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

FALCONS ONLY ONES ABOVE TK GIRLS AT FIRST D1 REGIONAL
PAGE 14-15



NO. 57 SATURDAY, MAY 24, 2025 www.sunandnews.com

Middleville, Thornapple Township asked to take over July 4 fireworks event in coming years

Hunter McLaren
Contributing Writer

Both the Thornapple Township Board and the Middleville Village Council have agreed to fund Middleville's Fourth of July Celebration for three more years before discussing who will take ownership of the event.

The event is currently hosted by the Middleville Lions Club. Andrew Beck, representing the club, spoke to both boards last week asking for a $6,000 yearly contribution from each entity for the next three years.

Beck told Thornapple Township Board members he made the request following a decision from the Middleville Downtown Development Authority to cut back their contribution to the event, as well as to facilitate the celebration's growing scale.

"The ask is for $6,000 over three years, and that maybe the village or the township would accept (the event) as their child," Beck said. "I come with it and am more than willing to assist, but I think it's outgrown the Lions Club."

Beck, who has organized the event on behalf of the Lions Club in previous years, said he hoped to transition the ownership of the event by 2027 or 2028. With contributions of $6,000 from each municipal board, $2,000 from Bradford White and several from local businesses, Beck said the event would be able to continue to be held with no admission costs.

Thornapple Township Supervisor Eric Schaefer expressed his thanks to Beck for his continued efforts to make the event happen every year.

"I've been at the event, I've seen the thousands upon thousands of people that enjoy it and participate," Schaefer said. "It's great. Thank you for everything you've done up to this point."

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The Gaines Township Board of Trustees discusses the township's long-range vision and priorities during a May 12 meeting at the township hall. **Photo by James Gemmell**

Gaines Twp. officials rank priorities

James Gemmell
Contributing Writer

The Gaines Township Board of Trustees, without a formal vote, at the board's May 12 meeting approved vision and mission statements to help staff members focus on township priorities over the next several years.

"This is not only a big decision, but potentially a township-changing decision," Gaines Township Supervisor Bob Terpstra wrote in a May 5 memo. "Our vision/mission statement will create priorities and point us toward future goals."

The township board first discussed the statements at a special meeting April 28, when board members began formulating a set of priorities for long-term growth. At the meeting, each board member also ranked their preferred priorities by placing sticky notes on seven large poster boards regarding issues including branding, affordable/attainable housing, parks and grounds Department; additional parks and trails, Prairie Wolf Park, public safety and the township's branch library.

The ranking of those priorities was revealed at the May 12 board meeting. Prior to the meeting, however, trustees settled on the vision statement: "Gaines Charter Township provides quality living for generations to come."

They also agreed on a mission statement that reads, "Gaines Charter Township honors our heritage, creates a hospitable, responsible and engaging environment for residents, business owners and community partners to assure a vibrant future for generations."

Both statements will be placed on the township website, gainestownship.org.

"I think what you came up with is fabulous," Trustee Tim Haagsma said.

"There was a lot of input that went into this, a lot of different ideas all kind of came together," added Township Treasurer Laurie Lemke.

To address the issue of branding, Terpstra said he would like to pursue hiring a consultant to create a new logo, including colors, tagline and images. No vote was taken on the request, after he said there is more work to do.

"All of that will impact our publications and our website," Terpstra added.

"And we have a (township) newsletter going out," Lemke said. "We can incorporate our vision and our mission statement in that."

In addressing other priorities:

Affordable/attainable housing – Township officials have said they would like to maintain a rural feel in Gaines.

Development of a township parks

See **RANK** on 4



CHS Class of 1975 gathers for reunion



Caledonia High School's Class of 1975 celebrated its 50th reunion on Saturday, May 17, at Briarwood Golf Course in Caledonia. Over 80 attendees gathered to reminisce and reconnect. Highlights included a performance of Caledonia Alma Mater, a special tribute to the late Roger Loring, 1975 class president, and activities like a 50/50 drawing and silent auction. A cake was donated by D&W. Organizers gave their thanks to everyone who contributed to making the event possible, including the local businesses that donated items. **Courtesy photo**

Caledonia
American Legion
Post #305

Memorial Day
SERVICES

Monday
May 26, 2025
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.

Memorial Day services set throughout area

Molly Macleod
Editor

Locals have several opportunities to honor veterans who gave the ultimate sacrifice at Memorial Day services later this month.

In Middleville, the Lions Club is hosting its annual Memorial Day parade on Monday, May 26, at 10:30 a.m. Parade participants will line up at Thornapple Valley Church, 20 W. State Street in Middleville, beginning at 9:30 a.m. on Monday.

The Caledonia American Legion Post 305 is hosting several events throughout the Caledonia area on Monday, May 26. Services kick off at the Alaska Cemetery at 9 a.m. on May 26, followed by a service at the Blain Cemetery at 9:45 a.m. Services at the Dutton Cemetery begin at 10:30 a.m., followed by a service at the Holy Corner Cemetery at 11:15. Finally, the Legion will host a service at Caledonia's Lakeside Cemetery at noon on Monday, May 26.

Yankee Springs Township also invites the public to its Memorial Day ceremony on Sunday, May 25, at 4 p.m., held at the Yankee Springs Memorial, located next to the fire station.

Michigan Trucks United is hosting its 6th annual Gun Lake Memorial Day Cruise on Monday, May 26, at 11 a.m. Staging will open at the Gun Lake Community Church at 9 a.m. on Monday, followed by a 10:30 a.m. drivers' meeting, safety meeting and playing of the national anthem. The cruise, which spans 26 miles, will end at Chief Noonday Car Park, where a Memorial Day cruise-in event is taking place.

Orangeville Township will hold a Memorial Day observance on Sunday, May 25, beginning at 2 p.m. at 7350 Lindsey Road in Plainwell. The public is invited to join guest speakers and community volunteers to participate in the event commemorating Memorial Day and fallen veterans.

Also, Hickory Corners will host a Memorial Day parade on Monday, May 26, a tradition that has been intact for over 60 years now. The event kicks off with a pancake breakfast at the Hickory Corners Fire Department from 7 to 9:30 a.m. The parade begins at 10 a.m. sharp and will start at Cadwallader Park, proceeding east through town and ending at East Hickory Corners Cemetery. The annual event traditionally attracts well over 100 spectators and participants.

A ceremony in the cemetery will follow the parade, featuring guest speaker Retired Colonel Frank J. Walker. The Delton Kellogg High School and Gull Lake High School bands will perform. The event also has a scheduled flyover.

"This is a wonderful parade and one that has taken place for over 60 years. Each year, the parade gets larger and larger. Besides the highlights above, we have several tractors, horses/carriages, fire trucks from several surrounding fire departments, floats, classic cars, Boy/Girl Scout troops, 4-H participants and local children on their decorated bikes. There are also a few hundred spectators that come to see our parade," said Chris Reed, parade coordinator.

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ITC set to conduct aerial patrols of transmission lines

Weather permitting, ITC will be conducting aerial patrols of the high-voltage transmission structures and lines in Michigan during the period of May 27-June 30.

According to a statement released by ITC officials, the helicopter patrols are conducted to provide an overall status of the overhead transmission system that is operated by ITC's Michigan operating entities – ITC Transmission and Michigan Electric Transmission Co.

The aerial inspections will cover nearly all of the Lower Peninsula.

While the dates may change, ITC officials stated the effort is set to begin on May 27 with patrols in Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, Washtenaw and Wayne counties.

The patrols are set to include Barry County, as well as Allegan, Branch, Calhoun, Clinton, Eaton, Hillsdale, Ingham, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Kent, Lenawee, Monroe, Ottawa, Shiawassee, St. Joseph, Van Buren and Washtenaw counties from June 12-17.

The effort reportedly will wrap up with patrols over counties in the northern portions of the Lower Peninsula from June 24-30.

The patrols are a North American Electrical Reliability Corporation requirement for ITC's vegetation management program, support proactive maintenance objectives and are in line with the company's model for operational excellence. They include inspections of all transmission structures and equipment including, but not limited to, monopoles, steel towers, wood poles, conductors (wires), insulators and other equipment.

According to the company's recent statement, crews check

See **PATROLS** on 5

Outgoing seniors awarded Memorial Scholarships from Cal Women's Club



Caledonia Women's Club scholarship recipients include (front row, from left) Jenny George, Emma Stein, (middle row) Gretel Knipping, Nirdhvaitha Kumar, (back row) Sophia Gauthier, Erin Peckham and Malia Deese. **Courtesy photo**

Karen Turko-Ebright
Staff Writer

Five senior girls from Caledonia High School walked away with a $1,000 scholarship when a group of students and their mothers gathered at the high school on May 19 for the annual Senior Girls Brunch hosted by the Caledonia Women's Club. The event is intended to celebrate the students' accomplishments.

