moss added a personal record vault of 13-6 to place second in the pole vault. He was one of CHS guys to score with a PR in the vault. Senior David Potgeter was fourth with a leap of 13-3 and senior Peter Paarlberg placed sixth with a height of 12-3.

The Scots had a number of their best performances in the field on Friday. Senior Kaleb Huyser set his long jump PR at 19-10.5 to place fifth and sophomore teammate Colton Heyboer was seventh with a PR jump of 19-6.

See **SCOTS** on 15

PUBLIC NOTICE
GAINES CHARTER TOWNSHIP
BOARD MEETING SYNOPSIS
April 28, 2025

The Gaines Charter Township Board held a regular meeting on Monday, April 28, 2025, and took the following actions.

1. Approved the Meeting Agenda

3. Discussion toward long term planning and goal setting for the future of the Township.

4. Adjourned the meeting at 07:32 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

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CALEDONIA BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Meeting Minutes

The minutes for the April 16, 2025 Township Board of Trustees Meeting that were approved on May 7, 2025, are posted at the Township Offices at 8196 Broadmoor Ave., and on the website at www.caledoniatownship.org.

Village of Middleville
COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the April 22, 2025 Regular Council Meeting, that were approved on May 12, 2025, are posted at the Village Hall at 100 E Main Street and on the website at www.villageofmiddleville.org.



The Thornapple Kellogg varsity girls' track and field team celebrates its second straight OK Gold Conference championship with a victory lap at Houseman Field in Grand Rapids Friday, May 8. **Photos by Brett Bremer**



Thornapple Kellogg senior Ava Crews rounds a turn with only her shadow to chase in the 3200-meter run Thursday, May 8, during the OK Gold Conference Championship at Houseman Field in Grand Rapids. Crews won the 3200-meter run, the 1600-meter run and was the anchor on the Trojans' winning 4x800-meter relay team.

Continued from previous page

on her shoulder and I went around her on the outside on that turn and then finished right ahead of her."

That Sailor relay team didn't include junior Chloe Rinzema, who was the only girl to finish in front of Crews all day. She cruised to victory in the 800-meter run with a time of 2:22.45. She also took the 400-meter dash in 58.98, ahead of TK junior Payton Gater's runner-up time of 1:01.05 in that race.

"Pretty awesome, actually," Crews said of her feelings on leaving the meet with three wins. "I was not expecting that after so many injuries throughout the season, but, yeah I came through."

She has dealt with hamstring and calf issues that popped up during her indoor track season this winter. She's not at 100 percent, but that didn't stop her from having her best 4x800 split ever in the relay victory.

Crews said she is pretty pleased with ending her TK running career with back-to-back team conference championships too.

"We have just a really great team, like there is a lot of depth to our team, so a lot of people are contributing. We've got people running just always up front. We've got people in the distance, people in the sprints, people in the hurdles. We just have a really good team and it's been like that for a couple of years now."

The TK sprints got a boost this spring from junior newcomer Jordyn Fitros who scored in both the 100-meter dash (fifth) and the 200-meter dash (fourth) for the Trojans, with senior Emma Dykhouse scoring in the 100 (eighth) to add to her impressive day in the throwing events.

TK had at least two of the eight scorers in all five of the girls' field events, with junior Payton Gater winning the long jump with a mark of 15-6 and Amya placing seventh in that one. Dykhouse set a PR to win the shot put at 36-3 and also had a PR in a fifth-place finish in the discus (92-10). Payton was the runner-up in the high jump, clearing 4-10. Senior Lilly McKeown was third in the shot put (30-7) and seventh in the discus (82-9).

TK sophomore Lydia Slagel put up her PR of 9-0 to finish second in the pole vault for the TK ladies and she was also eighth in the high jump.

Other girls scoring points for the TK girls with top eight finishes through the day included sophomore Ellie Harmon, sophomore Leigha Jager, freshman Breanna Schut, sophomore Carmen Reynolds, sophomore Sydney Martin, sophomore Estefani Sanchez Vega, freshman Carissa Caskey, sophomore Kimberlin Zavalza Nava and sophomore Rylee Preston.

South Christian and West Catholic were right behind the Wayland girls in the day's standings. The Sailors were two-points back of the runner-up Wildcats with 102 points. West Catholic was fourth with 100 points ahead of Wyoming 58, Northview 38 and Grand Rapids Union 23.

The TK boys' top finishes came from senior distance runner Jacob Draaisma who set a personal record of 4:25.91 seconds to win the 1600-meter run, won the 800-meter run in 2:00.54, and he also set a PR of 10:14.42 in placing fourth in the 3200-meter run.

