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Your Hometown Newspaper Serving the Middleville, Caledonia and Gaines Township Areas

SCOTS TAKE OFF ON TK OVER FINAL MILE OF FRIDAY MORNING DUAL
PAGE 18



VOL. 147 NO. 37 SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2025 www.sunandnews.com

Contract negotiations continue between Cal Schools and teachers' union

Karen Turko-Ebright
Staff Writer

With two weeks of working under their old contracts under their belts, teachers at Caledonia Community Schools are hoping a new contract agreement will be settled soon between the CCS representatives and the Caledonia Education Association. The two parties met for another round of negotiations after press time on Thursday.

"Caledonia teachers remain focused on proposals that directly affect local students and classrooms every day: keeping class sizes manageable and protecting teacher planning time so educators can prepare high-quality lessons rather than being pulled into bureaucratic administrative meetings," Melissa VanGessel wrote this week in a press release. She is a third-grade teacher and president of the CEA.

The contract between the CCS Board of Education and CEA expired on July 31. Since April, BOE representatives have met with CEA's representatives for 11 negotiation sessions.

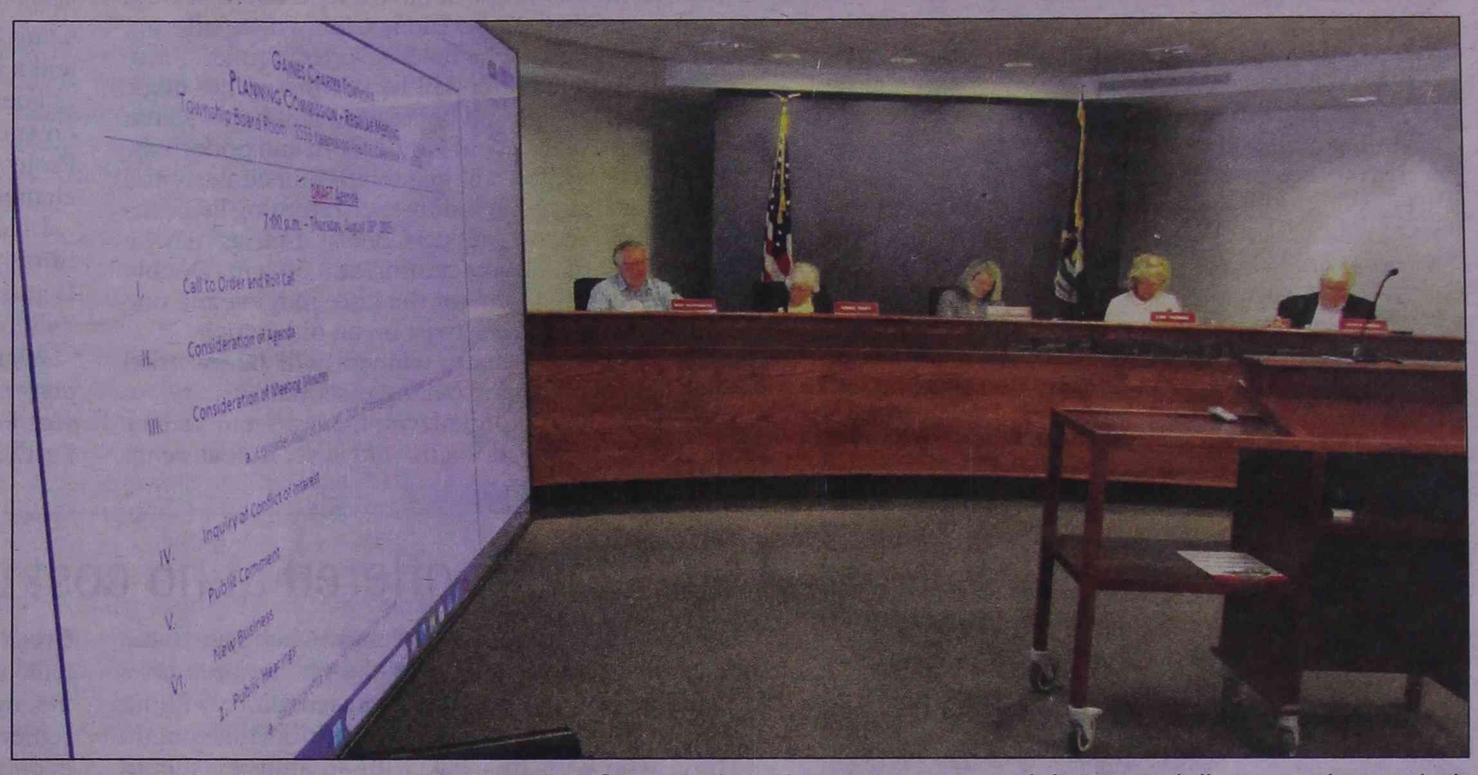
At the beginning of the CCS regular school board meeting on Aug. 18, board president Tim Morris read a statement aloud saying board representatives offered the union a 4.5% increase to teachers' salaries and scheduled base salary increases, along with increases to starting base salaries for new teachers, at the August negotiation session.

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

See **UNION** on 4

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Members of the Gaines Township Planning Commission discuss a proposed Amazon delivery station at their Aug. 28 meeting. **Photo by James Gemmell**

Amazon submits site plans for third building in Gaines Township

James Gemmell
Contributing Writer

Amazon.com, Inc. plans to expand its presence in Gaines Charter Township with the addition of a new delivery station north of 68th Street.

But first, company officials will have to come back to the Gaines Township Planning Commission for approval at its next meeting Thursday, Sept. 25.

Gaines Community Development director Dan Wells apprised planning commissioners at their Aug. 28 meeting that Amazon had submitted a site plan for construction of a third building to be located within the township.

"They just dropped the plans on us, for an approval of it," Wells said. "They're ready to move on it, as soon as they get approval."

The original planned unit development for the site was previously approved.

Amazon opened a $150 million fulfillment center in March 2020 at 4500 68th Street, near Patterson Avenue. Less than three years after opening the 850,000-square-foot facility, it opened a sortation center across the street, between 68th Street and M-6. That facility is used to sort packages and prepare them for local delivery.

"It's all automated," Wells said. "They get the orders; the orders get packed onto pallets. The pallets get slid into the van and off the van goes."

The new building would be located between the fulfillment and sortation centers, and would be used for delivery operations.

The Gaines Township Planning Commission gave approval in May

See **AMAZON** on 6

GRIDIRON FOOTBALL PREVIEW PAGES 11-16

Alto gears up for annual Harvest Fest & Car Show

The small town of Alto will hold their biggest annual event of the year, the 44th annual Alto Harvest Festival & Car Show, on Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025, activities for all ages.

Hosted by the Alto Harvest Festival Committee, the festival runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The festivities begin with the Alto/Bowne Township Firefighters Pancake Breakfast from 7 to 10 a.m. at the Alto fire station on Bancroft Road. Golf cart shuttles will be available to and from the breakfast.

Opening ceremonies are set for 10 a.m. at Veterans Park, with the national anthem, a formal flag raising and presentation of colors by the Alto American Legion Post No. 528.

Festival-goers are also urged to come out and check out the ever-growing car show, featuring between 175-200 cars.

Registration for the car show begins at 7:30 a.m., with the event running from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Goodie bags and dash plaques will be given out to the first 150 entries, and "Top 50" awards will be presented. There is a $15 entry fee for the car show.

And, those planning to attend the festival should come hungry.

The Alto American Legion will be open to the public throughout the day and will have a food booth in front of the post, while the Alto Lions Club will be offering walking tacos, popsicles and assorted drinks. Also, Alto Faith Bible Church will be serving up hot dogs, polish sausage, chips and beverages. Hubbert's Kettle Corn will have a variety of Kettle Corn and pork rinds.

During the day, festival-goers will find contests and activities for all ages, including such returning favorites like the Blue-Ribbon Baking Contest. Entries may be dropped off at the library starting at 8:30 a.m. Double entries are required, one for the taste judging and one for Baking Bingo, a new twist on an old game.

Instead of prize money, winners will be awarded various baked goods and baking essentials.

Also, according to organizers, the craft and vendor show gets underway at 9 a.m. and is set to feature up to 20 booths. Alto library's gently used book sale runs 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

For the younger crowd, there's a children's scavenger hunt and other events.

Children will be able to enjoy a variety of activities at the Kids Zone, located on the green at Alto Baptist Church with inflatables, Cheek-to-Cheek face painting, and a petting zoo.

The Alto Lions Club will have free vision screening on site, as part of the Lions of Michigan Foundation Project Kidsight, with the focus on pre-school and elementary school children.

Live music at Veterans Park begins at 11:30 a.m. and runs through 2:30 p.m. Parking is available at the First Baptist Church. Festival-goers are encouraged to bring their own reasonably-sized chairs.

For more information on the festival or related events, persons may visit Facebook and search for "Alto Harvest Festival & Car Show," as well as "Alto Harvest Festival Craft & Vendor Show." — *DM*

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Legal advice offered at no cost to Barry County seniors

The Legal Services of South Central Michigan-Battle Creek office will conduct over-the-phone interviews for legal advice and possible representation, without charge, to interested Barry County seniors this month.

Those who wish to speak with an attorney should call 269-224-5040 between 9 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 24.

Legal Services of South Central Michigan-Battle Creek office is a nonprofit organization that provides legal assistance, representation and education to low-income people in Calhoun and Branch counties and seniors in Barry, Branch, Calhoun and St. Joseph counties. The advice and counsel is funded primarily by the Area Agency on Aging Region 3B through the Michigan Aging and Adult Services Agency under the Older Americans Act of 1965. — *MM*

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Gaines Twp. officials work on amendment for message centers

James Gemmell
Contributing Writer

Gaines Township officials are considering some additional tweaks to a proposed zoning ordinance amendment for electronic changeable message signs, or ECMs.

The programmable digital signs typically use LED lights or red dots.

Currently, Gaines Township only allows for ECMs on freestanding signs, as opposed to wall signs.

In June, Midwest Sign Company requested a zoning text amendment to allow ECM signs in residential districts for institutional uses.

But the township's Planning Commission recommended the township board of trustees reject the request. Instead, Planning Commission members voted at their June 26 meeting to recommend the township board approve special use permits for ECM signs, as long the signs are in residential zoning districts and for institutional uses.

Township trustees recently brought up concerns about the time the signs would operate, how much glare the light might produce at night, and a type of display called a flyout, where a message appears to slide onto the screen in a motion-based animation that might distract drivers.

The township board sent the request back to the Planning Commission for further review. And, at its Aug. 28 meeting, Planning Commission members directed township staffers to make changes to the proposed amendment and have it back on the agenda for its Sept. 25 meeting, when it could vote on a recommendation to the township board.

"The sign ordinance doesn't take into account light levels at property lines, whereas the lighting ordinance does," Community Development director Dan Wells said. "And so, we want to bring those two into alignment. And, then, also create a special use permit approval process for LED signs in residential areas."

The lighting ordinance addresses light spill, glare, brightness and shielding, and is not expected to be amended.

"The lighting ordinance says that you can't have light going onto other properties," Wells said. "There is some limited allowance for that in our Neighborhood Commercial, commercial/industrial. But in residential areas, it's supposed to be zero."

