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

ONE STEP AT A TIME: PAGE STUDENTS HONOR FALLEN 9/11 HEROES
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Hastings Public Library
227 E State Street
Hastings MI 49058

Pine Rest to integrate BRAINS center as part of merger

James Gemmell
Contributing Writer

Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services in Gaines Charter Township has announced a pending merger with a multidisciplinary assessment and treatment center.

BRAINS, which stands for Behavioral Resources And Institute for Neuropsychological Services, will operate as "BRAINS, A Service of Pine Rest" once the merger takes effect October 27.

In a news release, Pine Rest said the merger will integrate BRAINS into Pine Rest's full continuum of care.

"At the heart of this merger is a shared commitment to children and families in our community," said Dr. Mark Eastburg, president and CEO of Pine Rest. "Families in West Michigan deserve timely, high-quality behavioral health care, and by joining with BRAINS, we can work together to reduce barriers, create efficiencies, and make it easier for families to get the services they need."

BRAINS said it provides comprehensive services such as neuropsychological and psychological assessments, counseling, occupational therapy, speech therapy and applied behavior analysis.

"Our team at BRAINS has always been dedicated to helping children and families thrive," said Dr. Michael Wolff, in the news release. He is a neuropsychologist and co-owner of BRAINS. "Joining Pine Rest allows us to continue that mission with the support of their world-class infrastructure and clinical expertise."

The BRAINS office at 3292 N. Evergreen Dr. NE in Grand Rapids will remain open. BRAINS says its staff will collaborate with Pine Rest's programs for children and teens. That includes

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TKHS Student Council members attended the Barry County United Way Day of Caring opening event at the Barry County fairgrounds. **Courtesy photos**

TKS students, families play important role in annual 'Day of Caring'

Thornapple Kellogg High School Student Council members united for a morning of work at Barry County's YMCA Camp Manitou-Lin, playing an important role in last Thursday's kick-off of the annual Barry County United Way campaign.

The United Way annual campaign started with a kick-off event on Sept. 11 at the Barry County fairgrounds, where volunteers gathered and were reminded how important their work is to the community.

The TKHS marching band performed several selections, with student council members among the 603 volunteers who registered for work on projects. Middle school teacher Damon Cove and his wife, Madie, spoke as this year's United Way campaign chairpersons.

Among the band's selections was a somber trumpet solo of "Taps" in memory and honor of all those who died in the 9-11 attacks 24 years ago. Later, they would send the volunteers off with a spirited playing of the TKS fight song.

Student council members were divided into groups at the camp. Some worked in the laundry, camp store and kitchen, while others worked painting and doing other jobs outside.

"I'm just so glad we can give back to the community and the people who have given so much to all of us," said TKHS senior Oliver Lietz, as he folded and sorted towels at the camp laundry. "It's one way we can pay it forward."

Brooklyn Hammer helped take inventory in the camp store.

"I think it's just good to do this," Hammer said. "A lot of TK kids come here to camp and it's just a good way to give back."

Several students were assigned to staining fences and other wooden structures outside, including student council co-presidents Frank Wilkinson and McKenna Hoebeke.

"This means a lot to me to be able to help out and help the community," said Wilkinson.

Hoebeke attended the camp when she was younger.

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Organizers anticipate a big turnout for annual Fall Heritage Festival

James Gemmell
Contributing Writer

Gaines Historical Society president Shirley Bruursema expects steady crowds for the Fall Heritage Festival outside the Gaines Charter Township Hall on Saturday, Oct. 11.

The annual event, slated for 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Oct. 11, celebrates the agricultural and horticultural history of the township that was formed in 1846.

One of the new aspects of the heritage festival this year will involve a historical re-enactment organized by Jerry Berg of Comstock Park, the owner and curator of the Fishing Museum & Cultural Center. He has done reenactments at previous festivals, including a historical fishing and Civil War-style encampments.

"One of them that I'm thrilled to be able to get is the Revolutionary War soldiers' encampment," Bruursema said at the township board meeting Sept. 8. "As some of you know, next year is the 250th anniversary of our country and the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776."

For the first time, the heritage festival will offer pony rides for children.

"I think that's going to be a big thrill," Bruursema added.

Mary's Country Critters will be providing the horses. Owner Mary Tegethoff brings a petting zoo every year from her 50-acre farm in Wayland Township.

"Another big thrill will be the (township) supervisors, past and present, grilling the hotdogs," she said.

Among those planning to participate are current Township Supervisor Bob Terpstra, and past supervisors Rob DeWard and Don Hilton.

"Thanks for saying that," Township Supervisor Bob Terpstra said. "I was going to say that. You're all going to be there."

Bruursema added there will be country music and hayrides through the adjacent Prairie Wolf Park, which derived its name from the wolves that used to roam in the park when the first settlers arrived in 1837.

Rich McConnell of Gaines Township drives a tractor that pulls the hay wagon through the park. Before he died a couple years ago, Leighton Township farmer David Steeby drove the 18-foot-long wooden trail down a trail into the woods of the park.

As of mid-September, Bruursema said 16 vendors had already been lined up for the festival. There will be cider and doughnuts for sale, and Bruursema plans to bring some of her homemade bread, as always.

"There are a couple of people who are going to bring some baked goods," she said.

Doug's Good Time Pig Roasting & BBQ Shack out of Shelbyville will be at the festival again this year. And, the Gaines branch of the Kent District Library will have kids' games and activities.

But Bruursema mentioned that more vendors are needed and said persons interested in being a vendor or a volunteer may contact her by calling 616-698-8464.

At press time, the Kent County Sheriff's Office was still deciding whether some of its Mounted Unit stallions will be available for the Heritage Festival. The township fire department always participates in the festivities, and brings fire trucks when they are available. Longtime Dutton firefighter Daniel Kamp usually brings some of his vintage trucks.

The historical society gets partial financial assistance from the township to help pay for some of the set-up costs and for the entertainment acts. Doug Smith of Hastings will again be performing live country music in the late morning, with Mick Bruursema playing in the afternoon.



A banner outside the Gaines Charter Township Hall promotes the annual Fall Heritage Festival, slated for 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. outside the Gaines Charter Township Hall on Saturday, Oct. 11. **Photo by James Gemmell**

Bruursema added the 68-page soft-covered booklet, "William J. Hardy & His Family," on the history of the township will be for sale at the historical society table. The booklet documents the Hardy family coming to the area in the 1840s and how William Hardy became the first black official in Michigan when he was elected the township supervisor in 1872.

Bruursema said Byron Center Television (BCTV) will record the festival for airing on Comcast cable channel 25 in Byron and Gaines townships.

Yankee Springs Twp. Board approves water study, debates public comment changes

Yankee Springs Township residents could see water system improvements in the coming years after a water study was greenlighted by the township board.

Among several topics discussed throughout the Sept. 11 Yankee Springs Township Board of Trustees meeting, trustees approved a $33,000 proposal by Peerless Inc. Water Systems of Kalamazoo to conduct a pilot study aimed at improving water system capacity and arsenic compliance. Board members expressed optimism that the project could expand capacity without overburdening taxpayers.

