THE SUN AND NEWS
Your Hometown Newspaper Serving the Middleville, Caledonia and Gaines Township Areas
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TROJAN GOLF SEASON ENDS AT TOUGH D2 REGIONAL
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Mortarboards fly throughout 2025 TKHS commencement



Jacob Davis, Jordan Rowley, Brody Wiersma and their classmates move their tassels from right to left near the conclusion of the 2025 Thornapple Kellogg High School commencement ceremony Thursday, May 22, in Middleville.
Photos by Brett Bremer

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Mortarboards flew well before graduating senior Rylee Seguin gave her classmates the orders to move their tassels from right to left near the conclusion of the 2025 Thornapple Kellogg High School commencement ceremony inside Bob White Stadium in Middleville on Thursday, May 22.

Unseasonably cool temperatures and a steady wind had graduates sweeping tassels and hair from their eyes, chasing down rogue mortarboards and/or gripping them to their heads, with spectators bundled up in the stands.

But Abigail Dumond spoke of the warmth she felt in finding her place at TK. Keynote speaker assistant principal Jeff Dock spoke of the warmth he hopes the Class of 2025 will take out into the world.

And, at the very least, a senior like Brody Wiersma seated in the front row could cup his hands around his mouth and blow into them like a pitcher trying to feel his fingers again on an early spring baseball mound.

TKHS and the Middleville community celebrated a class of 244 graduates, and the sun broke through the gray sky as the seniors began crossing the stage to accept their diplomas.

"In high school, you discover who and what makes you happy – sports, clubs, music. Everyone has at least one memory that stays with them," Dumond said to her classmates. "Maybe it was a teacher telling you exactly what you needed to hear in that moment, discovering a lifelong friendship, or achieving something you never even thought possible.

"I personally experienced all three of these things. I'm still best friends with people that graduated last year and even the year before, our wonderful band director, Ms. (Claire) Jansma, has instilled more confidence in me as a leader than I've ever had. And just when I thought that I didn't have the time or the talent to continue doing theater, a lifelong passion of mine, I was proven wrong. I've now been the villain in our school musical for two years in a row, and let me just say it's a lot more fun being painted green for three nights in a row than you think. Oddly enough, I was actually quite sad taking off the face paint for the last time.

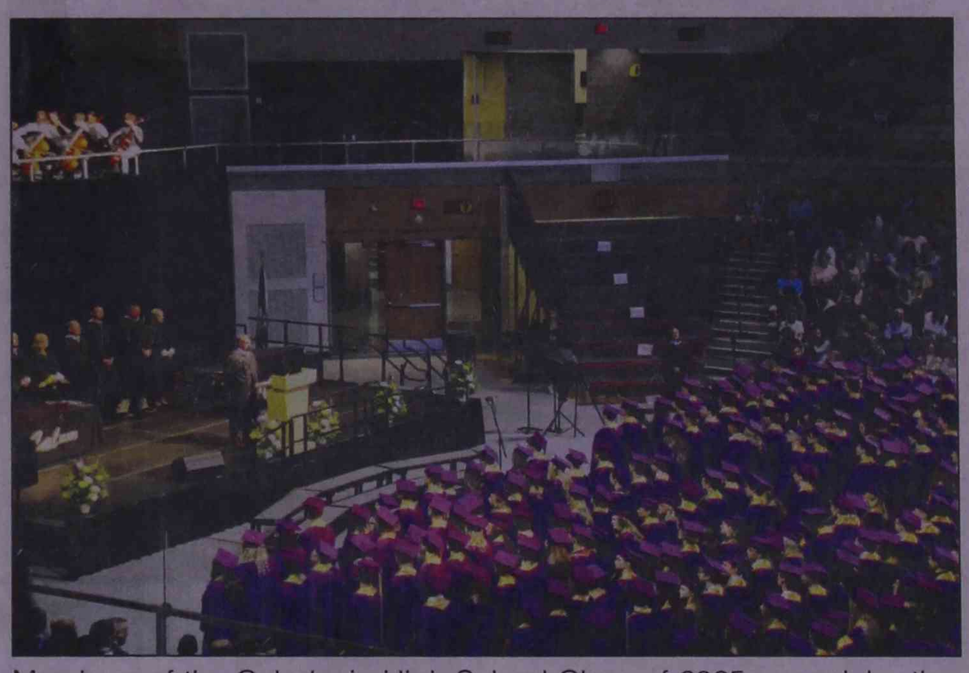
"This is the type of magic that our school brings. TK brings you things you didn't know you needed. It introduces you to people who you never knew you needed to meet and connect with. It shows you that you have so much more inside you than you would have ever realized on your own. You walk in here as a freshman and think to yourself, how am I going to survive this every day for four whole years? And then you leave thinking, man, I'm going to miss doing band, or football, or soccer, or writer's club, or video or swimming."

Senior Cole Novak introduced Dock, a former high school science teacher and current Thornapple Kellogg varsity football coach who has now taken over a position as an assistant principal. Novak had Dock as a science teacher his sophomore year.

"One trait of his stands out above all others in my memory, his passion," Novak said. "His passion for the subject, his passion for his students and his passion for providing the best possible teaching experience he could.

See **TKHS** on 8

Successful Scots



Members of the Caledonia High School Class of 2025 are celebrating their first days out of high school this week after receiving their diplomas at last week, May 20's commencement ceremony at Calvin University. Look to next week's edition for a full recap of CHS graduation festivities.
Courtesy photo

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A Thornapple Kellogg Schools bus was involved in a crash on the East Beltline in Kent County Wednesday morning. **Photo courtesy of the Kent County Sheriff's Office**

TK Schools bus involved in Wednesday crash

Karen Turko-Ebright
Staff Writer

A Thornapple Kellogg Schools bus was involved in a traffic accident Wednesday morning, May 28, according to an email sent to parents on Wednesday from Thornapple Kellogg Interim Superintendent Mark Provost.

The bus was struck by another vehicle and tipped onto its side. On board were three students, two aides and the driver.

School officials contacted the families of the students involved. All passengers were medically evaluated; however, one staff member was transported to the hospital for further evaluation. All passengers are expected to be okay, the email stated.

"We are grateful for the quick response of emergency personnel," wrote Provost. The email also stated to parents "The accident was determined to be the fault of the other driver."

However, Kent County Sheriff's Public Information Officer Sgt. Scott Dietrich updated *The Sun and News* on Thursday with differing information.

"The bus driver was at fault," Dietrich said.

Provost said the district has yet to see the final police report.

"The district does not have any further updates to share regarding the recent bus incident. At this time, Thornapple Kellogg Schools has not received any finalized information from the sheriff's office concerning the police report," said Provost in an email to *The Sun and News*.

According to a press release from the Kent County Sheriff's Office, the initial investigation of the accident, which happened just after 8 a.m. on Wednesday, May 28, indicated that a school bus, carrying students and staff from Thornapple Kellogg Schools was turning northbound onto East Beltline from westbound Bradford Street when a northbound Kia sedan struck it. The Kia collided with the left rear corner of the bus, causing it to roll over.

The driver of the Kia was transported by ambulance to a local hospital with a head injury and minor lacerations. A school staff member riding the bus was also transported after initially being unconscious and was being treated for a head injury.





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Trial set for Delton woman charged in June 2024 fatal crash

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

A Delton woman could be headed to trial for her role in a June 2024 crash in Baltimore Township that left a Middleville resident dead and another injured.

Kylee Lynn Brooks of Delton was back before Judge Michael Schipper in Barry County District Court 56B on Wednesday, May 21, with a pretrial hearing being scheduled for Sept. 10 and a potential trial slated for Oct. 13-14.

Brooks currently faces four felony charges, including reckless driving causing death, as the result of the fatal accident on June 14, 2024, on Dowling Road, west of M-37.

According to previous news reports, a preliminary investigation by the Barry County Sheriff's Office stated that the accident occurred while a line of vehicles was headed east on Dowling Road where the lead vehicle was pulling a trailer and slowing down to turn right into a driveway.