However, the lighting ordinance does not regulate signs, so something that might not be allowed under the lighting ordinance might be allowed under the township's sign ordinance when it comes to light that is emitted from a sign.

Planning Commission Chairwoman Connie Giarmo said enforcement of the ordinances can be difficult.

"We can have all the lighting and sign ordinances we want to, but unless we're able to enforce what we actually have on the books, we ain't as good as we think we are," Giarmo said. "Can I just say that.

"While I appreciate the board's concern about some of the things they're seeing, I think enforcement. Because most of what they're seeing probably isn't allowed," she added.

"From a technical standpoint, I can go stand at the property line with a light meter, which we have, and measure the candle power at that mark," Wells said. "And tell the owner of the sign, 'You have to dim it down to a point at which I'm not getting a reading anymore during the night, when it's dark out.'"

The township's old ordinance allowed ECM signs in residential zones. But the new township zoning ordinance that took effect April 26 does not.

Some township board members noted at a recent meeting that ECM signs have some positive aspects, such as providing a way for churches and schools to provide roadside announcements about upcoming events.

Township trustee Kathy Vander Stel pointed out that the LED signs provide a community service.

"I hate to not have any avenue for an institutional use like a school to come in and get a sign," Giarmo said. "But, on the other hand, our residents were pretty clear they were concerned about the light pollution in residential areas."

"It's not like they can't have any of them, they just need to follow some strict rules," added Planning Commission member Brad Waayenberg.

Wells said special-use permits are approved by the planning commission and enforced by the Planning Department. The township rules govern the dimensions of signs and lighting technology.

Planning commissioner Ryan Wiersema said a "large chunk" of property at an undisclosed site on 76th Street recently went up for sale that had previously been targeted for development. He asked, if a church were to purchase the property, would it be prohibited from installing an ECM sign under the new ordinance.



Gaines Township officials say they want to balance protecting neighbors from intrusive light from electronic message signs with the community service value of signs in residential areas. **Photo by James Gemmell**

"Correct," Wells said. "So, they could do like the channel-lit signs that glow, that are considered less intrusive. But they wouldn't be allowed to do a LED (sign) under the current ordinance."

"I think we need to think about are our regulations strict enough that we're confident that they're following the law?" Giarmo said, adding that enforcement might be difficult. "That it won't be a nuisance."

See **CENTER** on 6

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Town hall set for Sept. 20 in Fremont

Voters and other residents of the Second Congressional District, which includes Barry County and all or parts of 17 other counties in southwest Michigan, are invited to a "town hall" event on Saturday, Sept. 20, in Fremont.

MI Barry County Indivisible has been working with representatives from roughly eight other counties in the Second District, and have invited U.S. Rep. John Moolenaar, as well as Benjamin Ambrose and Jamie Hill and other interested candidates, to join in the event on Sept. 20 at 11 a.m. at Fremont Recreation Center, located at 201 E. Maple St. in Fremont.

The event will be moderated by former Grand Rapids Mayor George Heartwell and is open to all interested parties. — *DM*

UNION

Continued from Page 1

at Duncan Middle School and the other at Caledonia High School. Reoch is a CPA and used to be a public accountant and auditor. She was one of several parents during public comment last month who asked that the teachers be offered a fair wage. Reoch said at the meeting she would like district administrators to please show the teachers and staff that they are valued and deserve to be paid fairly.

"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," Reoch said. "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."

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.

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

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

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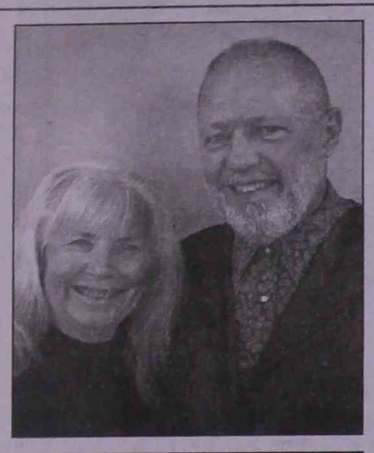


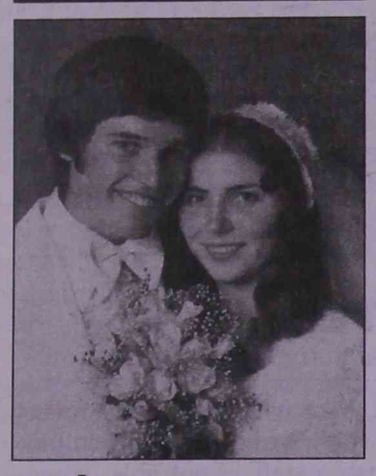
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Laansmas celebrate 50th wedding anniversary

David and Robin Laansma will be celebrating their 50th anniversary on Friday, Sept. 5, 2025. They were united in marriage on Friday, Sept. 5, 1975 at Highland Hills Baptist Church, Grand Rapids, MI.

Their children include Dean and Nikki Laansma of Allendale, MI and Jenny and Jeff Shamess of Fort Hood, TX. They have eight grandchildren.

Please send them a card at 32 S. Payne Lake Rd., Wayland, MI 49348.

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Seasons



Zach Santmier

In our household, November and December are our two most expensive months when money just seems to disappear. We have three birthdays in November, and then right around the corner is Christmas.

There are seasons in the year when you'll find there's not as much wiggle room in your budget to make progress towards your next mark. Unless you have a lot of winter birthdays, typically February and March are lower expense months for many families. Just like there are four seasons in the year, your financial life also has seasons that vary from month to month. It is OK if in some months, you simply maintain your progress.

If Christmastime squeezes your budget, just maintain your progress and be OK with sitting in the holding pattern for one month. You'll make progress in the months to come. You've already proven to yourself that you can live off of less than you make and you've already started making progress as you've filled up your tank. Simply maintaining for one month is OK. Look at the progress you've already made — to buckle down and tell the kids that they're not going to get presents this year so you can increase your savings is a little overkill. Yes, they may not get as many presents as they did in past years if you were buying on credit, but it's OK to wait to increase your savings until next month.

There are seasons on an annual rhythm that we need to recognize, but there are also seasons of life when your priorities are going to need to be flexible. If you're single and working right now, then it's time to get after it and start working up the Fuel Gauge. If you're married, have two incomes, and are waiting on having a baby right now, then put the pedal to the metal and pursue each target with vigor and speed.

However, if you're pregnant with your first child, your pace is going to naturally adjust. When we were pregnant with our oldest, expenses started to shoot up out of nowhere. First, Taco Bell became an actual budget line item for us. For some reason or another, that is what my extremely health-conscious wife craved when she was pregnant, and who was I to stop her? In fact, to make her feel better, I joined in on the fun! Except when she had the baby, she lost the baby weight and I kept it. On top of Taco Bell, we needed a crib, sheets for the bed, diapers, wipes, baby clothes and changes of baby clothes for when the diapers didn't do their job. Expenses added up and quickly. As we tried to navigate this massive change in life, we also had to curb our expectations of making forward progress financially. It was a hard pill for me to swallow, but by the third kid, I finally understood the principle of seasons.

It is natural and OK for the pace at which we pursue each target to change. When major life changes happen, there is a learning curve in figuring out your new budget. This doesn't mean that when life changes, we can just spend whatever we want whenever we want. Absolutely not. However, in these seasons of change, you can slow down your forward progress without going backwards. Any extra money you have at the end of the month might not have an allocation for a minute. You may just need to let it sit as you figure out what a sustained budget looks like in this new season. Whether you're moving, changing jobs, having a child or suffering the loss of a loved one, seasons in life come and go and your pace of forward progress can and should adjust with the season you are in.

When seasons change, the goal is not to go backwards. Don't forget everything you've learned and start spending because you know you're not making forward progress. We don't want to erase all the progress we've made. Maintaining our position isn't passive. It still takes intention. And remember, maintaining our progress isn't a long-term plan. It is for a short season as we're navigating the change in our life. We still are striving for forward progress, even if the progress is less for a period of time. We just don't want to slip backwards as seasons change.

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.

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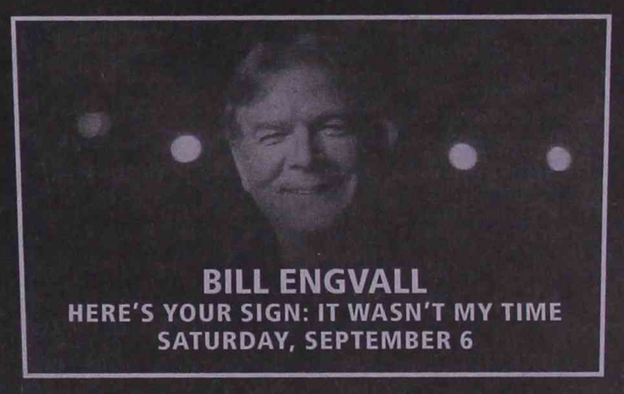
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AMAZON

Continued from Page 1

2021 for Ryan Companies Inc. to build a 279,000-square-foot sortation plant directly north of the Amazon Fulfillment Center. Patterson Avenue is used as the entry and exit point. The 219,000-square-foot delivery station will use 68th Street.

The development is within the former Steelcase planned unit development established in the late 1980s.

As reported in the Sun and News in 2021, Ryan Companies' director of Real Estate Development, Kyle Schott, told the planning commission that, to ease congestion, the delivery schedules would be strategically timed to avoid peak hours of traffic from other companies in the surrounding area.

Township planning commissioners and staff say they have heard numerous concerns from residents about speeding and traffic congestion on the booming 68th Street corridor west of Patterson Avenue in recent years. They cited several serious traffic crashes in that area.

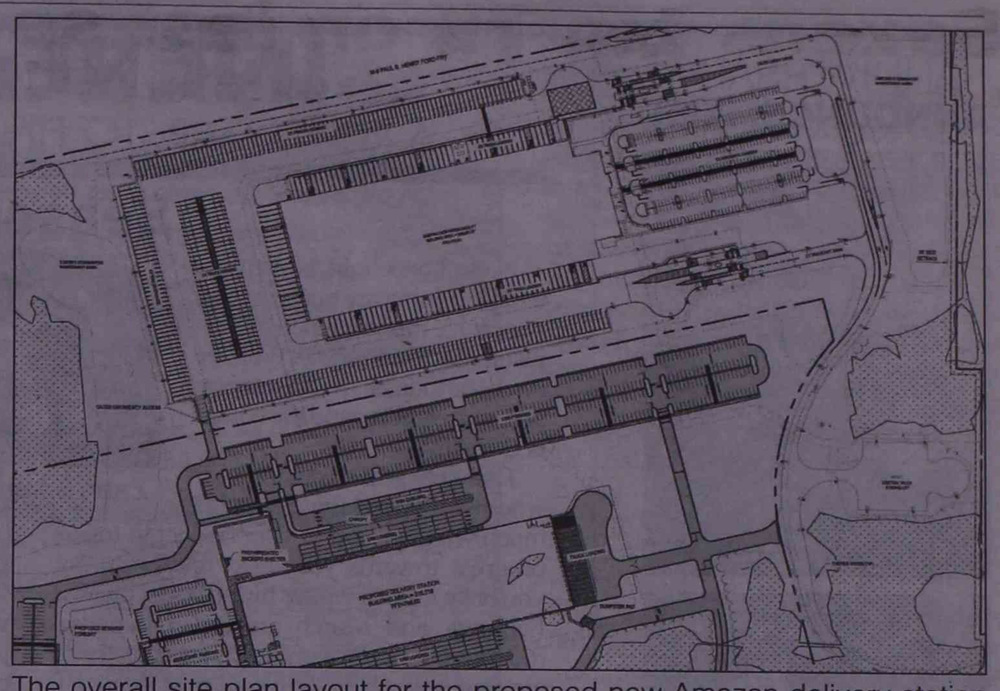
The Kent County Road Commission completed the first phase of a road-widening project on 68th Street, between Cherry Valley and Kraft avenues, earlier this year in adjacent Caledonia Township. That reportedly led to some increase in traffic by Amazon trucks on 68th Street, near Dutton.