During public comment last week, residents expressed concerns over the township's administrative fee and general fund balance, as well as a push to reinstate two public comment periods per meeting.

While the board voted to move the existing comment time earlier in the agenda, a motion to add a second period failed.

In other business last week, financial reports highlighted large August expenses tied to park construction, insurance, and walking path repairs.

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THE SUN AND NEWS

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ONE STEP AT A TIME: Page students honor fallen 9/11 heroes

Page Elementary School fifth-grader Madilyn Gemzer wore a photo of New York City firefighter Mark Whitford taped on her shirt as she climbed up and down the stairs in Thornapple Kellogg School's Bob White Stadium on Thursday, Sept. 11.

Classmate Jackson Kietzman carried a backpack loaded with books and his water bottle to simulate the air packs and hoses firefighters carried up the stairs when they tried to rescue people trapped in the upper floors of the World Trade Center's twin towers.

They weren't alone.

Many of the Page Elementary fourth- and fifth-grade classes took part in the stair climb challenge last Thursday in honor of the 413 first responders who died on Sept. 11, 2001. Their goal was to walk up and down as many steps in the stadium as possible in about 30 minutes.

Many carried the photo of a fallen firefighter with them and a few also carried their backpacks.

Teacher Nikki Witt started the challenge last year while teaching the fourth grade. It was a way of helping students understand how first responders have a difficult and dangerous job, but they do whatever they need to do to help others.

This year, Witt is teaching fifth grade and has many of her same students from a year ago. Those students said they had an even greater appreciation this year for what the challenge meant.

"I just kept thinking about being one of those firefighters and I was trying to get up those steps to help people," said Kietzman.

"We did this because of 9-11," said Apollo Horstman. "We wanted to represent the people who passed away when the planes crashed into the buildings."

Gehrig Skiba said he was just trying to push himself to keep moving up and down all along the length of the bleachers and back again. A picture of New York firefighter Leon Smith Jr. was taped on his shirt.

"It gave me motivation," he said. "They wouldn't stop and I wasn't going to either."

His classmate Horstman quickly agreed.

"If the firefighters didn't stop then I wasn't going to stop," Horstman added.

Sarah VanEnk said it was a tough challenge and was glad one of the Page teachers printed off pictures of all the firefighters who died on 9/11.

"It gave us motivation," she said.

Witt told her students that 343 firefighters lost their lives on 9/11 as they rushed into the buildings and climbed the stairs to rescue others. Additionally, 60 police officers died, as well as 10 EMS workers, for a total of 413 first-responders who died while trying to help others.

The challenge was to take as many stair steps as possible – with many reaching their goal of 413 steps – one for each fallen hero.

Devynn Baylock couldn't remember exactly how many stairs she climbed, but she knows she thought about the firefighters a lot while she was taking the challenge. "They had to walk up all those steps just to try and help somebody else," Baylock said. "I know the firefighters were fighting to try to help people just like us and tried their best to get everyone down to safety."

"Each step we took today was to remember those people who died trying to help others," added Colston Scott.

Deacon Rocco admitted it was hard, but a challenge he was ready for today.

"I just wanted to keep going to represent all those people who died," Rocco said. "I'm glad I did it."



Page Elementary students walked up and down the stairs at Bob White Stadium on Thursday, Sept. 11, as they learned about what happened on Sept. 11, 2001, and honored the fallen firefighters and first responders. **Courtesy photo**

Kalvin Rosario's backpack filled with books got pretty heavy and he stopped to take breaks "but I didn't quit," he said.

Students were joined throughout the day by teachers, grandparents, parents and even some firefighters who also carried backpacks or wore full firefighting gear. By the time students were finished, few remembered exactly how many stairs they took. But they said they will never forget why they were taking every step. — *Thornapple Kellogg Schools*





Obituaries

David Fredrick Oom

David Fredrick Oom, age 53, of Caledonia, MI, passed away on September 9, 2025, after a brief but severe illness.

Born and raised in Hastings, MI, Dave excelled in many sports, especially tennis. After attending Ferris State University, he built a career as a professional tennis instructor, teaching at exclusive clubs including the Congressional Country Club in Washington, D.C., as well as in North Carolina, Florida, and Michigan.

In 1998, Dave married the love of his life, Sarah, and together they raised their children, Andrew and Elle. Later, he became a realtor with Greenridge Realty, earning the prestigious President's Award and other professional recognitions.

Above all, Dave was devoted to his family. He was endlessly proud of Andrew and Elle, and could always be found supporting them, and his nieces and nephews, at school and sporting events. Dave also adored his dogs, North and Dune.

Dave loved competition and continued to play golf, pickleball, and fantasy football with lifelong friends. A fan of the Tigers, Lions, and University of Michigan teams, his passion for sports was matched only by his warmth and humor. He lit up every room, had a gift for making others feel valued, and was regarded by many as one of their very best friends.



Dave is lovingly remembered by his wife, Sarah; his children, Andrew and Elle (fiancé Abel Boetsma); his parents, Bernie and Sue; his in-laws, Jim (Peg) Beall and Bev Plagenhoef; his sister, Laura (Tom) Middaugh; his brother, Wayne (Kate) Oom; his brother-in-law, Bill (Lisa) Beall; his nieces and nephews, Nick Beall, Alex (Sam) Shick, Josh and Rachel Oom, Lydia (Daniel) Tsuber, Leah, Elisabeth, and Jonathan Middaugh; grandnephew, Simon Shick. He will also be deeply missed by his uncles, aunts, cousins, and countless friends whose lives he touched.

To know Dave was to love him, and his memory will live on in the countless lives he touched.

Memorial services to celebrate Dave's life were held Thursday, Sept. 18, 2025 at Ada Bible Church Kentwood Campus, 2045 68th St SE, Caledonia, with Pastor Ben Vaught officiating.

In lieu of flowers, those who wish may make memorial contributions to Buddy Up for Life. Condolences may be sent online at www.mkdfuneralhome.com.

MERGER

Continued from Page 1

the $98 million Pediatric Center of Behavioral Health that is scheduled to open on the Pine Rest campus in Cutlerville in spring 2026.

Pine Rest is one of the largest free-standing psychiatric and behavioral health hospitals in the country.

"Healthcare is increasingly complex, and partnerships like this are essential for sustaining and growing critical services," Eastburg said. "By bringing BRAINS into Pine Rest, we're ensuring that resources are better aligned, duplication is reduced, and families experience a more accessible path to the care they need."

LOCAL CHURCH DIRECTORY

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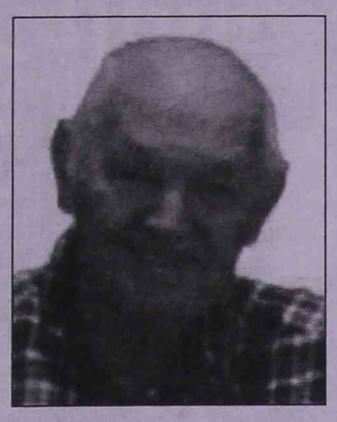


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Obituaries

Dave Dykstra



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Dave Dykstra on September 12, 2025 at the age of 85 as a result of an automobile accident. He passed away peacefully surrounded by his family.

