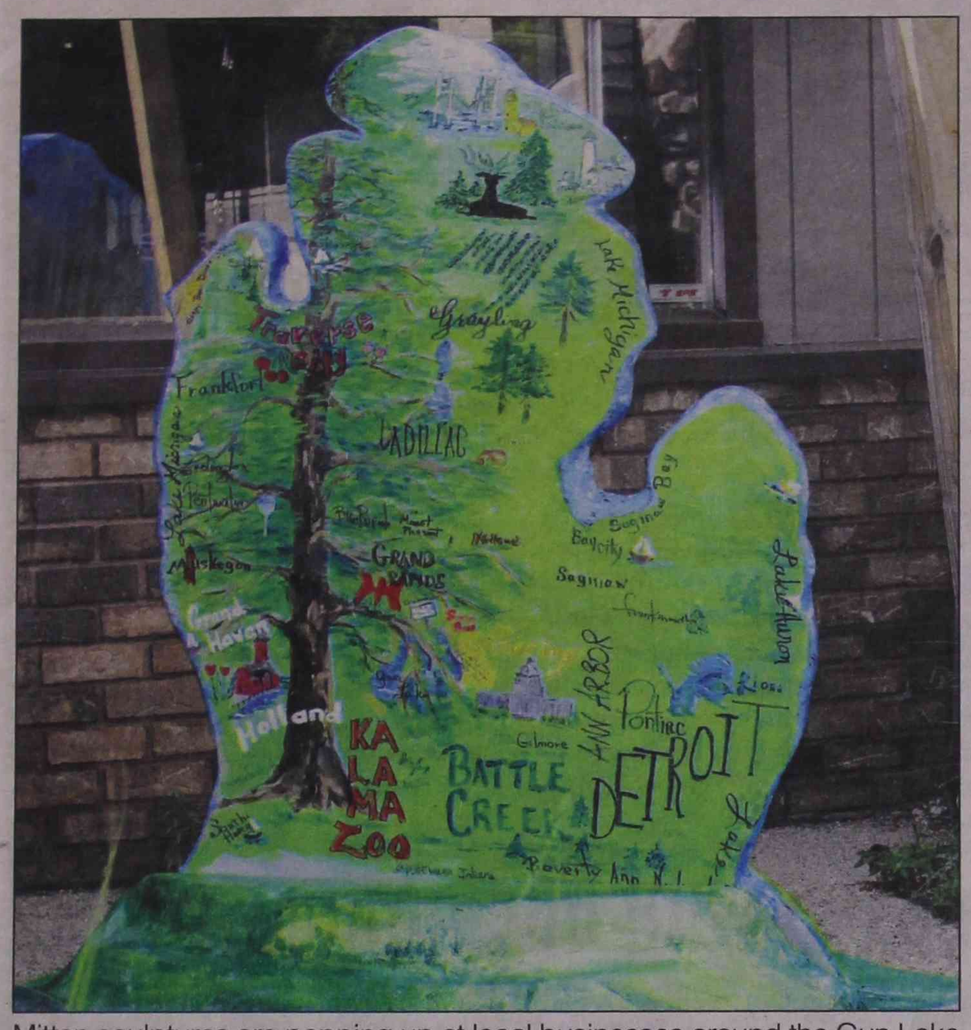
THE SUN AND NEWS
Your Hometown Newspaper Serving the Middleville, Caledonia and Gaines Township Areas
NO. 62 SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 2025 www.sunandnews.com

TK'S CREWS WINS STATE POSITIVE ATHLETE AWARD FOR CROSS COUNTRY
PAGE 12



Hastings Public Library
127 E State Street
Hastings MI 49058



Mitten sculptures are popping up at local businesses around the Gun Lake area. It's part of the first art competition of its kind in the community. This mitten is one of many that can be found around the lake. **Photos by Karen Turko-Ebright**

First Gun Lake art competition underway now

Karen Turko-Ebright
Staff Writer

A group of people standing in line outside in front of the Sand Bar & Grill in Middleville formed a half-circle as they were taking photos of a painted Michigan mitten sign in front of the restaurant. Among the onlookers, Amy Scherer was also admiring the sculpture. "I don't know if I am interested in painting one but I would like to have one for our home," Scherer said.

Mitten sculptures are popping up at local businesses around the Gun Lake area. It's the first art competition of its kind in the community. President of the Gun

See **ART** on 2



Brent Springvloed (right) accepts the Business Owner of the Year award at the Gaines Chamber of Commerce 2025 Scholarship & Business Awards Luncheon on June 10. He's joined on stage by the chamber's executive director, Barb Nauta, and Hydroz board president Scott Yockey. **Screen captures from BCTV**

Stehouwer wins chamber's 'Lifetime Achievement Award'

James Gemmell
Contributing Writer

Tom Stehouwer, of Tom Stehouwer Auto Sales, got a special treat at the 2025 Gaines Chamber Scholarship & Business Awards Luncheon on June 10, being honored as the chamber's annual Outstanding Person of the Year/Lifetime Achievement Award winner.

The luncheon was held at the Postma Center on the Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services campus.

Stehouwer Auto Sales has been operating at its current location on Division Avenue, south of 68th Street, for more than 40 years, and the Stehouwer family once owned a Sunoco gas station at 68th Street and Division Avenue in Cutlerville even before that.

"Tom is an upstanding community citizen and his business has a 4.8-star rating," Gaines Chamber executive director Barb Nauta said. "He and his team are amazing at customer service. He is praised for his honesty and community support.

"Tom, you are truly amazing, and this community has been so honored and blessed to have you. Thank you for all you've done and continue to do for our community and families," he added in honoring Stehouwer.

Stehouwer then stepped up to the podium, telling those attending the chamber luncheon that he has resided in Gaines Township his entire life.

"I had my first business in 1950," he said. "I sat on grandma and

See **STEHOUWER** on 8

ART

Continued from Page 1

Lake Business Association, Deb Timmerman, remembers the first discussion of bringing art to the Gun Lake community.

"This is the first. In our Tourism Task Force, we discussed how we could bring art to the lake," Timmerman said. "After chatting about what we could do that was different from other small cities and townships, Terry Cole, came up with the mitten idea and had someone fabricate them. Together we partnered to bring the project to life."

Cole is the co-owner of Chief Noonday Car Park in Yankee Springs and also the co-chair of the new Gun Lake art competition with the "Painted Peninsula: Gun Lake Artistry" contest idea which requires a fabricated Michigan mitten and local businesses.

"As the sculptures began to take shape with each artist's touch, it was incredible to see how much heart and hometown pride was poured into them," Cole said. "Every piece tells a story, not just of Michigan, but of the people and places that make the Gun Lake community so special. I hope it inspires others to explore, connect, and appreciate the creativity all around us."

The new art competition invites local residents and businesses to creatively paint sculptural renditions of Michigan's iconic Lower Peninsula. The final entries for competition are in but anyone who wants to do so without being in the competition, can. Call Terry Cole at 616-262-9477 for more information.

Cole said his interest in the Paint the Peninsula art competition is to get everybody in the community more active. "I'm community minded," Cole said. "Let's keep everybody out in the community and keep business local. It gives people a reason to get out and do stuff."



Locals can vote for their favorite painted mittens as part of the "Painted Peninsula: Gun Lake Artistry" contest.

Sculptures will be displayed within a one-and-a-half-mile radius of Gun Lake, creating a public art trail throughout the summer. Visitors and locals alike will be encouraged to explore the displays and vote for their favorite entries via a QR code located near each sculpture. Public voting will take place from July 5, 2025, through Labor Day. Awards will be presented in two categories: Best Residential Entry and Best Business Entry, with winners announced at Fall Fest on Saturday, Sept. 27.

Visit gunlaketourism.com/events/ for more information.

"I love that the business community is working together to create programs and events that bring people together and celebrate this beautiful place around us," Timmerman said.

Voting on the mitten sculpture opens July 5 through Labor Day. Information will soon be posted at gunlaketourism.com/painted-peninsula/.

"I never seen such a great community response to an event. They ask a lot of questions and want to know where the other mittens can be found," Cole explained. "The people that painted them put a lot of time and effort and thought into them. It wasn't just a weekend job."

The mittens are fabricated out of fiberglass and foam and produced at the Chief Noonday Car Park.

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Chamber set to assist with upcoming events

James Gemmell
Contributing Writer

The Gaines Chamber of Commerce is keeping busy, as chamber officials and members will be involved in upcoming public events this summer.