Gaines Township officials have been at loggerheads with Amazon over more than traffic issues.

In 2023, Amazon appealed its 2022 property-tax assessment to the Michigan Tax Tribunal. It was the second appeal filed since the fulfillment center's construction was completed in 2020. Township staff said that appeal was settled out of court at a cost of about $6,000 in attorney fees.

Gaines Township receives more than $20,000 annually in tax revenues from the facility. The Caledonia Public Schools and the Kent Intermediate School District also receive annual tax revenues from it.

Township officials had signed a contract with Amazon prior to construction that provided Amazon with an annual property tax abatement of about 50 percent.



The overall site plan layout for the proposed new Amazon delivery station north of 68th Street in Gaines Township was recently presented to township officials. The existing sortation facility is north of the dashed line, adjacent to M-6. **Graphic courtesy Gaines Township**

GO ONLINE TO SUNANDNEWS.COM

CENTER

Continued from Page 3

"I think that's where the rubber meets the road, where we have had difficulties. Our township staff is not able, sometimes, to go chasing down signs. We have been a very growing township," she said. "We have other things to do."

Adding a special-use permit provision to the ordinance would give the planning commission the ability to make a decision on a case-by-case basis.

"That gives us the ability to look at individual cases, and we can then determine if we're going to approve it or not," Wiersema said.

Wells suggested that the Planning Commission insert into the sign ordinance a provision that light generated by an LED must emit zero candle power at a property line. That would then match the lighting ordinance.

"That's the only thing I see that is actually enforceable," Well said. "Because I can get a light-meter reading, then I know."

The Planning Commission voted 5-0, with two members absent, to direct staff to modify the sign ordinance to include a restriction on light emissions past a lot line to zero candle power in residential areas. That would be in accordance with the township's lighting ordinance. And to allow for the consideration of special-use permits for the ECM signs.

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Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

It was the kind of game where all of a sudden the cheer team is leaning over the line where the track meets the turf, backs to the student section, watching the game.

Where dads stand stone faced and moms rock back and forth in their fold-up bleacher seats as the clock fails to tick fast enough.

It was the kind of game where it stings a little extra for the side that did not come out on top.

Sophomore kicker Cooper Hokanson booted a 33-yard field goal as time expired to give Hastings a 31-29 victory over Thornapple Kellogg in week one of the 2025 football season Thursday, Aug. 28, inside Bob White Stadium in Middleville.

Each team had just one defensive stop all evening long. The Trojans' came when the Saxons decided to punt the ball away and run off the final seconds of the first half. The Saxons' was as little more significant.

With the Trojans driving in for what they hoped to be a game-sealing score in the closing minutes, the Saxons' Connor Cosme made a step at TK quarterback Micah Dock who was running an option to the left. Cosme darted back outside as Dock let his pitch fly, and swatted it up in the air. The ball bounced on the turf, and Cosme pounced on it with 2:34 to go in the game at the Saxon 12-yard-line.

"As soon as that happened, I went back and I said to [Cooper] I hate to do this to you," Hastings head coach Jamie Murphy said. "You need to warm up your leg. We might have to kick it.

"So, yeah, that turnover was a young man [Cosme] that we are very fond of him. He is a first year player for us. He's a tough kid. He is just figuring things out and learning the position and he played well tonight. He stepped at the quarterback, made him pitch it, and then stepped back and tipped it. And then it was bouncing around and it kind of came up forward to him and he jumped on it. It was a heck of a play. We do practice the cat and the mouse on the option, and he played it really well."

The Saxons had 88 yards to go to the end zone, trailing 29-28 at the time. With Hokanson, a two-year varsity soccer player and new football player kicking for the first time this fall, moving the ball 72 yard towards the end zone enough.

Thornapple Kellogg took a 15-8 lead in the ballgame on a nine-yard touchdown run by senior Zach Eldridge with just over seven minutes to play in the first half and held a lead from then on until Hokanson's kick sailed through the

See **SAXONS** on 9



Thornapple Kellogg senior back Debo Robinson breaks free to score the first touchdown of the 2025 football season inside Bob White Stadium in Middleville Thursday, Aug. 28. Thornapple Kellogg led throughout most of its season opener with visiting Hastings, but the Saxons overtook the Trojans on a last-second field goal for a 31-29 win. **Photo by Brett Bremer**





KENT COUNTY DRAIN COMMISSIONER

NOTICE DAY OF REVIEW OF APPORTIONMENTS

LISTENING VALLEY NO. 2 DRAIN

DATE: **Thursday, September 25, 2025**

TIME: **8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

LOCATION: **Kent County Drain Commissioner's Office**

775 Ball Ave NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

QUESTIONS: **(616) 632-7910**

The Kent County Drain Commissioner will hold a Day of Review of Apportionments on the above date, time, and location. The Day of Review is an opportunity to review the tentative apportionments of benefit for each parcel and municipality within the drainage districts. Information can be found on the Drain Commissioner's website at: https://www.kentcountymi.gov/817/Drain-Commissioner under Petition Projects and Notices.

Drain	Municipalities in Kent County
LISTENING VALLEY NO .2	CALEDONIA TOWNSHIP

The Drain Commissioner, engineers and/or other staff members will be available to assist individuals throughout the day and make revisions to the apportionments where necessary. There is no need to schedule an appointment for a specific time on the Day of Review. The computation of costs for the drains will also be available at the Day of Review. Drain assessments are collected in the same manner as property taxes and will appear on your winter tax bill. If drain assessments are being collected for more than one (1) year, you may pay the assessment in full with any interest to date at any time and avoid further interest charges.

Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in the Day of Review should contact the Drain Commissioner's Office at the number noted above (voice) or through the Michigan Relay Center at 7-1-1 (TDD) at least 24 hours in advance of the Day of Review to request mobility, visual, hearing, or other assistance.

Comments on the apportionment of benefits may be submitted to the Drain Commissioner in writing before the date of the Day of Review to 775 Ball Ave NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503, or electronically to drinfo@kentcountymi.gov. Comments may also be submitted in writing or verbally at the Day of Review. Comments submitted in advance must be received by the Drain Commissioner prior to the Day of Review to ensure consideration.

You may appeal the determination of apportionments to the Kent County Probate Court within ten (10) days.

The following is a list of any county, township, city, and village to be assessed at large in Kent County in the drainage district: **CALEDONIA CHARTER TOWNSHIP**

The following is a description of the lands constituting the drainage district:

Listening Valley No. 2 Drain: Sec 3, T.5N., R.10W., Caledonia Kent County, Michigan

The following additional information can be found on the Drain Commissioner's website at https://www.kentcountymi.gov/817/Drain-Commissioner under Petition Projects and Notices

1. A map of the lands constituting the drainage district
2. Assessment Roll and years of spread
3. The Notice of Letting that includes:
   - Number and length of sections, the average width of each section, and if the drain will be closed, the amount and specifications for all tile or pipe required;
   - Location, number, type and size of culverts or bridges to be installed; if any; and
   - Conditional upon with the contract will be awarded.

Dated: September 9, 2025 Kenneth J. Yonker, Kent County Drain Commissioner

New keeper, new head of the attack for CHS boys this fall

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

It was a pretty outstanding 2024 for the Caledonia varsity boys' soccer team in its first fall under head coach Lucas Dishnow.

The Scots were 13-4 and the only team that bettered them in the first season of OK Green Conference soccer was the Byron Center squad that went on to finish as the MHSAA Division 1 State Runner-up.

All those victories, but the Scots were upended by Rockford in the opening round of the state tournament. That will provide a little bit of motivation for the Caledonia boys this fall, but Dishnow said his players already know what it'll take to repeat last year's triumphs and even try to improve on them.

"I think they know the level of expectation and what it takes to have a successful season. That type of culture, expectations are already met," Dishnow said. "It's already set. I think that high level of commitment to the offseason that leads to the season is understood. Hey, we had a really good season what do we need to do it again? What does that look like?"

The group of returnees is led by senior captains Gage Helinski and Brecken Byrd. Helinski will spend time in the midfield and on defense this season, and Byrd will be primarily a defender. Rocco Calabrese, a junior, is another key returnee in the midfield.

"A lot of other kids are stepping up. Sure there are some other seniors stepping up too, but those are some big impact players returning from last year," Dishnow said.

Nicolas Long is taking over in goal for the Fighting Scots this season as a junior, following up on a season where then senior Simon Hilton and the Scots allowed the fewest goals a CHS varsity team ever has in a season.

The guy in the back is new, and the Scots will be hunting for a new guy on the opposite side of the field to lead the attack. Drew Diebolt was named to the MIHSSCA Dream Team a year ago and opened his collegiate career playing 71 minutes as a defender in the University of Michigan's 1-1 draw with Notre Dame Aug. 21.

Those are big cleats to fill up top.

"It's a great opportunity to see who can step up to that new role," Dishnow said, adding that he has a long list of forwards looking forward to giving it a shot.

A couple of the exciting additions to this season's squad include Noah Kapplan, who has spent time previously playing high-level club soccer, and Owen Mancuso, a transfer from East Kentwood.

The Caledonia team is 3-3 to start the season. The Fighting Scots had an early showdown with Byron Center and fell 1-0 Aug. 25, but bounced back in conference play for a 3-1 win over visiting Mona Shores Aug. 27. They overwhelmed Grandville on the road Tuesday this week 7-0.

The Scots opened the season with a 4-0 loss to Okemos Aug. 21 and then went 1-1 at its own Scotland Yard Invitational Aug. 23 beating Wyoming 3-2 in a shoot out and falling 1-0 to West Catholic in a second shot out.

Notice to Creditors

TO ALL CREDITORS:

The Trustor, CRISSY L. KLEMKOSKY, (date of birth February 5, 1959), who lived at 816 Arhana Crest Dr., Middleville, MI 49333, died August 22, 2024. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the CRISSY L. KLEMKOSKY FAMILY LEGACY TRUST, dated June 29, 2023, as amended, will be forever banned unless presented to HEATHER MARIE THOMPSON, Trustee, within four months after the date of publication.

Notice is further given that the Trust will thereafter be assigned and distributed to the persons entitled to it.