Dave had a strong faith, love for his family and passion for the community he was a part of. He lived in the Middleville area most of his life with his loving wife Barb of 67 years. They raised four children together. Dave began dairy farming in 1970. He then started Dan Valley Excavating in 1985. Dave also served on the Barry County Road Commission for 24 years. He was also voted as a Home Town Hero. The entire community benefited from his generosity by the desire to help those around him. The examples of love, kindness and generosity are too many to mention.

Dave's love and faithfulness to his Lord and Savior was the most important thing in his life, followed by the love for his family and friends. His employees became family to him. A stranger on the street was a friend to Dave. He impacted countless lives through his unwavering commitment of showing love and kindness to whomever he encountered. His family is at peace knowing that he is in the arms of his Savior and reunited with his loved ones who passed before him.

Dave is survived by his wife, Barb Dykstra; son, Robert (Susan) Dykstra of Middleville; daughters, JoAnne Wright and Cheryl (Greg) Lydy, both of Middleville; 11 grandchildren; 26 great grandchildren; brother, Russell (Donna) Dykstra of Middleville; sisters, Laura Adams of California and Carolyn (Jim) Buer of Caledonia; sisters- in-law, Linda Dykstra of Middleville and Sheila Dykstra of Freeport, and several nieces and nephews.

Dave was preceded in death by his parents; son, Daniel D. Dykstra Jr.; brothers, Henry Dykstra and Paul Dykstra; son-in-law, Jay Wright.

Dave's family received friends on Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2025, at the Beeler-Gores Funeral Home where his funeral service was conducted on Thursday, Sept. 18, 2025. Pastor Dan Beyer of Gun Lake Community Church officiated. Burial took place at Mt. Hope Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the "Dan Dykstra Jr. Memorial Scholarship". Please visit www.beelergoresfuneral.com to share a memory or to leave a condolence message for Dave's family.

Ivan J. Ploeg



Ivan J. Ploeg, age 88, of Middleville, MI went to be with his Lord on Friday, September 12, 2025. He is now reunited with his loving wife of 61 years, Gladys, who preceded him to Heaven in December 2024.

God, Family, and Country were important to Ivan. He was a longtime member of Middleville United Methodist Church. He had an unwavering devotion to his wife, children, and grandchildren, and provided for them as a dedicated Steelcase employee for many years.

Ivan proudly drove his vintage 1959 Corvette in many local parades and enjoyed traveling throughout the U.S., spending many winters in Florida with Gladys and their friends.

Ivan honorably served his country as a corporal in the U.S. Marine Corps.

He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Margaret Ploeg.

Ivan will be dearly missed and lovingly remembered by his family, including his daughters, Debra (Mark) Drenten, Carla (Chad) VanHaitsma; his grandchildren, Levi VanHaitsma, Kyle VanHaitsma, and Jessie Drenten; his sister, Ilah Lynema; his brother, Jim Ploeg; as well as several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

The funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 19, at Middleville United Methodist Church, 111 Church St., Middleville, with Pastor Ron Worley officiating. A private family committal service will take place at Mt. Hope Cemetery with full military honors by American Legion Post 45 and the Marine Corps Funeral Honors team.

Ivan's family expresses special thanks to the staff at Carveth Village and Interim Hospice for the loving care they provided.

Memorial contributions may be made to Interim Hospice, 1971 East Beltline Ave. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525.

Arrangements made by Stroo Funeral Home, 1095 68th St. SE, Grand Rapids.

MIDDLEVILLE TOPS 546

The Sept. 15 meeting opened with roll call and the Secretary's report. There are still two fish in the fishbowl.

Virginia's program came from the Sept/Oct TOPS magazine titled "Kindness: The Great Connector." Do you have good self-pity parties? Sometimes when we can't see any clear way to rise out of a deep depressive mood, we have a self-pity party. But if you look at the total picture of any situation, you may find some nuggets of hope. How many times did you hear from a friend, saw a meme that made you laugh, had someone hold the door open for you or any other interaction? These are acts of kindness that many of us have but don't realize how important they really are. Kindness gives as much as we receive when we give it. Sometimes the hardest person to be kind to is ourselves.

Being gentle with ourselves is when kindness starts. Self-love and goodness grows and replenishes us. Ways to practice kindness can include: sending a text just because, smiling, giving a compliment, sitting and listening to someone and forgiving yourself. Kindness will win.

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

Sue won the Ha-Ha Box.

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

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

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

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

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Thornapple Township swears in new clerk



Thornapple Township appointed a new clerk at its Monday, Sept. 8 meeting. Here, Thornapple Township Supervisor Eric Schaefer (left) swears in the township's new clerk, Kathy Medenblik. **Courtesy photo**



TKHS Student Council members Oliver Leitz and Avery Hagemann work in the laundry room at Camp Manitou-Lin.

CARING

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"It was super fun for me," she added. "So now, I'm glad I can come back and help out. I hope it will help other kids have a great experience at camp too."

Hoebeke said hearing the speakers at the kick-off event in the morning made her realize that sometimes you never know how much the help you give means to others.

Avery Hagemann said she also attended camp at Manitou-Linn when she was younger.

"I think it's good that I can come back now and help the camp so other kids can come here like I did. It was a lot of fun," Hagemann said.

"I think giving back is important," added Exley Roon, as she also helped take inventory of the camp store. "It just makes me feel good to be able to help."

Barry County United Way's annual campaign goal is to raise $850,000.

"Barry County is a special place where people are willing to help each other, lending them support through tough times. I truly feel blessed to have this community surrounding us," said Damon Cove.

"Growing up, my mom always said Coves can do hard things if we do them together. It wasn't just a nice thing. It was a challenge. It means we don't quit when things get hard and we don't try to do it alone. That's what today's about," he said.

Madie Cove provided encouragement to all the volunteers.

"Let's go out today with full hearts, strong hands and a shared purpose," she said. "Remind the county what it looks like when people come together.

"Today is more than just a day of caring. It's a glimpse at what's possible every day when we live out the motto – United is the Way."

United Way director Lani Forbes reminded everyone that every dollar donated to the United Way is valued and can make a difference and that every dollar raised is used for services and programs in Barry County – programs such as Meals on Wheels for senior citizens, the Barry County 4-H program which is the third largest in the state, YMCA camps and programs, heating assistance, back-to-school backpacks students, Christmas presents for kids, and many more.

TKHS students agreed volunteering and being part of the United Way Day of Caring was a morning well spent and valuable life lessons learned.

"Sometimes we don't think how we could help," said Hoebeke. "But it's really easy and you never know how even one little thing can help someone so much."— *Thornapple Kellogg Schools*

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Agreements vs. expectations


Zach Santmier

At my insurance agency, we have a policy we adhere to strictly. We refuse for our clients to have expectations of the level of service they are going to receive. Why? Because expectations are fuzzy.

