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



RAMS SHUT OUT SCOTS ON THEIR WAY TO DISTRICT TITLE
PAGE 16

NO. 59 SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 2025 www.sunandnews.com

Gaines P.C. recommends rezoning approval for former mineral extraction site

James Gemmell
Contributing Writer

A nearly 46-acre parcel of land adjacent to a mining operation in Gaines Township could become the site of a future housing development.

The Gaines Township Planning Commission voted, 6-0, at its May 22 meeting to recommend the township board approve a request to rezone vacant property on the 1200 block of 100th Street in Caledonia from its current agricultural/rural residential designation to the township's new "Village Residential" district.

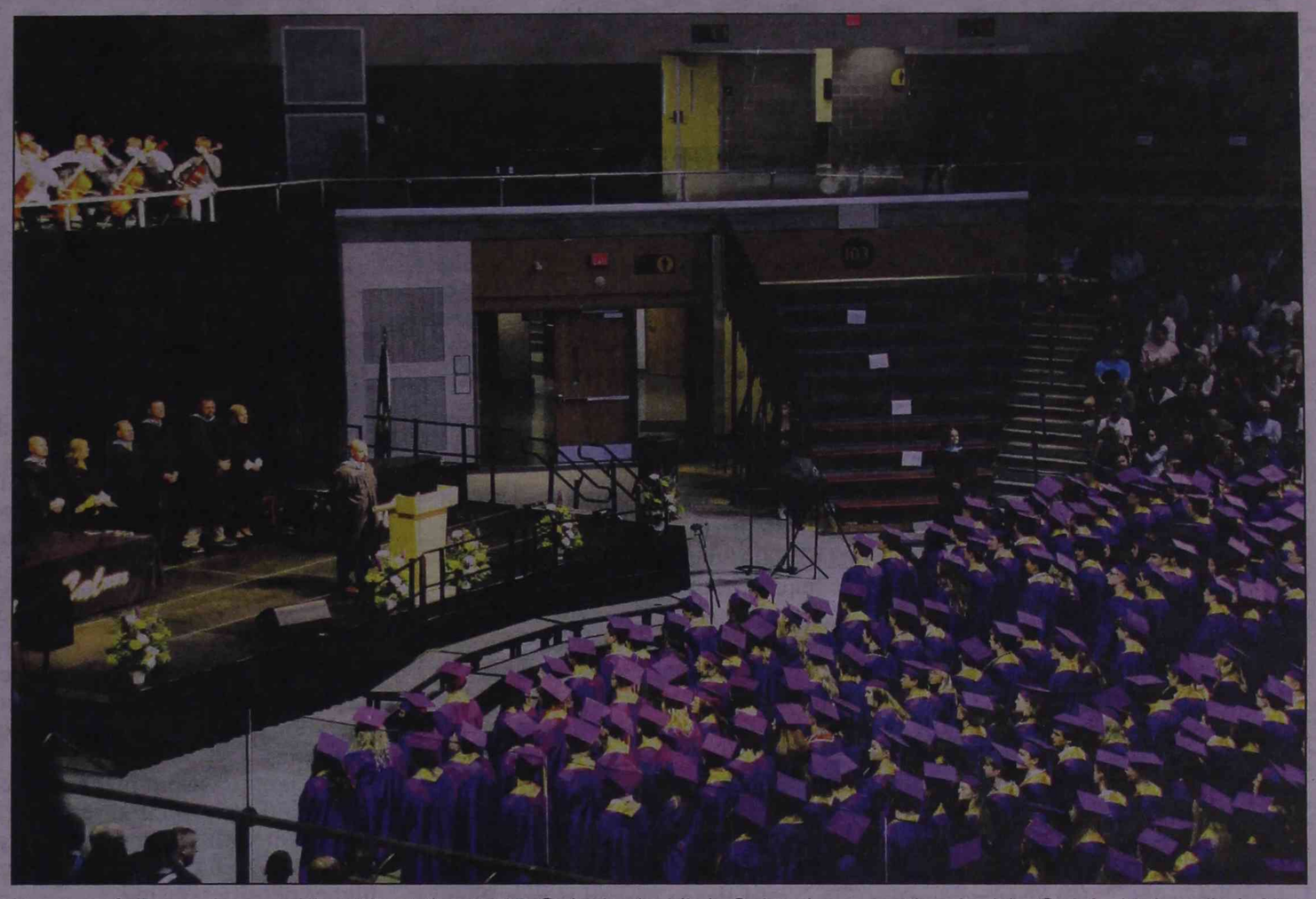
The parcel – owned by the Margaret Heintz Trust – is located on the south side of 100th Street, just west of Peas Avenue.

Project manager Todd Stuive of

See **REZONING** on 2



An overhead view details a nearly 46-acre parcel that the Jenison-based development company is seeking to have rezoned, possibly for a future housing and condominium development on 100th Street. **Source: gainestownship.org**



It was a full evening on May 20 at the 2025 Caledonia High School graduation inside Calvin University's Van Noord Arena. **Photo by Jason Saidoo**

Caledonia Community Schools celebrates the graduating class of 2025

Karen Turko-Ebright
Staff Writer

Caledonia seniors proudly walked across the stage on graduation day receiving their high school diplomas. The big milestone marks the beginning of the next chapter into their futures.

During the Caledonia High School graduation ceremony on May 20, a sea of purple caps and gowns filled Calvin University's Van Noord Arena.

The class of 2025 and the audience listened to the speech of Isabella Wierzbicki as she encouraged her classmates to always be kind as they enter into their next chapter of their lives.

"Class of 2025, as we go our separate ways I want each of us to promise ourselves to be intentional with every person we encounter; filling them with kindness, and selflessly caring for them. We all have heard that 'kindness is key.' I remember the times we would laugh at this saying, but throughout these years, this quote is more than just three words; it's what we all search for in this world.

"Regardless of the opportunities, or the academic and athletic achievements I have been given, my mother has always told me that

See **GRADUATING** on 10

Peace Church celebrating 60 years June 13



Peace Church is hosting a 60th anniversary worship celebration on Friday, June 13 at 6:30 p.m. at its Middleville location. **Photo by Molly Macleod**

Molly Macleod
Editor

From humble beginnings inside Caledonia High School to its new digs on M-37, Peace Church has come a long way in its 60 years.

In celebration of the milestone, Peace Church is hosting a 60th anniversary celebration service at its Middleville location at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, June 13.

"To start in the high school, and then when we came here (to the M-37 church location), we started in the chapel, and then we built a new worship center, which is now our lobby, because now we built another worship center… it's just amazing to watch the different stages of growth," said Peace Church facilities director Laura Ross. "And you wonder if the charter members — are they going to be for this? After 60 years and you keep going — and their hearts are beautiful. They just love watching what the Lord is doing."

Between its Middleville church and its new Wayland location, Peace Church sees roughly 3,000 parishioners for its gospel-centered services each Sunday. Roughly 2,500 of those attend the Middleville location. Out of over 350,000 churches in the nation, Peace Church has been named one of Outreach Magazine's fastest-growing churches in America for the past two years.

"I want to make it known that we are thankful to the community, for allowing us to be here and allowing us to love them. And I just really want to say thanks to the community. We know that not everyone agrees with the Christian message, but I don't feel like our community is against us," said Peace church pastor Ryan Kimmel. "We're able to thrive like we are because we're adding value but also because our community has been great. We love our community."