The local chamber will participate in the Kent County Sheriff's Office's annual South Kent National Night Out event on Aug. 5 in the parking lots outside South Christian High School. That will run from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The event is set to include displays of various police, fire, road commission, military and police vehicles, plus other activities.

Another upcoming event involving the chamber is the annual Gaines Township Movie in the Park on Friday, Aug. 22, outside the township hall on Kalamazoo Avenue at 84th Street. This year's free movie will be Dog Man.

The event will get underway at 6:30 p.m. with free games, kids activities and food trucks. The movie begins at 8:30 p.m.

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TK Food Service Department starts hydroponic garden

More often than not, Thornapple Kellogg Schools food service director Jessica Endres can be found in the kitchen helping prep meals, on the serving lines helping out at lunchtime or, now, working at the school's new hydroponic garden system.

"It's 99% less land use and we use less water," said Endres. "We also don't have to rely on the weather at all."

Alone, each of the four Flex Acre 9-by-9 feet panels can grow about 100 pounds of lettuce in 28 days. It's more than enough lettuce to furnish for lunches at each of the six schools within the district.

Endres used funds from her budget to purchase the Flex Acre units from the Wisconsin-based Fork Farms, along with four smaller portable units called Flex Farms that can be used in classrooms.

According to Endres, she heard about the units while attending a conference and was intrigued by the idea. Now, she says, TK is the first K-12 school district in Michigan – and in the nation – to use the Flex Acres system as part of their food service.

The Flex Acre panels are more of a commercial growing system. The panels are set up in what used to be a storage room near the back loading docks at the middle school.

Each panel contains 520 planting pods, with a total of 2,304 pods available, that can be used to grow various kinds of lettuce and leafy vegetables, herbs, strawberries, cucumbers, peppers, edible and cut flowers, as well as other vegetables.

"I'm so passionate about this," Endres said. "The produce we grow is more nutritious. It will have zero travel miles and will taste better because it's fresher, we can harvest daily. I'm confident we can grow some of our own food right here. We have already sent lettuce we've grown right here to each of the buildings.

"Before this we have had to procure our lettuce from various places and sometimes the quality is subpar. You know it's not as fresh as if we harvest it right here ourselves within days of being used."

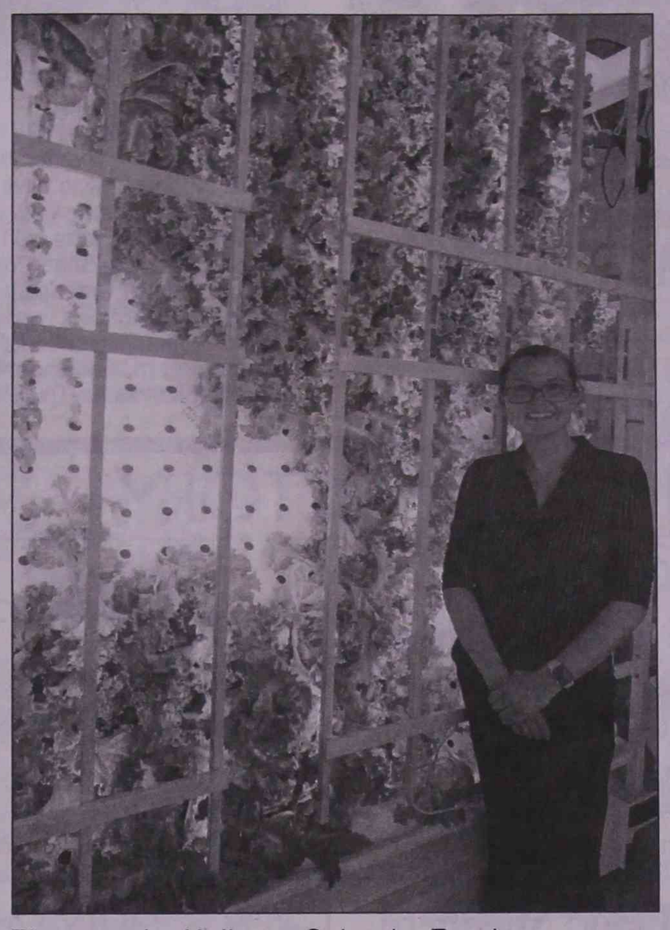
She said she admits there is going to be a learning curve to plan, schedule and use the hydroponic system, but she's also very excited about the possibilities of all the fresh food she'll be able to plant, grow, harvest and use for students.

"I've had this idea in my head for a while now," Endres added. "After I heard about this, I took a lot of time to research and study and really learn about the system and how it could work here.

"I've been working closely with the company and they've been very helpful answering all my questions, and getting it all set up and operational."

A team from Fork Farms came to TK and built the system in one day. They worked with the TK maintenance department, and building and grounds employees, who helped with the water, electrical and space needs.

Endres said she has also been in contact with the local health department and has a strict regime of checks and balances to ensure food safety. Each day she monitors water quality and nutrient levels, and has a schedule of cleaning and maintaining the growing system, as plants are harvested and others planted.



Thornapple Kellogg Schools Food Service Director Jessica Endres stands with lettuce grown using the hydroponic system. **Courtesy photo**

In addition to the larger acre units, Endres also purchased four Flex Farms units that are smaller, portable units that can be used in classrooms and include an educational curriculum provided by Fork Farms.

"I'm most proud that this department can give back educationally to the students with this program," she said. "There is always somewhat of a disconnect between food service and education and now we're going to be teaching students how to grow their own food.

"Education is important. And we want to share this option of growing food with our students."

The portable units reportedly are easily moved between classrooms and buildings. "There's a buy-in from students," Endres added. "If they have a hand in planting or growing something, they are much more likely to try eating it."

The portable farms can grow more than 390 pounds of produce each year, while requiring just a standard electrical outlet and less than 10 square feet of space. The units have a fully contained water system, energy-efficient LED light towers and a pump allowing it to be in a corner of a classroom and then easily relocated to another classroom.

Students have actually already had a hand in helping, according to district officials. During the high school's annual service day, several students helped prepare the pods and plant the first seedlings in the Flex Acres units.

Endres has thanked students, the district's administration, board of education members, the building and grounds department, and the maintenance department, as well as her own food service workers for supporting the effort and making her idea become a reality.

"I can't see a downside to it," she said. "Nutritional, freshness, food security – it's all that and it provides educational opportunities and buy-in from students.

"Nutrition is a big passion of mine, and I believe this is a way we can get more nutritious food into each of our buildings and create enthusiasm with students."

Report courtesy of Thornapple Kellogg Schools

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Obituaries

Micah Thomas Van Zanen

Micah Thomas Van Zanen was born to Rebecca (Becky) and Robert Van Zanen on March 17, 2025 at Butterworth Hospital in Grand Rapids, MI.

In the Bible, Micah was a prophet called by God to speak truth to those in power, urging them to act with justice, mercy, and humility. Our Micah was also honored to bear the name Thomas after his loving Pappap and Jesus' disciple.

Before he was born, Micah was diagnosed with complex congenital heart disease and spent his life in Room 819 at Helen DeVos Children's Hospital Pediatric Cardiac Intensive Care Unit. While there, he had four major heart surgeries and enchanted us with his silky red hair, engaging blue eyes, and tight finger squeezes. The three months and one day of his life were a gift and while his earthly heart could not sustain his body, he captured our hearts forever.



Micah passed from the loving arms of his parents into the loving arms of his heavenly Father on Wednesday, June 18, 2025. There he met the innumerable friends and family who have gone on before him to live with Christ, particularly his Great Granddaddy, Robert Smith, and Great Grandpa, Charles Hamstra.

He left behind a wonderful community of family and friends who miss him, none more than his Mama, Dada, and big sister, Ana. He is remembered and loved by his Pappap and Nana (Thomas and Barbara Soyster), Grandpa and Grandma (Steven and Christine Van Zanen), Auntie Katie Van Zanen, Uncle Nathan Groenewold, Aunt Amy Van Zanen, Uncle Joseph Van Drunen, Uncle Paul Soyster, Aunt Bre Soyster, great grandmothers Margaret (Peggy) Smith and Beatrice Hamstra, and cousin Beatrice Van Drunen and well as many extended family members, friends, and the community at Restoration Christian Reformed Church.