The scholarships went to Malia Deese, Sophia Gauthier, Jenny George, Gretel Knipping, and Nirdhvaitha Kumar, as well as the $1,000 Trade and Vocational Scholarship to Emma Stein.

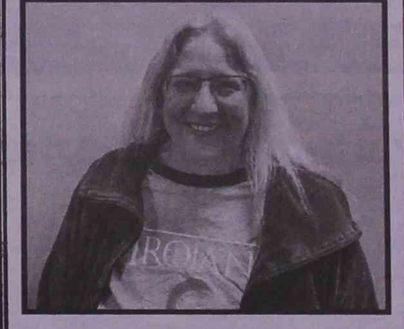
Additionally, Erin Peckham was honored as the recipient of the Caledonia Women's Club Heritage Scholarship, which she received on May 14 during Senior Recognition Night.

The audience listened to guest speaker Brittany Barber Garcia, PhD, who told the young women always to remember that accomplishments don't measure their value and that true fulfillment comes from doing their best, embracing their successes, and remaining grounded in their core values and beliefs.

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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

Richard S. Bryans

Richard S. Bryans, age 91 of Middleville, MI passed away on Monday, May 5, 2025.

Dick was born at home in Hastings, MI to Carl and Myrtle (Coleman) Bryans on July 16, 1933. He grew up in Hastings and graduated from Hastings High School in 1951. He played basketball and ran track.

In 1954 he married Betty Marie Lenz and they had a wonderful life together with many adventures over those 70 years. He is at peace now, reunited with Betty who passed away on January 31, 2025, and his daughter, Jane Morris, who preceded him in death in 2015. Dick was also preceded in death by his parents, Carl and Myrtle Bryans; in-laws, Harry and Reatha Lenz; brother, Bob Bryans; sisters, Betty and Robert James, Evelyn and Ken Sprague; brothers-in-law, Ray Cooley, Jack and Judy Lenz; son-in-law, Bob Lund.

Dick is survived by his daughters, Linda and Jeff Brice, Marcia Lund, and Anne (Dan) Wenger; sisters, Marilyn Bryans, Belva and Bob Barry, Elaine Cooley; son-in-law, Kary Morris.

Dick was a devoted family man. He was slightly spoiled by Betty's cooking and baking, and his four daughters took pretty good care of him too. He was blessed with 10 grandchildren and 17 great grandchildren, with one more on the way.



His funny stories were the best! He was very involved with the Barry County Fair as a 4-H leader, and it was an important part of both his and Betty's lives.

His career was in the Redi-Mix business in Hastings and Middleville. He retired at the age of 62 where he was a loader operator at a local gravel pit. His hobbies included raising registered Simmental cattle, visiting numerous county and state fairs, solving the world's problems over coffee at the TK Kitchen, woodworking, and making toy barns and bird houses.

We will be celebrating both Dick and Betty's lives on Thursday, June 5, 2025 at the Beeler-Gores Funeral Home in Middleville with a visitation from 10 to 11 a.m., and a memorial service to follow at 11 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be given to the Jane Morris Memorial Fund or the Barry County Fair Improvement Foundation.

LOCAL CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

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

cornerstonechurch
Join us in person or online Sundays @ 10 & 11am
cornerstonemi.org/weekend

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FBCMIDDLEVILLE.NET - 5215 M37 - 269-795-9726

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
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Community Group ..... 11:00 a.m.
James L. Collison, Pastor
www.yankeespringsbiblechurch.org

RANK

Continued from Page 1

and grounds department – Such a department would be charged with the upkeep of cemeteries, snow plowing driveways and sidewalks, pruning trees along trails and trail cleanup.

• Cemeteries – "We will need this sooner or later," Haagsma said. "We need more than what we have. Blain Cemetery is a mess."

• Prairie Wolf Park – Priorities listed by township board members include the desire for a pavilion and upgrades to the buildings and barns. Other priorities included improved parking, addition of an amphitheater or stage, educational programs, playground equipment, a suspension bridge and a fishing platform at Hardy Pond.

• Public safety – The need for additional facilities, possibly including a third fire station in Gaines Township, as well as the need for additional fire department personnel.

• Gaines Township branch of the Kent District Library – Replacement of furniture replacement, carpet and tile, painting of the walls, and addition of a fence to the front lawn so that programs can be safely conducted outdoors, as well as providing a barrier between participants and traffic along 68th Street.

Classifieds

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GARAGE SALE- May 30 & 31st, Friday 9am-5pm, Sat 9am-4pm. 4'x6' covered cargo trailer, $875; tools, misc. househgold items. 4590 Circle Inn Dr., Shelbyville. 269-601-1977.

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PATROLS

Continued from Page 3

for damaged or worn equipment and vegetation hazards.

The inspection flights are often conducted at low altitudes to allow accurate visual inspection of equipment for lightning damage, wear or other potential problems. ITC officials state this is normal procedure, so there is no cause for alarm if a low-flying helicopter is sighted near transmission lines.

For more information about ITC, persons may visit online at itc-holdings.com. — *DM*

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Annual sock hop, car show set for June 6

Caledonia Township is again providing fans of the 1950s and '60s the chance to go back in time to shake, rattle and roll at the fourth annual Summer Sock Hop & Car Show.

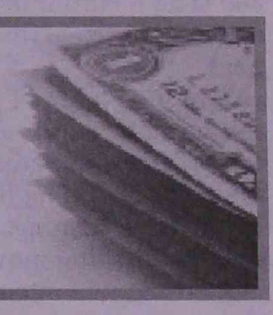
Participants can dust off their old poodle skirts and cuff their jeans before cruising over to the Caledonia Community Green on Dobber Wenger Memorial Drive in Caledonia on Friday, June 6, from 5:30-8 p.m. for a blast from the past that organizers say people won't forget.

The annual event is set to include live music, food, hula hoop contests and a limbo competition.

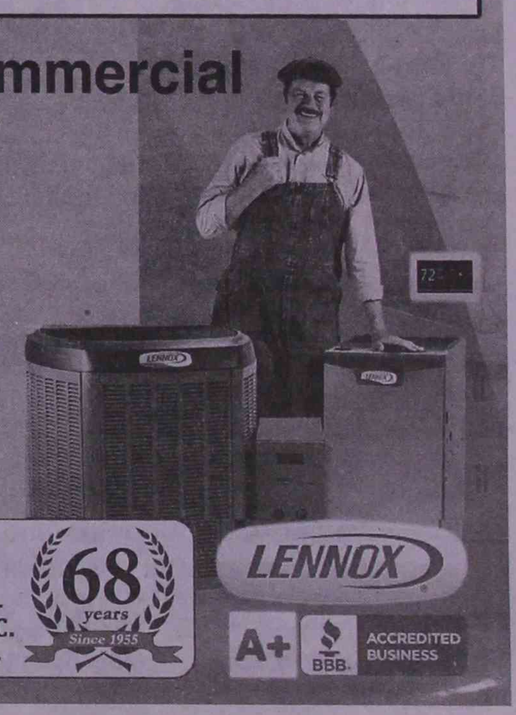
The night is for both kids and grown-ups seeking boogie down in their best '50s and '60s threads, with "Best Dressed" prizes awarded to both kids and adults.

Also, the classic car show is back. Line-up begins at 4 p.m. off of 92nd Street. First-, second- and third-place trophies will be awarded at 7:30 p.m. to the "raddest rides." — *DM*

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TKHS announces top students for Class of 2025

Officials at Thornapple Kellogg High School announced the top academic students for the Class of 2025.

The students are listed in alphabetical order by last name and include the following:



Jacob Draaisma III

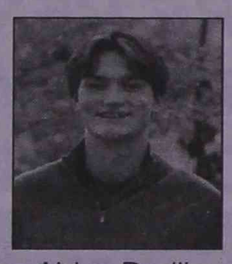
Jacob Gregory Draaisma III is the son of Jake and Allison Draaisma. He has been involved in varsity basketball, varsity tennis, cross country and track. He is a member of the National Honor Society and Student Council, where he served as vice president.

Draaisma earned conference runner-up and regional champion honors in tennis, was a conference champion and state qualifier in cross country and a 1600-meter conference runner-up and state qualifier in track.

