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BI-ANNUAL REUNION DRAWS ALUMNI FROM 1934 TO 1974
PAGE 3



Hastings Public Library
227 E State Street
Hastings MI 49058

Cal teachers start school under previous contract; next bargaining session Sept. 4

Karen Turko-Ebright
Staff Writer

With almost one week of school behind them, teachers at Caledonia Community Schools are working without a new contract as negotiations continue between the CCS Board of Education representatives and the Caledonia Education Association.

"The Caledonia teachers are disheartened in our district's negotiation process and proposals," said CEA President Melissa VanGessel.

"We have been working under a contract that expired on July 31 and still have no tentative agreements."

Teachers will continue to work under their previous contract until an agreement is reached.

Community and CEA members filled the board room during Monday, Aug. 18's regular BOE meeting. Several community members addressed the board during public comment.

At the beginning of the meeting, the BOE put forward a pay schedule for teachers.

Board representatives say they offered the union a 4.5% increase to teachers' salaries and scheduled base salary increases, along with increases to starting base salaries for new teachers, at its most recent bargaining meeting.

After CCS Board President Tim Morris read the statement at the meeting, the floor opened for public comment. Several community members addressed the board, sharing a common thread: they were there to speak up for and support Caledonia teachers.

Susan Reoch is a 20-year resident of Caledonia and has five kids — three of whom are graduates from Caledonia High School. One is currently enrolled at Duncan Middle School and the other at Caledonia High

See **CONTRACT** on 5

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Kids enjoy outdoor games before settling down to watch "Dog Man" outside the Gaines Township Hall on Friday, Aug. 22. **Photos by James Gemmell**

Crowd enjoys outdoor movie outside Gaines Twp. Hall

James Gemmell
Contributing Writer

Under a starlit sky, the lush lawn outside the Gaines Charter Township Hall served as the setting for the 10th annual "Movie in the Park" on Friday, Aug. 22.

A couple hundred people gathered to watch the free animated children's film, "Dog Man," on a large inflatable screen.

"We enjoy the free opportunity to be with our community," moviegoer Debbie Martz said.

The annual event is held adjacent to Prairie Wolf Park, along Kalamazoo Avenue, at 84th Street. The weather was ideal for viewing the 89-minute-long comedy released by DreamWorks Animation earlier this year.

Prior to the movie, there were two hours of activities on the lawn and just inside the doors of the township hall. Children and their parents lined up for an opportunity to speak to two people decked out as the Disney characters Spider Man and Belle. And, according to Township Treasurer Laurie Lemke, the Gaines branch of the Kent District Library provided kids games.

"We have coloring for the kids, we've got food trucks here, everyone is enjoying themselves," she said.

Flor Parada said she brought her 3- and 7-year-old children to the event "just for them to have fun and enjoy."

Local resident Ginny Moyer added she came out to watch the movie, as well as taking time to do some people watching.

"Just seeing all the people and everything," she said.

Her daughter, Keisha, was more succinct about her favorite part of the evening. "Ice cream," she said.

Lemke said the tradition of Movie in the Park began about a decade ago.

"The library initially contacted me about 10 years ago and said,

See **MOVIE** on 6

Gaines trustees approve site plan for Prairie Wolf Station

James Gemmell
Contributing Writer

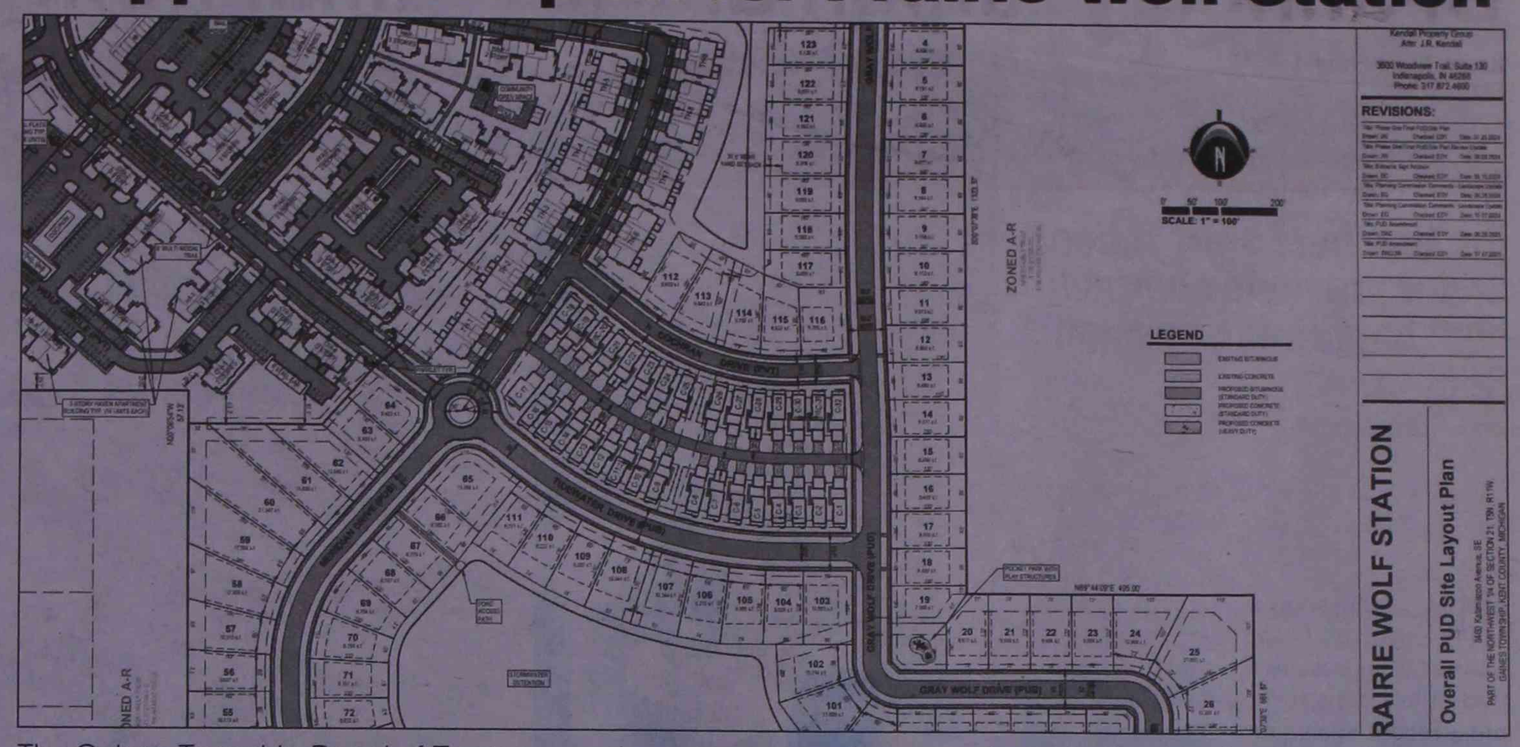
The Gaines Township Board of Trustees unanimously approved an amendment to the site plan for the Prairie Wolf Station planned unit development at its Aug. 11 meeting.

Prairie Wolf Station is a roughly $120 million mixed-use project planned for an 82-acre site that has been used as farmland for decades.

Township staff members say the basic elements of the site plan remain in place. It features a village center concept, including a retail and mixed-use residential center on 84th Street, just east of Kalamazoo Avenue.

Developers say changes in the project's layout were largely necessitated by Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes & Energy (EGLE) wetland preservation requirements.

Gaines Community Development Director Dan Wells said the proposed development of some senior housing on the site is another reason for the amendment.