Peace Church is located at 6950 Cherry Valley Road in Middleville. More information on Peace Church and its upcoming events can be found at peacechurch.cc.

Cal schools request special land use to install sign at community center

Jayson Bussa
Contributing Writer

Caledonia Public Schools would like to welcome guests to its Cal Community Center with a large sign.

Perhaps, too large.

The Caledonia Township Planning Commission met on Monday and part of its regularly scheduled meeting included a public hearing for a special land use consideration submitted by Caledonia Public Schools for 9757 Kraft Ave., which is home to the newly-opened Cal Community Center.

Caledonia Schools operates the new facility in partnership with the YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids.

Caledonia Township Planner Lynee Wells gave the cliff notes of the request to the five commission members that were present, pointing out that Caledonia Schools was looking for its special land use to install a signer that is larger and taller than what is allowed in R2 zoning district, where the parcel is lo-

See **SIGN** on 10

REZONING

Continued from Page 1

Exxel Engineering, representing the Jenison-based Koetje Builders & Developers, said the property could be connected to existing water and sewer lines, with plans for the site set to include the construction of 53 homes and 32 condominium units.

The site previously was used for mineral extraction, with a conveyor used to transport materials for the StoneCo mining operation. Mining operations still occur on the adjacent properties.

Assistant township planner Dakota Swan said the proposed rezoning is consistent with the township's master plan, which calls for moderately higher density housing.

"(Township) staff does not anticipate any adverse effects to property values of adjacent landowners as a result of this rezoning request," Swan said.

Bob Woronko, owner of SE Agricultural & Commercial Solutions located across the road, said he favors the project and would appreciate municipal water and sewer being extended to his business. But, he added he is concerned about the potential cost of utility connections for neighbors.

"Not everybody there is financially in the same boat as our business," Woronko said. "And so, one concern for me is what effect it'll have on the neighbors when that water and sewer comes through, if they'll be forced to hook up."

Local resident Daniel Brown said he looks forward to additional housing being built, but also that traffic congestion on 100th Street is a growing concern on 100th Street.

Like Woronko, Brown said he was also worried about the potential costs of water and sewer connections.

"I'm envisioning (up to) $40,000 to connect to water and sewer, if that's in the area," he said. "And I don't want to be put in that position."

Planning Commissioners Tim Haagsma said the township does not force people to hook up to municipal utilities when they sell their homes.

"It's probably the mortgage company that would require that," he said.

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Two Gaines Township schools host graduation ceremonies



Some of the 621 East Kentwood students who graduated on May 22nd enjoy commencement ceremonies at Falcon Stadium.



The South Christian Class of 2025 celebrates on graduation night, May 22, at South Christian High School. **Courtesy photos**

James Gemmell
Contributing Writer

It was a busy day for Gaines Township on May 22, with not just one, but two, commencement ceremonies being held at local two high schools.

East Kentwood High School and South Christian High School both held graduation events last Thursday night, with South Christian holding its graduation indoors and East Kentwood being held outdoors.

A total of 621 students graduated from EKHS at what district officials said was a "joyful and spirited" ceremony at Falcon Stadium.

In an email, Kentwood Public Schools officials stated that "the cool spring air couldn't dampen the excitement and pride that filled the stands."

According to school officials, about 8,000 friends and family members attended the ceremonies, along with members of the KPS Board of Education, administrators, school leaders and Kentwood Mayor Stephen Kepley.

"There will never be another class like 2025," EKHS principal Omar Bakri told the crowd.

Also speaking at the event were teacher Mike Gorkowski and students Sofia Daniel, Narjis Hussein and Silas Mitchell.

"This remarkable group of graduates has been defined by their diversity, relentless work ethic, and a defining sense of kindness," Bakri said.

The excitement and pride were palpable at South Christian's graduation ceremony, as well. It was held in the high school gymnasium due to concerns over the weather.

"We celebrate the hard work, perseverance and accomplishments of these graduates, " said principal Krista Wright during opening remarks to the Class of 2025, the 70th class to graduate in the school's history.

Keynote speaker Rebekah Wierenga, an English teacher, challenged students to thank those who have helped them along the way.

"As you close this chapter of this life and look forward to whatever is next, I encourage you to express your gratitude to the people sitting in front of you tonight – your parents, siblings, grandparents, teachers and friends who have been such an instrumental part of your support network over the years," Wierenga said.

Next to speak was South Christian head of school Aaron Meckes.

"All the papers written, the assignments completed, your concerts, your artwork, your athletic victories, including some championships," he said. "They all display your many talents.

After the ceremonies, event coordinator Christine Sall stated, "We wish the South Christian Class of 2025 God's richest blessings in their future pursuits and endeavors."

Cal planners approve concrete crushing operation

Jayson Bussa
Contributing Writer

The Caledonia Township Planning Commission has given the green light for an area business to crush concrete on-site for a limited amount of time each year.

James Dykema of Grand Rapids Gravel Company appeared in front of the Planning Commission during its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday for a public hearing that would grant a special land use permit to the company, which operates a facility at 6633 Kon-Krete Drive in Caledonia.

In total, Grand Rapids Gravel operates eight different locations in and around Grand Rapids.

Dykema and his company were looking for permission to crush concrete no more than three weeks per year, and sell it wholesale. Crushing would be done by a third party and would be conducted for no more than 15 days. Crushed concrete can be used for a variety of applications including paths and driveways or act as a sub-base for other materials.

The commission complied with the standards for granting permission to run an operation like this. Some of the biggest concerns that can arise for these operations are dust and noise.

Caledonia Township Planner Lynee Wells briefed the commission on the project, pointing out that it is not located near residential areas.

"People have said that crushing operations can be

See **CONCRETE** on 4



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Obituaries

Ruth E. Geukes

Ruth E. Geukes, a lifelong resident of Middleville, MI, passed away peacefully on May 25, 2025, at the age of 90. Born on January 19, 1935, she was the daughter of Chester and Eleanor (Smith) Geukes.

Ruth graduated from Thornapple-Kellogg High School and immediately became an integral part of the local business community. She worked diligently at Geukes Market, Bradford White, and later found her calling as a respected insurance agent, where she helped many in her community find peace of mind through her guidance and expertise.

Her dedication to service was matched only by her love for Middleville United Methodist Church, where she was a devoted member. Ruth's faith was a cornerstone of her life, and she lived it with grace and compassion, inspiring those around her.

A true outdoorswoman, Ruth found joy in the simple pleasures of life. She was an enthusiastic horse lover and an active member of the Diamond Trail Riding Club. Her passion for horses was only paralleled by her love for golfing, where she spent many sunny afternoons perfecting her swing. Ruth was an avid bowler, her laughter echoing through the alleys as she celebrated both strikes and the joy of the game with friends.



Ruth's kindness and warm-hearted nature could also be seen through her years of driving the courtesy cart at the Barry County Fair, a role she cherished as it allowed her to meet and help countless individuals.

Ruth was predeceased by her beloved parents, Chester and Eleanor, and her brother, Donald K. Geukes.

Her memory will be forever held in the hearts of those she leaves behind her sister-in-law, Janet Geukes; her niece, Jennifer, and her husband, Dan Myers; her nephew, Donald Jeffrey, and his wife, Sarah Geukes; and her treasured great-nieces and nephews, Nicholas, Taylor, Lauren Myers, Jack, and Emma Geukes. Each of them will carry forward the love and cherished memories that Ruth imparted throughout her life.