He is a member of Teens Against Tobacco Use and lists being able to qualify for state in his first year of track and cross country as his greatest achievements in high school.

He enjoys running, biking, swimming, video games, watching movies and playing card games.

Draaisma will attend Chicago State University to major in pre-physical therapy and then attend another university to obtain his PT degree. He will also be running cross country and track at CSU.



Aidan Dudik

Aidan Dudik is the son of George and Erica Dudik. His school activities have included being a member of National Honor Society, Student Council, student section leader, varsity tennis, junior-varsity basketball, Teens Against Tobacco Use and being a donor for the American Red Cross blood drives.

His honors and awards include earning all-conference honors in tennis for the OK Gold Conference and being recognized by the Rotary Club for his tennis achievements. He also earned highest honors in ninth through 12th grades.

Dudik has also been busy outside of school with the United Way Day of Caring, serving as a youth basketball referee, youth basketball coach, youth golf and Bible study. He enjoys golf, tennis, basketball, video games and reading.

He lists his greatest accomplishment in high school as being able to teach fourth-graders about the dangers of tobacco and nicotine through TATU. He also lists earning all-conference honors in tennis as a memorable accomplishment.

Dudik plans to attend Michigan State University Honors College to study business and finance.



Kylee Hoebeke

Kylee Hoebeke is the daughter of Mike and Erin Hoebeke. She has been a member of varsity volleyball, softball, NHS where she served as vice president, marching and symphonic band, Fellowship of Christian Athletes huddle leader, Linkers, Teens Against Tobacco Use, Student Athlete Leadership Team, Student Advisory Council and Student Council.

She earned all-conference, all-district, all-region and honorable mention all-state in softball.

Outside of school she has been active with youth softball lessons, TK sports camps and blood drives.

Her hobbies include softball and playing travel softball with the Indiana Bombers, running, lifting and reading.

She lists her greatest accomplishment at TKHS as earning honorable mention all state as a shortstop during her junior year in high school and helping establish an official FCA huddle at TK.

Hoebeke will attend Grand Valley State University where she will continue playing softball while studying exercise science with a focus on pre-physical therapy. She plans to go on to a graduate program for physical therapy.



Evan Liu

Evan Liu is the son of Yong Qin Liu and Li Fang Liu. His school activities include tennis, golf, and track teams, Business Professionals of America (served as president), Student Council (served as president) and National Honor Society.

He has been a member of the Youth Advisory Council and served as president for three years. He has also served as a board member of the Barry Community Foundation for two years and worked at this family restaurant, China Kitchen. He has been involved in the 2025 Leadership Barry County Cohort and Circle of Giving.

His hobbies include playing golf and tennis, hanging out with friends, playing cards and playing Rainbow Six Siege.

His greatest accomplishment at TKHS was earning a first-place rating in BPA at the state competition and qualifying for BPA national competition twice. He is also proud of receiving the AP Scholar Award with Distinction in his junior year, leading assemblies and school events for student council and graduating at the top of his class.

Liu will attend Harvard University to major in economics and minor in computer science.



Will Nathan

Will Nathan is the son of Benjamin Nathan and Nancy McClear. He has been a member of soccer and golf teams, and National Honor Society. He also earned a first-place award in the state MITES competition.

He has been a member of the Youth Advisory Council for five years, Circle of Giving and Leadership Barry County.

He enjoys golf, hanging out with friends and family, and playing cards. He lists his greatest accomplishment in high school as earning a 2024 AP Scholar with Honor award.

Nathan will attend the University of Michigan to study mechanical engineering.



Kameron Nichols

Kameron Nichols is the son of Lee and Amy Nichols. He was a member of the varsity tennis team where he earned all-conference honors three years, was a singles conference champion, earned academic all-state and all-state honorable mention his senior year and was the Holland Invitational champion his senior year and the Hamilton Invitational champion his junior and senior year. He is also a member of the National Honor Society.

He has been a middle school assistant tennis coach

See next page

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Continued from previous page

and played club soccer where he won a state cup. He was also a finalist in regionals and qualified for nationals his sophomore year.

He enjoys tennis, soccer, fishing, hunting, movies and video games.

He lists his greatest accomplishment at TKHS as being academic all state and all state honorable mention in tennis.

Nichols plans to play tennis at college but has not determined yet which college he will attend.

Cole Novak is the son of Jared and Amanda Novak. His high school activities include varsity tennis, Science Olympiad, stage crew for plays and musicals. He has also been part of the TKHS marching, symphonic and jazz bands and was a speaker for the NHS 2025 induction ceremony.



Cole Novak

His hobbies include reading, video games, camping, tennis, watching movies, collecting magnets, model making, crocheting, and spending time with family and friends.

His achievements while at TK include being a National Merit Finalist, Board of Education Certificate of Achievement recipient, a Middleville Rotary Scholarship nominee from the English department, earning highest honors every semester, National Honor Society member his junior and senior year, and member of the Science Olympiad Team that made it to state competition for the first time in years for TKHS.

He plans to attend Michigan State University in the college of natural science majoring in microbiology. He will also be a member of the Honors College. His goal is to follow his degree into becoming an immunologist or virologist or possibly pivot and go into the medical field to become an optometrist or therapist. He plans to explore all his options while in college.

Rylee Seguin is the daughter of Corey and Kaite Seguin. She has been in a TK musical and was a member of the Student Council. She received the College Board's National Rural and Small Town recognition award and AP scholar award. She is a member of the National Honor Society during her junior and senior years. During her senior year she took six dual enrollment classes at Grand Rapids Community College and was awarded onto their President's List.



Rylee Seguin

She has tutored other students through NHS and spent a summer volunteering at Premier Martial Arts. She also currently works as a cashier at J&H Family Stores in Middleville.

She lists her hobbies as spending time with close friends, doing anything outdoors including kayaking, biking, beach volleyball, and playing with her younger cousins and brother. She also likes going to the gym with her sister.

She lists her greatest accomplishment at TKHS as being a positive influence on people around her and always striving to do her best.

She will attend Eastern Michigan University through Eastern's full-ride Presidential Scholarship and will study biology either for secondary education or to go into research.

Gary Skiles is the son of David Skiles. He was a member of the robotics club in high school. He has made the honor roll every year and received a few student of the month awards.



Gary Skiles

He works at Heinz Freeport Genera and has volunteered for the Freeport Homecoming event multiple times.

His hobbies include jet skiing, weightlifting, coding, chemistry and anything that gives him an adrenaline rush, such as theme parks, jet skiing and skydiving.

He lists his greatest accomplishment in high school as being in the top 10. He was also proud that he took the AP chemistry test and was one of the only people to earn a 3 score on it. He also made a goose hunt mobile that hangs in Main Street of the high school for AP physics.

Skiles will attend Northern Michigan University to study chemistry and possibly pursue a career in chemical engineering or research in the pharmaceutical industry.

Lukas Walters is the son of Jason and Robin Walters. He has been involved in the theater program all four years of high school and in two band classes each of his four years including concert, symphonic and jazz bands. He has been a Student Council member all four years and National Honor Society member for two years. He is also a National Merit Scholarship Finalist.



Lukas Walters

Outside of school, he has been a member of the worship band at church since 2020. His hobbies include music – playing a number of instruments including bass, electric and acoustic guitar, trombone and keyboard. He also enjoys reading and collecting – recently starting a book collection.

He lists his greatest accomplishments in high school as earning a 5 score on an APUSH exam, being a National Merit Scholarship Finalist and obtaining a full-ride scholarship to Aquinas College where he plans to study communications. — *DM*







CHS Class of 2025 honored for outstanding achievements at Senior Recognition Night

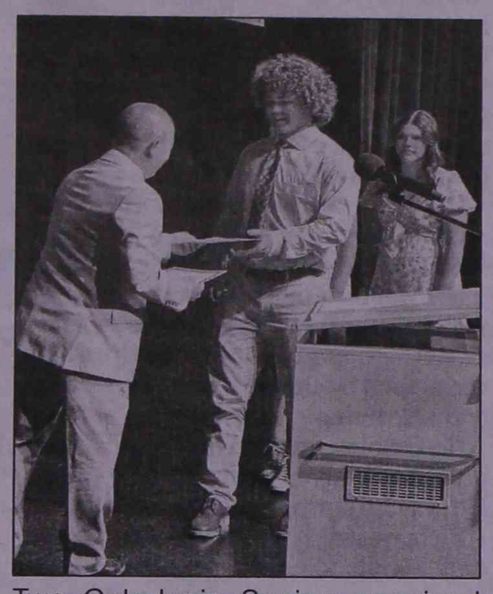
Karen Turko-Ebright
Staff Writer

Caledonia High School recognized the Class of 2025 last week for its remarkable accomplishments. Several graduating seniors were honored at Senior Recognition Night on May 14.