The Gaines Township Board of Trustees unanimously approved an amendment to the site plan for the Prairie Wolf Station planned unit development at its Aug. 11 meeting. **Source: gainestownship.org**

The developer, American Kendall Properties, recently requested that the building-permit section of the township's zoning ordinance be amended. It requires that municipal utilities be installed before construction can begin.

However, before any changes can be made to the site plan, the Kendall Property Group and the township must receive permission from a Kent County Circuit Court judge to alter the terms of a consent agreement. That is because the developer filed a $4 million lawsuit against Gaines Charter Township in 2022, after the township board voted to reject the project.

American Kendall argued in court that the project was allowed by right under the township's master and future land use plans. The two sides later negotiated a consent agreement that allowed the Prairie Wolf development to proceed in return for the lawsuit being dropped.

One of the main changes in the site plan involves the buildings that are planned along the development's main drive, Gull Prairie Drive.

"We had required that the buildings be built up to five feet from the sidewalk," Wells said. "The intent along that stretch of road was to create a nice urban walking area that would connect across the street to (Prairie Wolf Park)."

However, EGLE noticed a wetland on the site that is interconnected with some other wetlands in the area that need to be protected. Township staff said that regulations pertaining to the wetlands would have prevented some aspects of the consent judgment from being executed properly. Wells said the developers also needed more space where the utility easements go through.

Under the revised plan, the buildings will now be constructed up to 60 feet away from the wetlands.

A senior living facility originally was proposed to be built in the northern section of the site. But the developers of that section, the Leo Brown Group, later decided that they needed more space for it. So, they requested to build it on a larger lot just south of Gull Prairie Drive.

"It makes a little bit more sense, project-wise, because this provides a buffer from the retail elements that are up in the north ... and closer to the intersection at Kalamazoo and 84th, and to the residences to the south," Wells said.

Now that the township board has approved the site plan changes, the judge will review how it impacts the consent judgment and make a final decision.

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Bi-annual reunion draws alumni from 1934 to 1974

Karen Turko-Ebright
Staff Writer

The Caledonia High School Bi-Annual Class Reunion on Aug. 16 is getting great reviews, according to organizers.

One of the reunion's lead organizers, Penny Weller, said more than 90 alumni, as well as friends and family, from CHS classes spanning from 1938 to 1974 attended the event held at the CHS cafeteria, where they enjoyed reconnecting and catching up, even telling a few stories from their glory days.

Those attending included Gerald Kayser, a member of the CHS Class of 1943, who soon will celebrate his 100th birthday. During the festivities, Kayser was presented a certificate and two hula hoops to remind him of his most recent class reunion.

Another special moment that held the spotlight was an announcement of the oldest married couple, Joyce and Dick Hawkins, who are in their seventh decade of marriage. They also were presented with an honorary certificate to show their family and friends.

To celebrate their milestone anniversary, Joyce Hawkins wore a veil made by Weller's sister and he donned a bowtie provided by Weller, a member of CHS' Class of 1966 and who's helped organize the event for nearly two decades.

In honor of the original scotty dog mascot, Weller and her sister, Rita, collected scotty dog prizes, including a scotty dog pin and dish towels.

The CHS Class of 1965 proved to be the largest group to attend the reunion, with 15 members showing up for the event.

While not there in person, Stan Milanowski, who was born in Poland, sent a letter and a check with his reservation.

"I graduated from the class of 1953 and very proud of what we were involved in when all of us were poor students or low-income families," Milanoski stated in his letter.

According to Milanoski, his parents were Polish immigrants and he could not speak English.

"My teachers and peers were wonderful in so many respects," he added. "I will never forget."



The Caledonia High School Bi-Annual Class Reunion on Aug. 16 included more than 90 schoolmates spanning decades from 1938 to 1974. With the oldest among the crowd, no one could tell that Gerald Kayser from the class of 1943 would soon be a century old.

Bob Bergy who graduated in the class of 1965 has a disco ball as his prize to never forget his most recent class reunion.

Weller and her daughter, Bridget, assembled 100 fake pill bottle party favors so that those in attendance went home with a fake bottle of pills labeled, "Stay healthy. See you at the next reunion." In addition, the reunion website was listed on the pill bottles, which were filled with gold-colored Reese's Pieces candies.

According to organizers, the reunion committee continues to collect funny gifts for those who make it to the next biennial reunion that is set for Aug. 14, 2027.



Joyce and Dick Hawkins, after 70 years of marriage, received an honorary certificate from the Caledonia High School Bi-Annual Class Reunion on Aug. 16. **Photos by Bridget Weller**

While a crowd united in the CHS cafeteria, they were greeted with a warm welcome speech from Superintendent Dirk Weeldreyer.

As soon as the doors opened around 10:30 a.m., energetic guests filtered through the door.

"You know seniors," Weller said. "They want to make sure they get a seat."

The party started at 11 a.m., with lunch served at 1 p.m.

"Caledonia school cafeteria made

See **REUNION** on 6

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Obituaries

Susan Marie (Ford) Owen



Susan Marie (Ford) Owen was born February 3, 1965 and passed away surrounded by her family on August 14, 2025.

There will be a Celebration of Life on September 6, 2025 at the Freeport Community Center located at 209 State Street, Freeport from 12-4 p.m. Pastor to speak at 12:30 p.m. with a luncheon to follow.

Blood drive set for Sept. 9

Versiti-Blood Center of Michigan partners with churches in the Caledonia area to host a blood drive at the Holy Family Catholic Parish on Kraft Street in Caledonia on Tuesday, Sept. 9, from 1 to 6:30 pm.

The blood drive is open to the public and organizers have announced their goal of the blood drive is to collect 55 pints.

Anyone 17 or older is eligible to donate blood. Persons 16 years of age are eligible to donate with parental permission.

Donors will be entered for a chance to win two tickets and a VIP experience to the Michigan-Michigan State football game on Oct. 25. Official rules for the contest are posted at versiti.org/rushin.

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

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Community Group ..... 11:00 a.m.
James L. Collison, Pastor
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MIDDLEVILLE TOPS 546

The Aug. 25 meeting opened with roll call and the secretary's report. There are now three fish in the fishbowl.

Virginia's program was from the July/August 2023 TOPS magazine titled "I'm Worth It!. Understanding Bulimia Nervosa." Bulimia is a serious disorder that can be life threatening. It is a problem with food. It is a cycling of bingeing and purging. Bingeing is eating large amounts of food at one time. Purging is getting rid of what you've eaten by vomiting, using laxatives, enemas or water pills. Some people over exercise. It is usually done at least once or twice a week.

With bulimia, you feel out of control, guilty and ashamed. People try to hide it, but it won't go away on its own. Telling someone is the first step to getting treatment. Over time, bulimia can damage kidneys, or damage the heart. The pancreas can swell, as can the throat. Tooth decay, concentration, muscle weakness, dehydration, constipation all suffer. Some also do self harm, have alcohol or drug abuse, or act on impulse.

Chapter members continued the contest by filling in one dot for each one-tenth of a pound lost.

Maryellen won the Ha-Ha Box. She has been in the fishbowl for four weeks in a row and is the best loser for the month of August.

The meeting ended with marching in place as the group recited the TOPS pledge.

TOPS, a weight-loss support group, meets every Monday at Lincoln Meadows in Middleville. Weigh-in is from 3:30 p.m. to 3:45 p.m., followed immediately by the meeting. Press the white buzzer for entry.

The chapter is looking for anyone interested in a group that supports weight-loss journeys without shame.