This is just Draaisma's second varsity track and field season. He finished 14th in the 800-meter run a year ago at the D2 state finals. He is still sorting out which events he really wants to make a push in for this year's postseason.

"I've just been trying to focus on like having more fun and putting less stress on at the end of the season, especially since I know where I'm going to college now."

He laughed thinking about the fact that he ran his fastest 400 meters ever on the first lap of the 800, and while he didn't PR in that race he knows just how hard he is able to push now. Draaisma came into the season really focused on the 1600 so he is still working out that 800 strategy.

TK senior Kyle Porritt had a runner-up throw of 126-0 in the discus. Junior Luke Archer cleared 11-0 to place third in that event while senior teammate Hunter Tietz upped his PR to 10-0 to place seventh in the vault.

Trojan junior Derious Robinson improved his long jump PR to 19-0.25 to place seventh in that event.

The top relay finish for the TK boys was a fourth-place performance in the 4x200-meter relay by the team of senior Lucas McNabnay, sophomore Elliott Neff, freshman Maddox Vanengen and sophomore Brandan Velting.

Other top eight finishers throughout the day for the TK guys included sophomore Jackson Smith, junior Lucas Ploeg, senior Case Dykhouse, freshman Jackson Hasty, sophomore Elijah Frazer, sophomore Layne Schilthroat and junior Adam Lozada.

The Wayland boys were plenty dominant themselves Thursday winning the boys' meet 181.5 to 140 over runner-up Northview. South Christian was third with 104.5 points ahead of TK 59, West Catholic 52.5, Grand Rapids Union 49 and Wyoming 42.5.

TK heads to Portage Central High School Saturday, May 17, for its regional meet. The Trojans compete this season on the Division 1 level for the first time.

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TK golfers fifth at final OK Gold Conference jamboree

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Thornapple Kellogg varsity boys' golf team placed fifth at the final OK Gold Conference jamboree of the season Thursday, May 8.

The Trojans shot a 179 at Boulder Creek Golf Course.

South Christian won the day's event with an overall score of 154. Northview was second with a 165 ahead of West Catholic 165 and Wayland 171.

Behind the Trojans, Grand Rapids Union put together a score of 183 and Wyoming 219.

TK sophomore Parker Dahley led his team with a 42 that had him 13th individually for the day. Trojan seniors Will Nathan and Kylan Pratt both put up scores of 45, and fellow senior Tyler Voss scored a 47.

Northview senior Roman Tysse shot an even-par-36 on the Wildcats' home course.

Union sophomore James Fowler and South Christian freshman Brody Shilts both scored 37s.

The Sailors had four guys at 40 or better. Senior Brody Montsma shot a 38, senior Wyatt Sall a 39 and sophomore Harris Hoekwater a 40.

The TK boys were with the rest of the conference again May 15 for the OK Gold Championship at Kauffman Golf Club.

TK had a couple non-conference duals in the lead-up to the conference tournament. Zeeland East took a 177-188 win over the TK boys at Yankee Springs Wednesday and the Trojans were bested 160-164 by Byron Center at Yankee Springs Monday. Dahley led TK at both events with a two-over-38.

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CALEDONIA TOWNSHIP

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CALEDONIA
KENT COUNTY, MICHIGAN

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Caledonia will hold a public hearing on June 2 nd , 2025, at 7:00 p.m., at the Caledonia Township Hall, 8196 Broadmoor SE, Caledonia, MI 49316. The public hearing is to receive comments regarding the application of Caledonia Public Schools for a special land use for additional signage on parcel number 41-23-30-400-019, at 9757 Kraft.

Description of Rezone Parcel:
412330400019 PART OF SE 1/4 COM 1162.27 FT N 0D 02M 03S W ALONG E SEC LINE FROM SE COR OF SEC TH N 89D 43M 33S W 1312.01 FT TO E LINE OF W 1/2 SE 1/4 TH N 0D 11M 11S E ALONG SD E LINE 799.99 FT TO N LINE OF S 1/2 NE 1/4 SE 1/4 TH S 89D 43M 33S E ALONG SD N LINE 1308.93 FT TO E SEC LINE TH S 0D 02M 03S E ALONG E SEC LINE 800.0 FT TO BEG * SEC 30 T5N R10W 24.07 A.

SPLIT/COMBINED ON 08/06/2021 FROM 41-23-30-400-015;

All interested persons may attend the public hearing and comment on the proposed rezoning.