Ruth's family will receive friends on Friday, June 20, 2025 from 11 a.m. - noon at the Beeler-Gores Funeral Home, where her memorial service will be held at noon. Pastor Ron Worley from Middleville United Methodist Church will officiate. Private burial will take place at Mt. Hope Cemetery.

Memorial contributions to Thornapple Emergency Services will be appreciated. Please visit www.beelergoresfuneral.com to share a memory or leave a condolence message for Ruth's family.

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CONCRETE

Continued from Page 3

loud but this is in an industrial area; there are not neighborhoods nearby," she said.

"The company said a third-party crusher would monitor noise and dust but there wasn't a specific dust mitigation strategy other than the fact the site is wooded on about three sides where the crushing would occur," Wells added.

Wells said that the township's engineer examined the plan and was slightly concerned about potential drainage issues for the runoff associated with the operation in addition to the pH level of the run-off. Final approval is pending a review by the engineer and the commission also asked Dykema to provide more information about dust mitigation in his narrative to the township.

Piles of crushed concrete are not to exceed 35 feet in height on the site, as well.

Dykema said that his company currently conducts crushing operations at three other locations – Muskegon, Grand Rapids and Grandville.

"We have had approval at those three and zero complaints about the crushing operations and (Caledonia) was next on our list," he said.

Brian Diemer Family of Races to run in Cutlerville on June 14



The Diemer 5K Run starts and ends in front of Legacy Christian School in Cutlerville. **Courtesy photo**

James Gemmell
Contributing Writer

A prize purse of $7,700 will be divided among the winners Saturday, June 14, at the Brian Diemer Family of Races in Cutlerville.

The 35th annual event is named after Brian Diemer, the former South Christian High School and University of Michigan star who won the bronze medal in the 3,000-meter steeplechase during the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles. He also competed in the 1988 and 1992 Summer Olympics.

The Diemer 5K Run began in 1990 in Wyoming, Mich., before moving to Cutlerville in 2000.

The start and finish lines are in front of Legacy Christian School, 67 68th St. SW, in Byron Township. That is just west of Division Avenue. The races will head east on 68th Street to Union Avenue in Gaines Township, and then wind south through a residential neighborhood before re-emerging on 68th Street at Union Avenue. The participants will then head back west to the finish line.

About 700 people usually compete in the various races each year.

A 5K Handcycle race and a My Team Triumph race will kick things off at 8:28 a.m. The main 5K run and walk will go off at 8:30 a.m., with a Virtual 5K scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. and the Kid's Run and Junior Jog starting at 10:15 a.m. at the soccer field behind the school. There will be different distances, based on the age of the children competing. The steeple jumps are optional.

Diemer will be running in the 5K. As always, if you beat his run time you get a free doughnut.

Six bands will be performing alongside the racecourse.

"Live bands playing and getting everybody excited and pumped up to run their best race," Diemer said. "Every band has their own special forte, but I would say it's everything from light (blues) rock to hard rock. And we also have a drumline again this year."

As mentioned, the Automasters Junior Jog will be on the soccer fields behind Legacy Christian.

"It's on the grass," Diemer said. "It's a safe place to run. And we throw up some hay bales and some (wading) pools. So, we develop a little steeplechase course. And it is so much fun watching the kids jump and navigate the pools and the hay bales, and just to see the smiles on their faces when they get their (free) goodie bags at the end of the run. It's just a lot of fun."

For the main events, race organizers said the prize money will be allocated based on the starting gun time, not the chip time.

The prize amount for first place in the women's and men's open is $550, with second place earning $400, third place $300, and then lesser amounts for the other Top 10 finishers. In the Masters Women and Men's events for those 40 and older, there are prizes for the Top 5 finishers. The winners will receive $450. The Grand Masters Women/Men's winners will get $100 for first place. In the Handcycle Women/Men's Open, first place will be good for a $300 prize, second place earns $200, and third place $100.

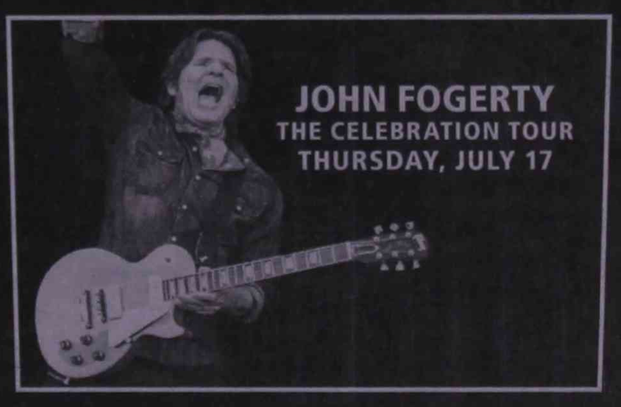
Packet pickup for the event will be at Legacy Christian School, 67 68th Street, just west of Division Avenue. It will go from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on June 13, and on race day from 7 a.m. to 8:15 a.m.

Age group awards will be given to the top four finishers in each age group.

A portion of the event's proceeds will go to some local charities. The Brian Diemer Family of Races is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization.

More information is available at diemerrun.com.

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THE FOLLOWING STORAGE UNITS at Caledonia A-1 Affordable Storage will be sold at ON-LINE Public Auction to the highest bidder via M37 Auction.com whose business address is 9790 Cherry Valley Ave SE, Caledonia MI 49316. ON-LINE auction to take place as follows: Pre-Bidding/Viewing begins June 19 and auction close date of June 24, 2025 for this auction in order to satisfy storage liens outstanding as of sale date. Items are pertaining to the following units and are all miscellaneous general household & garage type items: Terri J Scheltema #96 and Matthew Kamradt #58.