Anyone with questions may call Virginia, 269-908-8036, or Maryellen, 616-318-3545. The first meeting is free.

CONTRACT

Continued from Page 1

School. Reoch is a CPA and used to be a public accountant and auditor. She told the board she would like them to please show the teachers and staff that they are valued.

"Our teachers have made an incredible impact on my kids and their friends and they deserve to be paid fairly and not to spend four months negotiating a teacher contract," Reoch told the board. "I've heard the argument that there is uncertainty in funding we will receive from the state budget. We don't know how many students we are going to have.

"Every business and every school has that same uncertainty when proposing a budget and negotiating salaries. Yet, other schools have agreed to 5% or more rate increases with the same certainty.

"You have offered a 4.5% rate increase and whatever you want to make the math look, I will tell you, when you were in the lower half the bottom 10 of the Kent County school districts, giving even a 4.5% raise doesn't make an acceptable wage.

"It's simple math. You can't get there. They need to be paid what they should have been paid already."

BOE representatives say the board is committed to reaching a mutually agreeable contract with the CEA.

"Despite not having a settled contract at this time, we fully believe that both parties will act in the best interest of students, and the classroom learning environment will not be negatively impacted," said BOE President Tim Morris.

James Ernest addressed the board during public comment. "We don't think that our teachers should have sub-standard pay. Pay that lags behind other districts in the area," Ernest explained. "I have had no inside information from the negotiations that have been ongoing, but I would say given the late date at which we stand now, this late date, and still no contract.

"I'm skeptical of any assertion that the administration has been negotiating in good faith and with generosity from the beginning. It wouldn't have taken this long.

"So, just a plea, please get it done. Please make sure that our teachers are well compensated and are not lagging behind others in the district. We value them very much. Thank you."

Several other community members who stepped up to the podium in support of teachers during public comment and addressed the board included Jen Hacht, Kim Gates, Kimberly Jackson, Josh Rose and Emily Murphy.

The district has not been able to publish a full 2025-26 calendar at this time. Under Michigan law, the calendar is a mandatory subject of bargaining, and, therefore, a full year's calendar will not be available until it is mutually agreed upon through negotiations. The district will continue to publish an updated partial calendar as it becomes available.

"We continue to stay focused on smaller class sizes that lead to better learning environments for our students," VanGessel said. "It is also imperative that our educators are given the time and resources they need to provide the best education for Caledonia students."

Caledonia BOE President Tim Morris thanked the community members for their comments.

BOE and CEA representatives will meet again for further negotiations on Thursday, Sept. 4.

A full recording of the Aug. 18 BOE meeting can be found at calschools.org/our-district/board-of-education/.

Gritty defense will play big part for defending OK Green champs

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

There are milestones coming.

The Fighting Scots are hoping to achieve them in victories.

The Caledonia varsity volleyball team is rolling into the 2025 season as the defending OK Green Conference champions. The Scots share that tile with the Jenison girls. Both squads were 8-2 in conference matches last season. For the Scots, it was their first ever conference volleyball championship.

Back to lead the chase for number two are honorable mention all-conference performers Aubrey Reynolds and Avery Seif. Seif, a junior defensive specialist, should surpass the 1,000 dig milestone this fall. Reynolds, a junior outside hitter, could notch her 1,000th varsity kill and should record her 1,000th varsity dig this

See **DEFENSE** on 7



Katie & Randy Reil wedding celebrations

On August 23rd, Katie and Randy Reil joyfully became husband and wife. Their wedding day was a true reflection of love, commitment, and celebration with those dearest to them.

The couple wishes to thank everyone who came to celebrate alongside them — your presence, love, and support mean more than words can express. With a special shout out to their hosts, wedding party, and of course, Camera-man Axsenn, you all helped turn a beautiful day into cherished memories they'll carry forever.

Above all, Katie and Randy give thanks to God, whose hand and blessings made their union possible. They are grateful for the love and strength He has provided and pray that their marriage continues to reflect His grace.

Katie and Randy are excited to begin their next chapter together and look forward to the adventures ahead as partners in life.

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Spider-Man and Belle were the two Disney characters who participated in a meet-and-greet just inside the township hall doors adjacent to the lawn where the movie was shown last Friday, Aug. 22.



There were plenty of activities during the two-hour prior to the showing of "Dog Man." The film was shown on an inflatable screen outside the Gaines Township Hall during the annual "Movie in the Park" on Friday, Aug. 22.



Food vendor trucks were set up just feet away from the food and festivities during the annual "Movie in the Park" on Friday, Aug. 22.



The Gaines Charter Township fire engine made an appearance at "Movie in the Park" on Friday, Aug. 22.

MOVIE

Continued from Page 1

'Would you like to do a Movie in the Park? We'd like to help,'" Lemke said. "So, the township said 'yes,' and they've been coming and planning the pre-movie activities ever since."

She added that library staff recommend movies to consider showing each year.

"They give me three movies, and I sit in my office and have some popcorn," Lemke said. "I watch the (movie) trailers, and the one that makes me laugh the most is the one I pick."



While a crowd united in the high school cafeteria for the Caledonia High School Bi-Annual Class Reunion on Aug. 16, they were greeted with a warm welcome speech from Superintendent Dirk Weeldreyer. **Photo courtesy of the Caledonia Education Foundation**



At the Caledonia High School Bi-Annual Class Reunion on Aug. 16, an Elvis impersonator captured everyone's attention with his tribute performance. Here, he signs ribbons for alumni.

REUNION

Continued from Page 3

the food and people raved about it," Weller added. "The staff was amazing."

There was a lot of excitement in the room because most were waiting in anticipation to meet the special guest, an Elvis impersonator, who captured the crowd's attention with his tribute performance.

"He made a dramatic entrance with a special song filling the room with energy and smiles," Weller said.

A display of historic class photos also drew the interest of those in the crowd. Many at the reunion had the opportunity to meet members of the Caledonia Education Foundation.

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It's time to write your eulogy


Zach Santmier

I had been pushing hard for a week and could see the light at the end of the tunnel as I neared the end of this personal development bootcamp. Up to this point, every day had been grueling. Alongside our classroom education, we were met with physical obstacles every day. We'd run up and down sand dunes in the mountains of Southern California or be challenged with team obstacle courses that pushed us to our limits. But this last day felt different. As we reported to the room where they told us to meet, the door was closed and everyone was told to line up single file and wait quietly for further instructions.

The mood was somber and through the closed door, we could hear quiet instrumental music playing in the background. One at a time, they called us to enter the room. After each person left the room, there were tears in their eyes. I was pretty confused, what was about to happen?

The instructor called me to enter and as I walked in, he handed me a program. On the front of the program was a picture of my face. It read, "In Loving Memory of Zachery Ny Santmier" and had my birthdate and that day's date. I was instructed to go around the corner and sit down in the designated chair. As I turned the corner, I saw the chair. It was facing an open casket.

I was at my funeral.

Over the next 10 minutes, I was instructed to write MY eulogy. Who would be at my funeral and what would they say? At that moment, I couldn't help but think about my great-grandpa's and my grandpa's funerals. The eulogies people spoke were beautiful and their lives had touched so many. What would people say about me?

Material concerns faded away and as I wrote, the only thing I could think about was my wife and my daughters. Was I being intentional in their lives? Was I perpetuating the legacy I had received? Would my life mean anything to them after I left? I wrote and I cried. I imagined the day when I would go and meet my Savior. When I do, what legacy will I leave? Writing my own eulogy brought into focus what is important in life. Yes, we should be good stewards of all we have here on Earth, but who are we becoming in the process? What legacy are we building so that when we're gone, our lives will bless people for 5, 6, 7, or more generations?