Date: June 29, 2023
Prepared by:
Heather Marie Thompson, Trustee
4220 Bender Rd.
Middleville, MI 49333
Prepared by:
William E. Westerbeke, P65185
Westerbeke Law Firm, PLLC
4595 Broadmoor Ave., SE, Suite 236
Grand Rapids, MI 490506
Phone: (616) 965-2060
Fax: (616) 775-6444

SAXONS

Continued from Page 7

middle of the uprights in the dark sky.

Eldridge scored two touchdowns on the night, also diving across the goal-line from six yards out a minute into the fourth quarter. The TK two-point run by junior Jack Smith following that touchdown had the Trojans in front by two scores, 29-20.

Hastings answered with a seven-play, 72-yard drive that ended in a three-yard touchdown run by Trevin Russell, and a two-point conversion run, with 7:25 to play in the game. Hastings was within 29-28 after those eight points were added to the board. The big play on that drive was a fourth-down pass from quarterback Mason Tossava to a diving Spencer Wilkinson that moved the ball from the TK 24-yard-line to the three, keeping the drive alive. Wilkinson had the wind knocked out of him crashing to the turf to make the catch on a ball that at first glance looked like it was too off target for Wilkinson to ever catch up to, as Tossava had to fire it rolling to his right.

TK opened the scoring with a 19-yard touchdown run by junior Debo Robinson and a Mason Chivis extra-point kick. Hastings moved in front on its one first quarter drive that culminated in a one-yard TD run by Russell. A Cardale Winebrenner two-point run put the Saxons ahead 8-7 for a bit.

TK answered that with Eldridge's first touchdown run early in the second quarter. Dock ran in the two-point try for a 15-8 TK lead.

Hastings answered with a four-yard touchdown run by Winebrenner, but TK came right back with a 90-yard kick-off return for a touchdown by Maddox VanEngen. The two teams went into the half with TK in front 21-14.

Hastings got within 21-20 on a four-yard TD run by Russell, which was the only score of the third quarter.

Russell closed the night with 17 rushes for 88 yards and had one 54-yard reception. Tyler Frazer had 12 rushes for 71 yards and had two big catches too for 35 yards. Wilkins had two receptions for 56 yards. Winebrenner closed his night with ten carries for 39 yards.

Tossava was 5-of-7 passing the ball for 134 yards.

"They were changing things up," Murphy said of the TK offense. "They're big and physical and moved us, and they changed things up enough that we were having a hard time figuring out their rhythm. It didn't put us on our heels, but it made us guess. We were wondering where the ball was going to go. They did a really nice job of mixing things up."

Malachi VanEngen had three rushes for 72 yards, and Robinson closed his night with seven carries for 58 yards to lead the TK attack. Smith rushed five times for 41 yards and Eldridge had five carries for 21 yards. The Saxons never let Dock break free. He had ten carries for six total yards on the night, and was 2-of-3 passing for 19 yards. Eliot Neff was on the receiving end of both those Dock completions.

Fighting Scots shut out Canadian foe in game one

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

On a night that the Caledonia varsity football team celebrated its 1950 team that went undefeated without allowing a single point all season, the Fighting Scots moved to 1-0 with a shut out Thursday, Aug. 28.

Caledonia opened the 75th season of football at what is now Ralph E. Myers Stadium with a 36-0 victory over Windsor Holy Names Catholic. The night was also the first as head coach for former defensive coordinator Whitney Bell.

His Scots got the job done offensively and defensively.

Junior quarterback tossed a pair of touchdown passes to teammate Aaron Collins, ran in a score himself, and running back Ryne Wysocki scored the first two touchdowns of the season for the Fighting Scots.

Wysocki had a five-yard TD run in the first quarter and a three-yard TD run in the second to help the Scots move in front 15-0. The lead grew to 29-0 at the half as Backus tossed TD passes that covered 25 yards and 34 yards to Collins.

Backus scored the lone second half touchdown on a one-yard run.

Landry Mueller was a perfect 4-of-4 on extra-point kicks for the Scots.

On the night, the Fighting Scots outgained Holy Names 394 yards to 95.

Backus was 8-of-14 passing for 136 yards and he rushed 13 times for 102 yards. Wysocki finished with 13 rushes for 70 yards. The biggest play of the

See SCOTS on 10

KENT COUNTY DRAIN COMMISSIONER

NOTICE DAY OF REVIEW OF APPORTIONMENTS AND REVIEW OF DRAINAGE DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

SOUTHBELT INDUSTRIAL DRAIN

DATE: Thursday, September 25, 2025

TIME: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Kent County Drain Commissioner's Office
775 Ball Ave NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

QUESTIONS: (616) 632-7910

The Kent County Drain Commissioner will hold a Day of Review of Apportionments and Review of Drainage District Boundaries on the above date, time, and location. The Day of Review is an opportunity to review the tentative apportionments of benefit for each parcel and municipality within the drainage districts. Maps of the proposed drainage district boundary revisions can be found on the Drain Commissioner's website at: https://www.kentcountymi.gov/817/Drain-Commissioner under Petition Projects and Notices.

A general description of the lands by section number proposed to be added or deleted from the drainage district, as recommended by a licensed professional engineer or surveyor for the drain, is as follows:

Drain	Municipalities in Kent County	Portions of Sections Added	Portions of Sections Removed
SOUTHBELT INDUSTRIAL	CALEDONIA TOWNSHIP	7	7

The Drain Commissioner, engineers and/or other staff members will be available to assist individuals throughout the day and make revisions to the boundaries or apportionments where necessary. There is no need to schedule an appointment for a specific time on the Day of Review. The computation of costs for the drains will also be available at the Day of Review. Drain assessments are collected in the same manner as property taxes and will appear on your winter tax bill. If drain assessments are being collected for more than one (1) year, you may pay the assessment in full with any interest to date at any time and avoid further interest charges.

Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in the Day of Review should contact the Drain Commissioner's Office at the number noted above (voice) or through the Michigan Relay Center at 7-1-1 (TDD) at least 24 hours in advance of the Day of Review to request mobility, visual, hearing, or other assistance.

Comments on the apportionment of benefits and drainage district boundaries may be submitted to the Drain Commissioner in writing before the date of the Day of Review to 775 Ball Ave NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503, or electronically to drinfo@kentcountymi.gov. Comments may also be submitted in writing or verbally at the Day of Review. Comments submitted in advance must be received by the Drain Commissioner prior to the Day of Review to ensure consideration.

You may appeal the Drain Commissioner's decision to revise the district boundaries to the Kent County Circuit Court within ten (10) days, and you may also appeal the determination of apportionments to the Kent County Probate Court within ten (10) days.

The following is a list of any county, township, city, and village to be assessed at large in Kent County in the drainage district: **Caledonia Charter Township**

The following is a description of the lands constituting the drainage district:

Southbelt Industrial Drain: Sec. 7, T.5N., R.10W., Caledonia Charter Township, Kent County, Michigan

The following additional information can be found on the Drain Commissioner's website at https://www.kentcountymi.gov/817/Drain-Commissioner under Petition Projects and Notices

1. A map of the lands constituting the drainage district
2. Tentative Assessment Roll
3. Computation of Cost

Dated: September 9, 2025 Kenneth J. Yonker, Kent County Drain Commissioner

CLS girls turn in great early times in Rockford pool

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Caledonia/Lowell/South Christian senior Sophie Gaylord won the 100-yard freestyle, the 100-yard backstroke and was a part of a relay win for the Vikings Thursday at Rockford.

The host Rams took a 114-72 win over the visiting CLS varsity girls' swimming and diving team, but it was a solid night for the Viking squad.

Gaylord, Amelia McCann, Aliya Van Hofwegen and Caitlyn Morris teamed up to win the 200-yard medley relay at the start of the night. They finished with a time of 1 minute 57.15 seconds, a little over two seconds in front of the top Rockford foursome in the race.

The 100-yard breaststroke was the only race that the CLS girls didn't have someone place first or second in. The Rams also did boost their point total by having the top four scoring divers at the meet.

Gaylord won both of her individual events. She beat her nearest competitor by almost three seconds to win the 100-yard freestyle in 53.65 seconds. She also won the 100-yard backstroke by more than five seconds with a time of 1:01.80.

Teammate Lily Klein wasn't far off a runner-up finish in that backstroke race placing third in 1:07.85.

CLS junior Mya VanderZwaag had a runner-up time of 2:03.06 in the 200-yard freestyle and was the runner-up in the 100-yard butterfly with a time of 1:06.39 and the 500-yard freestyle in 5:35.63..

McCann raced to a runner-up time of 2:30.50 in the 200-yard individual medley and was second in the 100-yard butterfly in 1:06.39.

Morris won the runner-up points in the 50-yard freestyle with her time of 26.41 and was the fastest CLS girl in the 100-yard breaststroke with a third-place time of 1:17.73 which was less than half a second from second place in the race and less than one second from first. Van Hofwegen was third in that 50 freestyle with a time of 26.78.

CHS girls shoot to third at second league jamboree

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Fighting Scots were third Tuesday as the OK Green Conference gathered for its second varsity girls' golf jamboree of the season.

Byron Center took the victory at Muskegon Country Club with an overall score of 175 strokes. Jenison was second with a score of 192 ahead of Caledonia 199, Reeths-Puffer 199 and Mona Shores 214.

Senior Codie O'Krangley led the Caledonia team with a 44, which put her in a tie for fifth individually on the day.

Byron Center had four of the day's top seven golfers led by juniors Averie Hofman and Izzy Tawoda who each shot 43.

Reeths-Puffer junior Sophia McCollum was the day's individual champ with a two-over-37. Jenison junior Kylie Coffey shot a 39.

Junior Emily Walbeck shot a 50 for the Scots and senior Halley Stout added a 51. The Scots' number four score was a 54 from senior Katie Honhart.

The Scots were set to take part in the Russ Johnson Invitational hosted by Kenowa Hills at Gracewil Country Club Friday, Sept. 5. Caledonia returns to Muskegon Country Club Monday for the East-West Showdown.

The OK Green Conference season continues when the Scots head to Lincoln Country Club for the Mid-Season Jamboree Sept. 11.

SCOTS

Continued from Page 9

night for the Scots came from back-up quarterback Conlan Schultz who fired off a a 42-yard run late in the ballgame and had 47 yards rushing total on two carries.

Collins closed the night with four receptions for 87 yards and Lincoln Senti added two receptions for 21 yards.

Elliot Clark had a team-high five tackles for the Fighting Scot defense, including a sack and two tackles for loss.

Caledonia was slated to host Reeths-Puffer Sept. 5 and will be on the road to start OK Red Conference action at Grandville Friday, Sept. 12.









The 2005 Caledonia varsity football team that won the MHSAA Division 3 State Championship. The Fighting Scots were 7-2 during the regular season and then rattled off five straight playoff victories including a 27-6 win over a previously undefeated Haslett team in the State Final at Ford Field in Detroit Nov. 26, 2005. **File photo**

Scots celebrating 20th anniversary of state championship team

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

There was grass inside Ralph E. Myers Stadium back then.

M-6 was a brand new freeway wrapping around the south end of Grand Rapids.

Davenport University was just forming its campus there between the highway and M-6.