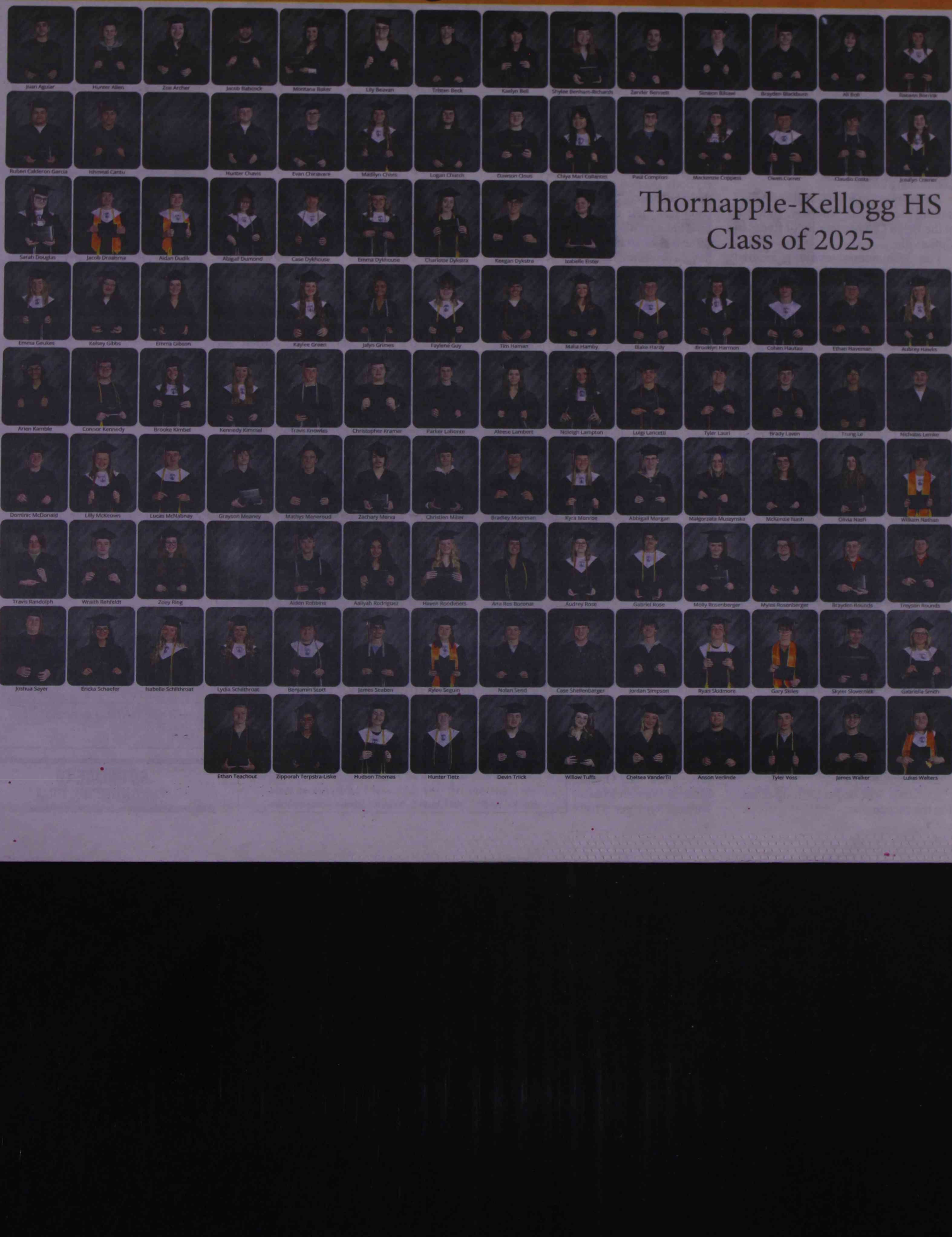
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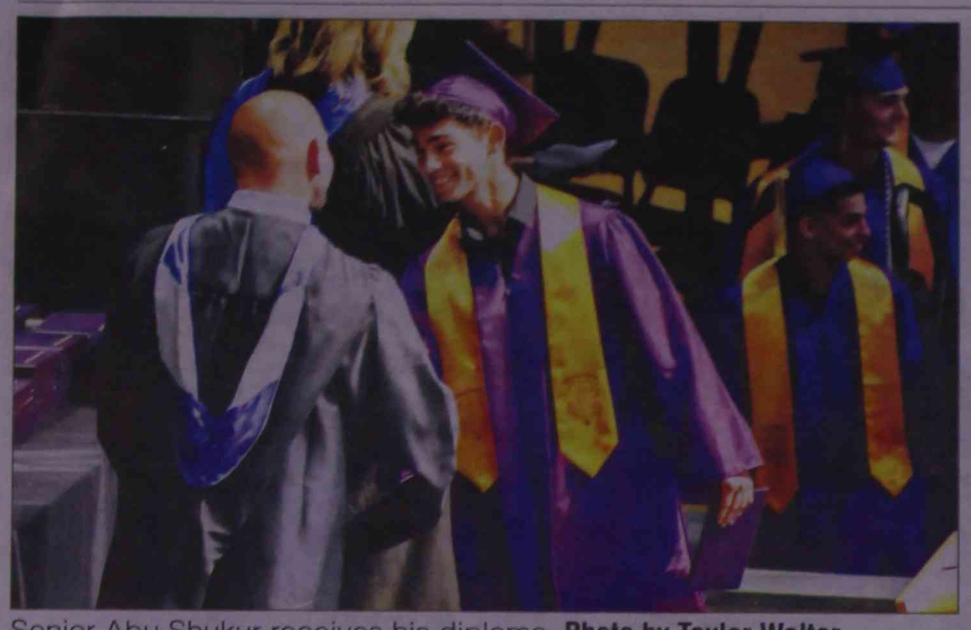
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Senior Abu Shukur receives his diploma. **Photo by Taylor Walter**

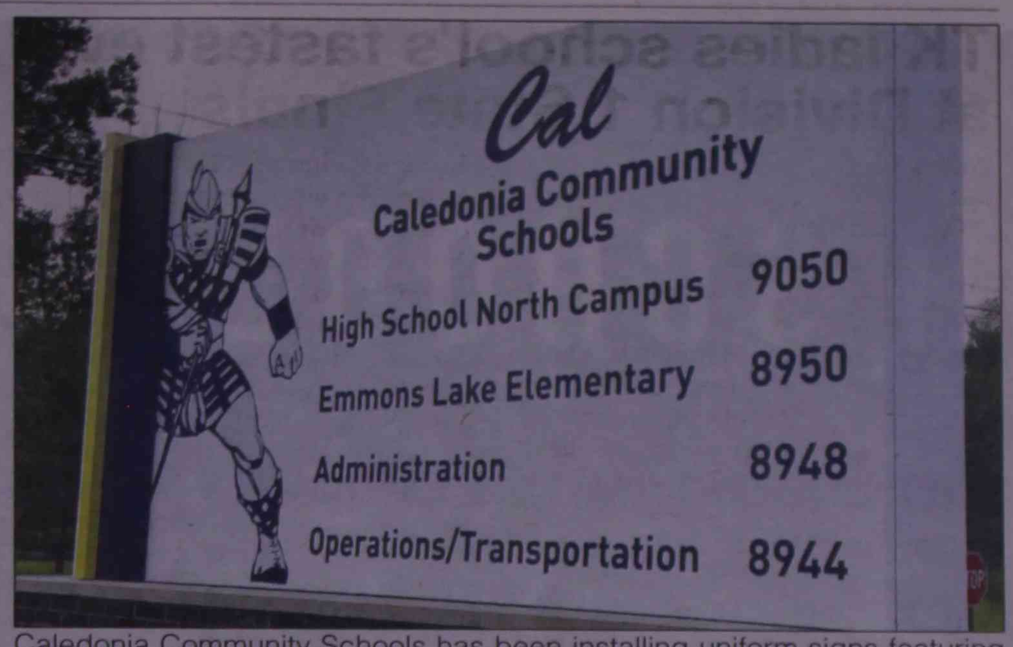
GRADUATING

Continued from Page 1

being a kind human in this world is most important. Simply smiling as you pass someone in the hallway from south campus or holding the door open as we enter school, truly can make a difference in someone's life," Wierzbicki continued.

"Each and every one of you holds a unique place in this world and are here for a reason. Follow your aspirations and be who you want to be and promise yourself that you are intentional with every step you take."

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Caledonia Community Schools has been installing uniform signs featuring set colors and branding throughout the district. They want to bring a similar sign to the Cal Community Center but will need a special land use permit to construct one that fits their height and size needs. **Photo by Jayson Bussa**

SIGN

Continued from Page 2

cated. The sign also would not comply with a requirement that states signs must have a dark background.