Yes, you've probably guessed it. It's time for you to write your eulogy. This sort of experience has the power to change the trajectory of your life. What you thought was important, might become meaningless as you begin to think about your mortality. I want to contextualize all of this money talk we've been having. On one bookend, we discussed your purpose. What have you been created for? I encouraged you to get your money right so that you can pursue all God has for your life.

But now, on this bookend, I want to put all of that money in perspective. If all you perpetuate are tangible assets, your legacy will only last for one or two generations. But your life has the ability to touch countless generations if you decide today to begin building the intangible legacy you will leave behind. As it was for my great-grandpa, as you perpetuate your legacy, money should only be the cherry on top.

When you die, people will gather together and will mourn passing and celebrate your life. Spend some time writing and thinking about who will be there. What will they say? What do you hope they say? What do you want them to say? Spend some time today writing your eulogy. It will be time well spent, I promise.

Zach Santmier is the owner of Trumble Agency, Inc. and the author of the personal financial course, Increase. He focuses on helping families escape paycheck-to-paycheck living so they can freely pursue their ideal future.

DEFENSE
Continued from Page 5

season. Reynolds is also a school record holder for aces in a game with 17.

Other key returnees from that team that won 31 matches last fall overall include senior middle Kyla Charles and sophomore outside hitter Quinn Zeigler.

Head coach Ashley Brown is in her second season leading the Caledonia program, and her third with the team overall. She is excited to add sophomore middle Lydia Bell; junior opposite side hitter Kayla Briseno, junior setter Reese Stafford, DS Kayleigh Miersen, junior attacker Keira Paalman, junior DS Dylan Hilaski and senior hitter Maggie Loomis to varsity roles this season.

"This year's team is built on grit and a defensive mindset — we're going to make opponents earn every point," Brown said. "We take pride in our ability to grind together, stay disciplined, and keep the ball alive."

Seif is in her third varsity season, "once again bringing her steady defensive presence, strong serve receive, and reliable serving game. She's the type of player who never gets flustered and keeps everyone grounded," Brown said. "Alongside Avery, we have a strong defensive core with Kayleigh Miersen, Dylan Hilaski, Aubrey Reynolds, and Quinn Zeigler. Kayleigh and Dylan may be new to varsity, but they're gritty, fearless, and not afraid to go for the ball to make a big play. Both are tough servers who will make an immediate impact."

Reynolds is the clear number one on the attack heading into the season, but coach Brown said there are several strong options for swings.

Zeigler did get some time on the varsity filling in for injured teammates last fall. "She has made big strides in the offseason. She'll be a key contributor this year,": Brown noted.

"In the middle, we have senior Kyla Charles returning, and we're eager to see her continued growth after the strides she's made in the offseason. Sophomore Lydia Bell brings athleticism, hunger, and a ton of potential. She's developed significantly since last season and will be one to watch in the years ahead.

"On the pins, newcomers Kayla Briseno, Keira Paalman, and Maggie Loomis give us valuable depth. All three are capable of taking aggressive swings and putting the ball away, which will allow us to stay aggressive no matter the lineup."

Overall, it is a group that lacks varsity experience. Brown said there will be a learning curve and some time needed for everyone to grow together.

"But that's also an exciting challenge — every match will be an opportunity to gain confidence, build chemistry, and prepare ourselves to peak at the right time," Brown said.

Jenison should be tough to beat in the OK Green this fall, and Byron Center will be a contender for the conference crown again too. The Scots certainly expect to be in that mix.

The Caledonia girls went 2-2 at the Grand Haven Early Invite Tuesday, Aug. 26.

They fell in three sets against Grand Rapids Christian 25-22, 23-25, 15-10 and two against Lowell 25-15, 25-23. The Scots defeated Fremont 25-15, 25-22 and Forest Hills Central 24-26, 25-16, 15-9.

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Sporting News

Trojans playing better than 0-3 OK Gold mark might indicate

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Trojans are 4-0 outside of the OK Gold Conference.

But in three tries against conference foes, the Trojans are still hunting foe their first win.

The Thornapple Kellogg varsity boys' soccer team fell to 0-2-1 in OK Gold play with a 2-0 loss to visiting West Catholic inside Bob White Stadium in Middleville Wednesday.

From box to box, the Trojans were mostly stellar showing off touch throughout the levels both with the dribble and with pass to both stationary and moving targets.

The issues Wednesday came back inside their own box for the Trojans. The Falcons showed a talent for deep throw-ins early on and eventually capitalized on a couple as TK struggled to clear the ball from its box.

"We play significantly different than we we did last year," Thornapple Kellogg head coach Andrew Kiel said. "We have much more, I'd say, ability to move up the stages on the pitch. You know, we've been working really hard on that this year and just making sure we have our shape and being able to move the ball in the appropriate spaces in the correct way. And so, the first half we did a really great job of that."



Thornapple Kellogg junior midfielder Milo McCormick maneuvers the ball through the offensive end during the first half against visiting West Catholic Wednesday in Middleville. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

"We we did some poor defending and it allowed them to score and sit back and that makes it a challenge to go, and that's how the game went."

A year ago the Trojans mostly relied on set pieces and long throw-ins to create scoring chances, and that was the way the Falcons made things happen Wednesday.

It was a long throw into the TK box with around 18 minutes to play in the first half that led to the first Falcon goal. The ball bounced around a bit in front of the TK net and had Trojan keeper Jeremiah Cramer skittering this way and that to try and catch up to it. Falcon freshman midfielder Nick Marcotte tried to direct the ball on goal once and eventually it found the foot of senior midfielder Griffin Vyn who touched it into the net.

About 15 minutes into the second half, the Falcons put together a trio of corner kicks, and had a couple opportunities for long throw-ins from each side

See **TROJANS** on 10





TROJANS

Continued from Page 9

of the field. The ball mostly bounded through the box on the throw-ins safely, but it was always a Falcon on the other side collecting the ball. Eventually, the ball got outside to Falcon junior defender Leo Hayes who chipped a ball from the left side across the TK box. This time senior forward Landon Smith got a head on it to direct it back into the left side of the net for a 2-0 advantage.

Even with a one goal lead, the Falcons started attempting to play some disciplined defense holding back in their end and forcing TK to try and play a few more long balls rather than the short quick touches they'd been playing when the field was a bit more spread out.

"They just need to win those 50/50 balls," Kiel said, "but part of the problem too is we're coming out and we're just playing the ball up. We got away from finding the feet and moving it. And and as soon as you play it up and just start cleaning it out, it's a recipe for the ball to come back in.

"We we lost focus and concentration in a 15 minute spell in the second half that led to set piece after set piece after set piece, where either we gave up a corner or a foul because we were just trying to boot it up. When we work the ball and are able to move it the way we do, side to side, side to side and then pick the the pace back up, that's when we find success. That was the lapse."

TK hasn't scored yet in conference play. The team played to a 0-0 draw at Wyoming to open the conference season Aug. 20, fell 1-0 to visiting Wayland Monday with the Wildcats' getting the game's only goal on a penalty kick, and then came the shut out against the Falcons Wednesday.

Outside of conference play, Kiel said he has liked the way his team has shared the scoring load so far this season.

It wasn't for a lack of chances Wednesday. The build-up, especially in the first half, did lead to some good charges on the Falcon goal.