Written comments concerning the request may be submitted to the Township office, at the above-stated address, up to the time of the public hearing.

Dated: May 12, 2025

PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CALEDONIA

Scot golfers third at final OK Green jamboree

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The OK Green Conference will gather at Saskatoon Thursday, May 22, for the OK Green Conference Championship.

The Fighting Scots placed third at the final nine-hole conference jamboree of the season Monday at The Meadows on the campus of Grand Valley State University in Allendale.

Mona Shores won that final conference jamboree with a score of 164. Reeths-Puffer was second with a score of 167 strokes ahead of Caledonia 168, Jenison 172 and Byron Center 173.

Senior Sam Miersen led the Caledonia boys with a 39. He hd a birdie on the par-4 number two and then closed his round with a second birdie on the par-4 number six.

Freshman Alex Postma shot a 41 for the Scots, and junior Camden Quigley and junior DJ Robinson both shot 44s.

Jenison junior Brady Pettenger and Reeths-Puffer junior Kristian Brown both shot 38 to tie for the day's top individual honors. Miersen's 39 was matched by Mona Shores junior Eddie Kuznar. The Sailors also got a 40 from senior Lincoln Harwood.

Caledonia will tune-up for the conference tournament playing in the Mona Shores Invite on Monday, May 19.

Nelson gets two wins in top flight at OK Green tourney

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The number one singles spot in the OK Green Conference should just keep getting tougher and tougher over the next few years.

Fighting Scot freshman Berkley Nelson was 2-1 in her three matches at the conference tournament hosted by Byron Center Thursday, May 8.

Jenison freshman Kelsey Thompson took the first singles championship with a couple straight set victories including a 6-3, 6-3 win over Nelson in the championship match.

Nelson and Thompson squared off four times this season with Nelson winning the season opener in a super tiebreaker. Nelson took the next three meetings – two in two close sets and another meeting in a third-set tiebreaker.

Nelson also had a 6-0, 6-2 win over Reeths-Puffer junior Olivia Smith and a 6-0, 6-2 win over Byron Center freshman Sharon Okoh.

Okoh and the Bulldogs clinched the team conference title by winning Thursday. The Bulldogs finished the day with 14 points. Mona Shores was second with 10 points ahead of Jenison 9, Caledonia 6 and Reeths-Puffer 5.

The only other singles win on the day for the Scots came from fourth singles sophomore Gretchen VanderEide who beat out Jenison sophomore Jimena Castro 6-4, 3-6, 7-5 in a three-setter.

The Caledonia second doubles team of seniors Zoe Fleming and Hailey Markwat, third doubles team of junior Kebe Fitzell and freshman Emery James, and fourth doubles team of juniors Maya White and Hellen Komera won one match each as well.

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CALEDONIA
KENT COUNTY, MICHIGAN

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Caledonia will hold a public hearing on Monday, June 2 at 7:00pm at the Caledonia Township Hall, 8196 Broadmoor Avenue, SE, Caledonia Michigan, 49316.

The request is for a special land use on parcel 41-23-06-300-041, located in the I-1 and I-2 district at 6633 Konkrete Drive. In the I-1 portion of the parcel, the applicant is seeking "light manufacturing, including the processes of grinding or otherwise processing raw products for wholesale." The applicant is seeking to crush concrete on site for up to three weeks per year.

All interested persons may attend the public hearing and comment on the proposed rezoning. Written comments concerning the requested rezoning may be submitted to the Township office, at the above-stated address, up to the time of the public hearing.

Dated: May 5, 2025 PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CALEDONIA

Trojan tennis in three-way tie for second at Gold tourney

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Thornapple Kellogg varsity girls' tennis team closed its first season in the reworked OK Gold Conference with a runner-up finish at the conference tournament last Thursday, May 7.

South Christian won the conference tournament with 16 points. Northview, TK and West Catholic all finished tied for second with 12 points ahead of Wayland with 11, Wyoming 1 and Grand Rapids Union 0.

The Trojan second doubles team of sophomores Molly Alden and Cayla Brouwer had the team's top finish placing second at their flight. They took a default win over Grand Rapids Union and pulled out a 7-6(4), 6-3 win over the West Catholic duo of freshman Olivia Marti and sophomore Sydney Kesterke in the semifinals.

Alden and Brouwer also pushed the South Christian second doubles team to three sets in the championship match with the Sailor team of senior Maddie Bultsma and freshman Jill Zondervan eventually scoring a 4-6, 6-1, 6-3 win.