Caledonia Schools has been installing new, branded signs at several of its school buildings and facilities already, and they were looking to keep the sign for the community center in line with the others.

Their plan for the community center is a sign that would be seven feet and two inches tall with a total area of 70 square feet.

The ordinance allows for signs that are 32 square feet in size and 14 inches shorter than what was proposed.

"Back in 2023 when we approved this project (the community center) they also asked for additional signage," Wells said. "This was for the wall sign and we gave them an additional 67 square feet for that wall sign."

Wells said that two standards must be considered to allow the special land use: whether the sign is justified based on the nature, size, location and density of the development and safety – whether it would cause traffic or safety hazards.

Wells pointed out that the area does not feature sign clutter and therefore a smaller sign would be visible. She also brought up the potential for the sign to block the visibility for people crossing the mid-block on Kraft.

"The applicant did submit an email to me after reading the report and questions saying they did analyze the sign placement and the view that a driver would have of the pathway and they did state that they still wanted a white sign and not a dark background. I let them know our ordinance does not allow a deviation from that."

Tom Kaywood of the engineering firm TowerPinkster has been working with the district on the sign package. He was the only one to speak during the public hearing. He said that the large nature of the sign was to facilitate both brands – Caledonia Community Schools and the YMCA. He said that he was bound by some national standards set in place by the YMCA organization.

Following the hearing, planners agreed to table the matter, directing the applicant to explore sign options of a smaller size.

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TK ladies school's fastest ever at Division 1 State Finals

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

One state medal.

Two school records.

Four girls with a day they won't ever forget.

Senior Brooklyn Harmon is Thornapple Kellogg's first-ever Division 1 state medalist. She placed seventh in the 300-meter intermediate hurdles; broke her own school record in the 100-meter hurdles twice; and then teamed with juniors Mia Hilton and Payton Gater and freshman Amya Gater to set a new TK record in the 4x400-meter relay Saturday at the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 1 Track and Field Finals inside East Kentwood's Falcon Stadium.

"It was pretty cool," Harmon said of becoming TK's first D1 state medalist. "I was hoping to get a medal in the 100 hurdles too, but I am still happy with the PR I ran considering I wasn't even breaking 15 two weeks ago. So, I guess it is okay."

The competition pushed her in that race and in the 300 hurdles.

"I had like this weird sense of calmness, and I think it was from praying about it so much and just trusting myself," Harmon said. "I know I can do it, but being D1 is a different mindset. I haven't ever run with any of these girls. I felt a little weak in the curve and I think that is what got me not to be a PR."

Harmon hit the 300 hurdles' finish line in 45.32 seconds, her second fastest time in the race ever and just about half a second off the school-record time she set in winning a regional championship two weeks ago. She has plans to be a part of the Grand Valley State University Women's Track and Field program next season.

The Trojans had a couple near misses at the medal stand at the finals. The top eight in each event earn medals. In an earlier heat of the 300 hurdles Hilton dropped her personal record in the race to 45.66 to place ninth - just 14 hundredths of a second behind the last of the state medalists.

"I was so excited that I PR'd at first," Hilton said. "In my head, I was like okay you probably just got like 12th or something … then coach told me I got ninth or something and I started crying. It was so close."

After learning her place, Hilton said she spent some time sitting alone, upset just thinking "this is not real."

"My dad came over and he was like he was like, you PR'd why are you sad. I was like, because I don't get to go on the podium. My sister was telling me, just be proud of the PR. Next year, I want to come back and I want to get top eight so bad, so I am actually glad that I got ninth because it puts a fire under my butt to get top eight next year."

Hilton was a two-time state medalist in the 300 hurdles in Division 2, placing eighth at the end of her freshmen and sophomores seasons at the finals.

Harmon had a ninth-place finish of her own in the 100-meter hurdles to open the day Saturday. The TK record holder in that race too, Harmon im-

See **FINALS** on 12



Thornapple Kellogg 4x400-meter relay teammates (from left) Payton Gater, Brooklyn Harmon alternate Ellie Harmon, Mia Hilton and Amya Gater collected their breath, loosen their spikes and discus their school-record run at the MHSAA Division 1 Track and Field Finals Saturday at East Kentwood High School. **Photos by Brett Bremer**



Thornapple Kellogg senior Brooklyn Harmon rounds the turn n the 300-meter low hurdles Saturday inside East Kentwood's Falcon Stadium during the MHSAA L.P. Division 1 Track and Field Finals. Harmon placed seventh in the race to earn a spot on the state medal stand.

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YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP
BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN
NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE

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

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on May 8, 2025 the Township Board of Yankee Springs Township adopted Ordinance No.05-08-2025 rezoning certain properties in Section 30 of the Township. The ordinance is effective on the 8th day after publication of this summary.

ORDINANCE NO. 05-08-2025
ORDINANCE REZONING CERTAIN PROPERTY IN SECTION 30 OF THE TOWNSHIP

SECTION 1. Rezoning of Certain Property located in Section 30. The Common Elements and 20 units located in the Whispering Pines Condominium Subdivision, are legally described and rezoned from the existing Resort and Recreation District classification to the Gun Lake Residential Lakefront District classification. The Township's zoning map is amended to reflect the rezoning.

SECTION 1. Rezoning of Certain Property located in Section 30. The property located on 2741 Russel Dr., Parcel Nos. 16-030-003-10-01), are legally described and rezoned from the existing Resort and Recreation District classification to the Gun Lake Residential Lakefront District classification. The Township's zoning map is amended to reflect the rezoning.

SECTION 3. SEVERABILITY. The various provisions of the ordinance are severable from each other.

SECTION 4. REPEAL. Repeals conflicting ordinances or portions of ordinances.

SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. The Ordinance is effective on the 8th day following publication after adoption.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the full text of the Ordinance has been posted in the Office of the Yankee Springs Township Clerk at the address set forth below; on the Yankee Springs Township website at www.yankeespringstwp.org and that a copy of the Ordinance may be purchased or inspected at the office of the Yankee Springs Township Clerk during regular office hours or by appointment.

Tom Hopkins, Clerk
Yankee Springs Township
284 N. Briggs Road,
Middleville, MI 49333
269-795-9091
yankeespringstwp.org

VILLAGE OF MIDDLEVILLE
BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN
NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF VILLAGE ORDINANCE AND SUMMARY OF THE REGULATORY EFFECT THEREOF

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on May 27, 2025, the Village Council of the Village of Middleville adopted Ordinance No. 2142 (the "Ordinance"), amending Section 78.04 thereof, the Village Zoning Map, to rezone the following described lands within the Village. The principal provisions of the amending ordinance are as follows:

Section 1. **Rezoning of Lands**. Section 1 of the Ordinance rezones a parcel commonly referred to as 313 Arlington Street (Parcel No. 41-022-442-00) from the R-1 Low Density Single-Family to Highway Commercial (C-2) District.

Section 2. **Severability**. Section 2 of the Ordinance provides for the severability of the Ordinance in the event a portion of the Ordinance is determined to be unenforceable.

Section 3. **Effective Date**. The amending ordinance will become effective on June 14, 2025.

A copy of the ordinance may be examined or purchased at the offices of the Middleville Village Clerk, 100 East Main Street, Middleville, Michigan, during Village office hours.