A charge forward by senior defender Nathan Shoemaker, with some back and forth up the side from senior Oliver Lietz, eventually led to a shot by sophomore Carter Bowman. Later a long cross in from the right by Shoemaker cleared junior Milo McCormick crashing towards the net, but found senior Diego Rodas running in behind him. Rodas' touch flicked a shot just wide of the left post.

West Catholic's keeper, senior Elliott Plum, was solid in net earning the shut out. He pulled a bounding ball away from the head of Bowman early in the second half, and he snagged a few other balls out of the air. Smith was back on the line to head away another chance by Bowman later in the second half. And a corner from senior Bowen Dykstra found Bowman's head once late in the ballgame, but Plum was in position to make the save.

Having things not go right in front of the net on the defensive end is a bit of a surprise with some good experience on the back line. Shoemaker has been a stand-out for the TK varsity defense for three seasons. Junior Brandon Velting joined the varsity for districts last season and has filled out the center back duo nicely with Shoemaker so far.

Rodas, Dykstra, senior Peyton Foreman and junior Milo McCormick are some of the other key returnees for the TK team this fall, along with senior Gabe Gosselin who is back in the program after a year away.

"They're a good core foundation that allows us to have a good spine," Kiel said.

The Trojans will get a second shot at everyone in the conference this season. Grand Rapids Union is off to a 3-0 start in the league so far. South Christian is 2-0 in conference play. They are the only two conference teams without a loss in the OK Gold left this fall.

"I'm excited to get to play them all again. You know, that was part of the conversation we were just having over after the game," Kiel said Wednesday. There's a lot we can do to still turn this around and have a great season. And this is probably one of the most complete teams I've coached … we would like to have one or two of those conference games, but now it's the time to look at the challenges ahead and decide what are we gonna do as a team to set ourselves up for a success?"

616-891-0150

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269-795-9091 / FAX 269-795-2388

YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

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

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing will be held on September 18, 2025, commencing at 7:00 p.m. at the Yankee Springs Township Hall, 284 N. Briggs Rd., Middleville MI, within the Township, as required under the provisions of the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act and the Zoning Ordinance for the Township.

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

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

1. **SEU 25-09-08; Parcel ID: 16-370-016-00, 2796 Cote Drive #16, Wayland, MI 49348**. A request by Kevin J. Kavanaugh, the property owner, for a special exception use permit to operate a commercial Short-term rental pursuant to the Yankee Springs Zoning Ordinance, ***Article X, Short Term Rentals.***
2. **SEU 25-09-09; Parcel ID: 16-370-015-00, 2755 Cote Drive, Wayland, MI 49348**. A request by Deann Crosby, the property owner, for a special exception use permit to operate a commercial Short-term rental pursuant to the Yankee Springs Zoning Ordinance, Article X, ***Short Term Rentals.***
3. **CSPR 25-08-04; Parcel ID: 16-020-037-00, 11368 M-179 Highway, Middleville, MI 49333**. A request by Kyle Graham, the property owner, for a commercial site plan review of a proposed addition to a commercial building, the Sand Bar &Grill, pursuant to Yankee Springs Zoning Ordinance, ***Article V Site Plan Review***.
4. **Such other business as may properly come before the Planning Commission.**

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

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

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

Fighting Scots shoot to third at 20-team TK Invitational

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Caledonia junior Lauren Scheid showed off her talents in varsity tryouts.

A few others got first dibs on shooting in the varsity line-up this fall, but Scheid made sure she took advantage of her first shot Friday, Aug. 22.

Scheid shot a 90 for the Fighting Scots, a score good for 18th overall, at the Thornapple Kellogg Invitational played on the White and Gold nines at Yankee Springs Golf Course. It was the third best score of the day for the Caledonia varsity team, and it helped the Scots finish in third place at the 20-team tournament.

"She brought in a really good score, good enough that now I kind of think I know who that fourth person might be," Caledonia head coach Veronica Van Wagoner said.

The Scots' number one was number one for the first half of the tourney and finished third overall as senior Codie O'Krangley scored an 80. Coach Van Wagoner said she's looking for a fourth scorer because her top three are all pretty talented already. Junior Emily Walbeck shot an 87 and senior Katie Honhart a 91.

O'Krangley has been a part of the Fighting Scots' MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 1 State Finalist teams in each of the past two seasons. She finished 19th at the state finals last fall as a junior, and the Caledonia team finished as the state runner-up in 2024.

O'Krangley was was one-under Friday through her first 11 holes, including an even-par-36 on the White nine. She had back to back pars on numbers three and four early in her round.

Van Wagoner said one of the biggest things she has seen O'Krangley improve over the years is her confidence. She has the ability now to keep going one shot at a time.

"Codie had a fantastic, fantastic, front nine," Van Wagoner said. "She was leading through the first nine holes. Katie had a great front nine. Emily struggled on the front nine and then brought it back on the back nine."

"Every season I feel like we got through this thing where we have to relearn how to be mentally tough. And we're figuring it out. When it all comes together which hopefully is in the post-season, or before that would be nice as well, when it all comes together it is going to be good."

Lowell won the day's team title with a score of 332 strokes overall. Byron Center was second with a score of 336 ahead of Caledonia 348, Grand Rapids Christian 352 and West Catholic 366 in the top five.

Thornapple Kellogg finished in 12th-place with a score of 419.

The Thornapple Kellogg girls were paced by a 99 from junior Vivian Hansson. Junior Jordan Price shot a 104, junior Sydney Martin a 106 and freshman Emily Coe scored a 110. TK also had a 'B' team place 19th with a 112 from sophomore Morela Gielincki and a 114 from junior Molly Middleton.

"We had a lot of girls that this was their first 18-hole tournament. We had a lot of girls that moved up from JV to varsity today and a lot of them hadn't played 18-hole tournaments. It is a different experience than playing nine holes," TK head coach Bob Kaminski said. "So that was good to give them that experience. I actually had a couple girls who this is their first year playing golf on the team, and they had never played 18 holes. They played 18 holes today. It is a good experience."

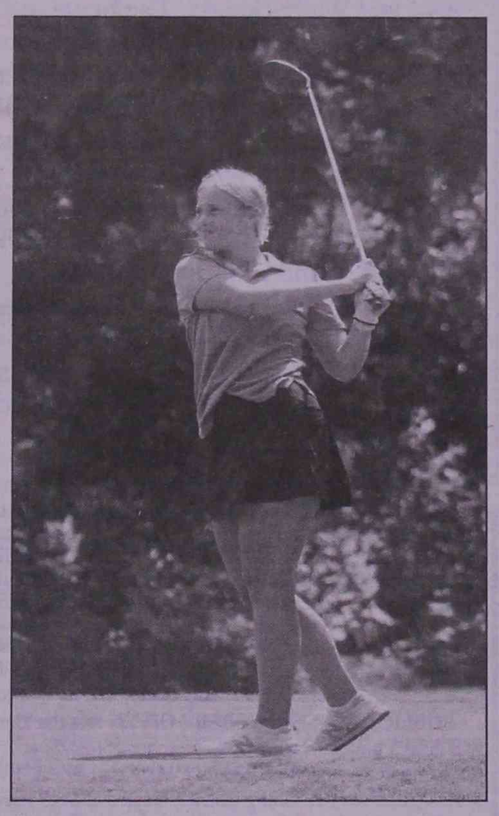
He said he saw pretty solid improvement from his team's outing at the Kent County Classic earlier in the week.