At the same time, a black Buick behind the trailer, reportedly driven by 60-year-old Susan Alcala of Middleville, was turning left into a gravel pit driveway.

Brooks, who was 19 at the time of the accident, was driving a Ford Maverick in the same direction when she allegedly attempted to pass the slower vehicles ahead of her and crashed into Alcala's vehicle.

Alcala's mother, 84-year-old Arlene Willis, a passenger in the Buick, was taken to a local hospital where she later died.

Along with the one count of felony reckless driving causing death, Brooks was also charged with a moving violation causing death, reckless driving causing serious impairment of a body function and moving violation causing serious impairment of a body function. If convicted on the top charge, the Delton resident faces up to 15 years in prison.

During last Wednesday's court proceedings, Barry County assistant prosecutor Josh Carter said Brooks has been offered a plea agreement on the top charge of the indictment, with all other charges being dismissed if she were to plead guilty.

Brooks remains free on a $3,000 bond, which Schipper said would continue as long as she followed the conditions of her release.



Delton resident Kylee Brooks (left), along with her legal counsel, stand before Judge Michael Schipper in Barry County District Court 56B during court proceedings in Hastings on Wednesday, May 21. Brooks faces four felony charges resulting from her alleged role in a June 2024 accident in Baltimore Township that left one woman dead and another injured. **Photo by Dennis Mansfield**

Sen. Albert schedules local office hours in Allegan, Barry counties

State Senator Thomas Albert



State Senator Thomas Albert

State Sen. Thomas Albert has scheduled in-district office hours to meet with residents at two locations on Friday, May 30. Albert will kick things off in the Hastings City Hall council chambers, 201 E. State St., from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Later that day, Albrt will be at the Otsego District Public Library, 401 Dix St., from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Office hours are open to district residents to talk about issues related to state government or to request assistance with a state issue. Priority will be given to constituents seeking to discuss issues that require privacy.

No appointment is necessary, but space may be limited at some locations. Local office hours in other parts of the 18th Senate District will be scheduled at a later date. The 18th District includes Barry County and portions of Allegan, Calhoun, Kalamazoo, Kent, and Ionia counties. Residents unable to attend office hours may contact Albert's Senate office via email at SenTAlbert@senate.michigan.gov, by calling 517-373-1734 or by calling toll-free at 855-347-8018.

Visit Albert's website at SenatorThomasAlbert.com for more information.

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Obituaries

Kenneth O. Schondelmayer

Kenneth O. Schondelmayer passed away peacefully on May 24, 2025, in Wyoming, MI, at the age of 88. Born on October 24, 1936, in Middleville, MI, Ken was the son of Carner and Clarissa (Bowerman) Schondelmayer.

Ken graduated from Thornapple-Kellogg High School in 1955, where he formed lifelong friendships and a love for local sports. He proudly served his country as a member of the United States Marine Corp. For over two decades, he served the Middleville community as a beloved barber, a role that allowed him to connect with people from all walks of life. Following his barbering career, Ken dedicated another 20 years to Steelcase, where his hard work and commitment were well recognized.

Ken leaves behind his devoted wife of 67 years, Sharon (Myers) Schondelmayer, and their children: Mike, Roxie (Chuck) Visser, and their grandchildren: Rebekka (Garret) Krul, Zachary, Hannah (Eric) Raymer, Amanda (Eric) Breneman, Jacob (Tracey) Visser, KyLeigh Visser, Andrea (Joey) Noffke, Nathan Visser, 11 great-grandchildren, and sisters-in-law: Marcia Schondelmayer and Janet Schondelmayer.



He was preceded in death by his parents, Carner and Clarissa Schondelmayer, daughter-in-law, Sue Schondelmayer, and siblings: Milo Schondelmayer, Marjorie Hall, Forest Schondelmayer, Glenn Schondelmayer, Catherine Moma, and John Schondelmayer.

Ken was a man of many interests, including antiquing with his brother Glenn and woodworking. He took joy in the simple pleasures of life, such as cutting wood, watching Thornapple-Kellogg sports, and staying close to home. His love for the outdoors was evident as he spent countless hours working around the house and taking his grandkids for quad rides around the property. He developed many friendships at the Pennock Fitness Center, while mornings at McDonald's were brightened by his regular coffee gatherings. Ken was also a loyal fan of the Detroit Lions and Tigers, never missing an opportunity to cheer on his favorite teams.

Ken's family will receive friends on Saturday, May 31, 2025 from 10 a.m. – noon at the Beeler-Gores Funeral Home, Middleville. Private burial will take place at Mt. Hope Cemetery. Memorial donations to St. Jude Children's Hospital or Paws with a Cause

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

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Next phase of Hoffman Meadows development hits potential snag



Members of the Gaines Planning Commission discuss the proposed next phase of the Hoffman Meadows subdivision at their May 22 meeting. **Photo by James Gemmell**

James Gemmell
Contributing Writer

The third phase of the Hoffman Meadows subdivision project in Gaines Charter Township has run into a potential roadblock.

Township staff recently recommended denial of a request by project applicant Chris Vander Hoff for the tentative preliminary plat approval of 50 single-family lots on the 2300 block of Crystal Meadows Street in Caledonia. The 20.19-acre property is south of 68th Street, about halfway between Hanna Lake and Kalamazoo avenues.

The first two phases of the proposed four-phase development previously received township approval without any problems. The 40 housing lots included in the first phase were completed in late 2023, with construction of 55 lots for Phase 2 was finished in 2024.

The third phase calls for the 50 additional lots as part of an overall 145-lot project.

Vander Hoff, with Bosco Construction, is seeking tentative preliminary plat approval as part of a three-step process that is required before construction can begin on the project's third phase. But Planning Commission members voted unanimously at its May 22 meeting to postpone making a recommendation to the township board until it receives a written opinion from township attorney Clifford Bloom.

At issue is the timing of the request. Plans for the project's third phase originally were drawn up under standards of the former township zoning ordinance and submitted on March 11. The developer later requested that the request for the tentative preliminary plat be postponed until the May 22 meeting.

However, on April 26, the Gaines Township Board of Trustees adopted an amended zoning ordinance that includes stricter standards the proposed development fails to meet. The minimum lot sizes in the former zoning ordinance were 10,000 square feet. Under the amended ordinance, the minimum required lot size is 12,000 square feet.

Thirty-one of the 50 lots proposed for the project's third phase are smaller than allowed under the new requirement.

"Our township attorney determined that, since this tentative preliminary plat for Phase 3 was not previously approved by the Planning Commission, it is subject to the standards of the zoning ordinance as it stands today," Dakota Swan, assistant township planner, said at the May 22 meeting. "Unfortunately, this standard is not met. It is not consistent with the dimensional requirements for lots in the (new) suburban residential zoning district."

Vander Hoff said he was taken aback when he first learned about the new requirements.

"I talked to (Gaines Community Development director) Dan Wells about this at the end of 2024," he said. "He assured me (there was) no problem with this.

"Then, I got a call from Dan a week ago saying, 'I've got bad news, you can't do it.'"

Vander Hoff told Planning Commission members he believes state law allows residential lots to be built under terms of the old zoning ordinance, so long as the project application was submitted before the amended zoning ordinance took effect.

According to Michigan State University's Extension Office, the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act generally protects lawfully existing uses. It states that a developer's right to proceed under the old ordinance becomes established when "substantial physical construction" for the proposed use has begun.

But, no construction has begun yet on Hoffman Meadows' third phase.

"I'm going to lose a lot of lots. I'm losing several hundred thousand dollars on this in lots," said Vander Hoff, referring to the potential denial by the township.

"Our township attorney determined that the proprietor has no vested rights until approval is granted," Swan said.

Planning Commission member Tim Haagsma pointed out, however, that Bloom never gave the township a written opinion. It was merely stated to a township staff member over the phone, according to Swan.

"We approved the concept a long time ago," Planning Commission chairwoman Connie Giarmo said. "So, in order to give the applicant every possible consideration, I would really like to have something in writing from (attorney Bloom) saying we have to consider this under the new ordinance."

Swan said township staff originally thought the project application would be grandfathered in under the old ordinance, because it was submitted before the new one took effect.