We invite all to join us in celebrating Micah's life and mourning his passing. Visitation will take place from 10-11 a.m. at Brookside Christian Reformed Church (3600 Kalamazoo Ave SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49508) on Saturday June 28, 2025. There will then be a service at 11 a.m. with luncheon to follow. Nursery care for those with young children will be available as well as a livestream option for those unable to join in person (broadcast on Brookside CRC's YouTube channel). Following the luncheon, family members are invited to participate in a graveside service in Middleville with dinner to follow.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the Betz Congenital Heart Center or Restoration Christian Reformed Church.

Robert and Becky would like to specifically thank the wonderful and skilled medical team that cared for Micah and our entire family throughout his life. Thank you for giving us the gift of time with our son and for loving him, and us, so well.

Thank you also to our incredible family, friends, church, and co-workers who supported us through months of prenatal appointments, travel back and forth to the hospital, and time away from home. Your generosity and kindness is overwhelming. We could not have made this journey without you.

Finally, thank you to the many around the world who prayed fervently for Micah and for our family. There is no greater gift. We are forever grateful. Please visit www.beelergoresfuneral.com to share a memory or to leave a condolence message for Micah's family.

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Church: (269) 795-2391

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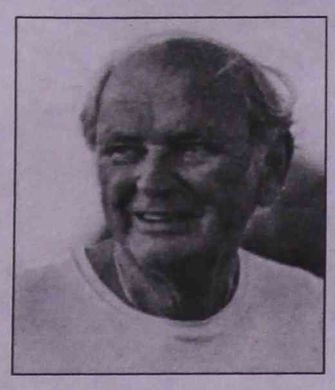
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Obituaries

Wayne Douglas Bartlett



Wayne Douglas Bartlett, age 79, of Shelbyville, MI, passed away peacefully at home on June 18, 2025, just shy of his 80th birthday. He was an amazing husband, supportive dad, a champion grandpa, and a dedicated friend. Everyone who knew Wayne enjoyed his company.

Born on August 24, 1945, in Marshall, MI, Wayne graduated from Ferris State University with a degree in economics and finance. He spent over 30 years with General Motors, where he earned the respect of his colleagues and formed lasting friendships. Former co-workers often recalled how genuinely kind and supportive he was to those who worked for him. Known for his dedication, quick wit, humor, and strong work ethic, Wayne left a lasting impression on everyone who knew him.

Wayne embraced life with quiet strength and an open heart. He came to understand the joys of travel and the peaceful rhythm of lake life. As his health changed, he continued to find new ways to connect with family and friends, never losing his curiosity or his ability to find beauty in everyday life. He loved Gun Lake, a good bourbon, card games, puzzles, and competing in local golf and pool leagues.

He found great joy in cheering on his grandchildren—whether at sporting events, school plays, dance recitals, or marching band performances—no matter the weather. He found special moments of connection in simple things: bonding with his grandson at the barbershop, watching recorded events of his grandkids and great-grandkids, or simply sending a quick text. Wayne had a deep love for his family and was always ready to lend a hand, offer advice, or simply be present. His pets were just as dear to him, and he cherished their companionship as part of the family. One of his grandsons described him best: welcoming, calm, and always composed.

Audrey, his greatest companion and source of strength, survives him, along with his children, Jenny and Brian (Mickey); grandchildren, Nikki, Ryan, Grace, Rachel, and Michael; and six great-grandchildren. He is also survived by, who he called, his bonus children, Yvonne, Lisa (David), and Tonya (John); and bonus grandchildren, Brice (Cheyenne), Carlee (Kody), Kiley, Kennedy, Caden, Morgan, and Delaney.

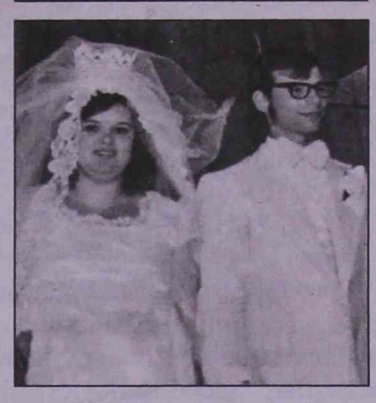
Wayne was preceded in death by his parents, his first wife, Judy, and his sister, Carol Warsop.

A memorial service was held on Saturday, June 21, 2025, at Beeler-Gores Funeral Home in Middleville, MI. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly asks that donations be made to the Karmanos Breast Cancer Institute or that a tree be purchased and planted in Wayne's memory. Please visit www.beelergoresfuneral.com to share a memory or to leave a condolence message for Wayne's family.

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ANNIVERSARY ANNOUNCEMENT





Chuck and Melissa Flora to Celebrate 50th Wedding Anniversary

Chuck and Melissa Flora of Middleville, are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary!

They were married on July 12, 1975 at North Irving Wesleyan Church.

Their children are Gerrit and Amanda Keizer and grandchildren Ryan and Madelyn.

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Field of Flight readies for takeoff in Battle Creek

The Battle Creek Field of Flight Air Show and Balloon Festival is preparing to take to the skies next week. The event, which is the largest combined air show and balloon festival in North America, runs July 2-6 at Battle Creek Executive Airport.

The event will feature five days of family activities. This includes air shows, hot-air balloons, fireworks, concerts, a carnival and more. New this year is a drone show that will take place July 3.

"This will be our first-ever drone show and it was brought in by popular demand," said Bretten Bailey, a spokesperson for the event. "The drone show will be one of the most spectacular attractions we have brought in and it's being produced by a Michigan-based company, Starlight Aerial Productions." The show is being dubbed "Starlight Spectacular," added Bailey.

Field of Flight will also feature two fireworks displays. These will take place on July 2 and July 4. These shows will also feature nighttime pyrotechnics. Attendees will not only be able to see colorful fireworks in the sky, but also phosphorus effects on the ground and walls of fire.



The United States Air Force Thunderbirds are headlining this year's Field of Flight Air Show, which is the largest in the state of Michigan. **Courtesy photo**

Prior to the fireworks displays both nights, the "HOT STREAK II" '57 Chevy Jet Truck will do a night performance and run. There will also be Balloon Illumes, where the balloons light their burners to illuminate their envelopes at twilight on July 2 and July 3.

The event also features one of the nation's largest twilight and night air shows on July 5, the Twilight & Night Air Show.

"If you've never seen a night airshow before, you're in for a real treat" said Bailey. "It is truly a magical event. Walt Disney would've been impressed with how these theatrical night air shows are performed."

The twilight air show will feature aircraft performing against the setting sun. As it gets dark, the aircraft will then perform with lights, pyrotechnics, wingtip pyro, aerial launched fireworks and more.

"You'll get two air shows for the price of one on the 5th" said Bailey. "We'll have our day air show that day as well"

Air shows, scheduled for July 4-6 will feature the United States Air Force Thunderbirds, the U.S. Army Golden Knights, the U.S. Navy F/A-18F Super Hornet RHINO Demo Team and the U.S. Air Force F-35A Lightning II Demo Team, among others. July 3 will feature a civilian warm up show.

Over 150,000 people are expected to attend this year's event.

Tickets for the 2025 Field of Flight are on sale now at fieldofflight.com. Advanced purchase is recommended, but not required. Parking will be cash only. Organizers request exact change of $5 to help keep traffic flowing.

The Battle Creek Field of Flight Air Show & Balloon Festival is the largest in North America. The event is one of the longest-running annual air shows and balloon festivals in the state of Michigan as well as being Battle Creek's largest festival.

The event has been held over the 4th of July holiday in Battle Creek since 1980.

For more information on the event, visit fieldofflight.com or call 269-962-0592. Follow their Facebook and Instagram pages for the latest updates.

— John Hendler



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Chamber officials celebrate grand opening of new hotel



A 124-suite extended-stay hotel that opened in Gaines Township earlier this spring kicked off its grand opening celebration with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Wednesday afternoon, June 18. The 124-suite Staybridge Suites Grand Rapids South Hotel, located on Eastport Drive just north of M-6, is part of the Namou Hotel Group and is owned by IHG Hotels & Resorts. The hotel group is a member of the Gaines Chamber of Commerce. The new hotel features a fitness center, a sun terrace and an indoor swimming pool. Additional facilities include a lounge, outdoor fireplace, and outdoor seating areas. Here, representatives of the hotel group, along with various members of the Gaines chamber, the Staybridge Suites staff, and Gaines Township board and staff members gather for last week's ribbon cutting. **Courtesy photo**

Middleville Lions hosting Independence Day celebration

Molly Macleod
Editor

The Middleville Lions will keep with tradition, hosting the annual Independence Day celebration this coming July 4.