Imagine for a second that you need a tree cut down at your house. The tree is leaning towards your home and a storm is scheduled to roll in tomorrow afternoon. Because of my astounding track record with trees, you ask me if I'd do the honors and cut down the tree for you. I tell you, "I'd be happy to come over and will be there shortly to take care of the tree." There are a lot of expectations in this statement. There is no specificity. Shortly is a generic term. It could mean an hour or it could mean two weeks. Taking care of your tree could mean that I just ratchet strap it to another tree, that I fall it to the ground or that I cut it up and haul it away. There is no commitment from me or from you on the execution of this statement. You're left wondering exactly when I'll come and what I'll do when I get there. My expectation and your expectation could be dramatically different and we won't know until it's too late. Because expectations are fuzzy, they cause anxiety in their lack of clarity.

At our office and in my life, I do not live in expectations which are fuzzy and unclear. I live in agreements. An agreement is a rock-solid expectation. There aren't undefined parameters that could potentially provide an out. An agreement is clear and both parties are on the same page. For an agreement to be made, both you and the other person must agree to the specific details of said agreement.

In our example of me cutting down a tree, here's what an agreement would look like: "I'll be over at 2 p.m. and will cut down your tree and make sure that it is cleared out, not leaving a stick behind. It should take me about two hours to complete the project. Does that work for you?" This statement is specific. You know that I'll be over at 2 p.m. You also know that I'll not only fall your tree to the ground, but I'll make sure that your yard is put back as I found it. You have extreme clarity on what is going to happen, when it will happen, and how long it will take. But we don't have a complete agreement yet, because for it to be complete, both parties have to agree. And so, you respond, "Great! 2 p.m. works for me, and two hours is not a problem. Thanks for completely taking care of the tree being gone!"

Just like that, an agreement has been made. How much more confident are you with this agreement than you would be with the first fuzzy expectation? There's significantly more clarity, right?

What does this have to do with your personal finances? Everything! If you are going to start taking your money seriously in your household, there needs to be clear agreements made between you, your spouse and even your kids. If there are expectations that we are going to "start working on our money," the likelihood of success is slim to none.

You must be in agreement on what steps you are going to take to start getting your personal finances in order. Be specific on what you are going to do — where you're going to save or where you're going to increase your income — and make an agreement with your spouse that is clear.

When you begin to live in agreements vs expectations, your chances of success will dramatically increase and your anxiety of what is coming will evaporate because you and your spouse are on the same page and headed in the same direction.

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.

School welcomes new principal at Middleville campus

There's a new face, or at least a familiar face in a new role, at the Barry County Christian School's Middleville campus, with school officials recently welcoming Stacy Palmer as the school's new principal.

According to a Sept. 11 statement by school officials, Palmer first joined BCCS as a part-time art teacher and quickly felt called to a larger role.

"I knew I wanted to be more involved this school year," Palmer said. "Little did we know the call God was placing on my heart, as well as my family's, would lead us here."

As principal, Palmer's vision is to foster a unified, faith-driven community.

"Our goal is to equip our students to live a life worthy of God's calling for them," she said.

Palmer brings nearly 20 years of leadership experience and a deep commitment to her family and church. She and her husband, Matthew Palmer, who was recently appointed lead pastor at McCallum United Brethren Church, are proud parents of three boys.

"We're pleased to welcome Stacy to our team and what she brings to the organization," added Brandon Strong, Barry County Christian Education Association executive director. — *DM*

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Sporting News

Fastest TK guys improve PRs at Sparta Invite

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Looking to get out of the crowd as fast as possible in the combined Gold/Blue Division race at the Sparta Invitational at at Fruit Ridge Hayrides Saturday, Thornapple Kellogg freshman Owen Bremer and junior Grady Galaviz pushed things a little early on.

They kept going fast through the orchard and corn fields on their way to new personal record times. They never really got out of the crowd though as a narrow, short finish area on a wet downslope caused quite a bit of congestion and a few collisions and crashes.

Bremer skidded down, but not until he had tallied a time of 17 minutes 58.60 seconds. Galaviz was right behind in 18:06.20. They placed 32nd and 33rd respectively in the Blue Division competition.

The Trojan boys' team had five of its top seven, and its top four overall, all set new personal records in the early morning rain. Freshman Parker Robinett finished in 19:38.29 in 48th-place and senior Benjamin Postma was 49th in 19:38.47.

Isaac Kaboos also tallied a PR for the TK boys with a 54th-place time of 20:15.14.

The top seven for the TK boys had senior Noah Donker 52nd in 20:04.36 and junior Jerin Donker 55th in 20:16.65 too.

East Grand Rapids had five PR's among its first seven finishers, and all those guys finished in the top ten individually to power the Pioneers to a championship. The first six guys across the finish line in the Blue Division were EGR runners. Senior Jonah Workman led the way with an impressive PR of 14:58.80. Sophomore teammate Micah Becker was the runner-up in 15:44.46.

The Pioneers closed the race with just 15 points. Forest Hills Northern was second with 56 points ahead of Cedar Springs 75, Greenville 120, Grand Rapids Track Club 129, Thornapple Kellogg 177 and Grand Rapids Union 178.

The TK girls team had two new PRs among its top seven. Sophomore Amya Gater flew to a 13th-place time of 21:24.79 and sophomore Breanna Schut placed 16th in 21:58.50. It was a great pack for the TK girls who were third as a team.

The top six for the Trojans were all within a minute of each other.

Junior Peyton Hardy led the way with a time of 21:00.87. Senior Madison Kietzman was 12th in 21:17.51. They both had new season best times as did junior Carmen Reynolds who was 14th in 21:51.60.

The Trojan team also had junior Alaina McCrumb 15th in 21:57.52 and senior Avery Hagemann 29th in 23:26.29 among its top seven.

Forest Hills Northern won the Blue Division girls' title with 42 points ahead of East Grand Rapids 53, Thornapple Kellogg 63, Grand Rapids Track Club 86, Greenville 101 and Grand Rapids Union 185.

Greenville senior Gracelin Martin won the race with a personal record time of 18:21.55. East Grand Rapids junior Adeline Armstrong was the runner-up in 19:12.19 and EGR sophomore Anneliese Passchier set her PR at 19:43.44 to place third.

The next four girls across the finish line were FHN Huskies, a quartet led by sophomore Jaclyn Charbauski who clocked in at 20:06.84.

The Thornapple Kellogg runners are off now until heading to Wayland Sept. 24 for the second OK Gold Conference jamboree of the season.


Thornapple Kellogg junior Carmen Reynolds looks to the finish line after rounding the final turn at the Sparta Invitational Saturday, Sept. 13.


Thornapple Kellogg seniors Alexander Frizzell and Wyatt Richardson get rolling on the second loop around the Sparta Invitational course in Kent City Saturday, Sept. 13. **Photos by Brett Bremer**



CHS challenging itself with state's top soccer squads



Caledonia goalkeeper Nicolas Long deflects a shot from Portage Central's Max Bailey away from the net during their non-conference match at Scotland Yard Sept. 13.

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Caledonia poured in eight goals in an 8-0 win over Muskegon in OK Green Conference play Thursday, Sept. 11.

Scores have been much tougher to come by lately. No surprise given the competition the Fighting Scots have faced of late. The Caledonia varsity boys' soccer team managed to hold Portage Central, the top ranked team in the state in Division 1, to one goal in a non-conference tilt at Scotland Yard Saturday.