The wishbone was the offense.

The defense was simply dominant.

During what is becoming a season of anniversary celebrations, Caledonia Public Schools was set to honor the 2005 MHSAA Division 3 Football State Champions during its Sept. 5 ballgame against visiting Reeths-Puffer inside Ralph E. Myers Stadium.

Those 2005 Fighting Scots defeated a previously undefeated Haslett team 27-6 in the MHSAA Division 3 Football Finals at Ford Field in downtown Detroit Nov. 26, 2005, rolling over the Vikings like they had most of their playoff foes that fall. The Scots won their five postseason games by an average of 28 points. Bloomfield Hills Lahser was the only team to score more than a single touchdown against the Scots during the postseason, in what was a 49-21 state semifinal win by the Caledonia squad.

There were plans for a reunion at a restaurant in Caledonia for the 2005 squad following the 2025 Fighting Scot varsity football team's ballgame with Reeths-Puffer Friday night, Sept. 5. The 2005 Fighting Scot head coach Tom Burrill, who says getting new CHS varsity football coach Whitney Bell onto his staff later on was one of the best coaching moves he ever made, didn't plan to hear the cheers inside the newly renovated Ralph E. Myers Stadium for the state championship team. His Friday night plans included a trip to Hamilton as he is helping lead the Thornapple Kellogg varsity football team's defense along with long-time fellow coach Tim Penfield.

He was hoping to make it to the late-night reunion though.

"It's not something I necessarily talk about," Burrill said of the state title. "I don't wear my ring. We talk about it more amongst ourselves, some of the buddies and the coaches or some of the players that I get together with. It really does not come up that often. Once in a while somebody I'm coaching with will say, 'hey you're working with a state championship head coach.' My kids in Middleville don't really have any idea

See **SCOTS** on 15



Scots have talented skill group around junior QB

There is some carryover, but really it is a whole new era for Caledonia varsity football.

Former defensive coordinator Whitney Bell takes over as head coach for a Fighting Scot team that missed the playoffs for the first time since 2019 in 2024.

Brent DeYoung, now a senior, was the lone freshman on the state finals roster in 2022. He had three tackles in the season opener last week. And he is a part of a solid group of guys who competed under head coach Derek Pennington for a season or two or three.

Junior Bryce Backus takes over at quarterback for the Fighting Scots this fall with a good offensive line in front of him and some talented offensive playmakers surrounding him. The wide receiving crew is a good one highlighted by juniors Lincoln Senti and Aaron Collins.

Returnees along the offensive line include senior right tackle Liam Moore, junior center Thomas Hodgson and sophomore right guard Jacob DeVries. Freshman Kylen Spencer steps in to fill the left tackle spot.

Backus is a threat with his arm and his legs. Senior running back Ryne Wysocki should handle most of the rushing load this fall, and senior Capree Thomas will get some turns carrying the ball as well.

Some other top returnees for the squad this fall include senior linemen Brien Martin and Cody Meyers, senior linebacker Colton Sheely and senior corner Carter Berends.

The Fighting Scots got off to a 1-0 start with a 36-0 win over Windsor Holy Names Catholic Thursday, Aug. 28, on a night when the program honored the undefeated 1950 Caledonia varsity team that shut out all eight of its opponents and also celebrated the 75th anniversary of football at Ralph E. Myers Stadium.

Pennington's Fighting Scot teams had ten, 12 and eight wins in each of his first three seasons leading the program and then went 4-5 a year ago.

While the rest of the OK Conference shuffled its football schedules in 2024, the Fighting Scots remained in the OK Red Conference and went 2-5 in conference action.

The OK Red Conference slate remains as tough as every and begins for the Fighting Scots with a trip to Hudsonville Sept. 12. OK Red Conference teams were a combined 6-2 in week one of the season. Hudsonville took an impressive 27-21 victory over Byron Center.

The Eagles were the MHSAA Division 1 State Runner-up a year ago and rolled through a 7-0 OK Red Conference campaign.

Caledonia is home again Sept. 19 taking on Grandville.



New Caledonia varsity starting quarterback Bryce Backus puts the ball in the belly of senior running back Capree Thomas during their team's 36-0 opening night win over Windsor Holy Names Catholic Aug. 28. **Photo by Chris Robotham**

CALEDONIA
VARSITY FOOTBALL 2025 SCHEDULE

OPPONENT	DATE	PLACE
W vs. Windsor Holy Names 36-0	8/28/25	Home
Reeths-Puffer	9/05/25	Home
Hudsonville	9/12/25	Away
Grandville	9/19/25	Home
East Kentwood	9/26/25	Away
Grand Haven	10/03/25	Home
Holland West Ottawa	10/10/25	Away
Rockford	10/17/25	Away
Jenison	10/24/25	Home

Trojans set to celebrate 1965, 1975 football teams this fall

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Thornapple Kellogg High School will celebrate a pair of undefeated varsity football squads this fall.

There are plans to honor the undefeated state championship 1965 football team and its cheerleaders during the Sept. 26 home game against Grand Rapids Catholic Central inside Bob White Stadium.

That 1965 team finished the season ranked first by the Associated Press and the United Press International organizations in Class C-D in the state of Michigan. Led by first-team all-stater Rob White and second-team all-state honorees Jamie Rohrbacher and Dave VanElst, the TK team was 9-0. Those Trojans won their program's third-consecutive Expressway Conference Championship that fall.

That Sept. 26 date aligns with what would be head coach Bob White's 101st birthday. Coach White guided the Trojans to back-to-back state championships in 1964 and 1965.

The Trojans will also honor the 1975 undefeated football team and its cheerleaders during the Oct, 17 home game against Holland Christian. Those 1975 Trojans were a perfect 9-0 and won the OK Blue Conference championship allowing just six points total in seven conference ballgames and only 13 points all season long.

The 1975 season was the first in which the Michigan High School Athletic Association began honoring state championship football teams. TK wasn't selected to appear in the MHSAA playoffs for the first time until 1979.

Juniors already have a lot of varsity experience for TK team

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Hastings, Hamilton and Wayland are the trio of non-conference squads on the schedule this fall for the Thornapple Kellogg varsity football team as it preps for its second OK Black Conference season.

The Trojans ended a tough first campaign in the Black with a win over Ottawa Hills late last season. The conference remains a tough one again this fall, but the Trojans are hoping for better with a line-up full of youngsters who gained a lot of experience last fall.

"The cool thing is we're returning basically nine or ten on offense," TK head coach Jeff Dock said. "I think all but, and even some of our back-ups, all but one have taken meaningful offensive varsity snaps. Super excited about the return of a lot of these guys."

Virtually all of the offensive backfield returns with Micah Dock stepping under center at quarterback for the second straight fall after being thrust into the line-up in his first varsity game as a sophomore because of an injury last fall.

"The biggest thing is he knows the pace, the physicality and the speed of the game. He didn't have to learn that on the fly or from the sidelines. He has nine football games that taught him what that is. I think he knows the sense of urgency of it. Having a year of that. Having a year in the weight room. Having a year of speed work. That's a good thing. That goes for all those sophomores (now juniors). That's the beauty of it. We're really looking forward to see how that unfolds."

Micah will be handing and flinging the ball to seniors Zach Eldridge, Debo Robinson and Malachi VanEngen with bigger roles this fall for junior Jack Smith and Cam Peter carrying the football.

The line in front of them is nearly full intact, with four of five regular starters back including senior center Jake Welch Jr., junior left guard AJ Dutcher, junior left tackle Brody Hammer and senior right tackle Adam Lozada. Junior Isaac Fleischmann is taking over the right guard spot to start the season. Junior Logan Goggins got some varsity action in last fall and he'll see time on the line throughout this season too.

"You never like having a bunch of sophomores having varsity football, but the cool thing is the following year you have a bunch of juniors that have played varsity football," coach Dock said. "With that being said, it is super exciting to see the growth that those guys will have."

"The football I.Q. Is higher. The progression of things [in practice] can happen at a little faster rate. They know we want details, we want to focus on details, so that is part of their focus. They coach each other up, which is really cool."

Running back/defensive back Maddox VanEngen and linebacker/tight end Breckin McWhinney are a pair of sophomores on the varsity roster this fall working into roles.

There is a bit more turnover on the defensive side of the ball for TK, and it showed a bit as Hastings scored on every one of its possessions in a 31-29 win over the Trojans in Middleville in the season opener Aug. 29.

Coach Dock is happy to welcome back senior defensive tackle Owen Hood who was on the varsity as a sophomore and missed his senior season with an injury. He expects the team to be solid in the middle with the return of senior defensive tackle Blake Bossenberger as well.

The Trojan roster was devastated by injuries a year ago, and coach Dock said looking at how to minimize those things from happening is something that is something he has been searching for answers for for eight years.

"I am hoping the ninth year is better. My dad jokes around that I need to stay away from you. I am hoping that we stay clean. The one negative is our numbers aren't great. If we end up losing someone, not that it is ever good, it'll really not be good.

"We look at what we do strength and conditioning wise. We look at what we do mobility wise. We look at what we do in practice. We're constantly trying to think about how do we keep guys from getting injured. I think some of that is just the game … I pray every day."

The Trojans have just two teams in the program this fall. The freshmen and JV squads have been combined into one this season. The senior and sophomore groups are especially thin at the moment. The varsity roster has ten seniors. There are nine sophomores playing in the program.

Coach Dock said he likes the leadership he has seen so far from the small group of seniors.

TK begins play in the OK Black Conference on the road against Ottawa Hills Sept. 19. The next home game for TK is against Grand Rapids Catholic Central Sept. 26.



Thornapple Kellogg junior quarterback Micah Dock holds the ball in the belly of back Jack Smith while reading the Hastings defense during the Trojans' season-opener in Middleville Thursday, Aug. 28. Dock and Smith are two of many 2025 Trojan varsity ballplayers who spent significant time competing with the varsity as sophomores last fall. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

"We want to compete with the best. It's always how can we compete with the best, how can we get into those conference championship opportunities and all of that," coach Dock said.

"It is what it is. Everyone is going to have a chance. Catholic is probably the new favorite with a sophomore quarterback and a line-backer going to Purdue. They have some dudes. We'll just take it one step at a time and see what happens."

That Catholic Central team reached the state semifinals in Division 5 last fall, and was one of four teams from the six-team OK Black to qualify for the state postseason. Northview took the conference title a year ago with a perfect 5-0 conference record and a 9-0 regular season record. Holland Christian and East Grand Rapids should be formidable foes again this fall too.

THORNAPPLE KELLOGG
VARSITY FOOTBALL 2025 SCHEDULE

OPPONENT	DATE	PLACE
L vs. Hastings 31-29	8/28/25	Home
Hamilton	9/05/25	Away
Wayland	9/12/25	Away
Ottawa Hills	9/19/25	Away
Grand Rapids Catholic Central	9/26/25	Home
Northview	10/03/25	Away
East Grand Rapids	10/10/25	Home
Holland Christian	10/17/25	Home
Wyoming	10/24/25	Home



Thornapple Kellogg senior trumpet player Avery Hagemann and the Trojan Marching Band perform during the 2025 varsity football opener Thursday, Aug. 28, inside Bob White Stadium in Middleville. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

Trojan band opens season during thriller between TK and Hastings

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

It was a thriller of a night for the Thornapple Kellogg and Hastings varsity football teams that played a contest that came down to the final second inside Bob White Stadium in Middleville Thursday.