Dated: June 7, 2025
VILLAGE COUNCIL OF THE
VILLAGE OF MIDDLEVILLE

VILLAGE OF MIDDLEVILLE
BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN
NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF VILLAGE ORDINANCE AND SUMMARY OF THE REGULATORY EFFECT THEREOF

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on May 27, 2025, the Village Council of the Village of Middleville adopted Ordinance No. 2141 (the "Ordinance"), amending Section 38-36 of Chapter 38 of the Village of Middleville Code of Ordinances (the "Code").

Section 1. **Amendment of Section 38-36 of Chapter 38.** Section 1 of the Ordinance amends Section 38-36 of Chapter 38 of the Code to prohibit possession or custody of, or consumption in any village park or on village-owned property of any alcoholic liquor except as so otherwise provided in the Ordinance including within a Social District created pursuant to the Michigan Liquor Control Code.

Section 2. **Severability**. Section 2 of the Ordinance provides for the severability of the Ordinance in the event a portion of the Ordinance is determined to be unenforceable.

Section 3. **Repeal**. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of the conflict.

Section 4. **Publication; Effective Date**. The amending ordinance will become effective on June 7, 2025.

A copy of the ordinance may be examined or purchased at the offices of the Middleville Village Clerk, 100 East Main Street, Middleville, Michigan, during Village office hours.

Dated: June 7, 2025
VILLAGE COUNCIL OF THE
VILLAGE OF MIDDLEVILLE

PUBLIC NOTICE
GAINES CHARTER TOWNSHIP
BOARD MEETING SYNOPSIS
May 12, 2025

The Gaines Charter Township Board held a regular meeting on Monday, May 12, 2025, and took the following actions.

1. Reviewed the Consent Agenda.
2. Approved the Meeting Agenda
3. Discussed the possibility of donated land for a park
4. Approved the planning and zoning fee schedule as presented effective June 1, 2025.
5. Accepted the termination of the Fire and Rescue Service Agreement with Byron Township on September 22, 2025.
6. Accepted the presented contract for Gaines Charter Township Fire Department physicals using Professional Health Services, Inc.
7. Accepted the three-year contract for EMS training from BDI, Inc.
8. Approved the bid from H&K Landscaping, Inc for $10,155.00 to clean up and hydroseed the west new section of Blain Cemetery.
9. Acknowledged the Parks and Trails Committee support of development of a department of Parks and Grounds / Public Works.
10. Paid in full the Emmons Lake Drain Assessment.
11. Approved the Crystal Springs fireworks application.
12. Approved the special event liquor license for the Hearts and Hooves fundraiser on September 20, 2025.
13. Approved the road closure request for the Little Firecracker parade.
14. Discussed and revised the vision and mission statements.
15. Adjourned the meeting at 8:14 p.m.

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

Michael Brew
Gaines Charter Township Clerk

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Lowell gets late run to knock off CHS softball

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Lowell got the go-ahead run in the bottom of the sixth inning and then put down the Scots 1-2-3 in the seventh to win their MHSAA Division 1 District Semifinal 4-3 at Wyoming High School Saturday.

Jordan Velzen led off the bottom of the sixth with a single for the Red Arrows, advanced to third on a couple of ground balls and then scored what proved to be the winning run on a Caledonia error.

All four of the Red Arrows' runs against the Caledonia varsity softball team were unearned. Caledonia senior pitcher Molly Lieske gave up seven hits in six innings and didn't walk a batter. She struck out two.

The Caledonia offense outhit the Red Arrows 10-7, but the defense let the Scots down with seven errors.

Lowell took a 3-0 lead in the ballgame with two runs in the first inning and a third in the second. The Scots answered with three runs in the top of the third inning..

Lieske got that CHS scoring rally started with a one-out double. Malia Burke was hit by a pitch to put two on with two out. Claire Hoop blasted an RBI double and then Sophia Gauthier followed with a two-run single into right for the Scots.

Lieske was 3-for-4 at the plate with the one run scored. Hoop and Gautier were both 2-for-3. Maddison Boucher had a single and Addy Lash a double for the Scots too.

Byron Center ended Lowell's season with a 6-4 win in the district final in Wyoming Saturday.

FINALS

Continued from Page 11

proved her PR to 14.62 in the preliminaries. She improved it again down to 14.48 in the finals finishing three hundredths of a second behind the last state medalist.

Harmon and Hilton closed out their day competing in the 4x400-meter relay with the Gater sisters and racing to a new school record time of 4 minutes .57 seconds.

Rebecca Winchester, Kersta Gustafson, Emma Ordway and Chaney Robinson still have their names scattered across the TK girls' record list in other events, but the 2025 TK foursome in the race at the D1 Finals was about a second faster than the top time turned in by those Trojans who won the 2006 D2 state championship.

A school record in the 4x400 was not something in the minds of Amya, Payton, Hilton and Harmon heading into the state meet, but they shaved an astounding six seconds off the TK team's previous best time in the race from this spring. They were seeded 25th out of 27 teams at the state finals in the race and wound up in 12th place.

"I knew it was possible. I knew all of them could run under a minute. It was just is it gonna happen today," TK head coach Maggie Wilkinson said. "And so we were just focused on timing, like running 200s and saying, you need to run 28 200s, and this is what it's going to feel like. And then we worked on the chaos in the hand-offs. You just got to get out and you got to be on your game, and they did it all. They did it. They are just amazing young women.

"They're awesome, and what a way to end the day - with a school record."

The TK girls all were pleased with the preparation for the hand-off chaos.

"We were literally standing on the exchange zone at our track shoving each other," Harmon said.

Payton Gater said coach Wilkinson was definitely the most physical one in that chaos training. It worked.

"We would create chaos in the exchange zone all week have, like all everybody that was at practice there. I mean we would be pushing each other and kind of running around each other to create chaos in the handoffs, which definitely helped me because we knew what to do in that situation," Payton said.

It certainly was a step up in competition, the move from Division 2 to Division 1 this spring. For reference, the Trojans in Kentwood were nine hundredths of a second faster than the Saginaw Swan Valley foursome that won the girls' 4x400-meter relay at the MHSAA L.P. Division 2 Track and Field Finals at Hamilton High School Saturday afternoon.

TK ladies take last 2025 at-bats against Wildcats

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

In the end it worked out for the Wildcats. The final outcome didn't change, and Thornapple Kellogg senior McKenna Hoebeke got to take a few more swings in orange and black before heading off for the Grand Valley State University softball program.

McKenna's time in the batter's box did come to an end as the Wildcats held on for a 6-5 victory in their MHSAA Division 2 District Semifinal in Middleville Saturday morning.

Wayland intentionally walked Hoebeke with two-out and one on in the top of the fifth inning and the Wildcats leading by a 3-2 margin. Adelaide Holderman delivered a two-run double, giving TK a 4-3 lead at the moment

The Wildcats rallied, with the help of a couple TK errors and a few singles, for three runs in the bottom of the sixth to go back in front 6-4.

Hoebeke's spot in the line-up came up again with one on and two out in the top of the seventh.

Wayland head coach Cheri Ritz came out to intentionally walk Hoebeke again in the top of the seventh, according to TK head coach Ashley Garrett, "and Kylee looked at her and said 'coach - this could be my last at bat, please let me hit,' and Cheri did."

Hoebeke battled Wayland star pitcher Madi Ludema through a 16-pitch at-bat. Hoebeke watched ball three go by to reach a full-count and then fouled off ten straight pitches before ball four went by for another walk.