The Mustangs' Gavan Sherman tapped a shot off the cross bar, and the rebound came out softly to Oliver Ruggiere who blasted it into the net for the game's only goal. That score came about seven and a half minutes into the game.

The Mustangs had a number of other solid scoring chances the rest of the night, despite the best efforts of a Caledonia defense led by senior Brecken Byrd in the middle, but more than once Portage Central put a shot high over the crossbar.

Portage Central put the ball into the net on a couple of other occasions, but had one goal whistled for an offside penalty and another for a dangerous high kick on the shot.

Caledonia had a couple of chances at the other end, but nothing too challenging for Mustang keeper Gunnar Thorhallsson.

Caledonia went into a Thursday night tilt, Sept. 18, against Byron Center with a 2-1-2 OK Green Conference mark. The Fighting Scots played to a 0-0 draw with Hudsonville Tuesday. That contest followed a 0-0 draw against East Kentwood Monday evening.

Hudsonville is ranked ninth in the state in Division 1 and Byron Center checks in at number 11.

The Byron Center Bulldogs went into the match at Scotland Yard with a perfect 5-0 OK Green record and a 10-2-1 mark overall. The two scoreless ballgames put the Scots at 6-4-4 for the season.



Caledonia senior defender Brecken Byrd (18) fights to get the ball off the feet of Portage Central senior Max Bailey while Caledonia teammate Gage Helinski trails the play during their non-conference match at Scotland Yard Saturday, Sept. 13. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

STUDY

Continued from Page 2

Treasurer Deb Mousseau confirmed $131,200 in state funding will go toward the township's park project.

The Thornapple Area Enrichment Foundation (TAEF) also presented during last week's meeting, sharing its growth from a $30,000 start-up gift to over $3.1 million in assets supporting scholarships and local programs.

Committee updates covered ongoing work on the mining ordinance, a short-term rental approval, and preparations for an open house on the township's master plan.

Fire Chief Dan Miller reported 46 emergency responses conducted by his department in August. Miller also extended an invitation to the public to tour the fire station and meet local first responders at an open house on Oct. 6, during Fire Prevention Week.

The board will meet again at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 9, at the Yankee Springs Township Hall. — *KTE*





VILLAGE OF CALEDONIA
COUNTY OF KENT, MICHIGAN
NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE AMENDMENT AND SUMMARY OF THE REGULATORY EFFECT THEREOF

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on September 9, 2025 the Village Council of the Village of Caledonia adopted an ordinance, Ordinance No. 25-11 that amends Section 8.3 and Chapter 18 of the Village Code (the "Ordinance"). The principal provisions of the Ordinance are summarized as follows:

Section 1 of the Ordinance amends Section 8.3 of the Village Code, which addresses noxious growth and grass maintenance. The following is a summary of the amendments to Section 8.3 of the Village Code ("Section 8.3"):

1. **Findings and Purpose.** Section 1 reflects the findings of the Village Council that it is necessary to the health, safety and welfare of residents of the Village, as well as for the well-being and preservation of value of real and personal property within the Village, to provide for the controlling and removal of noxious growth.

2. **Authority.** Section 2 provides the statutory authority for the adoption of this Ordinance.

3. **Definitions.** Section 3 identifies specific plant species that are defined as "noxious growth," which does not include milkweed, and also includes the definition of the term "curtilage," as used in Section 8.3.

4. **Scope.** Section 4 provides the scope of Section 8.3, including non-exempt lands within the Village located in any subdivision, condominium or site condominium in which buildings are located on at least 60 percent of the lots or units, lands located within 165 feet of a public or private street, and unplatted lands that are located within the curtilage of any residential dwelling.

5. **Exceptions.** Section 5 reflects exemptions to the regulations of Section 8.3, including the planting and maintenance of gardens or lawns and weeds growing in flower or vegetable gardens or plots of shrubbery, to the extent the weeds are not the predominant growth in such areas, and publicly owned lands. It also provides that weed and plant growth, other than noxious weeds, that is in excess of 8 inches shall be permitted only on portions of an undeveloped property that lie more than 25 feet from a public sidewalk or public or private street, within fields devoted to growing any small grain crop as long as the weeds are not the predominant growth, and approved open space areas within any subdivision, condominium or site condominium that have been designated as "no-disturb" areas or are required to be maintained as natural ground-cover areas.

6. **Required Removal of Noxious Growth.** Section 6 provides that noxious growth is prohibited within the Village and is declared to be a nuisance. It also provides that it is unlawful for any owner, occupant, lessee or other responsible person to cause or permit noxious growth to be or to remain on non-exempt property within the Village.

7. **Excessive Plant Growth.** Section 7 provides that exterior areas of properties within the Village must be maintained free from weeds or plant growth in excess of 8 inches in height, and also includes a definition of "weeds or plant growth." It also provides that the owner, occupant, lessee or other person with responsibility for maintaining non-exempt land are required to cut or remove excessive plant growth, and that excessive plant growth is declared to be a nuisance.

8. **Abatement of Excessive Plant Growth and Noxious Weeds.** Section 8 provides that violations of Section 8.3 are a public nuisance and may be abated by injunctive or other equitable relief, and that the imposition of a penalty does not prevent injunctive relief or additional fines as to such a nuisance of up to $1,000.00, the expenses of prosecution, or other remedies provided by law. It also provides that the Village may also enter onto the property and remedy a violation at the owner's expense and details the procedure for the Village to abate the violation of Section 8.3.

9. **Charge to Owner; Imposition of Lien**. Section 9 provides that if expenses of abatement are not paid within 30 days after an invoice is sent by the Village, the expense shall become a debt of the property owner and may be imposed as a lien upon the property until paid. It also provides that such lien may be enforced and collected in the same manner as a tax lien, and requires notice of the lien to be mailed to the owner at their last known address.

10. **Publication of Notice of Abatement.** Section 10 provides that the Village may also publish a notice in a newspaper of general circulation during the month of March that weeds and plant growth not cut by June 1 of that year may be cut by the Village and the property owner would be charged for the costs. It also requires the publication to contain the information required to be included in the notice under Section 8.3(4) and that the Village may cut the weeds and plant growth as many times as is necessary and charge such costs to the property owner.

11. **Violation and Penalties.** Section 11 provides that a violation of Section 8.3 is a municipal civil infraction, for which the fine shall be $100.00. It also provides that as an additional penalty, the violator shall be responsible for all expenses of prosecution in addition to all other costs, damages, expenses and other remedies to the extent permitted by law. It also provides that each day during which a violation continues shall be deemed a separate offense.

12. **Other Ordinances and Laws.** Section 12 provides that the prohibitions and penalties provided in Section 8.3 shall be in addition to and not exclusive of other regulations and penalties provided in other applicable Village ordinances or other applicable laws or regulations.

13. **Severability.** Section 13 provides that if any part of Section 8.3 is held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining part is severable and shall continue in full force and effect.