The free celebration begins early in the day at 9 a.m. at Middleville's downtown amphitheater. There, attendees can enjoy a live DJ while the youngsters can work out some energy on the bounce house. The celebration will continue at the amphitheater until 2 p.m.

After a midday break, the party moves to the Thornapple Kellogg High School soccer fields from 6 to 10:45 p.m. There will be free activities for both kids and adults, along with live music from The BlueCatz and food trucks.

Free activities, provided by BattleGR Tactical Games, include laser tag, bow and arrow tag, axe throwing and airbrush tattoos.

Fireworks will begin around 10 p.m. on Friday, July 4.

Thornapple Valley Church will be handing out a limited supply of free hot dogs during the July 4 event.

Seating is not provided.

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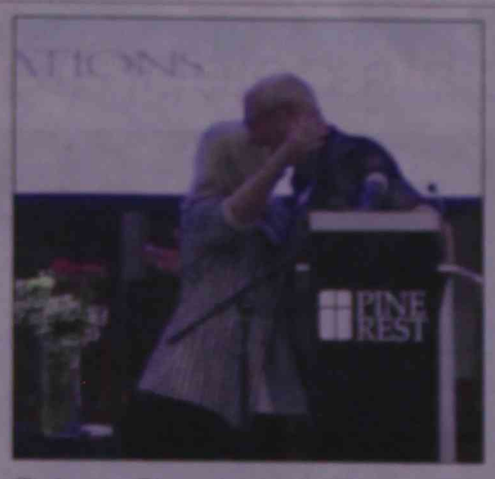
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- Ad-Visor & Chronicle
- Battle Creek Shopper News
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Gaines Chamber of Commerce president Barb Nauta gives Tom Stehouwer a hug after his speech accepting the Outstanding Person of the Year/Lifetime Achievement Award at the chamber's annual awards presentation on June 10.



Tom Stehouwer shares some memories of growing up in Cutlerville after receiving the Gaines Chamber of Commerce's Outstanding Person of the Year/Lifetime Achievement Award on June 10.

STEHOUWER

Continued from Page 1

grandpa's porch, and I had Tom's beans for 5 cents a bag.

"And, then, I was one of the younger members of the volunteer fire department … and my dad was fire chief."

Stehouwer was later drafted into the U.S. Army and subsequently worked at Pfeiffer Lincoln Mercury.

"I had to sell everything to get started (in business)," Stehouwer said.

He thanked family members and those who have worked for his company over the years.

"I love you all very much," he said. "You guys are very important. I think we've been very good for the community."

Stehouwer added that his grandparents once had a house on the northeast corner of 68th Street and Division Avenue.

"And they would house the nurses that came to Pine Rest to learn how to be nurses," he said.

Brent Springvloed of The Springvloed Agency/Farm Bureau Insurance was named the chamber's Business Owner of the Year.

"We have been so very blessed to have Brent serving on our chamber board … for about four years. His leadership and love for helping our community is truly outstanding," Nauta said. "As a business owner, Brent is a licensed multi-line insurance agent."

Previously, Springvloed also taught at South Christian High School for 16 years.

"I'd just like to thank Barb and the chamber for this recognition," he said. "I really appreciate it. I want to say thanks to my staff members who are here … thank you so much for all that you do.

"As you know, in whatever position that you're in, it's often the people that don't get the recognition that deserve it the most."

The Business of the Year Award went to Railtown Brewing Company in Dutton. Justin Buiter and Gim Lee co-founded Railtown in 2014. They also co-own the adjacent Good Mooed Café on 68th Street.

"The Gaines Chamber of Commerce appreciates both Justin and Gim," Nauta said. "Our community is so blessed with your generous and amazing contributions and your sponsorship."

In a video presentation at the luncheon, chamber officials stated that the nominations are for chamber businesses and business owners who demonstrate outstanding personal character, community involvement and business leadership. The nominations were given by all active chamber businesses and voted on by its business committee.

"We were also able to award 11 different scholarships this year,"

Commissioners approve body cam and radio purchase

Molly Macleod
Editor

By the end of this year, officers with the Barry County Sheriff's Office, along with corrections officers at the Barry County Jail, will all be sporting new, body-worn cameras thanks to a purchase approved by the Barry County Board of Commissioners at its regular meeting this week.

The purchase agreement approved on Tuesday includes 30 new in-car cameras, 22 new in-car radios, the repurposing of 11 current in-car radios, four additional desktop radios, 36 new portable radios, the repurposing of current Kenwood radios to jail staff and 46 body cameras. Of those 46 cameras, 21 will be used by Barry County Jail staff. The rest will go to BCSD officers.

The county is purchasing the upgraded equipment from Motorola and Crouch Communications. Because the purchase came mid-budget year, the county plans to finance the purchase. County Administrator Eric Zuzga proposed financing the purchase with a $848,358.73 installment purchase agreement from Highpoint Community Bank for three years with an interest rate of 3.99 percent. That purchase agreement was approved unanimously, 7-0, on Tuesday. Commissioner Catherine Getty was absent.

An unbudgeted purchase of this size is unusual at this point in the budget cycle. Recent events helped push the purchase up in priority for commissioners.

Radio encryption standards are changing in the fall, and Motorola is including steep discounts not offered by competitors for the full technology package. In October, Barry County Sheriff's Department officers were involved in an officer-involved shooting in Delton. Though officers were cleared of any wrongdoing in that event, the need for body cameras was felt more acutely after that incident, said Zuzga.

Body-worn cameras can help protect the county from liability. In turn, if an officer commits a wrongdoing, body-worn cameras can help hold that officer accountable for his or her misdoings.

Body cameras can also streamline an officer's daily work.

"Having those body cameras allows us to record coming into the scenes, our interviews, things like that. I think it's extremely important every single one of us has one of those," said Sgt. Scott Ware during Tuesday's public comment period.

Though the purchase will spell a hit to county funds, the three-year financing allows Zuzga and his team time to whittle down the costs with grant funding. Commissioners voted on Tuesday to approve an application to the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority for up to $95,000 in grant dollars to help offset the cost of the Motorola purchase. Barry County Sheriff Dar Leaf also mentioned current efforts from Rep. Angela Rigas for a $230,000 state budget appropriation to the county to offset the cost of the camera and radio purchase.

"I appreciate our partnership with Motorola, thanks for coming here and answering our questions. And our jail and officers, we're looking forward to providing that additional safety and transparency for our community, for what that's going to bring. It's a new chapter for Barry County," said County Board Chair Dave Jackson. "We know it's a little bit incident-driven off of something that happened, and now different stories, we want to eliminate that in our future. We look forward to this next chapter with our law enforcement and with their protection and security going forward."



The Barry County Board of Commissioners voted this week to approve the purchase of body cameras, in-car cameras, mobile and in-car radios for the Barry County Sheriff's Department. Pictured here at last week's Committee of the Whole meeting is Sheriff Dar Leaf discussing the department's need for the purchase. **Photo by Molly Macleod**

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The Legacy of Leadership

In July, Dr. Kim Norris completes her final term on the Barry Community Foundation Board of Directors. Serving her 2nd nine-year term, she becomes one of the first "double emeritus" board members to reach her term limit. Inspired to give back to her community, she is especially excited about the work done to establish several programs providing workforce housing in Barry County. As an ophthalmologist and owner of Creekside Vision, she is able to give back in many ways.

If you want to learn more on leaving a legacy, call Bonnie Gettys or Annie Halle at 269-945-0526, to ensure your gifts support your hopes and dreams.

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Caledonia church to host 10th annual 'Kind Like Katie' blood drive

The Caledonia Community Church will host the 10th annual "Kind Like Katie" Memorial Blood Drive, held in honor of Katie Fairchild, on July 8 with a goal of collecting 67 units of blood.

Fairchild, the daughter of Kristina and David Fairchild, was killed in a car accident on May 3, 2015, while on her way to babysit.

"During her time in Girl Scouts, Katie learned the value of blood donations," her parents stated in a testimonial. "She provided years of childcare services during Holy Family blood drives so moms and dads could donate.

"She was looking forward to donating blood herself for the first time," they added. "Unfortunately, it was scheduled just three days after her death. She was given many pints of blood after the accident. We still had to say goodbye to her, but blood donations were essential to her final moments."

According to organizers of the annual blood drive, a total of 756 pints of blood have been collected during the first nine years of Kind Like Katie blood drives.

Versiti-Blood Center of Michigan will again partner with Caledonia Community Church for this year's event set for 1-6:30 p.m. at the Holy Family Catholic Parish at 9669 Kraft Ave. in Caledonia. Every donor will receive an ice cream treat – Katie's favorite – and every individual who attempts to donate will receive a pickleball set.