Both Caledonia and Thornapple Kellogg opened conference play

See **SCOTS** on 12



Caledonia senior Codie O'Krangley takes her place among the medalists after a third-place finish in the Thornapple Kellogg Invitational at Yankee Springs Golf Course Friday, Aug. 22. **Photos by Brett Bremer**



Thornapple Kellogg's Jordan Price watches her tee shot fly on White number two during the TK Invite at Yankee Springs Golf Course Friday, Aug. 22.

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Gators dive into 2025 season with an invite and a dual

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Gators are back in the water.

The Thornapple Kellogg, Hopkins, West Catholic, West Michigan Aviation Academy girls' swimming and diving co-op got its season started competing in the Williamston Invitational Saturday and then taking on Unity Christian in a dual in Hudsonville Monday evening.

The TK-led team, known as the Grand Rapids Gators, fell in that first dual with the Crusaders 108-55.

The Gators got a win from junior diver Lydia Slagel who put up a score of 245.15 points. She was more than 70 points better than her nearest competitor from Unity Christian as the diving crew once again headed by HCDC coach Todd Bates should be a strength again for the Gators this fall.

The 100-yard breaststroke proved to be one of the top events for the Gators Monday as freshman Mara Raak set her personal record in the race at 1 minute 23.98 seconds to place second and sophomore Mckenna Hawks also improved her PR to 1:25.07 in a third-place finish.

Unity Christian had the top three finishers in most of the swimming events. The Gators took the first place points in the 400-yard freestyle relay with the team of Eloise Nichols, Raak, Jenna Robinett and Hawks finishing that race in 5:07.08.

Freshman Adelaide Nydam got the first-place points in the 100-yard freestyle for the Gators with a time of 1:29.49.

Gators' head coach Jeff Saltzgaber, in his second season leading the co-op, is hoping this is another fall of building "strong team culture, work ethic, and positive energy."

He is expecting some youngsters to really contribute to the sprints and relays this fall for the team, and he really likes the leadership from seniors like Robinett and the newly added Devon Barnhill.

Once again, a boost to the TK student-athletes comes from the chance to get to practice in the refurbished pool in Middleville which opened just in time for them to practice at home last fall. Saltzgaber said his team isn't quite ready to compete with some of the bigger schools it will face, and the Caledonia/Lowell/South Christian and Byron Center squads should be especially tough in the OK Conference, but he likes the growth he sees with the help of the expanded swim lessons at the pool in Middleville and the talent coming to the program from the Hammerheads Swim Club based in Hastings.

The Gators were fourth Saturday at the Williamston Invitational. Owosso took the meet championship with 452.5 points ahead of Williamston 415.7, Ionia 309 and the Gators 256.

Slagel won the diving competition with a score of 253.20 points, beating her nearest competitor by 80 points. She qualified for the MISCA Meet in the first competition of the season with that performance. Slagel was a state medalist as a sophomore last fall.

In the 50-yard butterfly, Hawks scored a third-place time of 33.41 and Nichols was seventh with a time of 39.62. In the 100-yard breaststroke, Raak placed third in 1:24.03 and Hawks fourth in 1:25.17.

Robinett was eighth in the 100-yard backstroke for the Gators. Sophomore Scarlett Hilzey was eighth in the 50-yard freestyle and the 50-yard backstroke. Raak added an eighth-place time in the 100-yard individual medley.

SCOTS

Continued from Page 11

Wednesday.

Caledonia was second to Byron Center at the first OK Green Conference jamboree of the season at Railside Golf Club.

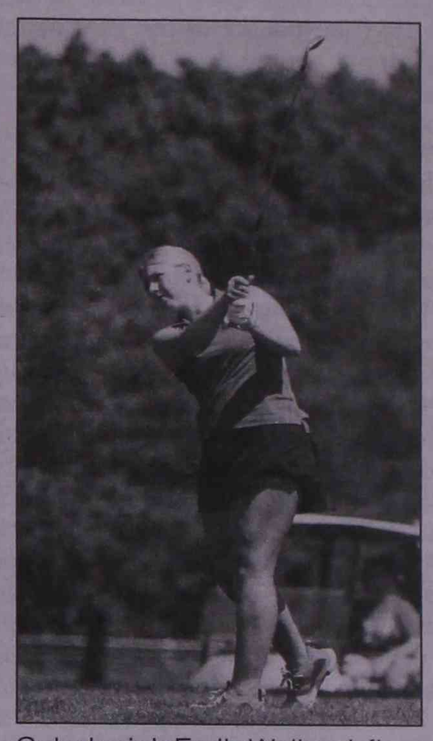
The Bulldogs won with a score of 171 strokes ahead of Caledonia 182, Reeths-Puffer 200, Jenison 215 and Mona Shores 217.

O'Krangley was the day's individual medalist with a score of 39. Honhart shot a 44 and Walbeck a 45. The Scots' fifth score was a 54 from senior Halle Stout.

TK was fifth at the OK Gold Conference jamboree at Boulder Greek Golf Club Wednesday.

West Catholic won the meet with a score of 179 ahead of Northview 188, South Christian 188, Wayland 219, TK 226 and Grand Rapids Union NTS.

Hansson led TK with a 50 which had her in 12th individually. The Trojans also got a 57 from senior Emma Reaser, a 59 from Martin and a 60 from senior Sophia Lahaie.



Caledonia's Emily Walbeck fires her ball towards the green on Gold number nine during the Thornapple Kellogg Invitational at Yankee Springs Golf Course Friday, Aug. 22.



8196 Broadmoor Ave. SE
Caledonia, MI 49316

CALEDONIA TOWNSHIP

Phone: 616.891.0070
Fax: 616.891.0430

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CALEDONIA
KENT COUNTY, MICHIGAN

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Caledonia will hold a public hearing on September 15, 2025, at 7:00 p.m., at the Caledonia Township Hall located at 8196 Broadmoor Avenue SE, Caledonia, Michigan 49316. The hearing is to consider an accessory building larger than permitted in the RR zoning district, located at 8115 Alaska Avenue, on parcel: 41-23-15-300-067.

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

Dated: August 25, 2025

PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CALEDONIA

Hardy and Bremer out front for TK teams on first night

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Thornapple Kellogg varsity girls' and boys' cross country teams had new leaders at the 2025 South Christian Under the Lights Invite Friday night.

Junior Peyton Hardy was one of five TK ladies to earn medals for placing in the top 50. She led the Trojans with a time of 21 minutes 31.2 seconds which put her in 31st overall in the 16-team Midnight Division girls' race made up of the largest schools at the meet. The invitational this year included 87 different schools with teams running in four different divisions.

The TK ladies, coated in paint, glitter and the occasional glow stick, took off out of the gate with fireworks blasting behind them at 10:35 p.m. The TK boys got out of the gate in the same fashion at 11:30 p.m. and in the end there were 323 finishers who wound their way across the semi-lit course around the South Christian High School Sports Park in that race.

Freshman Owen Bremer was at the front of the pack for the Thornapple Kellogg boys with an 88th-place time of 18:46.6 in his first high school race.

"Freshman Owen Bremer stole the show in his debut, running 18:46 and immediately stepping into a top varsity territory," TK boys' coach Josh Reynolds said. "Leading the team in his first race is a huge development, making him a front-runner alongside junior Grady Galaviz. Bremer also ranked as the 11th overall freshman in the Midnight Division, a strong first marker for his high school career."

Both Trojan teams had their OK Gold Conference champion, state qualifying front runner graduate and head off for a collegiate running career since last season with Ava Crews joining the Grand Valley State university women and Jacob Draaisma off to run with the Chicago State University men.