Teammate Anna Romph singled with one out in the inning, went to second on a ground out by teammate Kenzie Bouma and then stole third during Hoebeke's at-bat. Holderman came up in a big spot again, and Romph scored on a passed ball to get TK within a run, but Ludema won this time around striking out Holderman to end the ballgame.

Hoebeke closed the ballgame 1-for-2 with two walks and two runs scored. Romph was 2-for-4 at the top of the line-up for TK.

Holderman had a big game for TK both in the batter's box and in the circle. She allowed 11 Wayland hits, but only one earned run. She struck out seven Wildcats and only walked one.

"We made a couple of errors late in the game that sealed the deal for Wayland, but we pressured them into the top of the seventh," Garrett said. "The girls had obviously already won a game against Wayland so they knew they were capable, it just didn't go our way this time."

TK fell to the Wildcats in both ends of an OK Gold Conference doubleheader this season, but rebounded to beat the Wayland girls in the championship game of the TK Invitational in Middleville later that same week.

Garrett said sophomore Emily Stevens had a big game for TK too going 1-for-3 at the plate and throwing a runner out at the plate from right field.

The two teams were back and forth throughout the ballgame. TK led 2-1 after one inning. The score held there until the Wildcats scored twice in the bottom of the fourth for their first lead.

Ludema allowed two earned runs on six hits and two walks. She struck out seven.

"Wayland's pitcher, Madi Ludema, is one of the best we saw all year and they hit one to nine in the line-up," Garrett said of the Wildcats. "They're just a well-rounded, well coached team."

Ludema was also 2-for-4 at the plate with two RBIs. Kaylee Lown, Mackenzie Kositzky and Laney Wolf had two hits each for the Wildcats too. Wolf drove in one run. Harmony Laker, Clara Dutkiewiz and Shelby VanHouten had one hit each.

Wayland followed up the victory over TK by securing the district championship with a 13-3 win over Hopkins in the district final Saturday.

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GAINES CHARTER TOWNSHIP
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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

Summary of Request: Special Land Use request to build and operate a drive thru in The Crossings Planned Unit Development (PUD).
Property Address: 1535 Eastport Drive SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49508
Parcel Number: 41-22-05-280-002
Applicant: Matt Cole; Roosien & Associates
Date and Time of Hearing: June 26th, 2025, at 7:00 pm
Location of Hearing: Gaines Charter Township Offices, Board Room
8555 Kalamazoo Avenue SE, Caledonia, MI 49316

Any interested party may appear and be heard on said proposal. Information related to this request may be inspected, by appt., during regular business hours at the Planning Department window located in the Gaines Charter Township Offices. For information related to this request, contact Dan Wells at (616) 980-6188 or dan.wells@gainestownship.org. To be entered into the public record, signed written comments must be received by 5:00 PM on June 26th, 2025.

Persons with disabilities needing special accommodations should contact Kim Triplett at (616) 698-6640 one week prior to the meeting to request mobility, visual or any other assistance.

GAINES CHARTER TOWNSHIP
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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

Summary of Request: Zoning Text Amendment request for Section 24.8 of the Gaines Charter Township Zoning Ordinance to allow for Electronic Changeable Message signs within residential zoning districts (SR, VR, MFR) for institutional uses.
Property Address: N/A
Parcel Number: 41-22-05-280-002
Applicant: All parcels
Date and Time of Hearing: June 26th, 2025, at 7:00 pm
Location of Hearing: Gaines Charter Township Offices, Board Room
8555 Kalamazoo Avenue SE, Caledonia, MI 49316

Any interested party may appear and be heard on said proposal. Information related to this request may be inspected, by appt., during regular business hours at the Planning Department window located in the Gaines Charter Township Offices. For information related to this request, contact Dan Wells at (616) 980-6188 or dan.wells@gainestownship.org. To be entered into the public record, signed written comments must be received by 5:00 PM on June 26th, 2025.

Persons with disabilities needing special accommodations should contact Kim Triplett at (616) 698-6640 one week prior to the meeting to request mobility, visual or any other assistance.

Outstanding CHS lacrosse season ends in state quarter's

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The cavalcade of comebacks finally came to an end for the Fighting Scots at Forest Hills Northern Friday, May 30.

The Caledonia varsity boys' lacrosse team pulled within one of the host Huskies at 7-6 a minute into the second half of their MHSAA Division 2 State Quarterfinal, but a third straight come-from-behind victory in the postseason did not materialize for the Scots. Forest Hills Northern scored six unanswered goals and went on to a 15-7 win over the final 23 minutes.

The Fighting Scots rallied to beat Okemos in overtime in the regional semifinals and then won their second ever regional championship coming from behind in the fourth quarter against Forest Hills Eastern last Tuesday.

Sophomore Lincoln Senti scored the last of his team leading four goals with 2:31 remaining in the fourth quarter at FHN Friday.

The pleasantries with the Huskies were through. The last on-field huddle of the season for the Scots broke. The last bits of the sunset started fading. Senti found his way across the tack for handshakes and hugs with the classmates leaning over the bleacher railing with letters spelling out B-I-G-L-I-N-C painted on their chests. He wasn't the only guy in purple and white there to show appreciation for their supporters.

Senior Brady Hilaski had two goals and junior Samuel Hoag one for the Scots.

Putting the ball in the net is tough when you don't possess it. FHN junior Benny Hall was nothing short of dominant on the draws winning nearly every (if not every) single one all evening long. He is now over 500 face-off wins for the FHN varsity.

Owen Ostipow and Cooper Clark had four goals apiece for the Huskies. Dylan Van Skiver scored three times and Eli Macauley twice. Senior Owen Butler opened the scoring for the Huskies, and while the Scots pulled even at 1-1, 3-3 and 5-5 they never held a lead.

FHN fell 20-7 to East Grand Rapids in the MHSAA Division 2 Semifinals in Hudsonville Tuesday, June 3.



Caledonia sophomore Ethan Wright tries to slow down Forest Hills Northern junior Benny Hall as he dodges through the midfield Friday, May 30, during the MHSAA Division 2 State Quarterfinal at Forest Hills Northern High School.
Photos by Brett Bremer

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Dupuis pushes 3200 PR under 11 minutes at Finals

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Hannah Dupuis likes to find a pack with a good pace and hang out at the back and let it pull her around the track.

If the 3200-meter run at the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 1 Track and Field Finals hadn't been her last varsity race, she might have started running out of folks to chase soon.

Dupuis shattered per personal record in the 3200 dropping more than 15 seconds to finish with a time of 10 minutes 54.52 seconds and a 13-place result in her first ever track and field finals race Saturday at East Kentwood High School.

Caledonia junior Cody Myers added about 18 feet to his PR in the boys' discus this spring, and was just a little off his top throws of the season at the state finals Saturday. He unleashed a top throw of 149 feet 6 inches to finish in 21st place in his first state finals appearance Saturday.

The progression for Dupuis lately in the 3200: 12:33.75 as a junior season best. Down to 12:22.29 at the first OK Green Conference dual of her senior season this spring. A sub-12 3200 of 11:51.26 at the Hastings Invitational in mid April. Another leap to 11:23.29 at the 2025 Shepherd Bluejay Invite. From there she cut about four seconds off her PR at the OK Green Conference Championships, and then more than nine seconds off at regionals to 11:10.01. Finally, the shocking dip under 11 minutes Saturday.