The blood drive is open to the public. Anyone 17 or older is eligible to donate blood, with persons 16 years of age eligible to donate with parental permission.

If interested in donating blood, individuals may sign up online at versiti.org/ccc or contact blood drive chairperson Char Mello by calling 616-901-2803. Making an appointment is preferred but walk-ins are welcome, as schedule allows. — *DM*

Conservation district officials to treat roadsides for invasive species

The Barry Conservation District is going on the warpath, preparing to fight various invasive species along roadside right-of-ways in both Barry and Calhoun counties.

According to a recent announcement by BCD officials, the local conservation district based in Hastings has been contracted by Barry and Calhoun Counties to perform custom chemical vegetation control services for phragmites and knotweed – two state-prohibited invasive species – found along local road right-of-ways.

Technicians reportedly apply EPA-registered materials as part of the Barry-Calhoun-Kalamazoo Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area.

Work to complete the treatments will be conducted between June 23 and Sept. 30.

Persons who own a property adjacent to where treatment has occurred and wish for us to expand beyond the public right-of-way, or those seeking to report sightings of phragmites, knotweed, or other invasive species, are encouraged to contact Sara Huetteman, invasive species coordinator by calling 269-908-4136 or via email at bckcisma@gmail.com. — *DM*

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CALEDONIA BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Meeting Minutes

The minutes for the June 4, 2025 Township Board of Trustees Meeting that were approved on June 18, 2025, are posted at the Township Offices at 8196 Broadmoor Ave., and on the website at www.caledoniatownship.org.

Village of Middleville

COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the June 10, 2025 Regular Council Meeting, that were approved on May June 24, 2025, are posted at the Village Hall at 100 E Main Street and on the website at www.villageofmiddleville.org.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

GAINES CHARTER TOWNSHIP

At a regular meeting of the **Gaines Charter Township Board** of Trustees, held Monday, June 9, 2025, at the Township Hall located at 8555 Kalamazoo Ave., SE, Caledonia, MI 49316, the Board of Trustees was asked to consider an ordinance to amend and approve the Authentix Gaines Planned Unit Development rezoning.

The Township Board of Trustees has set a public hearing date of July 14, 2025, to be held at the Board of Trustees regularly scheduled meeting commencing at 6:00PM on said date. The purpose of the public hearing is to consider a request by Continental 870 Fund LLC to consider the rezoning of land to the Authentix Gaines Planned Unit Development (PUD), site plan, associated roads, and utilities. The PUD is legally described as:

Parcel 1: 41-22-02-100-051 Commonly known as 6338 Hanna Lake Ave., SE
Parcel 2: 41-22-02-100-055 Commonly known as 6330 Hanna Lake Ave., SE
Parcel 3: 41-22-02-100-053 Commonly known as 6326 Hanna Lake Ave., SE

A true copy of the proposed ordinance to amend and approve the Authentix Gaines Planned Unit Development rezoning, can be obtained at the Clerk's office during normal business hours (8:30am-5:00PM Mon-Fri).

Michael A. Brew
Gaines Charter Township Clerk

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

GAINES CHARTER TOWNSHIP

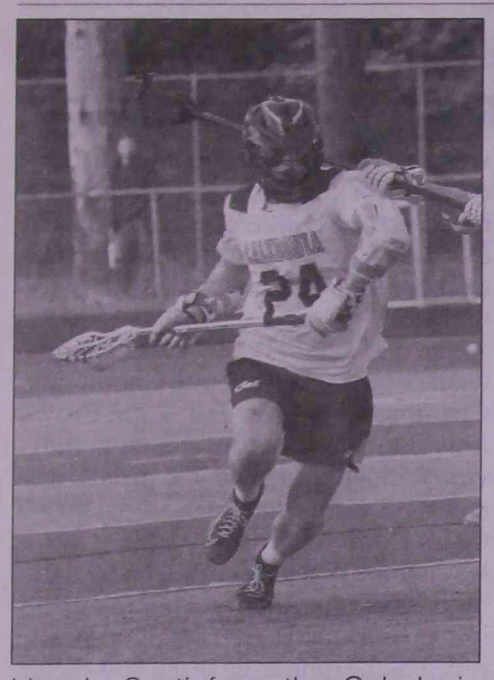
At a regular meeting of the **Gaines Charter Township Board** of Trustees, held Monday, June 9, 2025, at the Township Hall located at 8555 Kalamazoo Ave., SE, Caledonia, MI 49316, the Board of Trustees was asked to consider an ordinance to amend the Gaines Charter Township Zoning Ordinance as provided for in Chapter 32 thereof by amending Section 2.20 and the Township Zoning Map. The requested amendment of Section 2.20 thereof, the Zoning Map, so as to rezone the following property from Agricultural/Rural Residential (ARR) to Village Residential (VR), the land being commonly described as parcel 41-22-32-200-005 located at 1264 100th Street SE. The legal description is as follows:

W ½ NE ¼ EX S 20 A. & EX N 750 FT OF E 691 FT & EX N 223 FT OF W 396 FT* SEC 32 T5N R11W 46.08 A.

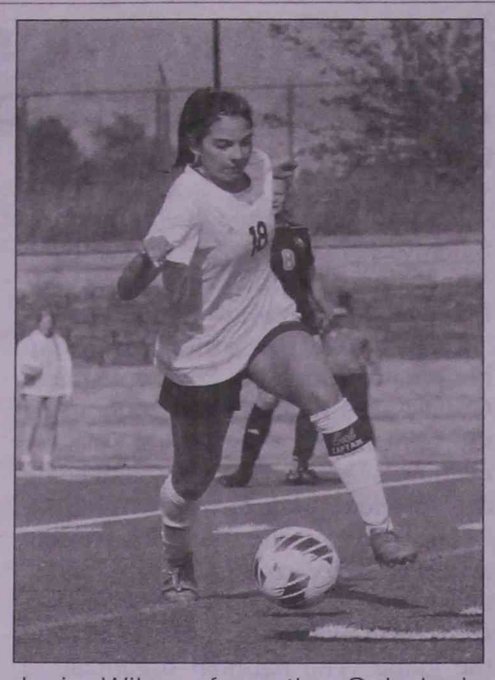
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A true copy of the proposed ordinance to amend the Gaines Charter Township Zoning Ordinance as provided for in Chapter 32 thereof by amending Section 2.20 and the Township Zoning Map, can be obtained at the Clerk's office during normal business hours (8:30am-5:00PM Mon-Fri).

Michael A. Brew
Gaines Charter Township Clerk



Lincoln Senti from the Caledonia boys' lacrosse team was named second team all-state in Division 2 this spring. **Photos by Brett Bremer**



Josie Wilcox from the Caledonia varsity girls' soccer team was named honorable mention all-state in Division 1 this spring.

Scots celebrated for performance on field and in classroom

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

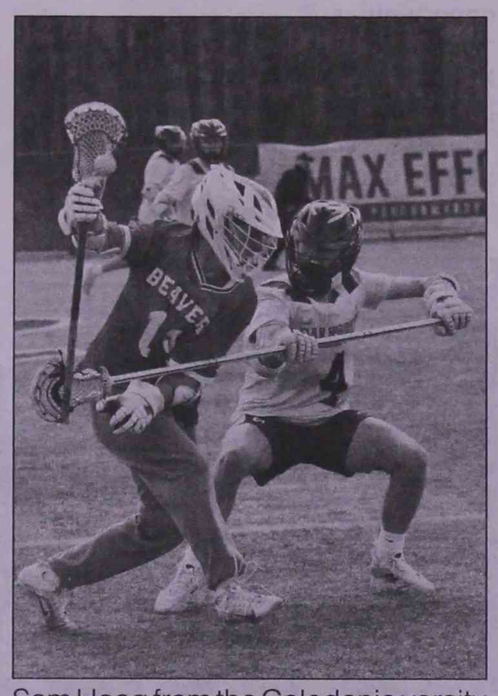
Postseason honors have been rolling in for the Caledonia High School athletic programs.

Both the Caledonia varsity girls' lacrosse team and the Caledonia varsity girls' soccer team have earned academic all-state honors.

Individually, Eden Korb, Elena La Franca and Kenna VanLente from the girls' lacrosse team have earned academic all-state honors, as did senior pitcher Cam Myers from the Caledonia varsity baseball team.