"It wasn't until we touched base with the township attorney that we realized that, 'Oh, this will be held to the standards in the new ordinance, as well," she added. "This was kind of last minute for staff, as well."

Township Manager Rod Weersing recommended the Planning Commission postpone a decision until staff members can review the matter with Bloom and possibly get a written clarification. Commissioners agreed, unanimously voting to do just that.

"Sometimes a closer review may render different results," Giarmo said. "I think there are some really splitting-hair things that we need to take a look at."

Solemn crowd joins together at the Yankee Springs Veterans Memorial

Karen Turko-Ebright
Staff Writer

Over 100 visitors gathered solemnly at the Yankee Springs Veterans Memorial on Sunday for a ceremony commemorating those who died while serving in the United States military. The national observance is a day that honors those who have served in the armed forces of all wars.

To begin, Yankee Springs Township Supervisor Rob Heethuis welcomed visitors, volunteers, and guest speakers.

Deacon Mark Chrusciel opened the ceremony with an invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Cub Scout Pack 3065 from Middleville. Next, Annie Van Houten sang "The Star-Spangled Banner," followed by the ceremonial flag folding from Middleville Boy Scout Troop 105.

The ceremony included Mick Lane, who sang the "Green fields of France," "After the War," and "Last Day of May." Guest speakers included Brant Mitchell from the Gun Lake Tribe and also a gun salute from the Tribe's Honor Guard. Students from Hastings, Meagan Ramey and Owen Boge, played "Taps."

Initially known as Decoration Day to honor Union soldiers who died in the Civil War, Memorial Day became a national observance on May 30, 1968.

"Some people may call Memorial Day the start of summer, but we must never forget to honor our military," Heethuis said. "I am very proud to be a part of the ceremony."

Disability advocates express concerns

James Gemmell
Contributing Writer

Advocates for those who rely on Medicaid to support basic needs are expressing concern about legislation at the federal level that calls for major changes and cuts to the program.

The leaders of some local healthcare and nonprofit organizations held a news conference on Thursday, May 22, at the Disability Advocates of Kent County office in Cutlerville.

After a marathon session that lasted into two nights, the Republican-controlled House voted 215-214 last Thursday in favor of what President Donald Trump has dubbed "the big, beautiful bill." The House bill would reduce Medicaid funding to states, potentially resulting in fewer services and more costs for beneficiaries, according to critics of the bill which has yet to receive Senate approval.

At the news conference, local leaders talked about those who might be negatively impacted.

"We are 100 percent in favor of healthcare reform," said David Bulkowski, Disability Advocates executive director. "However, we believe that a big part of health care reform is engaging the folks who are participating in the system,"

The House bill would impose stricter work requirements for able-bodied adults younger than 65 years old, plus implement frequent eligibility checks and verification of legal status.

Other provisions would require states to enforce cost-sharing on people with incomes above the federal poverty level (currently $15,650 per year) who are enrolled in Medicaid, starting in October 2028. In addition, the bill would reduce the federal matching rate for the Medicaid expansion population in states that expand coverage for immigrant groups.

"Medicaid is not a luxury, it's a lifeline," Grand Rapids African-American Health Institute CEO Vanessa Greene said. "It is the difference between stability and crisis for over 75,000 Americans including working families, children, people with disabilities, our veterans and people living with chronic conditions."

Scott Becker, who is wheelchair-bound, said he was born with a brittle-bone condition called osteogenesis imperfecta, a genetic disorder that causes bones to break easily.

"If it weren't for Medicaid, I don't know where I'd be," he said, adding that he has had a "lot of sleepless nights" over proposed changes to Medicaid and the rising cost of prescription medicines.

Jenny Knight, a parent with a 30-year-old daughter diagnosed with borderline personality disorder and schizophrenia when she was a teenager, said her daughter has responded well to Medicaid-funded dialectical behavioral therapy.

"But now with the proposed cuts to Medicaid, her life and the lives of so many others are at risk," Knight said. "Losing Medicaid coverage would be life-threatening for my daughter."

The CEO of Catherine's Health Center in Grand Rapids, Megan Erskine, said that 60 percent of the health center's patients rely on Medicaid coverage.

"I always like to tell the story of a patient that we had who lost her health insurance, which meant that she lost her mental health medications because her mental health was not stabilized," Erskine said. "She lost her job and then she lost her housing. We met her in a shelter environment. She's back on health insurance through Medicaid and has access to mental health medications and is now working."

Erskine and others at the news conference emphasized that it is a fallacy that people who are covered by Medicaid are not working.

"Medicaid supports everyday people – seniors, working families and their children," said Wende Randall, executive director of the Kent County Essential Needs Task Force. "Medicaid helps support people's basic needs, things like social work in schools, rides to medical appointments."

Erskine said the middle class will be affected, as well.

"If people do not have access to Medicaid they're going to make some very difficult choices," Erskine said. "Health centers and doctor's offices are going to have to make very tough decisions because a significant portion of our revenue is through Medicaid."

Randall called on West Michigan U.S. Representatives John Moolenaar and Bill Huizenga to help craft legislation that will benefit those who rely on Medicaid and similar programs.

"It is our state and local officials that have to make those critical decisions," she said.

"No one should be denied here because they're too sick, too poor or too different to me," Greene added. "So, today we're here because Medicaid matters and we cannot turn our back.

"We have to fight for it, to protect Medicaid and we have to stand up for those who need it most."



Proposed apartment complex in Dutton nears final approval

James Gemmell
Contributing Writer

A Wisconsin-based development company has cleared all but one hurdle in its quest to build 14 two-story apartment houses in Dutton.

The Gaines Township Planning Commission voted 6-0 at its May 22 meeting to recommend the township board approve a planned unit development, or PUD, rezoning request for a proposed 336-unit complex at M-6 and Hanna Lake Avenue.

The property had previously been zoned as Residential-4 for mobile homes and Residential-10 under an old ordinance, while the request by Continental Properties is to rezone it as part of a new PUD Overlay District.

Each of the 14 residential buildings would contain 24 rental units and feature a mix of studio, 1-, 2- and 3-bedroom apartments, plus a clubhouse and a variety of on-site amenities.

Continental Properties is proposing to build the development, which would be named "Authentix Gaines" because it would be made in the Authentix-style housing brand. The project would be built on a 24-acre section of the 40.5-acre property along Hanna Lake Avenue.

Township staff said construction would begin after Continental closes on the land in December 2025. The clubhouse would be completed by November 2026, and the first residential building would be ready for occupancy in December 2026. The overall project would be largely completed by September 2027.

Continental officials have an agreement with Vernon and Linda Verduin to purchase their property if the required rezoning approval is obtained from the township. As part of the deal, Continental would deed 3.6 acres of the land to the township for establishment of a new public park, which would commemorate the Verduin family's legacy ownership of the property for more than a century and its agricultural heritage.

The Planning Commission also voted unanimously to approve the project's site plan, but that is contingent on the township board giving final approval for the PUD

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DUTTON

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rezoning, which could possibly be in June. Because the PUD received preliminary approval before the township's new zoning ordinance took effect in April, the project is being considered under the standards of the old ordinance.

"However, since there (had) not been such a decision on the site plan review, (it) will be considered under the standards in the updated zoning ordinance," Assistant Township Planner Dakota Swan said.

The ordinance stipulates that the maximum number of apartment units allowed is 16. So, the developer is requesting a PUD modification to allow 24 units per building.

Township Manager Rod Weersing said the Authentix Gaines development would add some much-needed housing in the township.

"And it's the best spot in the township for that type of housing, for a denser type of apartment building setup," he said. "It's hidden by M-6; it's back off of Hanna Lake (Avenue). So, I just think it's a really good spot for that development."

The Gaines Township master plan adopted last year predicts a population increase of about 15,000 residents over the next 20 years, requiring up to 5,000 new homes to accommodate the new residents.

U.S. Census Bureau statistics released in 2021 indicated that Gaines' population was 28,812, a 14.6-percent increase since the 2010 census was taken – the fastest growth rate in Kent County.