Sixty-one seniors were presented with the Gold Academic Award, honoring their remarkable scholarly achievement of a 4.0-plus cumulative GPA, while the silver award went to 123 seniors for retaining a highly notable 3.5-3.99 cumulative GPA.

Thirty-eight students were awarded local scholarships totaling $42,000 from generous community organizations and individuals.

The special event included celebrating 76 special, military, athletic, and department awards, plus recognizing a wide range of student achievements from the arts and sciences to leadership and service.



Two Caledonia Seniors received the MHSAA Scholar Athlete Award at last week's Senior Recognition Night. From left, Peter Paarlberg, Rian Restau and the presenter Phil Miedema.



Kaliana Reynolds (left) and Patrick Vanderkolk (right) were recently awarded the Caledonia Educational Association Future Educator Scholarship. Here they are with CEA President Veronica Van Wagoner.



MEMORIAL DAY

REMEMBER AND HONOR

Gaines Charter Township will be closed on Monday, May 26th, 2025
in observance of Memorial Day

American Legion Caledonia Memorial Post #305
will hold Ceremonies for Memorial Day at:
BLAIN CEMETERY AT 9:45AM
DUTTON CEMETERY AT 10:30AM



Isabella Wierzbicki received the Alpha Beta Award at Senior Recognition Night, which was presented by Kurtis Hoffman. **Courtesy photos**

TK rolling through stretch against state's top D2 teams

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

A group of four of the state's top 15 ranked teams in Division 2 are a part of the MHSAA Division 2 District Tournament being hosted by Gull Lake High School.

The Trojans came out on top in the first match-up between two of those teams Wednesday at Harper Creek High School. The 12th-ranked Trojans defeated the 13th-ranked Beavers 1-0 in Battle Creek to earn a spot in the upcoming district semifinals.

TK will face either eighth-ranked Otsego or Battle Creek Central in the district semifinals Wednesday, May 28, at Gull Lake High School. Game time is set for 5 p.m. Otsego and Battle Creek Central were set to play their opening round game Friday evening, May 23.

Third-ranked Gull Lake takes on Plainwell in the second district semifinal match of the day Wednesday, and the two winners will meet back at Gull Lake High School Friday, May 30, for the district final with a 6 p.m. scheduled start.

Madilyn Chivis fired a corner kick into the Beaver box in Battle Creek Tuesday and Tealy Cross finished it off to give the Trojans the lone goal of the district opener with just three minutes left in the game.

"The girls played really well in the game," TK head coach David Wood said. "Going into the game we knew it was going to be a close game. First half, we created chances we should have capitalized on. Same within the second, but it took until the final three minutes in the game to get the breakthrough goal."

Should the Trojans face the Otsego Bulldogs, big favorites in their contest with BC Central, it would be the third straight game against a top team in the D2 state rankings. TK closed the regular season against number five South Christian Monday.

The suspense lasted all season, but it didn't last too long Monday evening. South Christian clinched the 2025 OK Gold Conference championship with a 3-0 win over visiting Thornapple Kellogg.

Sailor senior Alexa Boersma lofted a centering ball from the right side into a stiff wind and over the Trojan goal box less than half a minute into their conference finale. Senior teammate Anneliese VanderLaan beat everyone else to the ball as it came down and knocked it by Trojan keeper McKenna Hoebeke into the net for a 1-0 lead.

The Sailors added a second goal early in the second half and then a third with eight and a half minutes to play to finish off a 11-0-1 conference season. The Trojans close the OK Gold season at 9-1-2. A Trojan win would have propelled the TK ladies to a conference championship. The two teams finished in a 1-1 draw in their early season meeting in Middleville. The only other blemish on the Trojans' conference record was a 1-1 draw with West Catholic late last month.

The Trojans, now 12-3-2 overall, South Christian moved to 15-0-3 with the win Monday.

The Sailors were awarded a penalty kick nine minutes into the second half and senior defender Hayden Donker stepped up to put the shot in that put her team up 2-0 over the visiting Trojans.

Junior Cassidy DeVries blasted a shot into the net with 8:38 to play for the Sailors' final goal. The Trojans had some trouble getting a corner kick cleared. South Christian sophomore Hattie Berry knocked the ball down to the feet of DeVries for the shot in the crowded box.

Good scoring chances were few and far between for the Trojans. The Sailors were oftentimes a step quicker to the ball than the Trojans in what was a pretty physical match throughout.

Early on the Trojans attempted to answer the Sailors' opening goal. TK junior Tealy Cross put a pass ahead for junior Paige Abshagen who lined a high shot towards the Sailor net that the South Christian keeper Olivia In'tHout leapt up to snag.



Thornapple Kellogg sophomore Alyvia Zolinski drops a pass back as she's pressured by South Christian sophomore Meredith Helmus during their OK Gold Conference match Monday at South Christian High School.



Thornapple Kellogg senior defender Emma Geukes (right) and South Christian sophomore Meredith Helmus get tangled up as the ball bounds their way during the second half of their OK Gold Conference finale at South Christian High School Monday. **Photos by Brett Bremer**



Sporting News

Scot seniors' PRs earn them spots in D1 Finals

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Competing in a track regional for the first time, Caledonia senior Hannah Dupuis earned the chance to run in a state finals race.

Dupuis set a personal record time of 11 minutes 10.01 seconds in the 3200-meter run at the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 1 Regional at Portage Central High School Saturday to place second and earn a spot in the May 31 Division 1 Finals at East Kentwood High School.

"I would say it went better than I wanted it to," Dupuis said. "I wasn't expecting to get second because I was doing a little looking on athletic.net before the race and I was like, these girls are really close to my PR. I've run like similar times lately, but about two, three weeks ago I set a major PR. This whole season I've dropped like over a minute in my two-mile time. So this is all kind of like very surreal to me. If you told me at the beginning of the season that I like make it to the state meeting, I'd be like, what?!?! I think that's crazy."

"This running, like low 11s is still very new to me," she added, "and it does not feel good, but I'm very proud of myself and my body for doing it."

She shaved almost nine and a half seconds off her former PR and was more than 90 seconds faster than she was at the 2024 OK Red Conference Championship where she ran the fastest time of her junior season last spring. Before her junior season, Dupuis hadn't even competed in the 3200 for the CHS girls.

Caledonia varsity girls' track and field coach Ben Howell, who also coaches the Fighting Scot varsity girls' cross country team, said Dupuis competed in cross country the fall of her freshman season and was about the team's number 20 runner. It's nice that she's here they thought.

"She didn't run in the regional meet her freshmen and sophomore years, because she wasn't even a varsity runner," Howell said. "But, she just keeps putting in the work. It is really awesome. When you look at the field of runners there aren't many people who have achieved so much over time. It is pretty awesome. She is not the kid who showed up her freshman year and was dominating."

That's more the girl who finished ahead of her Saturday. Portage Northern freshman Ainsley Kelm took the regional title in the 3200 with a time of 11:09.66.

Howell said discipline has been the key to Dupuis' steady progress over the years.

"She is going to run every day," Howell said. "She is just going to keep on running every day. It is just like brushing your teeth. It is something she's not going to skip. And she wants to improve. She takes the talent she has and works with it and makes herself the best that she can be. She is dedicated to running for sure.

"She started just with small goals. She has never had huge goals. It is just getting a little bit better all the time. I think that's the key."

The Caledonia varsity track and field teams had two state qualifying performances Saturday. Senior thrower Cody Meyers was at his best too. He unleashed a personal record throw of 157 feet 11 inches to place third in the boys' discus and meet the state qualifying distance. He beat his previous best by an astounding 15 feet.

Overall, the Caledonia boys were ninth and the girls 12th in a field of 16 teams where the East Kentwood boys and girls dominated to win regional championships. The top two in each event Saturday earned spots in the upcoming finals as well as others who met the predetermined qualifying times and measurements. For the first time this spring, athletes could also qualify for the finals throughout the season by meeting even tougher standards at "early qualifier" events.

The CHS boys had a couple near misses Saturday. Senior Kort Thompson was fifth in the boys' 3200-meter run with a time of 9:33.24 - .24 off the state qualifying time. Junior distance runner Noah Johnston placed fourth in the boys' 1600-meter run with a time of 4:22.94 - less than half a second off the state qualifying mark.