On the field, senior defender Josie Wilcox from the Caledonia varsity girls' soccer team was named honorable mention all-state in Division 1 by the Michigan Interscholastic High School Soccer Coaches Association.

The Caledonia varsity boys' lacrosse team had one of its best seasons yet with a run to the MHSAA Division 2 State Quarterfinals for just the second time in program history. Lincoln Senti and Sam Hoag were both named second team all-state in Division 2 by the Michigan High School Lacrosse Coaches Association, and teammates Brady Hilaski, Emmett Haan and Rylan Bultema were all named honorable mention all-state.



Sam Hoag from the Caledonia varsity boys' lacrosse team was named second team all-state in Division 2 this spring.

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CALEDONIA
COUNTY OF KENT, MICHIGAN

NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF VARIOUS ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at a regular meeting on June 18, 2025, the Township Board of the Charter Township of Caledonia (the "Township") adopted an ordinance (the "Ordinance") to amend various provisions of the Township Zoning Ordinance. The principal provisions of the Ordinance are summarized as follows:

Section 1 of the Ordinance amends Section 2.2 of the Zoning Ordinance regarding definitions by the replacement of the definition for "Garage – Private" to provide that a private garage is an accessory building for a space within a dwelling or building devoted to storage of vehicles and other motorized and non-motorized items.

Section 2 of the Ordinance amends Section 3.10 of the Zoning Ordinance regarding accessory buildings by the addition of a new Section 3.10(h) that provides that up to one accessory building that does not exceed 200 square feet in area is permitted, which does not count toward the maximum square footage allowable for accessory buildings in the applicable zoning district.

Section 3 of the Ordinance amends Section 3.11 of the Zoning Ordinance regarding residential accessory buildings, including changes to the maximum allowable total square footage for accessory buildings in Table 3.1 and Table 3.2. It also amends Section 3.11 by permitting a greater floor area of up to 15% of the allowable total square footage for an accessory building if approved as a special land use by the Planning Commission, subject to compliance with applicable architectural standards.

Section 4 of the Ordinance amends Section 3.29 of the Zoning Ordinance regarding driveways and private streets, including changes to the table summarizing the categorical requirements for shared driveways and private streets, the definition of roadbed, and the required easement for shared driveways. It also amends certain design and construction requirements in Section 3.29, including requirements related to roadbed standards for certain private streets, standards for vehicle turnarounds for private streets that are longer than 150 feet and terminate in a dead end, requiring traffic calming devices to be reviewed and approved by the Township Fire Chief prior to installation, connectivity requirements for existing or future developments, street shoulder requirements, and vehicle turnoff and pedestrian connection requirements for mail kiosks. It also clarifies that principal dwellings that are existing prior to the establishment of a private street may be incorporated into the private street and do not count toward the number of homes to determine the minimum requirements of construction, but the existing principal dwelling may have a driveway only to the private street and must be a party to the private street maintenance agreement.

Section 5 of the Ordinance amends Section 3.36 of the Zoning Ordinance regarding recreational vehicle parking in certain zoning districts to add the A District and the R-R District to the list of districts where parking of recreational vehicles is allowed in the side and rear yards. Section 3.36 was also amended to clarify that recreational vehicles cannot be parked within the required front yard or in any area between the street right-of-way line and the main front wall of the building, except that recreational vehicles may be parked or stored on a driveway in the front yard, including within the required front yard setback.

Section 6 of the Ordinance amends Section 3.50 of the Zoning Ordinance regarding outdoor lighting by the addition of a new Section 3.50(d)(10) which provides that light pole and fixture colors shall be limited to dark bronze or black.

Section 7 of the Ordinance amends Section 3.59 of the Zoning Ordinance regarding architectural standards, by clarifying that architectural standards apply to office buildings within the HC, Broadmoor and Cherry Valley Overlay, C-1, C-2, and R-4 Zoning Districts. It also amends Section 3.59(d)(1)(i) to reflect that the façade standards for commercial and mixed-use buildings also apply to office buildings.

Section 8 of the Ordinance amends the Zoning Ordinance by the addition of a new Section 3.61 regulating commercial and industrial access drives. The new Section 3.61 includes design and construction standards for commercial and industrial access drives, including requirements for the paved surface, curbs, the frontage treatment of such drives, greenbelt buffer requirements, and compliance with design and construction standards for drives in other sections of the Zoning Ordinance.

Section 9 of the Ordinance amends Chapter 19 of the Zoning Ordinance regarding signage to add a new Section 19.2(d) addressing when signs may be illuminated and the requirements for illuminated signs.

Section 10 of the Ordinance amends Table 28A and Table 28B of the Zoning Ordinance regarding the size and spacing requirements when landscaping is required.

Section 11 of the Ordinance provides that the Ordinance shall become effective seven days after this publication.

A copy of the ordinance may be inspected or purchased at the offices of the Township Clerk, Caledonia Township Hall, 8196 Broadmoor Avenue SE, within the Township, during normal business hours.

Dated: June 25, 2025

TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CALEDONIA

TK's Crews wins state Positive Athlete award for cross country

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Recent Thornapple Kellogg High School graduate Ava Crews has been named the 2025 girls' cross country MI Positive Athlete Award winner.

Crews and the other Michigan honorees through the Positive Athlete Great Lakes Region were honored on the field before the start of Tuesday evening's Detroit Tigers baseball game at Comerica Park in downtown Detroit.

The goal of the Positive Athlete awards is to recognize student-athletes across the country for their leadership, resilience, and character beyond the game. The national organization received 12,270 nominations, across 50 states and 3,327 schools during this year's nomination period.

The group looks for kids who lead with positivity, determination, and resilience. All Positive Athlete nominees are not only eligible for recognition, they gain access to career development, leadership, mentorship, and job opportunities.

The Great Lakes Region includes Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota.

Crews is set to join the Grand Valley State University Women's Cross Country and Track and Field programs. She was a four-time state qualifier in cross country for the Trojans and earned a medal at the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division Cross Country Finals to close out her senior season with a 26th-place finish.

The TK varsity girls' cross country team won the OK Gold Conference Championship this fall with Crews finishing as the conference's individual champion. The TK girls' track and field team won back to back OK Gold Conference titles with Crews leading the distance crew, she won the individual conference championship in the 1600-meter run, the 3200-meter run, was the runner-up in the 800-meter run and helped the 4x800-meter relay team to a conference title.

Throughout her track and field seasons, Crews ran in the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 2 Track and Field Finals in the 1600-meter run and the 3200-meter run as a junior. She earned an all-state medal as a late fill-in for the Trojan 4x400-meter relay team at the 2023 state finals her sophomore track and field season, and competed at the D2 finals in the 3200-meter run in both her freshman and sophomore seasons.

She also competed in indoor track and field competitions throughout high school.



Recent Thornapple Kellogg graduate Ava Crews (second row, second from right) is honored along with other Positive Athlete state award winners before the start of Tuesday's Major League Baseball game between the Detroit Tigers and the Athletics at Comerica Park in downtown Detroit Tuesday. **Photo provided**

Pools open in Middleville and Caledonia throughout summer

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

In addition to the multitude of lakes and ponds and the Thornapple River rolling through the heart of Barry County, a couple community pools are open to help area residents try and beat the heat this summer too in Middleville and Caledonia.

The recently refurbished pool at Thornapple Kellogg High School in Middleville is open Monday through Friday from 1 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. with its four 25-yard swim lanes, music playing, updated locker rooms and floaties, noodles, kickboards and more available upon request. Admission is $2 per person per visit, and there are also options available for 12-visit passes and yearly passes. Children under three are free.

The pool in Middleville is also open from 5 a.m. to 8 a.m. Monday through Friday for lap swimming.

Swimmers are asked to enter the high school through door B9, near the weight room on the south side of the high school.

There are also Aqua Motion and Gentle Aquafit classes going on on Monday and Wednesday evenings. Aqua Motion classes run from 6:30 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. and Gentle Aquafit classes from 7:30 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. The two independent, drop-in water fitness classes are open to everyone for $2 per class. No registration is needed.

The TK pool will be closed July 3, 4, 5 for the 4th of July holiday.

There is also of course the new pool at the Cal Community Center YMCA on Kraft Avenue SE, across the street from Duncan Lake Middle School also has its competition and leisure pools open throughout the week.

The facility hours in Caledonia are 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 5 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Fridays, 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays, and noon to 4 p.m. on Sundays. Visit the Cal Community Center page of the grymca.org website for a specific pool schedule which includes open swim and lap swim times as well as class schedules.