A public hearing was held at the May 22 meeting. Henry Spenski, who lives on Hanna Lake Avenue, was the only resident to speak.

"This is the wrong place for that kind of high-density housing project," he said. "Dutton, for most of us who live here, used to be a nice, pleasant place to live in a kind of semi-rural area. This is going to change things drastically, at least for people in the immediate area."

Continental Properties development director Jordan Teichen told the Planning Commission that the township board has not decided yet on whether it will opt to maintain and operate the new park. Gaines Township officials have been meeting with township engineer Jeff Gritter to discuss the park space, feasibility of township ownership and how it could be used.

"I do want to underscore that we did follow the new ordinance for the landscape plan," Teichen said. "So, using native vegetation. There would be pretty robust planting on the street frontage along Hanna Lake.

"In addition to that, we do have foundation plantings – different ornamental and canopy trees throughout the site. Then, there is that landscape median buffer through the boulevard moving to the east side of the site," he added.

There are about six acres of wetlands, as well as the Anderson Drain, which is part of the county's extensive network of drains and stormwater detention ponds.

As for utilities, an existing water main would be connected to the Authentix Gaines site, and a sanitary sewer connection would be made to an existing trunk line.

Some of the project amenities include the clubhouse, which would feature a large gathering room, a 24-hour fitness center, a kitchen and a coffee bar. A resort-style pool and sundeck would be adjacent to it. A pergola, a firepit and an extensive network of internal walkways, a fenced pet playground and washing station, a community garden and a disc golf course also would be included.

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- Battle Creek Shopper News
- The Sun and News
- The Reminder

TKHS

Continued from Page 1

Now that he's moved on to an administrative role, Mr. Dock has a lot more problems to deal with. But he still has that same passion, and he still works harder than anyone I know to ensure that TK is the best place it can possibly be."

Dock shared a message on the new scoreboard at TK from youth speaker Timmy "The Dreamer" Bishop who reminded the graduates to keep dreaming, and then offered his own thoughts for the graduating class. He had a reminder, a challenge and a hope for the graduates. He wanted to remind them that through life's challenges they are not alone. He challenged them to fill the world with empathy.

"These are great years okay, but these are not your best years," Dock told the class of 2025. "A lot of you have not met the most significant person in your life yet, or the most significant people outside of your family. How cool is that? How awesome to know what your future has in store to meet those important people. I hope that in doing that you go and you experience people that are different than you, that may share different beliefs, that might look different than you. And that is where the challenge comes in. The challenge comes in – we need you to pour some empathy in this world.

"What's empathy? Empathy is the ability to put yourself in someone else's shoes. And when we talk about screens and we talk about all of those things, empathy comes from having personal connections, not from a headset, not hiding behind a screen or keyboard, but being able to have those conversations in the dorm room, or at a coffee shop, or in the barracks. That is where we build empathy.

"Empathy is not weak. Empathy is strong because you're actually putting yourself behind a person that you're trying to build a relationship with. You're listening to that person. That doesn't mean you have to change your values, but that does mean that you have to maybe keep your opinion or maybe not be so opinionated.

"Empathy matters."

Dock hopes that the graduates will not be afraid of sharing their excellence with the world. He shared Marianne Williamson's poem "Our Deepest Fear" which was made popular in part by the 2005 basketball film, "Coach Carter."

"Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate, our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure," Dock shared. "It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous?

"Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. You playing small does not serve the world ..."

In his own words, Dock summed things up "the poem says that we are scared to go out and put ourselves out there. We're scared of all that is so good in us, of what might people think. Maybe we fail. But don't let that fear limit you. You are all brilliant. You are all talented. You're all fabulous. Now it's your opportunity as you walk across the stage to share that."

And with that, the Trojans did walk across the stage, one after another as senior class advisors Tricia Rickert and Cary Saxton read the class role.

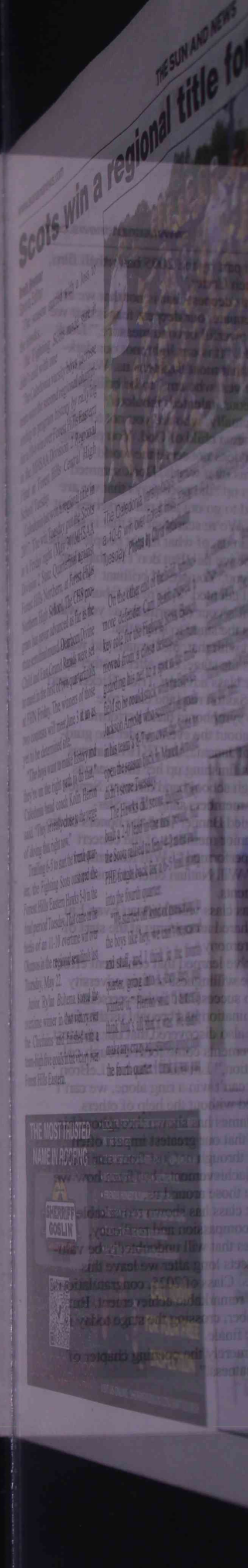
The symphonic band performed throughout the event, under the guidance of Jansma, the TKHS alumnus who is finishing up her first year as the high school band director. Senior Choir members sang "The Star-Spangled Banner" and the honors choir and senior members of the concert choir performed "I Will Remember You." Will Nathan offered closing statements.

It was class valedictorian Evan Liu who shared an opening at the start of the ceremony.

"We've learned that consistent effort and the willingness to face adversity lead to success. But while personal determination has brought us this far, we've also discovered that our greatest achievements come forth through collaboration," Liu said. "Just as LeBron James can't win a ring alone, we can't succeed without the help of others. King James has shown throughout his career that our greatest impact often comes through not just from our individual achievements, but from how we elevate those around us.

"Our class has shown remarkable unity, compassion and resiliency, qualities that will undoubtedly be valuable assets long after we leave this campus. Class of 2025, congratulations on this remarkable achievement. But remember, crossing the stage today is not our finale.

"It's merely the opening chapter of our greatness."



Scots win a regional title for the second time

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The season started with a loss to the Hawks.

The Fighting Scots made sure it didn't end with one

The Caledonia varsity boys' lacrosse team won the second regional championship in program history by rallying for a 10-6 win over Forest Hills Eastern in the MHSAA Division 2 Regional Final at Forest Hills Central High School Tuesday.

Caledonia last won a regional title in 2017. The win Tuesday put the Scots in a Friday night (May 30) MHSAA Division 2 State Quarterfinal against Forest Hills Northern, at Forest Hills Northern High School. The CHS program has never advanced as far as the state semifinal round. Dearborn Divine Child and East Grand Rapids were set to meet in the first of two quarterfinals at FHN Friday. The winners of those two contests will meet June 3 at an as yet to be determined site.

"The boys want to make history and they're on the right path to do that," Caledonia head coach Kolin Herron said. "They're really close to the verge of doing that right now."

Trailing 6-5 to start the fourth quarter, the Fighting Scots outscored the Forest Hills Eastern Hawks 5-0 in the final period Tuesday. That came on the heels of an 11-10 overtime win over Okemos in the regional semifinals last Thursday, May 22.

Junior Rylan Bultema scored the overtime winner in that victory over the Chieftains and finished with a team-high five goals in the victory over Forest Hills Eastern.



The Caledonia varsity boys' lacrosse team celebrates its program's second regional championship ever following a 10-6 win over Forest Hills Eastern in the MHSAA Division 2 Regional Final at Forest Hills Central High School Tuesday. **Photos by Chris Robotham**

On the other end of the field, sophomore defender Cam Beach played a key role for the Fighting Scots. Beach moved from a close defense position guarding his net to a spot in the midfield so he could stick with the Hawks' Jackson Arnold who scored four goals in his team's 8-7 win over the Scots to open the season back in March. Arnold didn't score Tuesday.

The Hawks did score though. They built a 2-0 lead in the first period, but the Scots rallied to lead 4-2 at the half. FHE fought back for a 6-5 lead going into the fourth quarter.