The Caledonia boys also had scoring performances thanks to a PR from junior Jonas Howell in the 300-meter intermediate hurdles (40.76 seconds); a fourth-place finish from the 4x400-meter relay team of senior David Potgeter, junior Jonas Howell, junior Eli Velting and sophomore Aaron Collins (3:34.94); a fifth-place finish from the 4x800-meter relay team of junior Luke Smith, sophomore Grant Feldpausch, senior Ethan Buer and Velting (8:36.93); a fifth-place vault of 12-9 from Potgeter in the pole vault; and a jump of 5-10 by senior Andrew Tava that put him fifth in the high jump.

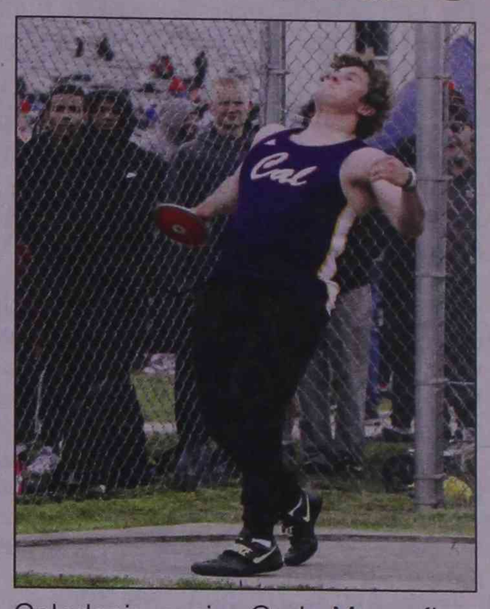
Junior Jolie King had a strong day for the CHS girls with a fourth-place leap in the long jump. She flew 16-7.5. Sophomore Olivia Hawkins placed sixth in the 300-meter low hurdles with a time of 47.29 and was a part of the Scots' fifth-place 4x400-meter relay team along with senior Avalynn Klapmust, freshman Brynn Ward and sophomore Isla Sheely (4:17.44).

Coach Howell was pretty pleased with King's performance and said he knew Hawkins was disappointed not to qualify for the state finals in the hurdles, but her competition just really stepped up and ran fast.

There were four state qualifiers in both of the girls' hurdles races Saturday led by Thornapple Kellogg senior Brooklyn Harmon who improved her own school records to win the 100-meter hurdles and the 300-meter hurdles.

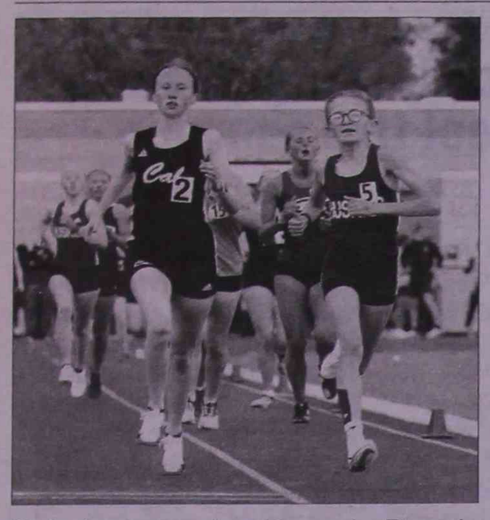
Dupuis' 3200-meter race was as tough one too with four girls qualifying for the

See next page



Caledonia senior Cody Myers fires off a throw in the discus competition Saturday during the MHSAA Division 1 Regional at Portage Central High School. Myers set a new PR in the event to place third and qualify for the May 31 D1 Track and Field Finals.

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Caledonia senior Hannah Dupuis (left) and Portage Northern freshman Ainsley Kelm close in on the finish line at the end of the 3200-meter run during the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 1 Regional hosted by Portage Central High School Saturday, May 17. Both girls set a new personal record time and qualified for the May 31 D1 Track and Field Finals in Kentwood. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

Continued from previous page

finals based on their time. Portage Northern had two qualifiers in that race with junior Olivia Stacy third in 11:13.84 and Kalamazoo Central senior Annie Alkema was fourth in 11:14.83.

Meyers was in a group like that too with the top four discus throwers all qualifying for the state finals. Kalamazoo Central junior Aiden Thomas won that event with a personal record throw of 160-1. Byron Center senior Nolan Stubblefield was the runner-up at 159-7 and Ottawa Hills senior Rashawn Rogers qualified for the finals too with a throw of 153-5.

Sheely had an eighth-place time in the girls' 400-meter dash of 1:02.11 for the Scots. The Caledonia girls also had the 4x100-meter relay team of sophomore Mariah Peterson, senior Alaina Palmer, and freshmen Melanie Genao Grullon and freshman Brynn Ward place seventh in 51.70.

All six of the 4x100-meter relay teams that finished ahead of the Fighting Scots met the state qualifying time in that race, and there was a group of six girls who qualified for the state finals in the 100-meter dash too. East Kentwood sophomore Logan Richardson won that 100 in 12.36 and she anchored the Falcons' 4x100-meter relay team that won in 48.48.

Pair of doubles wins for TK tennis at D2 regional

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Thornapple Kellogg varsity girls' tennis team closed its 2025 season with a tenth-place finish at its MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 2 Regional Tournament hosted by Byron Center Wednesday, May 14.

The Trojan second and fourth doubles teams won opening round matches before running into highly seeded teams at their flights in the quarterfinals.

The TK sophomore duo of Molly Alden and Cayla Brouwer at second doubles beat St. Joseph's Lainie Dorow and Charlotte Confer 6-4, 6-2 in their first match, but then fell to the second-seeded Mattawan duo at their flight.

At fourth doubles, TK sophomore Carli Ogle and freshman Lucy Schilthroat took a 6-0, 6-1 win over Portage Northern's Sruti Raghubanshi and Sonya Pruyne before falling to the top-seeded team from Byron Center in the quarterfinals.

The Byron Center Bulldogs' Rylie Hull and Avery Hustak, a pair of freshmen, won that fourth doubles flight in the end over the Mattawan duo at their flight. Those two teams won every flight at the regional. Mattawan took championships at first, third and fourth singles and the top two doubles flights to finish the day with 27 points.

Byron Center was second with 20 points getting wins at third and fourth doubles and second singles.

Mattawan junior Ana Cheng beat out St. Joseph junior Ellie Fischer 7-6(6), 2-6, 6-2 in the first doubles championship. Both those girls qualified for the upcoming MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 2 Girls' Tennis Finals along with the full line-ups from the top two teams, Mattawan and Byron Center.

Zeeland East was third in the team standings with 16 points ahead of Gull Lake 9, St. Joseph 8, Holland 7, Sturgis 7, Zeeland West 7, TK 2 and Portage Northern 1.

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June 20th - 6:30PM-09:00PM - Acoustic Shenanigans
Genre : Acoustic Rock / Folk / Country

June 27th - 6:30PM-09:00PM - Out of Favor Boys
Genre : Contemporary Blues

July 18th - 6:30PM-09:00PM – Bluecatz
Genre : Blues

July 25th - 6:30PM-09:00PM - Thornapple River Band
Genre: Folk Rock / Americana

August 1st - 6:30PM-09:00PM - Barenaked 90's
Genre: '90s Alternative Rock Covers

August 8th - 6:30PM-09:00PM - Beatles Thing
Genre: Beatles Tribute / Classic Rock

August 15th - 6:30PM-09:00PM - Silent Bark
Genre – Nirvana + Others Cover Band

August 22nd - 6:30PM-09:00PM – Bluecatz
Genre: Blues

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DON'T MISS A SHOW - CLIP AND SAVE THIS AD

TK boys third at OK Gold golf tournament

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The top seven scores all game from South Christian and West Catholic guys as the OK Gold met at Kauffman Golf Course in Wyoming for the conference championship tournament Thursday, May 15.

South Christian won the day's team championship with an overall score of 301. Northview finished second with a score of 328 strokes ahead of West Catholic 329, Thornapple Kellogg 333, Wayland 336, Grand Rapids Union 361 and Wyoming 475.

Seniors Kylan Pratt and Will Nathan and sophomore Parker Dahley each shot 82 to lead the Thornapple Kellogg team and tied for 13th individually. TK also got an 87 from senior Tyler Voss.

West Catholic junior and South Christian senior Landon Lemmen both shot a 74 to finish at the top of the day's leaderboard. The Sailors also got a 75 from sophomore Harris Hoekwater, a 75 from senior Brody Montsma and a 77 from senior Wyatt Sall. West Catholic's Owen Kotowski, a junior, also shot a 75.