The Thornapple Kellogg girls were tenth and the boys were 15th in the final Midnight Division team standings Friday.

Hardy was about half a minute faster at the race than she was at the start of the 2024 season.

Madison Kietzman, Alaina McCrumb, Carmen Reynolds and Breanna Schut, who set as new PR, joined Hardy in the top 50 for the TK ladies. Kietzman placed 43rd overall in 21:57.2. McCrumb was 46th in 22:09.9, Reynolds 47th in 22:13.6 and Schut 50th in 22:15.9.

"As always with this unique race the charge was simple: Have fun, challenge yourself, and see what you can do," TK girls' coach Sam Wilkinson said. "They did just that and I am really proud of their efforts."

Hudsonville junior Cassie Karasinski set her personal record at 18:18.4 to win the Midnight Division girls' race. Portage Northern sophomore Ainsley Kelm was right behind with a PR of her own of 18:19.5. The top four girls all hit the finish line in less than 19 minutes.

Karasinski's Eagles won the team title with 62 points ahead of Rockford 77, Forest Hills Northern 94, Byron Center 170, Grandville 183, Caledonia 198, Forest Hills Central 198, Ottawa Hills 206, Portage Northern 216 and Thornapple Kellogg 217 in the top ten.

Bremer was one of two freshman in the top five for the Thornapple Kellogg boys. Parker Robinett placed 162nd in 20:19.9. He was right on the heels of senior teammate Benjamin Postma who was 160th in 20:19.2.

Trojan junior Grady Galaviz was his team's number two. He placed 129th in 19:50.8. TK sophomore Garrett Holzhausen was 150th overall in 20:11.4.

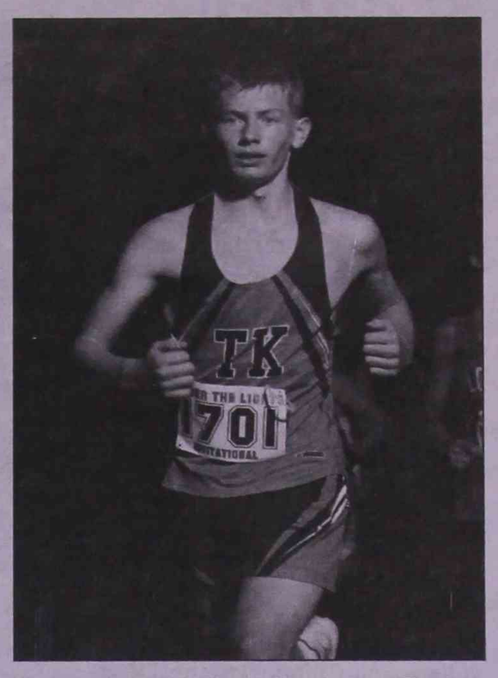
Coach Reynolds really like the packed that formed there in the three, four, five and six spots for his team. Wyatt Richardson clocked in at that sixth spot.

"[They] finished within just 12 seconds of each other," Reynolds noted. "That's excellent early pack cohesion. If we can move that group closer to 19-flat, our team will become much more competitive in meets.

Reynolds said that this season he likes the stability his team has in the senior group of Ben Postma, Noah Donker and Alex Frizzell, and he said they were solid for a first race of the season, at night, although he'll be looking to help them push their times below that 20-minute mark as things progress.

"We showed a solid foundation with the team average under 20 minutes and a tight 1–7 split," Reynolds said. "A strong pack is forming in the 20–21 minute range, and moving that group into the low 19's would make us much more competitive in invitationals. We will do our best to continue to develop Bremer and Galaviz to run solidly in the 17's. Five freshmen made their debut,

See **FRONT** on 15



Thornapple Kellogg freshman Parker Robinett makes his way along the first mile of the course at South Christian High School during the Midnight Division race at the annual Under the Lights Invite. Robinett was one of two freshmen in the top seven for the TK boys' team Friday, Aug. 22.
Photos by Brett Bremer

IRVING TOWNSHIP
BOARD MEETING SYNOPSIS
August 19, 2025

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm at 3425 Wing Rd. Hastings, Michigan 49058
Present: Lydy, Stout, Brummel, Nagel, and Buehler
Agenda approved with changes
Approved amended July 15, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes
Fire Reports and Commissioner Report presented
Motion passed to accept Treasurer's Report, as presented
Approved to pay bills in the amount of $135,036.02
Approved Resolution 2025-13 (Consumers Energy Franchise)
Motion passed to send letter to BC Road Commission regarding a hearing to remove the Engle Rd Natural Beauty Designation
Approved to spend up to $850 for postage for Nov 4, 2025 Eiection (KISD and BISD)
Upcoming Meeting dates: Sept 16, 2025, 7pm (Township Board Meeting), Township Election Commission Meeting Sept 16, 2025, 6:30pm
Adjourn 7:14pm
Full minutes are available at Irvingtownship.org or at 3425 Wing Rd, Hastings, MI 49058. Prepared by Irving Township Deputy Clerk, Shelly Lake. Attested to by Supervisor, Dan Lydy.

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PUBLIC NOTICE
GAINES CHARTER TOWNSHIP
BOARD MEETING SYNOPSIS
August 2025

The Gaines Charter Township Board held a regular meeting on Monday, August 11th, 2025, and took the following actions.

1. Reviewed the Consent Agenda.
2. Approved the Meeting Agenda
3. Discussed the Kent County Brownfield Authority presentation
4. Discussed the Natural Resources Inventory as presented by Enviroscience
5. Held a public hearing on electronic changeable message signs in residential zoning areas
6. Held a public hearing on changing the Township Code of Ordinance Section 22.136 to allow multifamily starts
7. Approved the consent agenda
8. Sent the Zoning Ordinance Text amendment allowing electronic changeable message signs in residential zoning areas back to the Planning Commission to review and revise the restrictions on the special use permits.
9. Changed the Township Code of Ordinances, Section 22.136 to allow the board to approve multifamily early start contracts with developers for early starts.
10. Approved the Prairie Wolf Station PUD / Consent Judgement Site Plan Amendment as presented.
11, Approved the expenditure to expand the amount of water faucets in Blain Cemetery.
12. Approved an arrangement of the columbaria at Blain Cemetery and approved the purchase of 2 additional columbaria placing one at Blain Cemetery and one at Dutton Cemetery.
13, Renewed The Rapid contract as presented.
14. Scheduled a public hearing for September 8, 2025 for the 2026 Public Safety Special Assessment.
15. Changed the Township Office business hours to 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM Monday through Thursday and 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM Friday starting January 2, 2026.
16. Chose a township logo (identified in the meeting as example B) and chose a township motto of "Gain more . . .."
17. Approved allowing staff (Manager Weersing) to award a winning bid for the Hanna Lake sidewalk project to the company recommended by the township engineer.
18. Were informed that Trustee meetings will revert back to a 7:00 pm start time beginning with the September 2025 meeting.
19. Adjourned the meeting at 9:04 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

Johnston pushes his PR below the 16-minute mark

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Caledonia's Noah Johnston ran to a fourth-place finish in the 1600-meter run and a 13th-place finish in the 3200 at the Fighting Scots' MHSAA Division 1 Track and Field Regional last May.

He took two weeks off after that. He biked a little and did some work with an uncle.

Since then, he's run about 500 miles – pushing up to running 60 to 65 miles a week.

He showed he can run really far and really fast Friday, Aug. 22, at the annual South Christian Under the Lights Invite. Johnston opened his senior cross country season with a new personal record run. He placed fifth in the Midnight Division boys' race with a time of 15 minutes 57.4 seconds – his first time breaking the 16-minute barrier.