"We started off kind of preaching to the boys like hey, we can't be scared and stuff, and I think in the fourth quarter, going into it, they they just wanted it," Herron said. "I honestly think that's all that it was. We didn't make any crazy adjustments going into the fourth quarter. I think it was just a matter of, 'hey, we want this more than they do' and it was just pure effort from there. Defensively, we weren't letting them breathe. We were on them, pressuring them, forcing them to make turnovers. Offensively we were attacking the net."

Sophomore Lincoln Senti had two goals and two assists in the contest for the Scots. Sophomore Emmett Haan had a goal and an assist. Senior Brady Hilaski and freshman Corbin Ryder both scored once.

"I'd say for 99 percent of the game we played a full game," Herron said.

See **WIN** on 11

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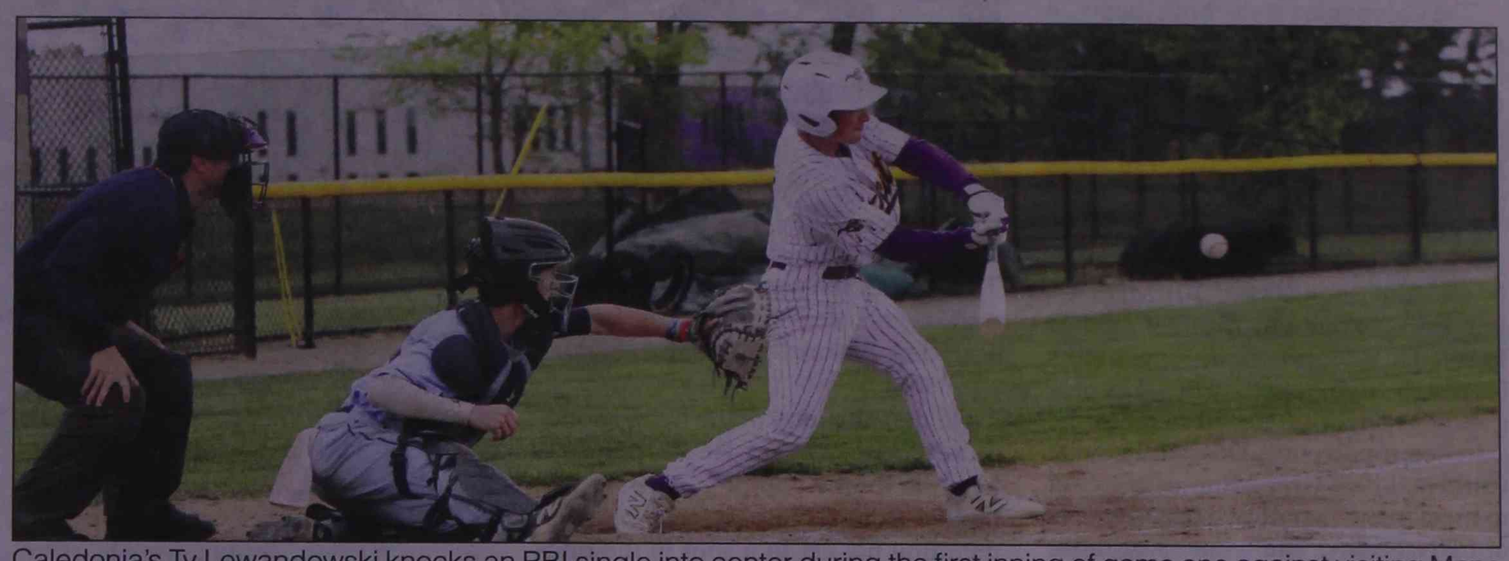
Busy end to Scots season includes sweep of Bucs

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Fighting Scots aren't taking it easy heading into the postseason.

The Caledonia varsity baseball team snapped a three-game skid with a sweep of a non-conference doubleheader against former OK Red Conference foe Grand Haven Tuesday in Grand Haven. The Scots were set to face another former Red foe, Hudsonville, on the road Thursday, May 29.

Caledonia travels to Forest Hills Central today, May 31, for its MHSAA Division 1 District Tournament. The Scots are slated to take on East Kentwood in the second district semifinal of the day at noon. Lowell and the host Rangers open the tournament at 10 a.m. The district final is slated for 2 p.m.



Caledonia's Ty Lewandowski knocks an RBI single into center during the first inning of game one against visiting Mona Shores Friday, May 23, in Caledonia. The Scots were bested in both games of their OK Green Conference doubleheader with the Sailors Friday after scoring a win in the series opener in Muskegon last Thursday. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

The Scots closed an 8-7 season in its first season in the OK Green Conference taking one of three from the Mona Shores Sailors late last week.

Caledonia scored an 8-6 win in the series opener in Muskegon Thursday, May 22, but fell 21-7 and 2-0 in a pair in Caledonia Friday afternoon. South Christian took a 5-4 win over the visiting Scots Saturday before Caledonia bounced back with the 10-4 and 11-6 wins at Grand Haven.

The Scots had 11 hits in the opener with the Buccaneers. Alex Spinney went 2-for-3 with an RBI and two runs scored. Ben Kieliszewski was 2-for-3 with a walk, a run and an RBI. Trevor Walter was 2-for-4 with two runs and an RBI too. Bryce Freese and Cam Myers both doubled once.

A total of four Caledonia pitchers combined to toss the seven innings. Myers was credited with the win coming on in the second for the starter Johnson and tossing two scoreless innings. Myers struck out two and allowed just one hit. AJ Roszkowski threw an inning and a third of scoreless relief and Spinney closed things out keeping the Buccaneers scoreless over the final two innings.

In the five-run win in game two, the Scots scored in five of the seven innings, getting a little breathing room with four runs in the top of the fifth, two in the sixth and two more in the seventh.

Ty Lewandowski had a big game at the plate going 3-for-4 with a double, a walk, two runs scored and an RBI. Ethan Sova was 2-for-4 with a run and four RBIs. Tanner Verburg was 2-for-4 with a run scored and two RBIs Cole Nyman and Roszkowski both doubled once for the Scots.

The Scots had five different pitchers take the bump in game two. Roszkowski got the win coming on for the final out of the third inning. He only faced one batter. Aryn Taylor started and allowed one run on three hits and a walk through two innings. He struck out two. The Buccaneers chased Gabe Trudeau off the mound with three unearned runs in the in the fourth.

Walter and Freese closed out the final three innings for the Scots with Freese earning a seven-out save.



TK and Wayland set for district meet-up in Middleville

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Thornapple Kellogg varsity softball team is set to open the state postseason today, May 31, taking on Wayland in the MHSAA Division 2 District Semifinals in Middleville.

Wayland outscored Hastings 16-0 in its Pre-District ballgame at Wayland Union High School Tuesday afternoon to earn a rematch with the Trojans.

The Wildcats swept the OK Gold Conference doubleheader with the TK girls this spring, but the Trojans rebounded to get a rare W over the Wildcats in the championship game of the TK Invitational soon after.

Game time is set for 10 a.m. with Allegan and Hopkins set to meet in the day's second district semifinal at noon.

The TK ladies were set to close out the regular season with a visit from the Hopkins girls Thursday afternoon, May 29, in Middleville.

WIN

Continued from Page 9

"There were moments of where we kind of lost it a little bit, but our bench kept us in it. Their energy was really good all game and we never quit. We never got too high, never got too low, so that something that we've been preaching to them is when good things happen, hey, celebrate those things, but then you gotta focus back in. I think they did a really, really good job of that."

The CHS coach said his guys came out a little flat in their regional semifinal last week against Okemos.

"I want to say we were down by four, maybe five, going into the fourth quarter, and then I mean same thing again, the boys just wanted it," Herron said.

A late penalty in regulation against the Okemos guys gave the Scots the opportunity to start the overtime period with possession. They fired a few shots at the Chieftain net in the opening minute of the four-minute overtime session before Bultema buried a rocket from about 15 yards out.

Bultema followed that up by scoring the first two goals for his team in the second quarter against FHE to even that match at 2-2 before adding three more scores the rest of the night.