Thornapple Kellogg will head to Stonehedge Golf Course in Augusta to play its MHSAA Division 2 Regional Tournament on the North Course Tuesday, May 27.

CHS girls open softball postseason at home Tuesday against Rangers

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Caledonia will host the Forest Hills Central varsity softball team for an MHSAA Division 1 Pre-District ballgame Tuesday beginning at 4 p.m.

The winner of Tuesday's contest heads to Lowell Saturday, May 31, to face Lowell in the district semifinals in Wyoming.

The Caledonia girls were still looking to finish off the OK Green Conference season late last week hosting Mona Shores for two Thursday, May 22.

Byron Center finished off conference sweep of the Scots with an 8-0 win in Caledonia last Thursday, May 15.

The two Caledonia hits in that loss were singles by Addy Lash and Lexi Henney.

TK Aquatics looking to utilize updated pool this summer

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

TK Aquatics is prepping for summer classes and events in the pool at Thornapple Kellogg High School in Middleville.

Pool coordinator Jeff Saltzgaber said, "we're excited to provide a variety of lessons and wellness-focused activities designed to serve students, families, and community members across the Middleville area."

Those offerings include parent/child swim lessons for youth ages two months to two years; group swim lessons for ages 3-12; middle school and high school swim camps; adult group swim lessons; and private swim lessons for all ages.

TK Aquatics is also introducing Aqua Motion and Gentle AquaFit self-guided, low-impact water fitness windows that promote movement, flexibility, and overall wellness. These sessions are designed for community members looking for a low-stress way to stay active this summer.

Programs begin June 9. A registration deadline has been set for May 30. Links to the pool schedule and the swim program flyer with a QR code for registration can be found on the Family/Flyers page of the tkschools.org website.

Those interested can also contact Saltzgaber at jsaltzgaber@tkschools.org for more information.

Trojans finish Gold season at .500, host district Saturday

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

South Christian took two from the Thornapple Kellogg varsity softball team in Middleville Monday.

The Sailors scored 17-7 and 3-2 wins to move the Trojans' OK Gold Conference record to 6-6 for the season.

South Christian snapped a 2-2 tie with a run in the top of the sixth to pull in front in the opener.

Adelaide Holderman went the distance in the circle for TK and didn't allow an earned run in her seven innings. She struck out seven, walked one and allowed six hits.

The TK offense consisted of four hits. Holderman doubled and scored a run. Jenna Robinett, Anna Romph and Allison Wolowicz each singled once. Kenzie Hoebeke walked twice and drove in a run.

The South Christian offense exploded for 18 hits and 17 runs in game two, and the Trojans struggled to handle the ball defensively allowing five unearned runs.

Holderman, Romph and Robinett had two hits each for TK in that game two loss. Robinett doubled once and drove in three runs. Holderman had two runs scored and an RBI. Romph had a single, a double and two runs scored. Wolowicz also singled once for TK and drove in a run.

The TK ladies are hosting their MHSAA Division 2 District Tournament Saturday, May 31. The Trojans will play at 10 a.m. in a district semifinal contest against the winner of the Tuesday predistrict contest between Hastings and Wayland in Middleville.

Hopkins and Allegan are set to play the second district semifinal of the day Saturday in Middleville at noon with the district championship game to follow.

THORNAPPLE TOWNSHIP BOARD
200 E MAIN ST.
MIDDLEVILLE, MI 49333
SYNOPSIS OF MEETING MINUTES
Monday, May 12, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. with seven members present.

Items approved:

1. Printed Agenda approved as amended.
2. Consent Agenda approved as amended.
   a. Approved increased retirement contribution from 5% match to 8% match.
   b. Approved partnership with the Middleville Lions Club for Fourth of July Fireworks.
   c. Approved Computer Replacements.
   d. Approved Budget Amendment to move funds from part-time EMS shift fund to full-time shift fund.
   e. Approved Budget Amendment to move funds from ambulance account 505 to 403.
   f. Approved Mowing at TTES building for the season.
   g. Approved an additional seven Paid On Call firefighters.
   h. Approved 2024-2025 Fire Chief Contract.
   i. Approved 3% Cost of Living Wage Increase for Township elected officials, office employees, and EMS employees.
   j. Approved Health Insurance Waiver be raised.
   k. Approved the updated Thornapple Township Emergency Services Rate Table.
   l. Approved five-year Cemetery Contract with Wickham Cemetery Care.

Meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Prepared by Deputy Clerk Brenda Hess. Approved by Township Supervisor, Eric Schaefer.

Copies of the meeting minutes are available upon request from the Township Clerk or by visiting https://thornapple-twp.org/meeting-minutes/ Office hours 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

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IRVING TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING SYNOPSIS
MAY 20th, 2025

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm at 3425 Wing Rd. Hastings, Michigan 49058

Present: Lydy, Stout, Buehler, Brummel, and Nagel

Agenda approved as presented

Approved April 15th, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Approved to pay bills in the amount of $3820.00

Approved March 18th, 2025 Budget Hearing Meeting Minutes

Approved to pay the Hickory Ridge Tree Service invoice of $1,800.00

Approved to pay $10,000 for Hammond Road Village Limits Road Work

Upcoming Meeting dates: June 17th, 2025, 7:00pm (Board Meeting)

Adjourn 7:29pm

Full minutes are available at Irvingtownship.org or at 3425 Wing Rd, Hastings, MI 49058.

Prepared by Irving Township Clerk, Tessa Stout.

Attested to by Supervisor, Dan Lydy.

Scots shut out TK, ball teams closing in on state postseason

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Caledonia varsity baseball team took a 10-0 win over visiting Thornapple Kellogg Friday afternoon, May 16.

Ethan Sova got the win on the mound striking out three and walking five in four innings, but he only allowed one hit. Aryn Taylor came on to strike out two in the fifth.

Caledonia had 12 hits, including 11 singles, to score its ten runs. Bryce Freese was 1-for-4 with a double and drove in four runs. He also walked once and scored once.

Jackson McNew was 4-for-4 with a run scored. Sova was 2-for-4 with three runs scored and an RBI.

AJ Roszkowski, Trevor Walter, Ben Kieliszewski, Alex Spinney and Taylor had one hit each.

A single by lead-off hitter Conner Dombkowski had the only hit for the Trojans.

For the Scots it was in the middle of a stretch in which they played on five consecutive days last week getting in a total of seven games during that span. The Scots were bested 8-4 by Byron Center May 15, and got swept in a double header at Grand Rapids Catholic Central May 24, 6-5 and 5-1.

The Scots were slated to visit Mona Shores Thursday and then play host to the Sailors for two Friday, May 23. South Christian is set to host the Scots today, May 24.

Caledonia will enter the state postseason in the MHSAA Division 1 District Semifinals at Forest Hills Central High School Saturday, May 31, taking on East Kentwood at noon. Forest Hills Central and Lowell meet in the district's other semifinal contest Saturday morning.

The Thornapple Kellogg boys fell 5-2 and 7-4 in a pair of OK Gold Conference ballgames in Middleville Monday.

The postseason starts for the Trojans Tuesday, May 27, with a MHSAA Division 2 Pre-District ballgame against Pennfield at Harper Creek High School beginning at 4 p.m. The winner of that one will take on Hastings in the district semifinals back at Harper Creek High School Saturday, May 31. Harper Creek and Gull Lake will meet in the district's second semifinal contest May 31.

Scots handle Sailors in second meeting to finish second in OK Green

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Fighting Scots finished off an runner-up finish in the OK Green Conference by scoring a 2-0 win at Mona Shores Thursday, May 15.

The Caledonia varsity girls' soccer team was 7-2-1 in conference play this season, falling only to the undefeated conference champs from Byron Center along the way.

CHS head coach Taylor Kastens said her girls absolutely dominated the match in Muskegon last week.

Baylee Devries beat three defenders to the goal and finished with what coach Kastens called a beautifully placed shot to the left of the Mona Shores keeper for the Scots' first goal. Ellery Lienesch scored the Scots' second goal, cleaning up a missed clearance from the Mona Shores defense at the top of the box and putting a shot over the Sailor keeper's head.

Kastens said her girls created a number of other scoring chances throughout the evening, but just couldn't get any more to hit the net.

Fighting Scots senior goalkeeper Ella DeRuyter kept a clean sheet facing five shots on goal.

"We pressured higher up the field this time, which helped keep their backline under pressure and our backline was lights out," Kastens said. "It was a full-team performance and the best complete game we've played all year."