It was a "thriller night" for the Thornapple Kellogg High School Marching Band too as it had its first big performance of the fall with a "Throwback Thursday" theme. The Trojans played Michael Jackson's "Thriller," "Push It" by Salt-N-Pepa, and "Any Way You Want It" by Journey during its halftime show.

"We're going to do a Bruno Mars show, lots of pop music this year later on in the season, and then in the middle of October we'll have another classic rock show, so that'll be that'll be cool," TKHS band director Clair Jansma said.

"I asked them, you know, because they're the ones performing the music. I don't want them to get bored, with the stuff that they're playing. So, I'm constantly asking them to send me tunes that you're interested in in. So, a lot of these tunes were submitted or at least show ideas were submitted by students, and then I can go in and find what tunes work for our ensemble and go from there. It's mostly student driven with the show selection process."

Jansma was a TKHS student herself, and graduated in 2020. She played under then band director Ray Rickert, and spent part of the 2023/2024 school year student teaching at TKHS before taking over as the high school band director beginning with the 2024/2025 school year

"The different thing this year is we have an extra show in there. From last year to this year we have five shows instead of four. We're still doing a different show every home game … we're still doing lots of new music. It'll be really cool to see how the students pull it together. I am really excited for them."

It's an all new halftime show every week with the Trojan marching band.

"We don't compete. We're a non-competitive marching band. In order to prepare kids for collegiate marching band, at the collegiate level they do different shows every home game. We thought we could incorporate that at TK, and that's the way I did it when I was there. So, I just am kind of continuing on that tradition of doing new music.

"That way the kids don't get bored of it. There is something new they can focus on every week, and consistently get better with different tunes not just perfecting the same tune every week."

She is expecting her musicians to be well-prepared for their next show. The TK varsity football team doesn't play another home game until Sept. 26.

The high school marching band has 78 members for this season.

"It's a little small," Jansma said, "but we're we're gonna grow and it's gonna be it's gonna be a good season. Small but mighty, that's what I like to say."

The Trojan marching band will also perform during varsity home football games Oct. 10, 17 and 24.

TKHS cheerleaders earn All-American honors at NCA camp



The Thornapple Kellogg High School varsity sideline cheer team gathers during the National Cheerleaders Association Camp at Grand Blanc High School the weekend of Aug. 14-15. TK had six cheerleaders earn NCA All-American status at the event. **Photo provided**

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

A group of six Trojans earned All-American honors and a trio of seniors were invited to become members of the National Cheerleaders Association (NCA) at the NCA camp at Grand Blanc High School Aug. 14-15.

Thornapple Kellogg sideline and competitive cheer head coach Madelynn Lula and 20 members of the 2025 TKHS sideline cheer team were a part of the NCA camp that hosted eight of the to cheer teams in the state. Lula said the Trojans were one of just two programs at the "elite" camp that were not a part of the MHSAA State Finals in competitive cheer last winter – although the Trojans are no strangers to participating in the state finals.

A handful of girls who have cheered for the orange and black earned NCA All-American honors at the camp for their performance, poise and personality. That group of TK All-Americans included Mia Hilton, Clara Kovich, Kaylee Clarke, Keiryn Merrill, Caitryn Hilton and Tobey DeGroot.

"You had to be at the clinic, recognized by one of the people on staff as an elite leader on the team, an elite talent on the team, and you had to show that you're exceptional in athletics and teamwork and leadership," Lula said. "We had 12 on our team that were nominated to tryout, and then you have to complete a cheer that they learned the first day of the clinic, and a series of tumbling and stunting and jumping."

Lula added that Mia Hilton, Clarke and fellow senior Peyton Gater were chosen to become a part of the NCA.

This was a new experience for the TK team. The NCA has hosted midwest camps as close as Wisconsin which some Michigan teams have attended in the past. Lula said the camp was run mostly by cheerleaders from the University of Louisville.

"It was awesome. It was a great experience," Lula said. "We had never attended anything like that before. It was really cool to see the girls flourish in front of especially talented people like that."

The 2025 Trojan sideline cheer team got its first action of the fall season in Thursday, Aug. 28, in front of the Trozone student section inside Bob White Stadium as the Thornapple Kellogg varsity football team played host to Hastings.

SCOTS

Continued from Page 11

about that."

"I wouldn't say it comes up that often. I don't necessarily think about it that often, but it is definitely great memories."

Senior running back Thomas Spitzley rushed for two touchdowns and caught a touchdown pass in the state final, and senior fullback John Muuse had a TD run too. Muuse closed the ballgame with a 22 rushes for 99 yards. Spitzley had 75 yards on the ground and fellow running back Alex Johnson had 65 yards rushing while also throwing a six-yard TD pass to Spitlzey.

Thomas' younger brother Daniel Spitzley directed Burrill's wishbone offense as the team's quarterback, working behind a line of center Jackson Price, guards Drew VanderVeen and Alex Ohlrich and tackles Jeff Douma and Jared Biggs. On the end of the line in the state final were tight end Rob Hamly and split end Max Larson.

Johnson, Thomas Spitzley, Larson, Ohlrich and Muuse were all two-way starters, with Muuse, Dan Jennings and Josh Echtinaw a devastating group of linebackers for opposing offenses to deal with along with outside backer Matt Cavanaugh. If opponents were ever able to get through the line of Ohlrich, Larson, Adam Devers, Ken Echtinaw and Devan Jennings.

Dan and Devan Jennings tied for the team lead with six tackles each in the state championship game, and Dan forced a fumble.

Thomas Spitzley and Johnson manned the defensive backfield along with Matt Evarts. Mike Gless did the kicking.

Muuse's four-yard score in the final minutes of the first half pushed the Fighting Scot lead to 20-0 at the half. Caledonia had three first half touchdowns. Haslett had just one first down in the entire first half.

"That team, we didn't necessarily have a superstar, but we had a lot of really, really, really good football players and not a weak link, and they just played really well together," Burrill said.

Muuse at linebacker and Ken Echtinaw earned all-state honors in 2005.

Haslett quarterback Nathan Turner went on to play collegiately at Western Michigan University, but the Scots held him to seven rushes for 68 yards and just 37 yards passing at Ford Field, and mostly the Scots had pushed him backwards until he broke free on an 80-yard TD run in the final minutes for his team's only points. In all, the Scots outgained the Vikings 368 yards to 139 in the final

The toughest test of the postseason proved to be a trip to the shore of Reeds Lake to take on the East Grand Rapids Pioneers in the district finals. Caledonia held on for a 14-7 victory over the EGR squad that went on to win the next five D3 state titles.

That 2005 defense for the Fighting Scots is certainly in the argument for the best defense ever at Caledonia alongside the 2022 state runner-up team and the 1950 squad which went 8-0 without allowing a single point. No one scored against the Scots in the first quarter all season long. The Caledonia first-string defense only allowed two scores in the final seven games of the season, including the playoffs.

That impressive postseason run came on the heels of a regular season that had its ups and downs. The Fighting Scots were 7-2, with both of those losses coming during a 4-2 OK Gold Conference season. Until that meeting with East Grand Rapids, close games had been a bugaboo for coach Burrill's team. The Scots seven regular season victories were all by 29 points or more. The two losses were a 22-20 loss to Thornapple Kellogg and a 16-15 loss to Hamilton.

"I think of the players that we had. I think of the turmoil that we had going into the season. The firing of our basketball coach in the summer, to a couple of our really good players getting injured our first day of hitting, to our scrimmage, to a shut out versus South Christian and a tough loss to Hamilton. From that point on, our kids just rolled. They started to believe."

"We put together a Fighting Scot creed that year, and our first goal was to win a state championship. I still remember Ken Echtinaw saying after we lost to Hamilton that our goal wasn't to win a conference championship it was to win a state championship, and that's what we're going to go for. Really, from that point on we only had one game that was within a touchdown, and that was East Grand Rapids.

"Our kids just got on a roll, and it was so much fun. Our school was so excited. And just to be a part of that was really just an amazing trip."

Burrill said that a new weight lifting program ready to be installed by then defensive coordinator Pat Gillies was a key part of the prep for the state title run.

"For our kids, it started in the weight room," Burrill said. "It started with their work ethic. It started with their determination to turn this thing around. They did everything they were asked to do. They trusted us, even though there was probably some doubt in other people's minds, there wasn't in theirs. It just came together."

The playoff games that season were the first for every one on the Fighting Scot roster. The program hadn't had more than five wins in a single season since a 1999 7-4 campaign in which the team reached the Division 4 District Finals.

Burrill coached the Scots to conference championships in 2006 and 2007, and the team made a return trip to the state semifinals in 2006. He stepped aside from the program following the 2007 season and then returned to lead the Scots from 2014-2020, and won another conference championship with the Scots in 2014. In the end, he spent 20 seasons as the CHS head football coach. Overall, he has now spent 40 years coaching high school football. He retired from teaching a year ago, and is now the director of golf at The Pines Golf Course.

Cavanaugh, a sophomore defensive back on that CHS state championship team, went on to be a two-time letterwinner on the University of Michigan football team. He appeared in 20 games from 2008-2010 and earned Academic All-Big Ten honors twice.

Larson, a senior on the state championship team, played collegiately at Grand Valley State University as a tight end and defensive lineman. Larson is coaching with Burrill on the Thornapple Kellogg High School staff.

"Everybody else, they were just a bunch of Division 3 football players that didn't go on and play," Burrill said. "I think sometimes kids just want to leave it on the field. They had a great experience, and they're ready to move on to the next stage of their life."

Ellinger entering MHSCA Hall of Fame this month

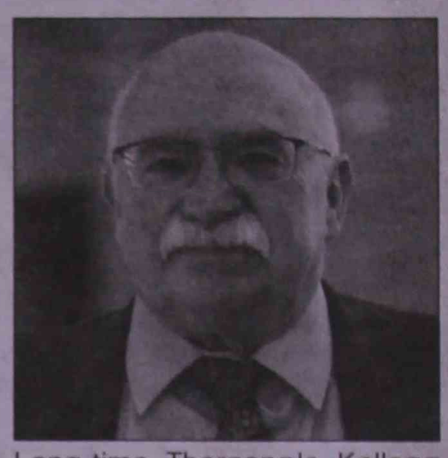
Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Thornapple Kellogg High School coach Tom Ellinger is adding more hall of fame credentials to his long resume this fall.

The Michigan High School Coaches Association (MHSCA) has selected Ellinger for induction into its Hall of Fame. Coach Ellinger has fifty-five years and eighty-nine seasons of coaching experience as a coach of student-athletes and is still coaching.

Ellinger was inducted into the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame back in 2021.

Enslen graduated from Thornapple Kellogg High School in the spring of 1972, started working with the football program in the fall of that year. He has been doing it ever since. He has bounced around from level to level and job to job in the TKHS football program – wherever he has been needed.