Section 2 of the Ordinance amends Chapter 18 of the Village Code, regarding the adoption of the 2000 International Property Maintenance Code ("2000 IPMC") by reference. Chapter 18 of the Village Code was amended by the addition of a new Section 2(7), which provides that Section 302.4 in the 2000 IPMC regarding weeds and plant growth, as adopted by the Village, was amended to require all premises and exterior property be maintained in compliance with Section 8.3.

Section 3 of the Ordinance provides that the Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon this publication.

A complete copy of the Ordinance is on file and may be inspected or purchased at the office of the Village Clerk, Village of Caledonia, 250 S. Maple Street, Caledonia, Michigan, during Village office hours.

Dated: September 17, 2025

VILLAGE COUNCIL OF THE
VILLAGE OF CALEDONIA

Gators work on dropping more time against GRCC

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

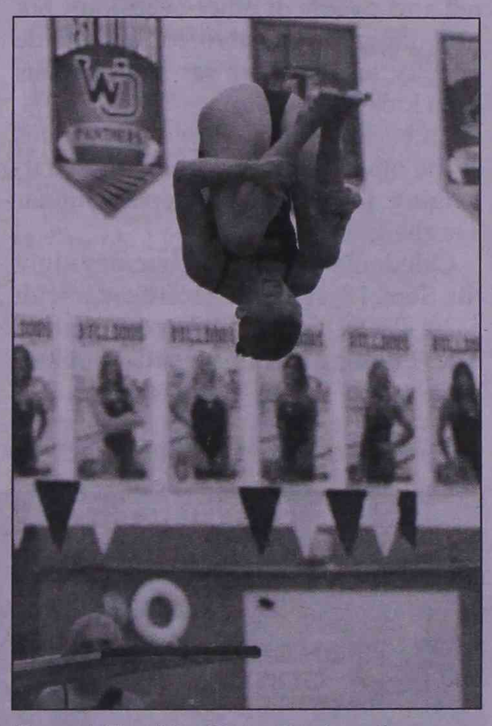
Grand Rapids Gator Mckenna Hawks didn't swim anything longer than 100-yards at the 2024 OK Conference East Division Championship. Her two individual races at the end of her freshman season were the 100-yard freestyle and the 100-yard backstroke.

For her sophomore season, she is working on going further, faster.

Hawks set a personal best time of 6 minutes 32.17 seconds to place second in the 500-yard freestyle during the Gators' senior night meet against conference foe Grand Rapids Catholic Central in the Grandville High School pool Thursday, Sept. 11. She cut more than 13 seconds off her previous best in the race.

"I just kind of like pushed it and did as much as I could, and I worked as hard as I could," Hawks said.

"It's hard because it's kind of like a mindset thing," she added. "You have to have a good mindset and just try your best and swim as hard as you can, and even if you don't get that time, it's okay because you have another meet."



Grand Rapids Gator junior diver Lydia Slagel holds her tuck as she spins above the water on a dive during her team's OK Conference East Division meet against Grand Rapids Catholic Central at Grandville High School Sept. 11.

Hawks said she has been working on her breathing lately, taking breaths on both sides of her body throughout the race that is 20 lengths of the pool long. It helps her even out her strokes throughout the race.

"She is like a kid in a candy store," Gators head coach Jeff Saltzgaber said. "I think she just has so much to to learn from these races, because this is her first go around with these types of long events. So, to see her drop so much time is just like super affirming. I think once she kind of gets the actual, like internal side of it, like knowing the time and like seeing that she's 'okay, I can get that rhythm' the sky is the limit. It is super exciting."

Saltzgaber said Hawks, a captain this fall, courageously volunteered to take on the event this fall.

Hawks got to chase Cougar senior Kate McNamara in the race who is one of the conference's top returning distance swimmers. She was fourth at the conference meet a year ago in the 500 freestyle and qualified for the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 3 Girls' Swimming and Diving Finals in the race – among other events.

The Catholic Central Cougars had enough talent all around to best the Thornapple Kellogg, Hopkins, West Catholic, West Michigan Aviation Academy co-op team known as the Gators by a score of 99-65.

The Gators' own returning state medalist, and NISCA All America honoree, Lydia Slagel had a solid day on the diving board. She got her team's first victory of the night with a score of 240.00. She bested Catholic Central's top diver, Lucy Cotter, by 40.5 points through their six dives.

"That's an okay day for her. I know her goals and aspirations are to be 250 and above. I know that she is really working to compete not just at meets like this, but against competitors that are not always at meets like this. She is competing against kids that are maybe at a different caliber. She knows that. Really, every meet it is really her versus her, and her versus those kids that might be at other meets.

"'She has a great coaching staff, Francesca [Pileci] and coach Todd [Bates] there in Hastings do a wonderful job with her. She is determined and hard-working

Continued on next page



Grand Rapids Gators freshman Mara Raak swims to a victory in the 100-yard breaststroke during her team's OK Conference East Division dual with Grand Rapids Catholic Central at Grandville High School Thursday, Sept. 11. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

Continued from previous page

and I know it'll pay off for her."

Slagel closed her sophomore season last fall placing fourth in the diving competition at the Division 1 state finals with a score of more than 375 points which qualified her for All America honors. She was even better on Tuesday as the Gators took on Ottawa Hills in a conference dual in Grand Rapids. The Bengals took a 105-59 win as a team, but Slagel improved the team diving record with a score of 269.20 points.

The Gators got a second individual victory later on in the meet against Catholic Central with Mara Raak taking the 100-yard breaststroke in 1:22.96 with a solid time drop. Teammate Lucy Krug for the runner-up points in that one too. Saltzgaber said Raak, a freshman, has shown a lot of progress so far.

Another freshman, Adelaide Nydam had a solid time drop in the 100-yard freestyle to place fourth, a spot behind teammate Leyna Kursch.

Devon Barnhill, Eloise Nichols, Hawks and Raak teamed up to win the first-place points in the 400-yard freestyle relay with a time of 5:17.20 too for the Gators.

Hawks also improved her personal best in the 200-yard individual medley to place second. She finished in 2:42.52. McNamara won that one as well in 2:27.95.

Cougar speedster Mae Braun won the 200-yard freestyle in 2:04.50 with teammate Kristen McNamara second. Kristen added a winning time of 59.63 in the 100-yard freestyle later. Those two were also a part of the Cougars' winning team in the 200-yard freestyle relay, joined by Eden Morrow and Valeria Rodriguez.

The Gator team had the top three scorers in the 100-yard backstroke. Kursch won in 1:37.08 with Scarlett Hilzey second and Pepper Selph third.

At the opening of the evening, the Gator team of Jenna Robinett, Raak, Hawks and Nydam placed second in the 200-yard medley relay with a time of 2:24.68, about 12 seconds behind the Cougar foursome of Hayley Tovar, Kate McNamara, Rodriguez and Kathleen Sullivan that won the race.

Sullivan led a sweep of the top four scoring places in the 50-yard freestyle for the Cougars. Braun also won the 100-yard butterfly, a race where the Cougars had the three fastest finishers.

The Gators were back in action at the Mason Invite Saturday and they placed eighth at the nine-team meet. Marshall won the championship with 240 points ahead of Mason 236, Coldwater 215, Mount Pleasant 200 and St Johns 172 in the top five. The Gators closed the day with 94 points. Slagel had the Gators' lone event win with a score of 237.80 points in the diving competition.