"Yeah, that was something I wanted for a long time. It felt good to finally get it," Johnston said.

His previous PR was 16:20.0 at the MITCA Meet of Champions last November at the end of his first season running with the Fighting Scots. Johnston competed for West Michigan Aviation Academy his first two years of high school.



The Caledonia varsity boys' cross country team takes off with the pack at the start of the Midnight Division race at the annual Under the Lights Invite hosted by South Christian High School. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

"I kind of sat behind the Allendale guys for a while, and then at one point I was like, we gotta go and me and another Allendale guy just kind of took off," Johnston said. "That was probably with 1K left to go."

"I kind of I wanted to be towards the front, not in the very front, but I wanted to sit towards the front. And then I knew I had the I knew I had the strength to to push it at the end. So I just really tried to go."

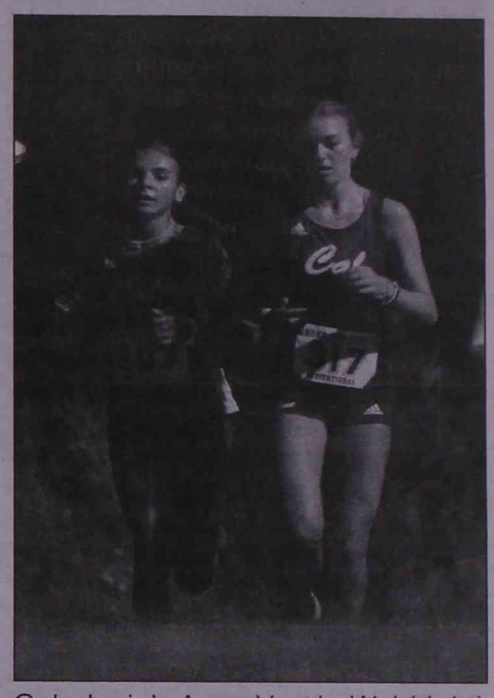
The Caledonia boys were third in the race, which was one of the last of the night starting off with fireworks shooting behind at about 11:30 p.m. In all there were 87 schools competing in varsity races, and there were more than 320 runners in that Midnight boys' race.

Lowell dominated the Midnight Division boys' race finishing with just 51 points. Holland West Ottawa was second with 102 points ahead of Caledonia 110, Rockford 126 and Allendale 149 in the top five.

Grandville junior Caden Livermore was one of three guys throughout the course of the whole invitational who bested the previous meet record. He turned in a time of 15:19.4 to beat Henry Dixon of Forest Hills Eastern's 2024 time of 15:19.50. Lowell, Caledonia and Allendale runners filled the next eight spots behind him.

Lowell junior Marshall Huhn was second in 15:27.6 and his senior teammate Cooper Byrne placed third in 15:49.8. Allendale junior Mason Hill was fourth in 15:53.4. Johnston was the last guy to cross the finish line before the clock hit 16 minutes.

While Johnston was a big contributor for the Fighting Scots last school year in both cross country and track and field, teammate Bennett Snapper made a big jump Friday. He pushed his PR to 16:12.9 to place ninth. He was about 1 minute 12 seconds faster than he had ever been before.

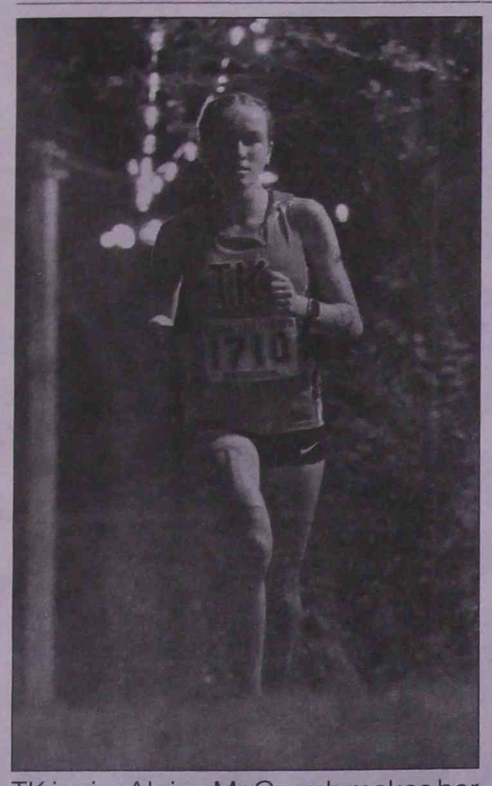


Caledonia's Anna VanderWal (right) and Tiona Sakala make their way along the final mile of the course at South Christian High School during the Midnight Division race at the annual Under the Lights Invite. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

CHS sophomore Bentley Nichols set his PR too with a time of 16:49.8 that had him in 24th-place in his first competitive cross country race ever. Senior Eli Velting was 34th overall in 17:21.8 and freshman Isaac Dinh 38th in 17:27.5.

See **PUSHES** on 15

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TK junior Alaina McCrumb makes her way along a stretch of trail brightened by string lights about half a mile from the finish line at the South Christian Under the Lights Invite Friday, Aug. 22. McCrumb was one of five medalists for the TK girls' team in the Midnight Division race.

FRONT

Continued from Page 13

adding depth for both this season and the future. With several athletes just 20–40 seconds off their personal bests, sharper performances can be expected as the season progresses."

Hudsonville's Caden Livermore was one of three guys to beat the previous meet record on the night as he won the Midnight boys' race in 15:19.4 – the third fastest boys' time across the four divisions Friday. Lowell had the second and third finishers with junior Marshall Huhn clocking in at 15:27.6 and senior Cooper Byrne at 15:49.8. All three of those top finishers set a new personal record.

With four of the first 11 finishers the Lowell boys handily won the championship with just 51 points. Holland West Ottawa was second with 102 points ahead of Caledonia 110, Rockford 126, Allendale 149, Hudsonville 164, Forest Hills Northern 194, Grandville 206, Ottawa Hills 242 and Forest Hills Central 251 in the top ten.

PUSHES

Continued from Page 14

"We're doing good. I think we'll be better than last year," Johnston said. "We have a high ceiling with a lot of younger guys. We had one guy [Snapper] who ran sub-17 who had never run cross country before. I was impressed with that. We have a good group of guys. Last year we had a lot of seniors, so we didn't know where we'd be at, but we've got a lot of good younger guys."

The top 50 runners in each race Friday earned medals. The CHS boys' team had ten guys in the top 50. Those top five scorers were joined by sophomore Sean Thompson, sophomore Jake Potgeter, senior Kaden Van Ryn, sophomore Levi VanderLaan and junior Grant Feldpausch.

The Caledonia girls' team had three medalists led by junior Akaela Daman who was 19th overall in 20:37.7. CHS senior Hannah Bennett was 32nd in 21:33.7 and sophomore Charlie Bont was 38th with a new PR of 21:43.8.

The top five for the Caledonia girls also included junior Anna VanderWal 54th in 22:19.2 and sophomore Tiona Sakala 55th in 22:19.4.

Hudsonville won the girls' meet with 62 points ahead of Rockford 77, Forest Hills Northern 94, Byron Center 170 and Grandville 183 in the top five. The Caledonia girls were sixth with 198 points, beating out Forest Hills Central on a tiebreaker for that spot.

Hudsonville junior Cassie Karasinski won the girls' race in 18:18.4. She was one of four girls to finish in less than 19 minutes in the Midnight Division.

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