Long-time Thornapple Kellogg coach Tom Ellinger has been named to the 2025 class of the Michigan High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame. **File photo**

Ellinger also spent a few years as the Thornapple Kellogg High School varsity baseball coach.

He will be inducted as part of the MHSCA Hall of Fame's 14-member 2025 class on Sunday, Sept. 14, at the Comfort Inn and Suites Convention Center in Mt. Pleasant.

'The Ralph' is ready for some football in its 75th year

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Folks didn't need to get through the sprawling new entryway, into the sparkling new concessions stand and locker rooms, or even hear Caledonia Community Schools superintendent Dirk Weeldreyer celebrate the successful upgrade from 36 to 97 toilets in the stadium before pouring out accolades.

The 75th Anniversary and Grand Re-Opening ribbon cutting ceremony to Ralph E. Myers Stadium in Caledonia filled all the available space around the construction supplies and equipment in the parking lot south of the stadium Tuesday, Aug. 26. Like on any Friday night with a home football game, folks were parked across Johnson Street SE in the lots surrounding Duncan Lake Middle School and Caledonia Elementary.

A family with a couple youngsters celebrated out loud the sidewalk heading along the west side of the stadium parking lot from Johnson Street to the new stadium entryway as the ceremony was about to begin outside "The Ralph."

That entryway still featured some caution tape as concrete continued hardening behind the evening's speakers Weeldreyer, Caledonia High School athletic director Phil Miedema and Mallory Walsh, the executive director of the Caledonia Education Foundation. Construction workers were busy in the evening light putting together the bleachers on the home side of the stadium. There is still work to be done, but the project is close enough to completion that "The Ralph" was ready for some football last week.

"For 75 years, this stadium has been more than bleachers and turf," Weeldreyer said. "It's been the heart of this community, a place where folks have come together for generations from Friday night football lights, halftime shows and homecoming traditions to being an outstanding venue for track and field. Ralph has always been a stage for excellence, pride and connection.

"Tonight, we especially pause to honor the 1950 Caledonia football team. That team, Caledonia's first undefeated champions played right here on this very field. But what made them so special was more than their record. It was how the entire town came together to make football possible here in this place, because prior to 1950 football was played on a field just through the trees over there in Lakeside Park. But the thought was that a permanent home was needed. So players, parents, local businesses donated their time, energy and resources. The players literally laid the sod here in 1950 that became the stadium. The bleachers were built and something lasting was created for this community, and at the center of it all was the namesake for the stadium Ralph E. Myers. It was his vision and leadership that gave this place its start. He was more than a coach. He was a mentor, teacher and a believer in what young people could accomplished when given opportunity and encouragement. So this stadium was dedicated in him his honor four years after the first sod was laid."

Vern Keyser who played on that undefeated Caledonia varsity football team was in attendance at the ceremony, and an honorary captain for the Fighting Scots as they opened the 2025 varsity football season at home with a win over Windsor Holy Names Catholic Thursday, Aug. 28.

The renovations include new team rooms for home and away squads. A permanent Scots Store near the entryway into the facility. A brand new concession building at the south entrance to the stadium. Improved storage facilities. There are new bleachers and a new press box on the western home sideline. There is a dedicated from for trainers and another for game officials. There is a viewing area near the south entrance for those with mobility issues, and a growing tiered viewing area still wrapping up construction from the concession area down the hill to the track.

Work is also continuing to progress on a new pole vault and long jump area on the north end of the stadium.

"This renovated stadium is an investment, not just to our facilities, but in the experience of our families," Miedema said. "It is about atmosphere. It is about giving every student-athlete, every student, every athlete, every musician, every fan, and a leader a place to shine and a place to belong.

"As athletic director, my greatest joy is watching our students grow into leaders. Leaders on the field yes, but also leaders in the classroom, in their careers and in this community. When they look back years from now I know that they will remember the feeling of being part of something special right here at Ralph E. Myers Field just as I feel. So, tonight as we cut this ribbon and step into a new era, we celebrate 75 years of tradition, pride, excellence in our community. And with the same spirit that laid the sod, played the fight song, and lifted state championship banners, we look forward to what the next 75 will bring."



Caledonia dignitaries including new Caledonia High School athletic director Phil Miedema, with two hands on the scissors and a smile on his face, snip the purple ribbon in celebration of the 75th anniversary of Ralph E. Myers Stadium and its recent renovations during a ceremony Tuesday, Aug. 26. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

Dozens and dozens of spectators watched the ceremony from seats set up near the entrance with more people standing behind. There were members of the high school cheer team and the high school marching band flanking the ceremony on either side, and eventually a contingent of high school football players made their way up out of the stadium. There have not been any updates to the track or the stadium turf throughout this process which started as soon as the 2024 football season wrapped.

A total of $6.5 million from the $60.1 million 2023 supplemental bond passed by Caledonia voters was tabbed for stadium renovations. The last major renovations to the stadium were done in 1998.



Vern Kayser, a member of the undefeated 1950 Caledonia varsity football team, checks out a team photo with onlookers during the 75th anniversary and ribbon cutting ceremony at Ralph E. Myers Stadium Aug. 26.



Work continues on the home side bleachers Tuesday, Aug. 26, as the Ralph E. Myers Stadium 75th anniversary and ribbon cutting ceremony goes on around the stadium in Caledonia.

TK spikers close first day of competition with a victory

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Trojans pulled out a pair of two-point sets to beat Hopkins and close out its first day of competition of the 2025 fall season.

The Thornapple Kellogg varsity volleyball team was 1-2 at its home quad Wednesday, Aug. 27, falling to Ionia and Vicksburg before taking a 26-24, 26-24 win over the Hopkins girls.

New Thornapple Kellogg varsity volleyball coach Haley Grams said ending the evening with a win was great.

"It was our first time playing together this season as our first tournament got cancelled," Grams said. "We were all ready to hit the court after a week and a half of practices."

Ionia took a 25-9, 25-19 win over the TK girls to open the day. Vicksburg bested the TK ladies by the scores of 25-16, 26-22.

"I learned a lot about the girls and think that they learned a lot about playing with each other as well as my coaching style during games," Grams said.

"The two games that we lost were tough, but there were moments where we were down by a big spread and after getting the ball back were able to rally and close the gap either partly or all the way. This was a success in my book as we have always struggled to rally and close a gap once the gap became four-plus points."

Grams said the big goals for this season include creating a positive culture around the game and on and off the court, and to help the girls gain more volleyball knowledge and in turn create better court awareness and knowledge.

That court awareness includes communicating on the court to avoid dropped balls and collisions on the court. It's one of the things the Trojans are focused on improving this fall.

The lynchpin of the offense this fall is all new. Sophomore Abby Hoebeke, in her second season on the varsity, is taking over the setting position for the first time.

"Our setter didn't return this season, but Abby was very eager to try it out and has been doing very well," Grams said in the preseason. "She is a quick learner and we are lucky to have her."

The TK coach said she has already seen a lot of good strides in the connection between Hoebeke and her hitters. And the TK team does have a few experienced varsity hitters back including junior Reece Ritsema in her third varsity season.

"She is continuing to dominate in the middle, is a strong leader, and always a positive voice on the court," Grams said of Ritsema.

Also back are seniors Ava Zellmer on the right side, senior Maria Piccione on the right side and senior McKenna Hoebeke on the outside.

The defense is led by seniors Alexa Eden and Paige Abshagen. Eden is in her third varsity season and opening the year at libero. Abshagen is working her way back from injury and supporting her teammates until she can get back on the court as a DS.

"[Eden] is eating up the court and doing what she can to hold each of her teammates accountable at practices," Grams said. "She always goes hard and is encouraging, especially with our younger players."

That group of younger players looking to contribute this fall for TK include sophomore setter/outside hitter Olivia Fischer.

"Liv has been a great addition thus far as far as positivity goes. She is eager to learn more about the setting role as she is a younger player, but always wants to improve and do well."

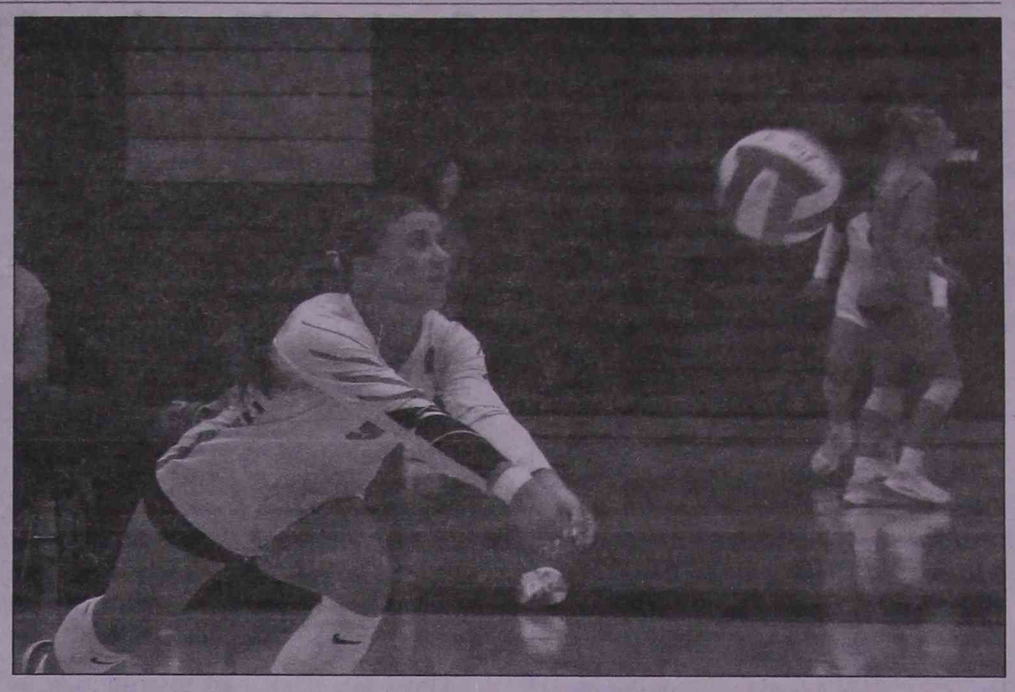
Sophomore Elizabeth sell is another versatile player. She has been willing to give setting a go too, and could really play anywhere on the court for TK.

Junior Maddy Eitel and sophomore Anna Romph provide some size at the net along with sophomore Nadia Piccione.

Getting some height from the youngsters is important as the TK team isn't especially tall overall. As far as athleticism, Grams likes her team's speed across the court. And so far, Grams has been encouraged by her girls' ability to reset and refocus during drills.

The Thornapple Kellogg girls were set to open the OK Gold Conference season Thursday, Sept. 4, at South Christian and will head to the Cereal City Invitational at Battle Creek Lakeview Saturday, Sept. 6. The TK team is home again in the OK Gold Tuesday, Sept. 9, taking on Grand Rapids Union.

South Christian and West Catholic should be especially strong in the OK Gold Conference again. The Sailors come into the season ranked seventh in the state in Division 2.



Thornapple Kellogg senior libero Alexa Eden stretches forward to pass a ball during her team's contest with Vicksburg Tuesday, Aug. 26, at the season-opening quad in Middleville. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS
THORNAPPLE TOWNSHIP
PLANNING COMMISSION
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2025,
at 7:00 P.M.