Trojan junior Jordan Pranger had a third-place finish at second singles where she knocked off Northview senior Ava Leonardis 6-0, 6-4 in the match for third.

TK also got a third-place finish from the third doubles team of sophomore Carli Ogle and junior Ava Zellmer. They defeated West Catholic freshmen Mia Palachecki and Ashley Kurner in the match for third 6-4, 6-1.

At the top flight, TK senior Isabelle Schilthroat had a 1-2 day to place fourth overall. She opened play with a 6-1, 6-0 win over Wyoming senior Samantha Dang, but then fell to the eventual flight champion from West Catholic, sophomore Emily Holt.

Holt earned the first singles championship with a 6-4, 7-5 win over Northview seniors Peyton Underhill in the finals.

Schilthroat closed her tournament with a 6-3, 6-0 loss at the hands of South Christian senior Savana Michmerhuizen in the match for third.

Trojan third singles player Natileigh Merchant was fourth at her flight too. She opened play with a 6-1, 5-7, 7-5 win over Wayland's Charlotte Markowski but then fell to foes from Northview and West Catholic. It was a good battle in the semifinals with Northview senior Avery Lowe. Merchant took the

See **TENNIS** on 16



Thornapple Kellogg fourth singles player Emilia Sandborn knocks a forehand back at an opponent during the OK Gold Conference Championship in Middleville Thursday, May 8. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

SCOTS

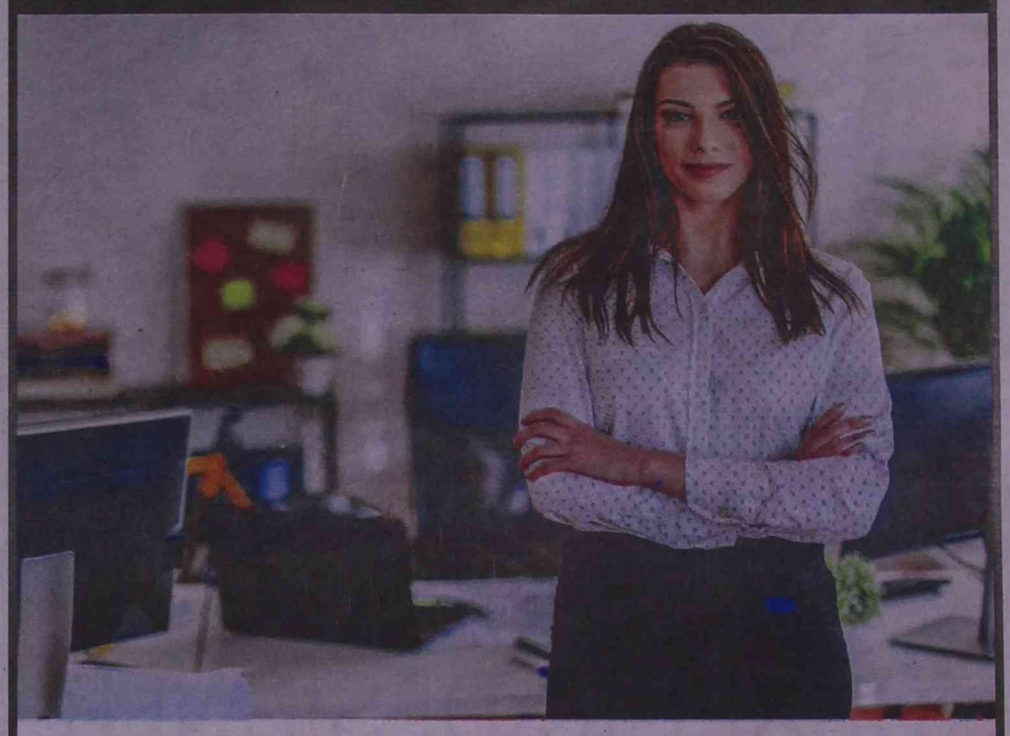
Continued from Page 14

Velting teamed with junior Luke Smith, sophomore Grant Feldpausch and senior Ethan Bauer for the top relay finish of the day for the CHS boys. They finished second in the 4x800-meter relay with a time of 8:37.83.

Also scoring at the meet for the Scots were Andrew Tava, Aaron Collins, Jonas Howell, Levi Dorband, Joshua Maier, Jayden McCoy, Capree Thomas, Connor Myers, Levi Dorband, Aiden Hager, Bennett Snapper, Mason Morrell and Aidan Edgar.

The Scots are at Portage Central High School today, May 17, for their MHSAA Division 1 Regional meet.