In the dual with Ottawa Hills, the top swims for the Gators included Raak winning the 100-yard breaststroke in 1:24.64. Hawks nudged her 500-yard freestyle time down to 6:32.67 in a runner-up finish. Kursch had a runner-up time of 1:26.00 in the backstroke.

VILLAGE OF CALEDONIA
COUNTY OF KENT, MICHIGAN
NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT AND SUMMARY OF THE REGULATORY EFFECT THEREOF

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on September 9, 2025 the Village Council of the Village of Caledonia adopted an ordinance, Ordinance No. 25-10 that amends various provisions of the Zoning Ordinance of the Village of Caledonia (the "Zoning Ordinance") to permit short-term rentals in certain zoning districts within the Village and provide regulations for the same (the "Ordinance"). The principal provisions of the Ordinance are summarized as follows:

Section 1 of the Ordinance amends the Zoning Ordinance by the addition of a new Section 3.44 regarding short-term rentals within the Village. The following is a summary of the principal provisions of Section 3.44:

1. **Purpose and Intent.** Section 3.44(a) provides that Section 3.44 is intended to establish reasonable standards for short-term rentals within the Village to minimize the impacts of short-term rentals on neighboring residents and properties and to protect the health, safety and welfare of Village residents, tenants, guests and short-term rental owners by providing guidance for the use of dwelling units for short-term rentals.

2. **Definitions.** Section 3.44(b) provides relevant definitions for Section 3.44.

3. **Applicability.** Section 3.44(c) provides that Section 3.44 applies to short-term rentals, as defined in Section 2.2 of the Zoning Ordinance, as amended by the Ordinance, and does not apply to rental of dwellings for a period of 32 days or longer or to bed and breakfast establishments.

4. **Zoning Compliance Permit Required.** Section 3.44(d) provides that a person shall not rent, own, operate or advertise a short-term rental within the Village without first obtaining a zoning compliance permit from the Village Zoning Administrator.

5. **Application and Fee Requirements.** Section 3.44(e) provides the application requirements to receive a zoning compliance permit for a short-term rental, including providing contact information, proof of ownership or authority from the owner to operate a short-term rental, a description of the number of bedrooms and finished floor, an explanation of the applicant's plan to provide sufficient parking for the short-term rental, certification that the short-term rental will comply with Section 3.44 and other applicable Village ordinances, and other necessary information. It also provides that a zoning compliance permit shall be accompanied by a fee in an amount established by the resolution of the Village Council from time to time.\

6. **Review and Approval Procedures.** Section 3.44(f) provides for the review and approval procedures for a zoning compliance permit application for a short-term rental.

7. **Duration of Permit.** Section 3.44(g) provides that a zoning compliance permit issued for a short-term rental is effective for one year or until it is revoked, and provides the reasons that may result in revocation of a zoning compliance permit for a short-term rental.

8. **General Requirements.** Section 3.44(h) provides general regulatory requirements for short-term rentals, including that short-term rentals are allowed in zoning districts where short-term rentals are listed as a permitted use, requiring compliance with applicable building codes and maintenance requirements and all Village ordinances, and providing standards for the use of areas outside the dwelling unit, the maximum number of short-term rentals per parcel or lot, trash, maximum occupancy of a short-term rental, parking, requiring a responsible contact person, and restricting short-term rentals from being used for loud or excessively loud parties or special events that create an unreasonable level of noise or other disturbance.

9. **Short-Term Rental Configurations.** Section 3.44(i) provides the allowed configurations of short-term rentals in zoning districts where short-term rentals are permitted, and that all other configurations are permitted.

10. **Violation; Zoning Compliance Permit Revocation.** Section 3.44(j) provides regulations related to violations of Section 3.44, including that violation of Section 3.44 by any occupant, guest or visitor to a short-term rental is a municipal civil infraction, that owners and operators are responsible for violations by occupants, visitors or guests to a short-term rental, and that a permit may be revoked temporarily or permanently upon a violation. It also provides for the procedure for the Zoning Administrator to revoke a zoning compliance permit for a short-term rental and for appeal of the revocation of the same.

Section 2 of the Ordinance amends Section 2.2 of the Zoning Ordinance to amend the definition of a bed and breakfast establishment to clarify that it does not include a short-term rental and to add a definition of a short-term rental as a dwelling unit that is rented to an individual or individuals for any period less than 31 consecutive days, or that is advertised to be rented for any period less than 31 days.

Section 3 of the Ordinance amends Section 5.2 of the Zoning Ordinance to add short-term rentals which comply with Section 3.44 as a permitted use within the AG Agricultural-Residential District.

Section 4 of the Ordinance amends Section 6.2 of the Zoning Ordinance to add short-term rentals which comply with Section 3.44 as a permitted use within the R-1 Low Density Single Family District.

Section 5 of the Ordinance amends Section 7.2 of the Zoning Ordinance to add short-term rentals which comply with Section 3.44 as a permitted use within the R-2 Medium Density Single Family District.

Section 6 of the Ordinance amends Section 8.2 of the Zoning Ordinance to add short-term rentals which comply with Section 3.44 as a permitted use within the R-3 Medium Density Multiple Family District.

Section 7 of the Ordinance amends Section 9.2 of the Zoning Ordinance to add short-term rentals which comply with Section 3.44 as a permitted use within the R-4 High Density Multiple Family District.

Section 8 of the Ordinance provides that the Ordinance shall become effective seven days after this publication.

A complete copy of the Ordinance is on file and may be inspected or purchased at the office of the Village Clerk, Village of Caledonia, 250 S. Maple Street, Caledonia, Michigan, during Village office hours.

Dated: September 17, 2025

VILLAGE COUNCIL OF THE
VILLAGE OF CALEDONIA

TK soccer gets win over Wolves in second attempt

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Thornapple Kellogg varsity boys' soccer team improved one OK Gold Conference result this week.

The Trojans knocked off Wyoming 3-1 in Middleville Monday. The two teams played to a 0-0 draw in their first meeting of the season in Wyoming.

Things didn't go better for the Trojans the second time around with Wayland however as the Wildcats took their second 1-0 win of the season over the TK boys Wednesday at Wayland Union High School.

TK is now 2-5-1 in the OK Gold Conference this season and 6-6-1 overall.

West Catholic will play host to TK Monday and then the Trojans host Northview Wednesday in the week ahead.

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Scots beat Sailors for second Green tennis win

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Caledonia varsity boys' tennis team scored a 6-3 win over Mona Shores in an OK Green Conference Dual Wednesday.

The Sailors won the top two singles flights, and pulled out a three-set victory at first doubles, and the Fighting Scots won everything else.

Garrett Fales at number three singles for the Scots won 6-0, 6-1 over Harrison Sischo and Colin Martin at number four outscored Mincah Bement 6-2, 6-2.

The Scots had a three-set win of their own on the doubles' side with Caleb Harrison and Derick Prichard outscoring Mona Shores' Miles O'Brien and Caleb McCumber 6-7(5), 6-1, 6-2.