Please be advised the Thornapple Township Planning Commission will hold public hearings on September 22, at 7pm or as soon thereafter as possible. The public hearings will take place in the Township Hall, 200 E. Main St., Middleville.

The public hearings will address the following:

1) Renewal of existing Special Land Use #132 for Top Grade Aggregates, LLC for mineral extraction on parcel 08-14-030-004-00 & 08-14-030-009-00 in the SW ¼ section of Section 30, Thornapple Twp containing 40 +/- acres of land.

2) Renewal of existing Special Land Use #149 for Excel Excavation for mineral extraction on parcel 08-14-027-003-20 in SW ¼ section of Section 27, Thornapple Twp containing 40 +/- acres of land.

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

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

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

Cindy Ordway, Thornapple Township Clerk

Scots take off on TK over final mile of Friday morning dual

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

A holiday weekend was dawning.

The first OK Green Conference jamboree of the season was on the horizon for the Fighting Scots – Sept. 4.

Caledonia head coach Ben Thompson wanted to not wear his guys out, but also to see if he could get the gravity from his fastest runners to reel in the rest of the pack a little.

The Fighting Scots still put up a perfect score in their annual Friday morning before Labor Day dual with the Thornapple Kellogg boys. The Scots took a 15-40 win over the Trojans, and had the 12 fastest runners overall in the race.

The CHS pack had instructions to shoot for a six-minute pace the first mile, a 5:50 pace the second mile, and then to get to racing.

A wave of purple followed Thornapple Kellogg freshman Owen Bremer around the course for the majority of those first two miles and then started to overtake him.



Thornapple Kellogg freshman Owen Bremer is trailed by a wave of Fighting Scots including but not limited to (from left) Kaden Van Ryn, Bentley Nichols, Luke Smith, Bennett Snapper, Jake Potgeter, Noah Johnston and Eli Velting about a mile and a half into their race Friday morning, Aug. 29, at Caledonia High School. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

Caledonia senior Noah Johnston won the race in 17:38.5. For reference, Johnston broke the 16-minute mark for the first time the previous Friday at the South Christian Under the Lights Invitational.

"I just wanted them to not go all out today, because we have three big ones coming up here in the next two weeks with Labor Day in between. That was kind of the thinking behind it," Caledonia boys' coach Ben Thompson said.

CHS had three guys finish in less than 18 minutes Friday. Sophomore Bennett Snapper was second in 17:48.8 and sophomore Bentley Nichols third in 17:59.7.

The top five for the Caledonia boys in the dual also included senior Luke Smith (18:03.9) and sophomore Jake Potgeter (18:06.4).

"The times for those first ten or 15 guys were really good or really closed. They all packed up and ran together," Thompson said. "Which is kind of what we have been preaching a lot. The other thing is we have been focusing on getting faster as the race goes along … I'd guess all their splits were probably negative. It doesn't always happen in the big races, but you try to work on that as sort of a skill."

Bremer kept up his pace, leading the TK team with an improved PR of 18 minutes 40.3 seconds. TK's number two was junior Grady Galaviz, who was much improved from the Trojans' first race of the season to finish right behind Bremer in 18:42.3. Those two were eighth and ninth in the team scoring and 13th and 14th among the overall group of runners.

The Thornapple Kellogg teams were set to get conference action underway in the OK Gold Conference today, Sept. 4, too at Riverside Park in Grand Rapids.

The TK team also had Garrett Holzhausen 22nd in 19:23.9 Friday, sophomore Wyatt Richardson 34th in 19:56.0 and freshman Parker Robinett

Continued on next page

GAINES CHARTER TOWNSHIP
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Gaines Charter Township Board of Trustees will hold a public hearing to consider the following:

Summary of Request: Public Services Special Assessment July 12, 2021, the Township Board of Trustees passed Resolution No. 2021-11, stating each year, on or before September 30, the Township Board would ascertain the Public Services costs for the coming year. Upon determining and establishing the amount to be assessed (based on unexpended funds, cash on hand, and the estimated projected costs for that year) shall hold a public hearing on the estimated costs and expenses, for police, public safety, rescue, and fire protection and on the distribution of the levy for the coming year (2026).

Property Address: All real properties in the Charter Township of Gaines

Date and Time of Hearing: September 08, 2025, at 7:00 PM

Location of Hearing: Township Hall, 8555 Kalamazoo Ave., SE, Caledonia, MI 49316.

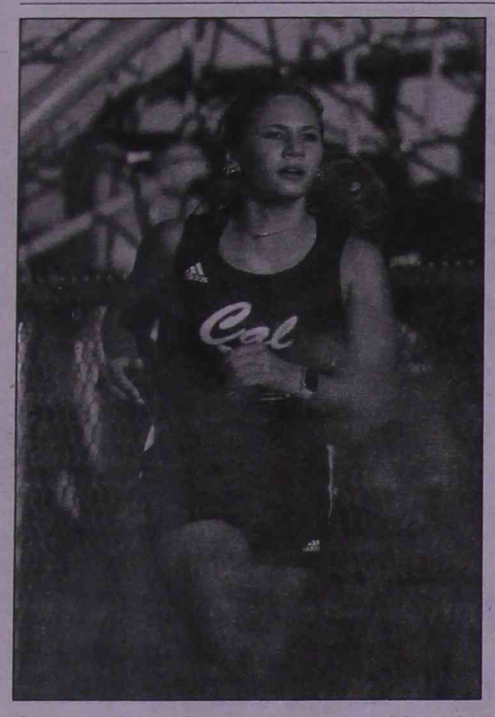
Any interested party may appear and be heard. Information related to this request may be inspected at the Gaines Township Hall, 8555 Kalamazoo Ave., SE, or contact the Township Manager's office at 616-698-6640.

In order to be entered into the public record, signed written comments must be received by 5PM on September 08, 2025.

Persons with disabilities needing special accommodations should contact Kim Triplett at 616-504-4332 one week prior to the meeting to request mobility, visual or any other assistance.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CALEDONIA
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Meeting Minutes

The minutes for the August 6, 2025 Township Board of Trustees Meeting that were approved on August 20, 2025, are posted at the Township Offices at 8196 Broadmoor Ave., and on the website at www.caledoniatownship.org.



Caledonia front runner Akaela Daman runs along the fence line between the Caledonia High School grounds and the Emmons Lake Elementary playground during her team's Friday morning dual, Aug. 29, against visiting Thornapple Kellogg.

Continued from previous page

27th in 20:00.2.

TK and Caledonia will both be a a part of the Trojans' annual Coach B Invitational at Gun Lake Monday, Sept. 8.

The Caledonia girls took a 17-41 win over their TK counterparts.

Junior Akaela Daman wasn't holding back. She improved her time from the opening meet of the season by almost 15 seconds and was just over a second off the PR she set as a freshman. She hit the finish line in 20:23.4.

Caledonia had five of the first six finishers. Senior Hannah Bennett was second in 21:37.2 and sophomore Charlie Bont third in 21:58.1.

Thornapple Kellogg's leader, Peyton Hardy, placed fourth overall in 21:58.8.

Junior Alaina McCrumb was TK's number two placing seventh in 22:18.4. Amya Gater had a big jump of over 50 seconds from meet one to meet two and was eighth overall in 22:35.0. Trojan freshman Brielle Miller had a similar improvement and was tenth overall in 22:44.8. Trojan senior Madison Kietzman hit the finish line 12th with a time of 22:50.8 to close out TK's top five

The Scots' top five also included a time of 22:05.4 from junior Anna VanderWal and a 22:06.2 from sophomore Tiona Sakala who raced stride for stride together for the second meet in a row.

Trojan soccer gets its first OK Gold win of 2025

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Thornapple Kellogg varsity boys' soccer team righted the ship in the OK Gold Conference Tuesday with a 2-1 win at Grand Rapids Northview.

The win moves the TK team to 1-2-1 in conference action so far this fall.

TK was set to travel to South Christian to face the Sailors Thursday, Sept. 4. TK goes on the road in the conference Monday to face Grand Rapids Union and then takes on non-conference foe Hamilton in Middleville Wednesday, Sept. 10.

Caledonia tennis shoots down Red Arrows in straight sets

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Fighting Scots battled to pull out a couple of tiebreakers at the end of the first set in a couple matches with Lowell Tuesday.

The Fighting Scots mostly cruised other than that though in an 8-0 non-conference win over the visiting Red Arrow varsity boys' tennis team.

Caledonia first singles player Hudsen Derengowski took a 7-6(3) win over Lowell's Micah McDonald in the opening set of their match and then closed out a 6-3 win in set number two.

The match went a similar way at first doubles where the Caledonia duo of Cooper Sowerby and Quinn Cook outscored Lowell's Rowen Eldred and Nick Rokos 7-6(4), 6-3.

Quinn Stanley, Garrett Fales and Colin Martin won the second, third and fourth singles matches for the Scots only allowing the Red Arrows to win seven games across all six sets. There in the doubles line-up for the Scots this fall all four guys are returning players. Derengowski, Fales and Martin are all seniors who have been four-year varsity players. Stanley is a junior.

The Scots took convincing wins in the other doubles matches too, giving up just six games in six sets. Isaac Robotham and Russell Grandon took the win at number two. Caleb Harrison and Derick Prichard won at number three. Isaac Judd and Charlie Scott got the fourth doubles win.

Caledonia head coach Scott Bont said in the preseason that "several of the guys have worked hard during the offseason and demonstrated a readiness to start the season … The guys appeared to have come to the beginning of the season ready to start and compete."

The Scots were slated to visit East Kentwood Thursday and will head to Portage Northern today, Sept. 6. The OK Green Conference season starts with a tough dual against Byron Center Wednesday, Sept. 10, at Caledonia High School. The Bulldogs expect to be finishing on top of the OK Green Conference standings again this season.

"I would like to see us finish in second or third place in the OK Green this year," Bont said. "This would be a big improvement from last year. I really challenge the guys to make sure that they continue to get better every week."

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THE SUN AND NEWS
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Village of Middleville
COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the August 12 2025 Regular Council Meeting, that were approved on August 26, 2025, are posted at the Village Hall at 100 E Main Street and on the website at www.villageofmiddleville.org.

GAINES CHARTER TOWNSHIP
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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

Summary of Request: Special Land Use permit request for a major vehicle repair operation in the General Commercial zoning district.
Property Address: 6980 Division Avenue, Grand Rapids, MI 49548
Parcel Numbers: 41-22-07-101-003
Applicant: Omar Alameer
Date and Time of Hearing: September 25, 2025, at 7:00 PM
Location of Hearing: Gaines Charter Township Offices, Board Room
8555 Kalamazoo Avenue SE, Caledonia, MI 49316

Any interested party may appear and be heard on said proposal. Information related to this request may be inspected, by appt., during regular business hours at the Planning Department window located in the Gaines Charter Township Offices. For information related to this request, contact Dan Wells at (616) 980-6188 or dan.wells@gainestownship.org. To be entered into the public record, signed written comments must be received by 5:00 PM on September 25th, 2025.

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



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