Rates for association wide membership to the Grand Rapids YMCA and Cal Community Center specific membership can be found on the organization's website as well. A monthly Cal Community Center Only Household membership includes a $100 join fee and a $117 monthly charge. A four-month Summer Household membership to the Cal Center is currently available for a $350 fee.

There are also separate memberships available for young adults, seniors, adults and youth.



The Cal Community Center pool opened with a first splash back in February and the recently refurbished pool at Thornapple Kellogg High School in Middleville is open this summer as well to give residents the chance to cool off or get some exercise in. **Photo provided**

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CALEDONIA
COUNTY OF KENT, MICHIGAN

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Thursday, July 17, at 6:00 p.m., the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Charter Township of Caledonia will hold a Public Hearing at the Caledonia Township Building, 8196 Broadmoor Ave SE, Caledonia, Michigan, concerning the applications of Ben Bozek for Michigan Department of Transportation, for 8 properties along Broadmoor Ave. that will be affected by the future expansion of M-37.

The applicant is seeking variances from:

1) The minimum front and side yard setback requirements for buildings and parking as set forth in the Zoning Ordinance & PUD Ordinances, including but not limited to, ZO Sections 16.39 and 27.11(a) & (b).
2) Green space/landscape buffer requirements as set forth in the Zoning Ordinance, PUD Ordinances, including but not limited to, ZO Sections 15.5(q) and 27.10(g).
3) Any lot size, width or coverage requirements set forth in the Zoning Ordinance, including but not limited to ZO Sections 15.5 and 27.11(a) & (b), with respect to the property in its condition following completion of Michigan Department of Transportation Project No. CS 41031 JN 210063.
4) Sign setback regulations as set forth in the Zoning Ordinance, PUD Ordinances, including but not limited to, ZO Section 19.13 (c)(2)(iii) and Section 19.13(d)(5) due to lack of greenspace.

The variances requested are for the following parcels:

AutoZone at 6440 Cherry Meadow Dr., Parcel Number 41-23-21-152-003, *legally described as:*

*412321152003 UNIT 3 * CHERRY MEADOW BUSINESS PARK KENT COUNTY CONDOMINIUM SUBDIVISION PLAN NO.897 INSTRUMENT NO.20071101-0105801 AS AMENDED BY REPLAT NO.1 INSTRUMENT NO.20090129-0006794 SPLIT ON 12/17/2007 FROM 41-23-21-151-009;*

Taco Bell at 6445 Cherry Meadow Dr., Parcel Number 41-23-21-152-002, *legally described as:*

*412321152002 UNIT 2 * CHERRY MEADOW BUSINESS PARK KENT COUNTY CONDOMINIUM SUBDIVISION PLAN NO.897 INSTRUMENT NO.20071101-0105801 AS AMENDED BY REPLAT NO.1 INSTRUMENT NO.20090129-0006794 SPLIT ON 12/17/2007 FROM 41-23-21-151-009;*

PECU at 6451 Cherry Meadow Dr., Parcel Number 41-23-21-152-009, *legally described as:*

*412321152009 UNIT 1 * CHERRY MEADOW BUSINESS PARK KENT COUNTY CONDOMINIUM SUBDIVISION PLAN NO.897 INSTRUMENT NO.20071101-0105801 AS AMENDED BY REPLAT NO.1 INSTRUMENT NO.20090129-0006794 & AS AMENDED BY REPLAT NO.2 INSTRUMENT NO.20200917-0085119 SPLIT/COMBINED ON 01/08/2021 FROM 41-23-21-151-010, 41-23-21-152-001;*

United Bank at 8540 Broadmoor Ave., Parcel Number 41-23-20-230-001, *legally described as:*

*THAT PART OF N 1/2 NE 1/4 LYING E OF CL OF HWY M37 * SEC 20 T5N R10W 10.60 A.*

Uccello's at 8256 Broadmoor Ave., Parcel Number 41-23-17-400-069, *legally described as:*

*412317400069 PART OF SE 1/4 COM AT SE COR OF SEC TH S 88D 24M 20S W ALONG S SEC LINE 451.75 FT TH N 1D 35M 40S W 223.52 FT TH N 4D 34M 50S W 596.78 FT TH NWLY 218.51 FT ALONG A 240.02 FT RAD CURVE TO RT /LONG CHORD BEARS N 55D 28M 46S W 211.04 FT/ TO BEG OF THIS DESC - TH S 62D 19M 04S W 391.43 FT TO ELY LINE OF BROADMOOR AVE /STL M37 - 120 FT WIDE/ TH N 27D 40M 56S W ALONG SD ELY LINE 520.40 FT TH S 82D 46M 07S E 239.31 FT TH S 72D 00M 00S E 336.71 FT TH S 0D 31M 01S W 24.63 FT TH SELY 125.32 FT ALONG A 240.02 FT RAD CURVE TO LT /LONG CHORD BEARS S 14D 26M 29S E 123.91 FT/ TO BEG * SEC 17 T5N R10W 3.36 A. SPLIT ON 06/08/2004 FROM 41-23-17-400-064;*

HBT at 8184 Broadmoor Ave., Parcel Number 41-23-17-400-054, *legally described as:*

*PART SE 1/4 COM AT SE COR OF SEC TH N 0D 44M 06S W ALONG E SEC LINE 1888.22 FT TH S 73D 56M 49S W 606.02 FT TH S 0D 44M 06S E 271.73 FT TH S 74D 05M 00S W 212.18 FT TH N 58D 20M 00S W 200.0 FT TO BEG OF THIS DESC - TH WLY 225.50 FT ALONG A 270.75 FT RAD CURVE LT /LONG CHORD BEARS S 82D 11M 36S W 219.04 FT/ TH S 73D 56M 49S W TO CL OF BROADMOOR AVE TH S 27D 40M 56S E ALONG SD CL 264.95 FT TH S 82D 46M 07S E 312.48 FT TO A LINE BEARING S 9D 20M W FROM BEG TH N 9D 20M E 325.90 FT TO BEG * SEC 17 T5N R10W 2.60 A.*

Residence at 7660 Broadmoor Ave., Parcel Number 41-23-17-100-020, *legally described as:*

*S 444.9 FT OF N 786.0 FT OF THAT PART OF NW 1/4 LYING ELY OF ELY LINE OF BROADMOOR AVE /120 FT WIDE/ * SEC 17 T5N R10W 3.63 A.*

Spirit of Life at 7638 Broadmoor Ave., Parcel Number 41-23-17-100-019, *legally described as:*

*N 341.1 FT OF THAT PART OF NW 1/4 LYING ELY OF ELY LINE OF BROADMOOR AVE /120 FT WIDE/ * SEC 17 T5N R10W 4.02 A.*

All interested persons may attend the public hearing and be heard with regard to the requested variances. Written comments concerning the proposed variances may be submitted to the Township Office, at the above-stated address, up to the time of the public hearing. The Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services to individuals with disabilities upon 72 hours advance notice by contacting Joni R. Henry, Township Clerk, by phone at (616) 891-0070.

Dated: June 25, 2025

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS,
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CALEDONIA

Chain Station brings Mountain Music to Caledonia

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

A couple of box fans propped up on the monitors in the front of the Caledonia Community Green Amphitheater weren't nearly as effective as a big gray cloud or two and a welcome breeze that arrived just in time for the headliners Tuesday.

Chain Station performed for a handful of local celebrities that host Josh Rose pointed out before the show, Clifford the dog (not the big red one) and dozens and dozens of other area music fans on a steamy evening at the second Caledonia Concert Series show of the summer. The string quartet out of Denver, Colo. played their form of bluegrass "mountain music" with Alex Thoele on acoustic guitar, Jon Pickett on a stand-up bass, Jarett Mason on mandolin and Jeremy Koch on banjo. The group has all kinds of midwest ties, and Mason grew up in Menominee, Mich where Michigan's upper peninsula, the Wisconsin border and Lake Michigan all come together.



Chain Station members (from left) Jeremy Koch, Alex Thoele, Jon Pickett and Jarrett Mason perform during their Caledonia Concert Series show at the Caledonia Community Green Amphitheater Tuesday evening. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

Youngsters were doing cartwheels and mule kicks in the grass before the show ever really even got started, and by the end Chain Station had everyone singing along on "Never Goin' Back" from their 2013 album "Dancin' With the Law."