The Scots are hoping for more of that as the postseason gets rolling. They were slated to host Northview for their MHSAA Division 1 District opener at Scotland Yard Thursday, May 22. The winner of Thursday night's contest heads to Rockford to face the 12-2-3 Rams in the district semifinals Tuesday, May 29, at 5 p.m. Rockford won the OK Red Conference this spring.

Caledonia moved its record to 9-6-2 win the win at Mona Shores.

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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Township of Yankee Springs, Barry County, Michigan

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

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that as a result of petitions of property owners within the township signed by the record owners of land whose (area or footage) constitutes more than 50 percent of the total (area or footage) of the hereinafter described Deer Sight Drive special assessment district and the township board of the Township of Yankee Springs proposes to make road improvements consisting of installing 1.5 inches of base course asphalt compacted, and installation of 1.5 inches of surface asphalt compacted. The length of roadway is approximately ½ mile. And to create a special assessment for the recovery of the cost thereof by special assessment against the properties benefited therein.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the district within which the foregoing improvements are proposed to be constructed and within which the cost thereof is proposed to be assessed is more particularly described as including the following parcel numbers:

08-16-135-008-00	08-16-135-005-00	08-16-135-017-00
08-16-135-009-00	08-16-135-004-00	08-16-135-012-00
08-16-135-007-00	08-16-135-003-00	08-16-135-010-00
08-16-135-006-00	08-16-135-002-00	08-16-135-011-00
08-16-135-009-00	08-16-135-001-00	08-16-135-001-00

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township Board has received engineering plans showing the improvements and an estimate of the costs of such construction in the approximate amount of $52,000, has placed them on file with the township clerk, and has passed a resolution tentatively declaring its intention to make the improvement and to create the special assessment district. The township board has also tentatively found the petitions to be compliance with statutory requirements.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that said plans, estimate of cost, proposed special assessment district and petitions may be examined at the office of the township clerk from the date of this notice through the date of the public hearing and may be examined at such public hearing.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that a public hearing on the petitions, plans, district and estimate of cost will be held at the Yankee Springs Township hall at 284 N. Briggs Road, Middleville, Michigan, commencing at 6 o'clock p.m. on June 5, 2025.

At the hearing, the board will consider any written objections to any of the foregoing matters filled with the board at or before the hearing as well as any revisions, corrections, amendments, or changes to the plans, estimates and costs or special assessment district.

All interested persons are invited to be present at the hearing and to submit any comments they may have.

Township clerk signature: Tom Hopkins
Township address: 284 N. Briggs Road
Middleville, Michigan 49333

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

NOTICE OF PROJECT PLANNING PUBLIC MEETING

Yankee Springs Township will hold a public meeting on the proposed Drinking Water State Revolving Fund - Water System Improvements project for the purpose of receiving comments from interested persons.

The meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. on May 29, 2025, at the Yankee Springs Township Hall located at 284 N. Briggs Road, Middleville, MI 49333.

The purpose of the proposed project is to improve the Township's aging water system and comply with drinking water standards. Recommended improvements include watermain looping and increased capacity of the water treatment system.

Impacts of the proposed project include improved water quality, increased pressure and reliability. Short-term construction related impacts include noise and dust during construction.

The estimated cost to users for the proposed project may be up to $45.00 monthly. Actual costs will vary depending on financing terms, principal forgiveness, and/or grants, as well as the final user charge rate structure.

A copy of the plan detailing the proposed project is available for inspection at the Township Hall.

Written comments received before the meeting record is closed on May 29, 2025, will receive responses in the final project planning document. Written comments should be sent to: Rob Heethuis, Township Supervisor, 284 N. Briggs Road, Middleville, MI 49333.

Falcons only ones above TK girls at first D1 regional



Thornapple Kellogg freshman Amya Gater takes off at the start of the 4x400-meter relay Saturday during the MHSAA Division 1 Regional at Portage Central High School. The TK team placed second in the race to qualify for the May 31 MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 1 State Finals.

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

This is not anything new for Thornapple Kellogg senior Brooklyn Harmon and juniors Mia Hilton and Payton Gater, but the churning of the perennially talented Trojan 4x400-meter relay team brought up freshman Amya Gater this spring.

She has settled into a spot in the lead-off leg, racing 400 meters and then handing the baton off to her big sister Payton.

Amya opened the spring with a 400-meter run of 1:05.11 at the Grand Valley State University Lakers Challenge, but knew she had to be faster to be a positive part of the 4x400-meter relay team. She ran the 400 at the OK Gold JV Conference Meet May 12 and notched a new PR of 1:01.63, a few days after helping the TK varsity girls win the 4x400 at the OK Gold Championships.

"It was pretty tough," Amy said of shaving those four seconds, "but it was adrenaline. Adrenaline helped. I knew I needed to get my time down, so then it forced me to get my time down or I didn't run. [My teammates] cheered for me every time. They pushed me to do better, and they made me do better, and they were very encouraging the whole time."

That improvement didn't make a regional start with a trip to the state finals on the line any easier though.

In the blocks for the last race of the MHSAA Division 1 Regional hosted by Portage Central High School Saturday, Amya said she started shaking – even more than usual.

"I didn't know what to do, so I just had to wait for the beep. I was very nervous," Amya said. "It's not usually that bad. I get nervous. My body kind of gets shakes, but my hands were like shaking on the ground and I didn't know what to do because I thought I was going to false start."

The buzzer went off though and then it all went away.

Amya got the baton to Payton who handed it to Hilton and then finally got it to Harmon who brought it across the finish line.

"They're just crazy," Harmon said of her teammates. "I know Amaya, a being a freshman, it was super nerve wracking for her, but I'm so proud of how far she's come. We told her before the race she earned this spot. She knows what to do.

"They're amazing and they're my best friends and I'm sad to leave them."

Competing in an MHSAA Regional at the Division 1 level for the first time ever only the East Kentwood girls were better than the TK ladies in that 4x400-meter relay and in the overall team standings for the day.

The TK foursome cut more than four seconds from their previous best together in that race to place second in 4 minutes 7.33 seconds. The East Kentwood team of seniors Alana Bailey and Atiek Anyang and freshmen LaNiyah Carnegie and Deborah Aowdiek won that race in 4:00.88.

In the day's final team standings, the Falcons had an even more impressive advantage outscoring the runner-up TK girls 151-66.5. In the boys' meet, the East Kentwood Falcons outscored runner-up Kalamazoo Central 147-118 for the team title.

That was the only race all day where

See next page



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Continued from previous page

someone finished in front of Harmon. She was a part of three state qualifying performances. She improved her own school records to win regional championships in the 100-meter hurdles and the 300-meter low hurdles.

"I hit every goal," Harmon said. "I kind of wasn't expecting it, but I was expecting it. I wanted it for myself. There was always just that little doubt in my mind, but I just stayed super strong with myself, and I was like 'you trained for this. You know what to do. Focus on you. Stay in your lane. Only you. Only you Brooklyn. Focus on yourself.' I did that, and I think that's what it was.

"And all of my encouragement from the amazing people around me always helps me too."

Harmon won the 100-meter hurdles in 14.65 seconds dropping her PR in that race by more than four tenths of a second and beating her nearest competitor, East Kentwood junior Alana Bracey, by nearly half a second.

Later, Harmon caught a flash of Bracey's leg in her peripheral vision as they rounded the turn in the 300-meter hurdles. That spurred her on to a winning time of 44.81 in that race. She cut nearly a second from her PR in that race and finished about three quarters of a second ahead of Bracey.

Hilton also qualified for the Finals in those 300 hurdles with a third-place time of 46.36.

Harmon was third in both hurdles races at the MHSAA L.P. Division 2 Finals as a junior, after missing the chance to compete her sophomore season due to an injury. Harmon, Hilton and Gater teamed with Brooklyn's sister Ellie, now a sophomore, to place sixth in the 4x400-meter relay at the state finals last year. Hilton was a state medalist in the 300 hurdles at the end of both her freshman and sophomore seasons.

The top two finishers in each event at the regional Saturday qualified for the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 1 Track and Field Finals which will be hosted by East Kentwood High School May 31. This spring, for the first time, there were opportunities for early qualification to the finals throughout the season and there were also the usual state qualifying measurements athletes could reach at the regional to allow for more than two state qualifiers from a single event.