GO ONLINE TO SUNANDNEWS.COM

Scot teams both fifth at D1 MITCA Team State

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Caledonia varsity boys' and girls' track and field teams both placed fifth at Division 1 MITCA Team State Finals in Davison Friday, May 23.

A group of 15 boys' teams and 13 girls' teams competed in the 17 events, with teams allowed to place three athletes in each individual event and one relay team in each race. Every finishers in every event scores for the team.

"All day long the ladies battled the elements, their competitors, and most importantly themselves as they improved upon initial seed placements, time and time again," Caledonia girls' head coach Ben Howell said.

Junior thrower Jolie King had the top finish of the event for the CHS girls with a third-place throw of 107 feet 7 inches in the discus setting a new personal record.

Other top eight finishes for the CHS girls came from Olivia Hawkins who was fifth in the 100-meter hurdles and the 300-meter low hurdles, Hannah Dupuis who was seventh in the 1600-meter run, and a pair of relay teams. Mariah Peterson, King, Melanie Genoa Grullon and Brynn Ward were seventh in the 4x100-meter relay. The team of Avalynn Klapmust, Hawkins, Evie Huttenga and Isla Sheely placed eighth in the 4x400-meter relay.

CHS boys' head coach Ben Thompson said his guys were 14th in the MITCA Power Rankings heading into the meet.

"This meet shows overall team depth and culture, where all three athletes in each event score so the more depth you have, the better your team will do," Thompson said. "The boys had many PRs on the day and pulled together, as a team, for this great performance.

It was a stellar finish for the Scots as the relay team of Josh Maier, Jonas Howell, Eli Velting and Aaron Collins managed a fourth-place finish despite not even being seeded high enough to race in the fastest heat of the event.

The CHS boys had a runner-up finish in the discus too, from state qualifier Cody Meyers who fired off a throw of 156-2. Benjamin Moss was seventh in the pole vault for the Scots and Liam Moore was eighth in the shot put.

On the track, the Scots had Collins fifth in the 400-meter dash, Noah Johnston fifth in the 1600-meter run and fourth in the 3200-meter run. Jonas Howell ran to an eighth-place time in the 300-meter intermediate hurdles.

Meyers and Dupuis are set to be at East Kentwood High School today, May 31, to compete in the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 1 Track and Field Finals.

THORNAPPLE KELLOGG SCHOOLS NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2025-2026 BUDGET

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on June 9, 2025, at 7:00 o'clock p.m., at the Thornapple Kellogg Early Childhood Center 3316 Bender Road, Middleville, Michigan, the Board of Education of Thornapple Kellogg Schools will hold a public hearing to consider the District's proposed 2025-2026 budget.

The Board may not adopt its proposed 2025-2026 budget until after a public hearing. A copy of the proposed 2025-2026 budget, including the proposed property tax millage rate, is available for public inspection during normal business hours at 10051 Green Lake Road, Middleville, Michigan.

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing. [1]

This notice is given by order of the Board of Education.

Brenda Hess
Secretary

8196 Broadmoor Ave. SE
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Caledonia Township is Hiring a Part-Time Receptionist. Send cover letter, resume and 2-3 references to anugent@caledoniatownship.org or submit in person to township.

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Director of Public Works

The Village of Middleville is seeking a qualified applicant to fill the position of the Director of Public Works. This is a full-time salary position with benefits. A complete job description is available at the Village office at 100 East Main Street, Middleville, Michigan, 49333 or on the Village website at www.villageofmiddleville.org.

Undefeated Otsego ends Trojan soccer season

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The goal came straight out of the soccer textbook.

A pass ahead from the defense out wide. A push to the end line. A centering pass. A crashing attacker. The ball in the back of the net.

Otsego scored about 18 minutes into the first half against Thornapple Kellogg's varsity girls' soccer team Wednesday in the MHSAA Division 2 District Semifinals hosted by Gull Lake High School in Richland, and it was the lone score in a 1-0 victory by the team ranked eighth in the state in D2.

The undefeated Bulldogs (15-0-1) were set to meet third ranked Gull Lake (18-1-2) in the district final back in Richland Friday, May 30, as the host Blue Devils bested Plainwell 6-0 in the second semifinal of the day Wednesday.

It was sophomore Olivia Witteveen who carried the ball deep towards the end line for the Bulldogs there midway through the first half and then fired a low, hard centering ball. TK goalkeeper McKenna Hoebeke was a step off her line at the near post as Gull Lake sophomore Peyton Dennany came crashing in and just manged to get a leg in front of Trojan senior defender Emma Geukes and direct the ball into the open net.

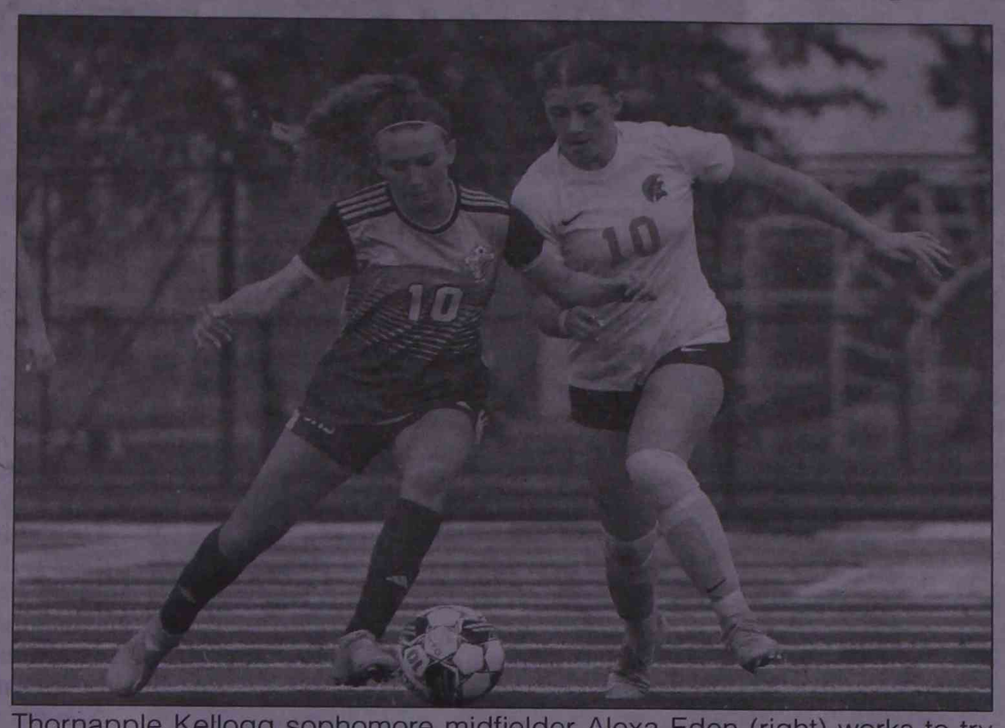
Minutes earlier, Hoebeke had come sliding out of her net to kick a Bulldog shot just wide of her net. Over the final minutes of the second half, the Bulldogs had a few more point-blank chances that just went awry. A header in the box found the Bulldogs' Peyton Johnson alone for a shot in front that went over the net. A clearing attempt that deflected back towards the Trojan goal led to a 2-on-1 against Hoebeke not long after, and the Bulldog shot this time from senior Haylee Dennany found its way straight into Hoebeke's mitts.

Much of the second half was a game of keep away, but not the kind where the Bulldogs sat back. The Trojans tried their best to shoot a ball ahead for junior attacker Tealy Cross, but getting those long balls off was tough and then getting onto them was even tougher.

The Bulldogs foot skills and spacing made it tough for the Trojans to hold much possession in the second half, and when the ball was free it was the Bulldogs more often than not putting on the charge to get to it first.

The threats against the TK net didn't come quite as frequently though in the second half either. Junior defender Ella Fischer was solid clearing things away from the center of her end throughout most of the evening.

The TK ladies end the season with a 12-4-2 record, and will bring back much of its roster intact next spring with Geukes and midfielder Madilyn Chivis the team's lone seniors.