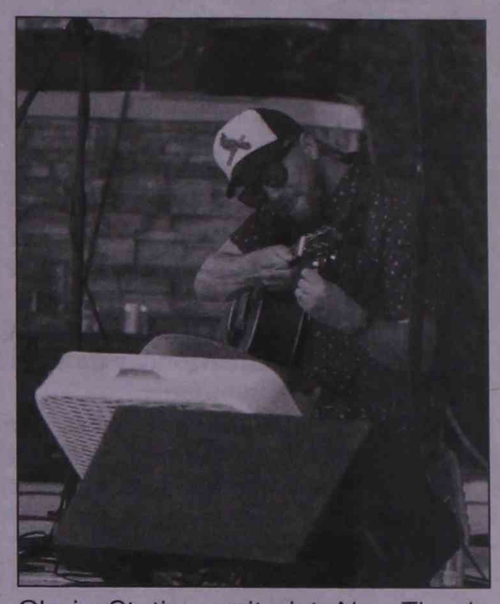
"Make sure she gets a good view when you leave the parking lot at two, 'cause we're never going back to that place again, and we surely didn't make any friends," Thoele croons at the opening of the song about a disruptive significant on a night on the town.

"Cause we're never going back. Never going back. Well, we're never going back. Never going back. We're never going back to that place again," he sang along with his bandmates, while trading harmonies with the audience.

The group had some previous fans at the show, by a show of hands and hoots and hollers, and certainly made some new ones during the 90-minute set.

The group put a bluegrass spin on Tom Petty and the Heartbreaker's "American Girl," but mostly played

See **MUSIC** on 15



Chain Station guitarist Alex Thoele works to change a string, one of three to snap on him during the hot humid performance Tuesday during the Caledonia Concert Series Tuesday at the Caledonia Community Green Amphitheater.



Luke Lehnart plays his guitar as the opening act, along with Bernie Steffes, during the Tuesday night Caledonia Concert Series event at the Caledonia Community Green Amphitheater.

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

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

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

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the following is a summary of Ordinance No._____ which was adopted by the Yankee Springs Township Board at a regular meeting held on June 12, 2025.

ORDINANCE – ZONING ORDINANCE TEXT AMENDMENT - PONDS

SECTION I — AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE XII. This section amends Article X by adding Section 12.17 "Ponds" which provides standards for the requirement of permits to build a pond, and sets for standards for the construction and maintenance of private residential, agricultural, and farm ponds.

SECTION II — SEVERABILITY. The provisions of this Ordinance are severable.

SECTION III — REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES/EFFECTIVE DATE. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed and this Ordinance shall take effect eight days after publication after adoption

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the full text of both Ordinances has been posted in the Office of the Township Clerk at the address set forth below and that a copy of the Ordinance may be purchased or inspected at the office of the Township Clerk during regular business hours of regular working days following the date of this publication.

YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP
Tom Hopkins, Clerk
284 N. Briggs Road
Middleville, MI 49333
(269) 795-9091

IRVING TOWNSHIP
BOARD MEETING SYNOPSIS
June 17th, 2025

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

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

Agenda approved with changes

Approved May 20th, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Approved to pay bills in the amount of $5,284.95

Birch Fire Ambulance Service requested financial support

Approved Assessor Salary Resolution

Consumers Energy Ordinance tabled until July Meeting

Upcoming Meeting dates: July 15th, 2025, 7:00pm (Board Meeting)

Adjourn 7:57pm

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

Prepared by Irving Township Clerk, Tessa Stout.
Attested to by Supervisor, Dan Lydy.

DNR plans workdays to clear out some autumn olive

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

A Volunteer Stewardship Workday will be held in the Yankee Springs Recreation Area today, June 28, from 10 a.m. to noon.

Volunteers will get the opportunity to meet the DNR's new natural resource steward Tyler Lidgard while working to help control invasive autumn olive plans around Deep Lake.

No experience is necessary. Volunteers will be trained to identify the target species.

Autumn olive is a deciduous shrub that can grow to 20 feet high. Leave are bright green on top and distinctiely silver underneath.

Historically planted for wildlife food and habitat, autumn olive has been found to be highly aggressive, with seeds widely dispersed by birds and mammals. Autumn olive can shade out desirable native plants and fixes nitrogen in the soil, which can degrade native plant communities that thrive on low-nutrient soils. It is difficult to control, as cut stumps and roots will resprout.

Many places in the Yankee Springs Recreation Area have been overtaken by the Asian shrub.

Volunteers should meet at the Deep Lake mountain bike staging area off of Yankee Springs Road.

Another work day will be hosted July 19, from 10 a.m. to noon, meeting at the North Country Trail parking area on Norris Road, just south of Gun Lake Road.

Dates occasionally change and events may be canceled due to inclement weather and other reasons. Please call the park to confirm dates/times prior to your arrival.

A Recreation Passport is required for vehicle entry into Michigan state parks.

To register to participate in one of the work days or for more information, Lidgard can be reached by email at LidgardT@Michigan.gov or by phone at 517-388-8517.



Volunteer workdays will be held June 28 and July 19 to help clear invasive autumn olive shrubs from the Yankee Springs Recreation Area. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

MUSIC

Continued from Page 14

from their own catalog which they've been building since Thoele and Pickett met in Estes Park, Colo. in 2006. For those that need another dose of Chain Station, the band will be at The Livery in Benton Harbor today, June 28, and at Chicago Winery in Chicago Sunday. From there, the band heads back to the mountains in Colorado.

Luke Lehnart and Bernie Steffes opened the evening of music, which was offered up free to the public with the sponsorship of Serve Pro of Southeast Grand Rapids.

"We need music and love and things that bring us together," Rose proclaimed as he closed the evening's show.

The Caledonia Concert Series continues throughout the summer. Sentimental Gentlemen from East Nashville will headline the July 8 show. When they aren't performing their own music, the Sentimental Gentlemen are the regular backing band for Sierra Ferell. The band played on her recent Grammy winning album "Trail of Flowers."

The band promises to provide listeners with "bluegrassy sentiments" from a rotating stable of members that includes George Guthrie, Patrick M'Gonigle, Jacob Groopman, Tod Livingston and Kyle Tuttle.

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VIEW Newspaper Group
Your Community Connection

CALEDONIA TOWNSHIP

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO WATER CUSTOMERS
Effective Immediately

Irrigation Usage
Caledonia Township and Caledonia Village sprinkling restrictions are as follows:
- Odd-Even Sprinkling Days – Residents/Businesses with an even numbered address may sprinkle on even numbered days. Residents/Businesses with an odd numbered address may sprinkle on odd numbered days.

Exceptions
- Private wells used for watering.
- Hand watering of gardens and trees using a watering can or hose.

This plan is in place to help limit the impact of heavy water demand periods on the township's water supply and is essential to help ensure optimal water and fire protection service to your home or office.

Restrictions effective until further notice. Please follow and monitor the township's website for updates, caledoniatownship.org or contact Caledonia Township at: 616-891-0070 with any questions or concerns.
Thank you in advance for your cooperation.
Sincerely,
Caledonia Township, Utility Department

8196 Broadmoor Ave. SE
Caledonia, MI 49316

CALEDONIA TOWNSHIP

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 Section 4.2 of the zoning map, 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 rezone property commonly known as 7611 68th Street SE from the C-2 General Business District to the R-2 Medium Density Single Family District.

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 June 18, 2025 and is expected to be considered on second reading by the Township Board at a public meeting on July 2, 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

Caledonia hockey co-op announces new head coach

Tyler Jaenicke has been named as the new head coach of the Caledonia varsity boys' hockey team.

Most recently, Jaenicke led multiple Bantam-level teams with the Grand Rapids Blades to league championships, a District 6 title, and a State Championship semifinal appearance.

Jaenicke served as assistant coach at Grand Rapids Christian High School and was a three-year assistant captain when he played for Davenport University's Men's DII Hockey Team.

"Tyler's experience, leadership, and commitment to student growth make him a perfect fit for Caledonia," said Fred Townsend, the now former Caledonia High School athletic director who presided over Jaenicke's hiring. "We're excited to have him lead our hockey program into the future."


Tyler Jaenicke

While rebranded in recent seasons as the Caledonia High School hockey team, the program remains a co-op along with student-athletes from Lowell and Thornapple Kellogg.

Jaenicke replaces Jeremy Bultema who guided the program to an 18-7-1 record last winter in what was his third campaign with the team.

— *BB*


New Caledonia varsity hockey coach Tyler Jaenicke in action as a member of the Davenport University's Men's DII Hockey Team. **Photos provided**

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— NOW HIRING —

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jnichols@mihomepaper.com

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