"You keep this up and you're going to be running a two-mile in seven minutes," Caledonia head coach Ben Howell joked with her after the race.

Her next school races will be for the Michigan Tech University Huskies, and she was excited to get her PR within a second of the young Minnesotan she'll be rooming with next fall.

"I didn't even believe it last week when one of my coaches was telling me I could have been in the tens," Dupuis said. "It was coach [Clenon] Fincher and he said, Hannah I expect you to be in the low 10:50's."

She wasn't really hopeful of that at the starting line.

"I was feeling pretty stressed out about it. I was kind of just thinking that all that matters is I made it here today. All I was thinking was that all I need to do is go out and do my best," she said.

Dupuis did mostly stick to her plan. She found a pack to chase, and to be honest she didn't remember too much about the race other than seeing the clock tick to 5:20 as she completed her first mile.

"I thought, 'oh my goodness, I just cooked myself.' My mile PR is 5:17 so running a 5:20 on the first mile of a two is a little bit crazy."

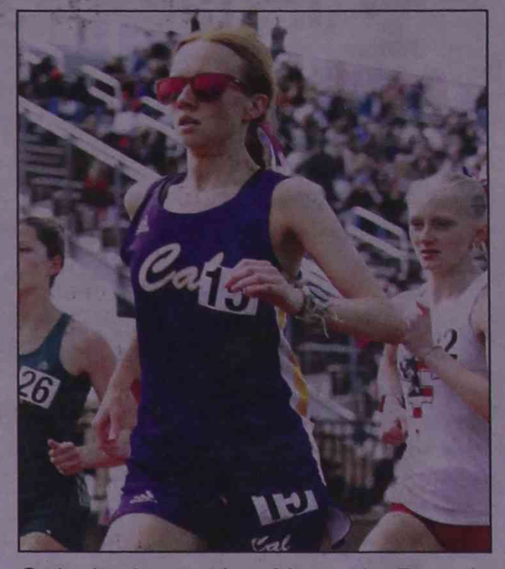
Her first timed mile in high school was eight minutes and 34 seconds. It was just last fall that she realized she might be going fast enough to include running in her college plans.

"I want to be a bio-medical engineer, so I kind of wanted to go to a technological based school just to start. I emailed the coaches in December and was a little worried I was a little bit too late … they seemed really excited. Their girls' team is pretty small. There are only going to be four girls in the freshman class, which is very small. But I'm very excited, just the four of us in two rooms next to each other."

The D1 girls' two-mile champion was West Ottawa senior Helen Sachs who hit the finish line in 10:16.56. She had a good lead on Ann Arbor Pioneer senior Natasza Dudek who was the runner-up in 10:21.68. Sachs was also the runner-up in the 1600.

Dupuis was one of 15 girls in the race to finish in less than 11 minutes. The last of the eight state medalists was Hudsonville sophomore Cassie Karasinski who clocked in at 10:46.52.

Walled Lake Central senior Garrod Alexander topped Myers and everyone else at the shot put pit in the boys' competition Saturday. He fired off a top put of 64-1.25. Midland senior Maxwell Stoecker was second at 58-10.25. Portage Central senior Liam Takace clinched the last of the eight state medals in the event with a mark of 53-2.25. Stoecker was the runner-up in the discus too.



Caledonia senior Hannah Dupuis works her way to a new personal record time of 10 minutes 54.52 seconds in the 3200-meter run while placing 12th in the race at the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 1 Track and Field Finals hosted by East Kentwood High School Saturday, May 31. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

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Rams shut out Scots on their way to district title

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Scoring opportunities were few and far between for the Fighting Scots against third-ranked Rockford in the MHSAA Division 1 District Semifinal at Rockford High School Thursday, May 30.

Even one of the Caledonia varsity girls' soccer team's best chances ended up going the other way in the Rams' 3-0 victory.

An obstruction call on the Rams led to a free kick for the Scots' in the offensive end with 11 and a half minutes to play in the second half. The Scots tapped the ball for a shot on the Ram goal by freshman Emily Stauffer, but the Rams charged hard early and knocked down the attempt. There was an extended scramble at the top of the 18 that eventually led to a soft tap at the net by Caledonia senior Delaney Elles.

The Rams reset and earned a free kick of their own near midfield. The kick found a Ram player streaking up the right side who tapped it to the middle for an onrushing Laney Carlson a step inside the 18. She fired a low hard shot beyond the reach of Scot senior keeper Ella DeRuyter and inside the left post for her team's third and final goal.

Caledonia picked up its attack about ten minutes into the game for a bit, and had another late surge in the final ten minutes of the second half, but the Rams controlled possession and were a step ahead getting to the ball throughout what was a physical ballgame.

Still, the Scots held the Rams off the scoreboard until the final 15 minutes of the first half. DeKuiper also scored the Rams' first goal as a rebound found her a little less than 25 yards out from the net and she ripped a shot into the upper right 90 of the net.

Rockford made it 2-0 before the half as a throw in from the left side found its way into the Caledonia box. The Scot defense prevented the Rams Isla Brown from turning with the ball at the penalty spot, but she was able to drop a pass back for teammate Alia Ponne at the top of the 18. Ponne one-touched a shot perfectly into the lower right corner of the Scot net.



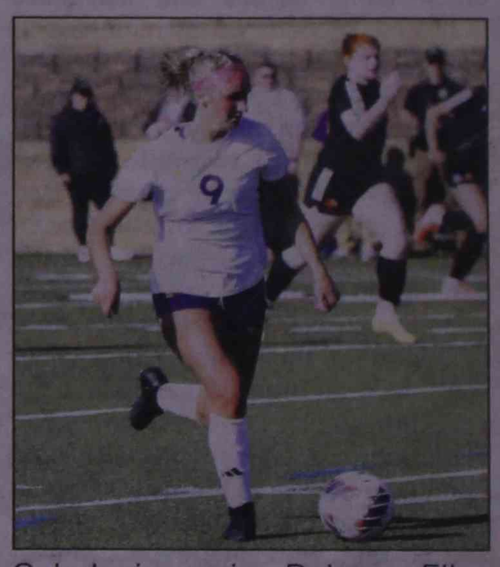
Caledonia defender Myla Gortmaker is held back from getting to the ball by Rockford's Sydney Dekuiper during their MHSAA Division 1 District Semifinal at Rockford High School Thursday, May 29. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

The Fighting Scots had a corner kick in the final minutes of the first half, but weren't able to create a dangerous chance off of it, and had a few shots in the first half deflected down by defenders.

Rockford had a flurry of corner kicks throughout the second half, and long throw-ins from Audrey Muterspaugh in the in the offensive end into the CHS box were at least as dangerous as corners throughout the ballgame.

The Caledonia girls end the season with a 10-7-2 overall record. They were second in the OK Green Conference in their first season in the new league.

The now 14-3-3 Rockford girls took a 4-2 win over East Kentwood in the district final back in Rockford Saturday, but were bounced from the state tournament by the OK Green Conference champions from Byron Center 1-0 in the regional semifinals in Grand Haven Tuesday.



Caledonia senior Delaney Elles pushes through the midfield with the ball during the Scots' MHSAA Division 1 District Semifinal against the host Rams in Rockford Thursday, May 22.

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