The TK girls also got top-eight scoring performances from junior Jordyn Fitros in the 200-meter dash; sophomore Isla Sheely in the 400-meter run; senior Ava Crews in the 800-meter run and the 3200-meter run; freshman Amya Gater in the 300-meter hurdles; the 4x100-meter relay team of junior Madison Kietzman, sophomores Estefani Sanchez Vega and Sydney Martin and senior Emma Dykhouse; the 4x200-meter relay team of sophomore Elli Harmon, Kietzman, Sanchez Vega and Fitros; sophomore Lydia Slagel in the pole vault and Dykhouse in both the shot put and the discus.

Crews went all out in the 800 setting a PR of 2:21.91, but couldn't quite hold a spot in the top two to qualify for the finals in that race. Kalamazoo Central senior Annie Alkema won it in 2:17.08 and Gull Lake sophomore Lane Isom caught Crews in the end to place second.

There wasn't much energy left for Crews to make another run at a state spot in the 3200-meter run and she finished eighth in that race in 12:05.91.

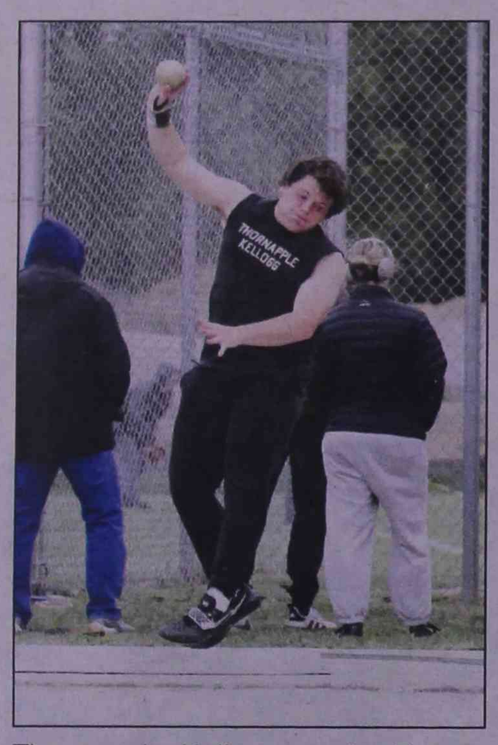
She wasn't the only one to just miss a spot in the finals in that way. Dykhouse was third in the shot put with a mark of 34-5, finishing just six and a half inches behind East Kentwood freshman Nevaeh Eubanks who fired off a PR of 34-11.5 to place second. Forest Hills Central junior Olivia Latunski won that event at 37-9. Dykhouse did close out her season with a personal record throw of 93-4 in the discus.



Thornapple Kellogg senior Brooklyn Harmon runs to a victory in her preliminary heat of the 100-meter hurdles Saturday during the MHSAA Division 1 Regional hosted by Portage Central High School. Harmon improved her own school records in winning both the 100 hurdles and the 300 hurdles at the regional, and also qualified for the state finals in a third event with her 4x400-meter relay teammates. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

Payton Gater was third in the 400-meter dash with a PR of 1:00.52, but the top two were a few seconds in front of her, which is a lot in the 400. Portage Northern sophomore Mauriel Seeberger won that race in 55.47 and Forest Hills Central junior Emma Goring was the runner-up in 57.21.

The TK boys were 13th as a team. Senior Jacob Draaisma had the lone scoring performance for the Trojans with a fifth-place time of 2:02.15 in the 800-meter run.



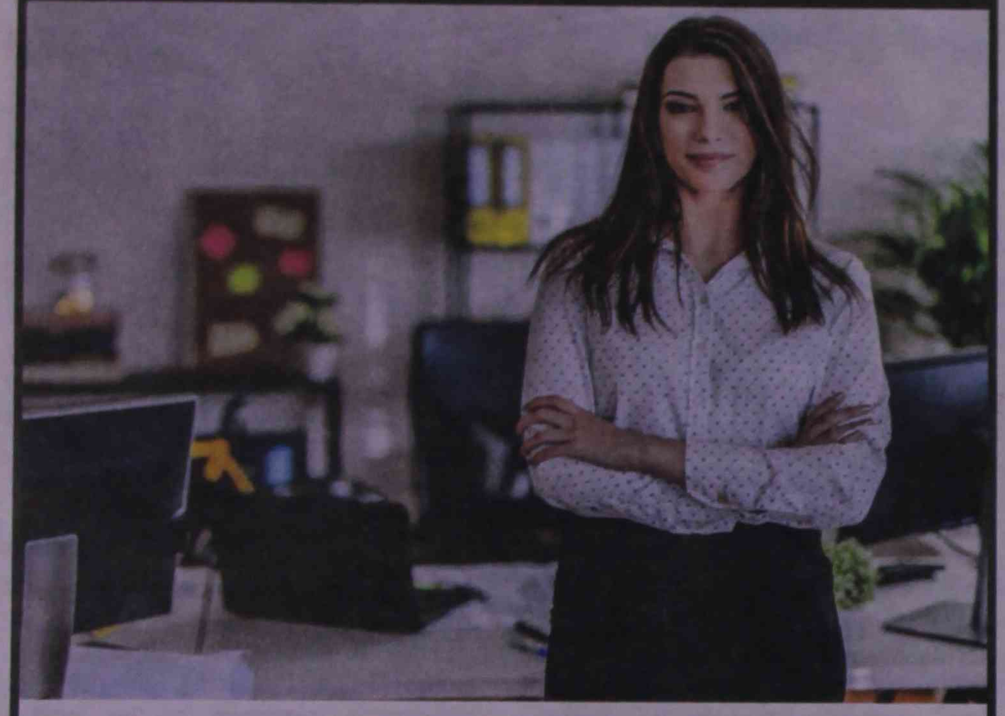
Thornapple Kellogg senior Tanner Buxton fires off a throw in the shot put Saturday during the MHSAA Division 1 Regional hosted by Portage Central High School.

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- The Reminder

Scot freshman fourth in field of 95 at Mona Shores invite

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Caledonia varsity boys' golf team shot its way to a sixth-place finish at the 19-team Mona Shores Tom Wilson Invitational Monday at Muskegon Country Club.

The Fighting Scots head back in that direction Wednesday, May 28, to be a part of the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 1 Regional hosted by Mona Shores at Stonegate Golf Club in Twin Lake.

At the Tom Wilson Invite, the host Sailors took the day's championship with an overall score of 315 beating out Rockford on a tiebreaker for the title. The Rams also finished with a score of 315. Lumen Christi was third with a score of 320 ahead of Grand Haven 325, Hudsonville 328, Caledonia 333, Loy Norrix 333, Northview 335, Jenison 338 and West Ottawa 340 in the top ten.

Freshman Alex Postma led the Caledonia team with a score of 77 that had him in a tie for fourth overall on the day.

Senior Sam Miersen shot an 84 or the Scots, junior Camden Quigley fired an 85 and senior Parker Little scored an 87.

Grand Haven senior Carson Osborn and Rockford sophomore Austin Helsel both shot 75 to finish atop the individual leaderboard. Lumen Christi senior Adam Fuller carded a 76.

The Scots were at Saskatoon Golf Course Thursday, May 22, for the OK Green Conference Championship.

Scots get a few wins at tennis regional in Holland

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Fighting Scots scored three points to place seventh at their MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 1 Girls' Tennis Regional hosted by West Ottawa Wednesday, May 14.

Caledonia junior second singles player Audrey Duong took a 6-4, 6-4 win over Grandville junior Arianna Comstock in the opening round at their flight. Sophomore Gretchen VanderEide outscored Grand Rapids Union senior Amarah Williams 6-0, 6-0 in their opening round match at fourth singles. Both of those Scots were downed by Rockford girls who went on to finish second to West Ottawa girls.

The West Ottawa girls won three singles flights and two doubles flights and captured the regional championship with 30 points. The Rockford girls won the other three flights and finished as the tournament runners-up with 27 points.

West Ottawa and Rockford girls met up in all eight flight championship matches.

Hudsonville was third with 16 points ahead of Grand Haven 10, Jenison 7, Caledonia 3, East Kentwood 2, Traverse City West 1 and Grand Rapids Union 0.

The Caledonia senior second doubles team of Zoe Fleming and Hailey Markwat scored the Scots' lone doubles win. They beat the Jenison duo of Mackenzie Mitton and Sophia Vande Bunte 6-3, 6-1 in the first round. In the quarterfinals the Scots were downed by the number two team from Rockford.

West Ottawa sophomore Evie Price captured the first singles championship without dropping a set. She only dropped six games all day and knocked off Rockford senior Maya Clark 6-1, 6-1 in the championship.



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