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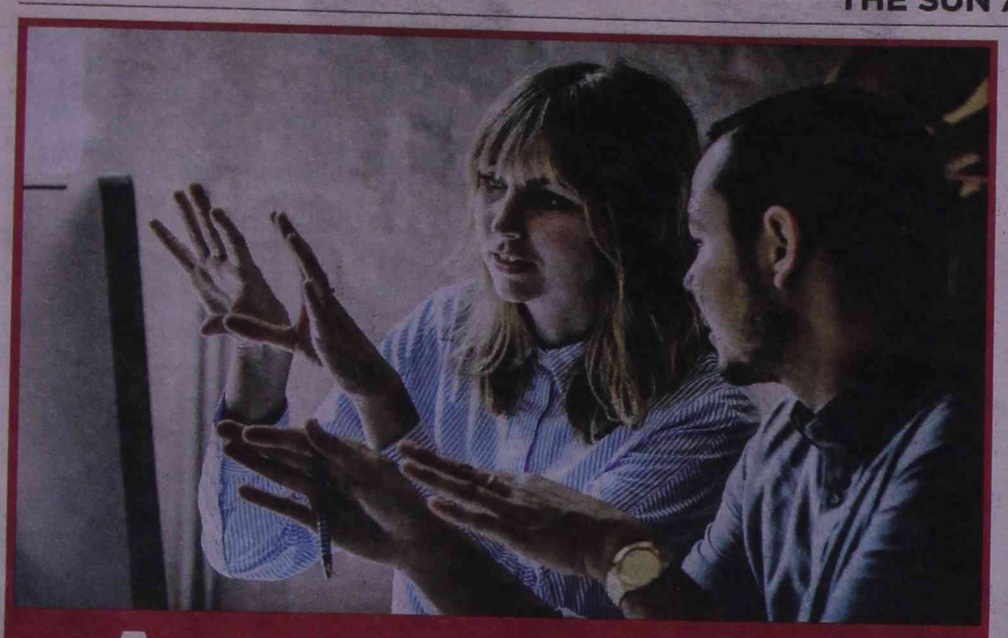
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Trojan fourth doubles player Ava Zellmer leans in to hit a volley back at foes from West Catholic during her win with teammate Carli Ogle over the Falcons at the OK Gold Conference Championship at South Christian High School Thursday, May 8.

TENNIS

Continued from Page 15

opening set 6-3, but Lowe eventually overtook her with a 6-3 win in set two and then a 7-0 win in a tiebreaker at the end of the third set to advance.

Junior Emilia Sandborn had one win in consolation at fourth singles for TK, as did the third doubles team of Natalie Culver and Chloe Yates, and the first doubles team of Jalyn Grimes and Elise DeBoer.

TK was set to head to Byron Center for its MHSAA Division 2 Regional Wednesday, May 14.

VOLLEYBALL

Continued from Page 9

years, so we have Lukas [Palmitier] and then Deacon [Sidebotham], and Parker [Knoop] and Christian [Moorlag] those four they take the lead a lot of the time, so they're like a major part of this team. All of them have gotten better every single year too. They play club, at Impact, so they are getting lots of touches, lots of reps. Especially our middles and in this conference, I think they stand out pretty big. That's exciting."

Those middles are Sidebotham and Palmitier. Sidebotham powered the Fighting Scot attack at the net against South Christian in the final Wednesday, with the team's setter Moorlag doing his best to find him often.

"I think they've been playing together for so long, especially those four, I think that they enjoy the game and it shows, which obviously makes me proud as the coach," Palmateer said. She is a former setter for the CHS girls' team and now plays club ball at Grand Valley State University.

Palmateer said Eli Hanna, a defensive specialist, is a youngster she has really seen make some strides this spring.

The CHS coach added that she has also really liked the improvements from libero Parker Knoop whose versatility has been important for the program this season.

The Scots are interested to see how things shake out next year. They'd love to have their Thornapple Kellogg and Wayland teammates back yet, but Palmateer said a decision hasn't been made yet if the CHS team will be a co-op program when it opens varsity play. Spencer Napper and Jeremy Palmitier join Palmateer on the coaching staff this season.

The CHS coach said she likes the community that is growing around the program in Caledonia. She likes having former players coming back to help guide the team.

This season's roster also includes Thomas McKee III, Gage Reynhout, Joseph Bawi, Kaeler Fox, Kyle Nguyen, Austin Tufts, Jaren King, Russell Grandon and Rydik Wrubel.

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