Thornapple Kellogg sophomore midfielder Alexa Eden (right) works to try and get the ball off the feet of Otsego senior midfielder Grace Geret during the second half of their MHSAA Division 2 District Semifinal at Gull Lake High School in Richland Wednesday. The Bulldogs took a 1-0 win to earn a spot in the district final. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

Village of Middleville COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the May 13, 2025 Regular Council Meeting, that were approved on May May 27, 2025, are posted at the Village Hall at 100 E Main Street and on the website at www.villageofmiddleville.org.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CALEDONIA BOARD OF TRUSTEES Meeting Minutes

The minutes for the May 7, 2025 Township Board of Trustees Meeting that were approved on May 21, 2025, are posted at the Township Offices at 8196 Broadmoor Ave., and on the website at www.caledoniatownship.org.

8196 Broadmoor Ave. SE
Caledonia, MI 49316

Phone: 616.891.0070
Fax: 616.891.0430

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CALEDONIA,
COUNTY OF KENT, MICHIGAN

NOTICE OF POSTING OF TOWNSHIP ORDINANCE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a proposed Caledonia Charter Township Ordinance, which would amend various sections of the Charter Township of Caledonia Zoning Ordinance ("Zoning Ordinance"), has been posted in the office of the Township Clerk at the Caledonia Charter Township offices, 8196 Broadmoor Avenue, within the Township, for review by the public during Township office hours, and has also been posted on the Township's website, the address of which is www.caledoniatownship.org. The amending ordinance would amend different provisions of the Zoning Ordinance, including adding a definition for the term "garage," and amending regulations related to accessory buildings, driveways and private streets, parking of recreational vehicles, internal access drives, lighting, architectural standards, signage requirements, and landscaping.

The above stated ordinance was considered by the Caledonia Charter Township Board on first reading at a public meeting of the Township Board held on May 21, 2025, and is expected to be considered on second reading by the Township Board at a public meeting on June 4, 2025. This notice is given in accordance with the Charter Township Act and is authorized by action taken by the Caledonia Charter Township Board.

Joni Henry, Township Clerk
Caledonia Charter Township

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Trojan golf season ends at tough D2 regional

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Thornapple Kellogg senior Kylan Pratt had the top round for the Trojan team at the MHSAA Division 2 Regional Tournament at Stonehedge North in Augusta Tuesday.

Pratt fired an 84 to place 30th overall. He finished seven strokes back of a group of three guys who closed the day in a playoff for the last of three individual state qualifying spots at the varsity boys' golf regional

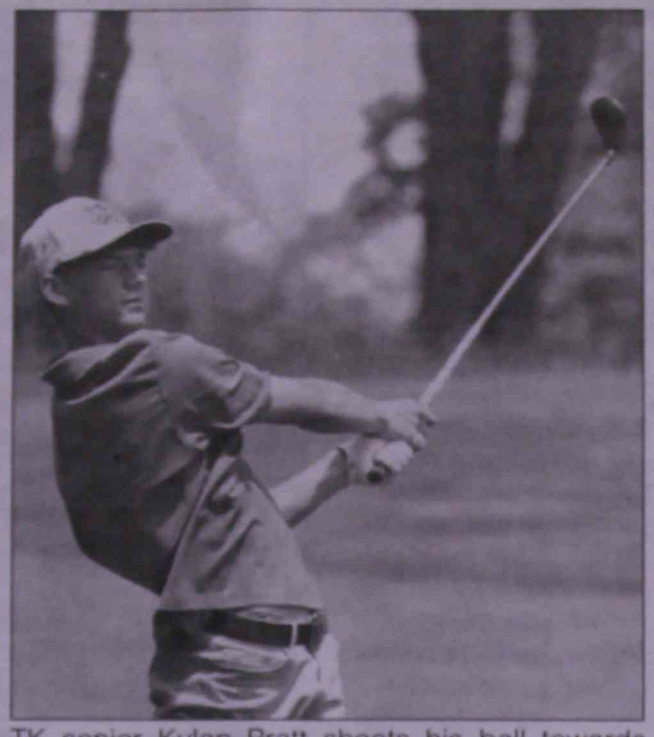
Hastings junior Daniel Jensen qualified for the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 2 Boys' Golf Finals by shooting a 76. He rolled in a five-foot putt for par on number nine to finish off his 18-hole round. That putt falling into the cup kept him out of what would have been a four-person playoff for the last state qualifying positions.

The top three teams and top three individuals not on those three teams qualified for the June 6-7 Finals that will be played at Bedford Valley Golf Club.

Grand Rapids Christian won the team regional title with a score of 301 strokes ahead of South Christian 304 and Unity Christian 310. Wayland's Theo Eddy was the first of the three individual state qualifiers from the regional shooting a 73.

The Eagles entered the postseason ranked number one in the state in Division 2 and the South Christian squad checked in at seventh in the final regular season state rankings.

Behind Eddy and Jensen, a group of three guys scored 77 and had to go into a playoff for the last state qualifying spot – which wound up going to Plainwell junior Drew Rayman. He bested Otsego senior Spencer Shearer and Holland Christian sophomore Linus Vandenberg in the playoff.



TK senior Kylan Pratt shoots his ball towards the green on number nine at Stonehedge North Tuesday during the MHSAA Division 2 Regional Tournament. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

The Thornapple Kellogg placed 15th at the 19-team event.

The top three teams were well ahead of the field with Wayland fourth with a score of 325 – 15 strokes back of the last of the three state qualifying teams. Otsego was fifth with a score of 326 ahead of Zeeland West 330, Holland Christian 334, Hamilton 335, Plainwell 342, West Michigan Aviation Academy 344, Ionia 345, Hastings 354, South Haven 355, Thornapple Kellogg 356, Portland 362, Zeeland East 368, Allegan 406 and Lansing Waverly NTS.

Sophomore Parker Dahley scored an 87 for the Trojans, and TK also got a 90 from senior Tyler Voss and a 95 from senior Ryan Skidmore.

Grand Rapids Christian senior John Cassiday was the day's individual champion with a four-under-68. There were three Eagles among the top ten scorers. Junior Sawyer O'Grady shot a 74 and junior Cooper Reitsma shot a 77. The regional champs also got an 82 from junior Ty Erickson.

South Christian sophomore Harris Hoekwater was the day's individual runner-up with a 73. The Sailors had the only team with four guys under 80. Senior Brody Montsma shot a 76, sophomore Drew Vanderheide a 77 and junior Caleb Krosschell a 78.

The third-place team from Unity Christian got a 74 from senior Noah Besterman, a 78 from senior Lucas Vanmaanen, a 79 from senior Jack Veldhouse and an 81 from junior Brogan Sherd.

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

YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

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

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing will be held on June 19, 2025, commencing at 7:00 p.m. at the Yankee Springs Township Hall, 284 N. Briggs Rd., Middleville MI, within the Township, as required under the provisions of the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act and the Zoning Ordinance for the Township.

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

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

1. **SEU 25-05-07; Parcel ID: 16-370-021-00, 12747 Whispering Pines Drive #21, Wayland, MI 49348**. A request by Riley and Anne Garn, the property owners, for a special exception use permit to operate a commercial Short-term rental pursuant to the Yankee Springs Zoning Ordinance, Article X, Short Term Rentals.
2. **Such other business as may properly come before the Planning Commission.**

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

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

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

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

Lieske Ks 15 as Scots earn spot in district semi's

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

They've been a battery for 11 years, and they earned themselves at least one more game together with their victory Tuesday.

Caledonia senior pitcher Molly Lieske fired a varsity high 15 strikeouts in a complete game shut out of Forest Hills Central as the Fighting Scot varsity softball team took a 9-0 win over the visiting Rangers in their MHSAA Division 1 Pre-District ballgame.

"She only gave up two hits, so they didn't didn't hit her hard and she was pretty controlled," Caledonia head coach Kaylie Schertzing said of Lieske. "When she's dealing she's in a good spot, and she looked really confident today. So, that's good. It feels really good having that going into Saturday for sure."

The Fighting Scots are at Wyoming High School today, May 31, set to take on Lowell in a district semifinal contest at 11:30 a.m. Byron Center and Wyoming square off in the district tournament's first semifinal contest at 10 a.m.

"I just went into it knowing that it could be my last game so I just gave it everything I had and just hoped for the best," Lieske said. "And me and my catcher [senior Malia Burke] have good chemistry, so that helps. She has been my catcher for the last 11 years so we just work good together

Burke started catching pitches from Lieske in the Caledonia Chaos club 11 years ago.

"Her change-up looked really good. Her drop ball was on more than usual. Her drop ball especially, I think looked pretty good," Burke said.

Lieske thought the movement on her pitches was much better than it has been in recent ballgames. She only walked one. She was happy to pick things up at the plate a little bit too. She went 2-for-4 with a run scored and a pair of RBIs.

"I think just her mentality has been very positive this season as a whole," Burke said of Lieske, "which we struggled with in the past. We have had worse records and played tougher competition, and she has been really positive with her mindset."

Burke had a big day at the plate too going 3-for-3 with an RBI. In all, it was a 12-hit Caledonia attack. All 12 hits were singles. Senior centerfielder Addy Lash had a pair of singles and a run scored too. Third baseman Lexi Henney was 2-for-4 with two runs scored and an RBI.



Caledonia catcher Malia Burke leads the handshake line for the Fighting Scots at the conclusion of their 9-0 Pre-District win over visiting Forest Hills Central Tuesday.

Junior Hudsyn Tanner, senior Rian Restau and senior Sophia Gauthier each singled once for the Scots.

"It was a little bit of a slow start, but just we were just figuring things out and adjusting to the pitching," Schertzing said. "Once we did, we started to open things up. We got some key hits and we were scoring pretty consistently throughout the game, so that was good. By the very end of the game, we had a two-out rally and scored a bunch of runs. It kind of shows we can do that, but a little bit sooner."

Burke and Lieske are two of nine seniors on the Scots' roster this spring looking to keep their season going Saturday. The Caledonia coach has liked the way vocal leaders have emerged from the group throughout the season.

"Rian Restau is not a kid you're gonna see in the lineup a lot, but she is the most selfless kid on our team, and we've just talked a lot about how much that matters and how much of an important role they play. ," Schertzing said. "So, I have got shout her out because she doesn't get the stats and the numbers, but she plays such a crucial role.

"Malia has been our catcher for four years and she just really stepped up, and she's had some points in the season where she's been beat out and she's accepted that, but then she's coming back and she's hitting the ball really well. Sophia Gauthier has been a really big leader as well for us, and holding the team accountable and there are so many others too."

The district final will be played in Wyoming Saturday following the two semifinal contests. The district champions advance to the June 7 MHSAA Division 1 Regional tournament hosted by Grand Rapids Northview.

The CHS girls planned to tune-up for Saturday with a doubleheader against Wayland Thursday, May 29.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
THORNAPPLE TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
MONDAY, JUNE 23, 2025, at 7:00 P.M.

Please be advised the Thornapple Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on June 23, at 7pm or as soon thereafter as possible. The public hearings will take place in the Township Hall, 200 E. Main St., Middleville.

The public hearing will address the following:

1.) Special Use #174 – Applicant Sydney LaDere is wishing to add a new address to her Group Child Daycare Center (SLU 163, approved 7/2023) at 12076 Olivia Dr., Middleville, MI (parcel 08-14-175-019-00) per Thornapple Township Zoning Ordinance Sec. 19.27.

2.) Special Use #175 – Applicants Jon & Twila Starkey are wishing to construct an accessory building in their front yard at 5701 Ravine Rd., Middleville, MI (parcel 08-14-160-023-00) per Thornapple Twp Zoning Ordinance 21.3.

3.) Special Use #176 - Applicants Robert & Kendra Curtiss are wishing to construct an accessory building in their front yard at 8084 Parmalee Rd., Middleville, MI (parcel 08-14-002-013-10) per Thornapple Twp Zoning Ordinance 21.3.

Any interested person may attend the public hearings to learn about the extent and location of Special Use requests to offer comments to the Planning Commission. A copy of the applications noted above may be examined in the Township offices at the address noted above during regular business hours. Monday – Thursday 9am- 4pm

Written comments regarding these applications may be addressed to: Secretary, Thornapple Township Planning Commission, P.O. Box 459, Middleville, MI 49333. Sandy Rairigh, Commission Secretary or submitted via email to: zoning-administrator@thornapple-twp.org

Americans with Disabilities Notice

Persons with special access needs should contact the Township Clerk at 269-795-7202 no less than 72 hours before the hearings.

Cindy Ordway, Thornapple Township Clerk

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Little leads Scots in final round, at D1 regional tourney

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Caledonia boys were 11th as a team and a 31st-place finish from senior Parker Little was the top performance for the Scots at their MHSAA Division 1 Regional Tournament at Stonegate Golf Course Wednesday.

Forest Hills Northern beat out Rockford and Mona Shores for the top spot. The Huskies put up a score of 300 strokes ahead of Rockford 305 and Mona Shores 305.

The top three teams and top three individuals not on those teams at the regional earned spots in the June 6-7 MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 1 Boys' Golf Finals at Forest Akers West Golf Course at Michigan State University in East Lansing.

The Caledonia varsity boys' golf team put up a score of 337 with Little shooting an 81. He was five strokes back of the last of the three individual state qualifiers.

The trio of individual state qualifiers included West Ottawa senior Ethan Moore who shot a 74 and Portage Central's Ben Liddell who shot a 75. West Ottawa junior William Nagelvoort won out in a three-player playoff for the last of the three state spots, beating out Grand Rapids Union sophomore James Fowler and Byron Center junior Cassius Bont who all finished 18 holes with a score of 76.

The Fighting Scots had four guys in the 80s. Freshman Alex Postma shot an 82 and junior Camden Quigley carded an 84. The Scots' fourth score was a 90 from senior Sam Miersen. Junior DJ Robinson was right behind with a 91.

Forest Hills Northern won the regional title with three of the top five scorers at the tournament. Senior Will Pollack and junior Mathieu Duffo finished in a tie for second with 71s. Senior teammate Grant Ofield scored a 74 and the Huskies added an 84 from freshman Lucas Dhaseleer.

Rockford was led by a 71 from sophomore Owen Wilson and a 74 from senior Kaiden Dressler.

Mona Shores freshman Cruz Beckstrom was the day's individual champ with a 70. The Sailors had three guys in the 70s with junior Eddie Kuznar adding a 75 and senior Lincoln Harwood scoring a 78.

Portage Central was eight strokes back of the state qualifying teams with a score of 313 in fourth place. Byron Center was fifth with a score of 316 ahead of West Ottawa 322, Hudsonville 332, Grandville 333, Mattawan 333, Northview 335, Caledonia 337, Loy Norrix 339, Grand Haven 339, Grand Rapids Union 340, Jenison 345, Reeths-Puffer 359, Portage Northern 363, Kalamazoo Central 372, East Kentwood 391, Battle Creek Lakeview 393 and Wyoming NTS.

TK ladies improve some PRs at scholarship invite

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

A handful of Thornapple Kellogg girls took part in the U of M Health-West Sports Medicine Scholarhip Invite at Byron Center High School Tuesday.

TK girls took victories in the two hurdles races. TK senior Brooklyn Harmon ran to a time of 14.90 seconds to win the 100-meter hurdles. Junior Mia Hilton improved her personal record time to 45.73 in winning the 300-meter low hurdles.

The Gater sisters both had top ten finishes in the 400-meter dash. Junior Payton Gater improved her PR to 1 minute .39 seconds to finish third in the race and the freshman Amya was ninth in 1:02.82.

The TK team also had sophomore Ellie Harmon set her PR in the 200-meter dash at 27.69 to place 20th overall.

The meet included athletes from all across West Michigan and beyond, with competitors from 33 different schools scoring in the girls' meet and 40 in the boys' meet. The Zeeland East girls and the Byron Center boys finished atop the day's point standings.

Brooklyn Harmon, Hilton, Payton Gater and Amya Gater have all also qualified for Saturday's MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 2 Track and Field Finals at Hamilton High School.



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