Isaac Robotham and Russell Grandon at second doubles took a 6-1, 7-5 win for the Scots, Isaac Judd and Charlie Scott won 6-1, 6-2 at number four doubles and Zach Zupin and Shane Johnson won at fifth doubles by a score of 6-3, 6-2.

Andrew Mills and Brennen Resiter got the first doubles win for the Sailors. Caledonia's Cooper Sowerby and Quinn Cook won the opening set 6-4 before the Sailors duo rallied for 6-3, 6-3 wins in the final two sets.

Reid Hackney at first singles and Marcus Powell at second singles took victories over the Scots' Hudsen Derengowski and Quinn Stanley.

The Scots have another conference dual on the schedule for Wednesday, Sept. 24, at Jenison. Hamilton was set to visit CHS Thursday, Sept. 18. The Scots play host to Portage Northern Monday, Sept. 22.

Caledonia is now 2-1 in OK Green Conference duals this fall. They bested Reeths-Puffer last week in conference play.

Village of Middleville
COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the August 26, 2025 Regular Council Meeting, that were approved on September 9, 2025, are posted at the Village Hall at 100 E Main Street and on the website at www.villageofmiddleville.org.

FHN tops Scots in final at Kohn Memorial Invite

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Caledonia varsity volleyball team won its way to a runner-up finish at its annual Makayla Kohn Memorial Invitational Saturday.

The Fighting Scots were 4-1 on the day falling only to the eighth-ranked team in the state in Division 1, Forest Hills Northern, in the day's championship match.

The Huskies got the jump on the Scots early in the final taking a 25-14 win in set one and then earned the championship with a 25-22 victory in set two.

Caledonia took a couple lopsided wins in third sets to stay perfect early in the day. The Scots defeated Ionia 18-25, 25-18, 15-8 and later Forest Hills Eastern 19-25, 25-22, 15-5. The Scots also earned a 25-12, 25-12 win over Portage Central. In the semifinals, the Scots outscored Mattawan 25-22, 19-25, 16-14.

Fighting Scot junior Avery Seif had 52 digs on the day and surpassed 1,000 career digs as a varsity player. Junior Aubrey Reynolds had a team-high 44 kills throughout the course of the day and added 29 digs, three aces and eight blocks.

Junior setter Reese Stafford put up 83 assists in the five matches. She also hit four aces. The Scots also got 27 kills from sophomore Lydia Bell, 18 kills from senior Kyla Charles and ten kills from junior Kayleigh Miersen. Miersen had nine aces and added 36 digs. Charles had ten blocks and 11 aces. Bell chipped in nine blocks.

The day was a good bounce back for the Scots after falling in three sets in their OK Green Conference opener, Sept. 11, at Byron Center. The Bulldogs took a 25-14, 25-22, 25-22 win.

Reynolds had a team-high 16 kills to go with 11 digs and an ace. Bell had six kills and two blocks. Miersen chipped in four aces, 13 digs and two assists. Seif had 12 digs and two assists. Stafford closed the night with 26 assists and eight digs.

The Scots were set to host Mona Shores for a conference match Thursday, Sept. 18. They head to the Lakewood Invitational today, Sept. 20. Reeths-Puffer visits Caledonia for an OK Green match Sept. 25.

Scots keep chasing Bulldogs on OK Green greens

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Fighting Scots took the runner-up spot at the OK Green Conference jamboree hosted by Reeths-Puffer at Lincoln Golf Course Monday.

Byron Center took the day's victory with a score of 162 strokes and the Caledonia varsity girls' golf team was three strokes back with a 165.

Caledonia senior Codie O'Krangley was the day's individual champion with an even-par 36. She fired birdies on holes two, four, five and nine.

Senior Halle Stout placed third overall for the Scots with a 38. She also birdied the 332-yard, par-5 number two.

Senior Katie Honhart shot a 44 and junior Emily Walbeck shot a 47 for the Scots.

Byron Center senior Holly Lawrence was the runner-up with a score of 37. Stout was matched by Mona Shores' Avery Kehra and Byron Center junior Autumn Kartes who both shot 38.

The rest of the conference was a bit of a way back. Reeths-Puffer scored a 182, Mona Shores 184 and Jenison 185.

It was the second straight contest at Lincoln Golf Course as it was also home to the conference's Mid-Season Tournament Thursday, Sept. 11.

The Bulldogs won the 18-hole event with a score of 341 ahead of Caledonia 361, Jenison 367, Reeths-Puffer 379 and Mona Shores 419.

O'Krangley was fourth individually with a score of 86. Walbeck and Honhart both shot 89 for Caledonia, and Stout added a 97.

Reeths-Puffer junior Sophia McCollumn was the day's individual champ with an 80 and Byron Center junior Izzy Tawoda was second with a score of 83.

In between the two conference outings, the Scots placed fourth at the 12-team Greenville Invitational at Candlestone Golf and Resort Friday, Sept. 12.

Forest Hills Central won the tournament with a score of 326 ahead of Lowell 345, Forest Hills Eastern 370, Caledonia 372 and Greenville 390 in the top five.

O'Krangley was fourth individually with a 78. Walbeck shot an 88 and Stout a 102. Junior Lauren Scheid and senior Ella Burns both shot 104 for the Scots.

Trojans win three straight OK Gold tennis duals

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Thornapple Kellogg upped its OK Gold Conference varsity boys' tennis record to 3-1 with 8-0 wins over Wyoming and Grand Rapids Union followed by a 7-1 victory at Wayland Wednesday.

The TK boys won the six contested matches with the Red Hawks in straight sets Monday in Middleville. The best battle came at number one singles where Trojan senior Franklin Wilkinson took a 6-2, 6-4 win over Union senior Anish Kulkarni.

The rest of the Trojans gave up just one game combined. Freshman Parker Sylvestre at second singles and senior Mark Gielincki at fourth singles both took 6-0, 6-0 wins. Sophomore Max Lepper at third singles won 6-1, 6-0 for TK.

Union had just two doubles teams to face the Trojans. TK juniors Layne Schilthroat and Samuel Teachout at first doubles took a 6-0, 6-0 win. At second doubles, TK junior Gideon Scott and sophomore Graham Eden won 6-0, 6-0 as well.

Scores were similar in last week's dual with Wyoming. Wilkinson breezed to a 6-0, 6-0 win over Wyoming's top player on that day though. Sylvestre and Gielincki both won 6-0, 6-0 as well. Lepper fought off Wyoming senior Allan Barrientos for a 6-1, 6-4 win at third singles.



Thornapple Kellogg freshman second singles player Parker Sylvestre fires a forehand back at his opponent from Grand Rapids Union Monday in Middleville.

Schilthroat and Teachout at first doubles and Eden and Scott at second doubles won 6-0, 6-0 as well, and the Wolves forfeited the third and fourth doubles flights to the Trojans.

Sylvestre and Lepper pulled out three-set wins to help the Trojans to a sweep of the singles matches against Wayland Wednesday. Sylvestre outscored Wayland senior Jacob VanDuine 6-4, 3-6, 7-5 at second singles. Lepper rallied to beat Wayland junior Brayden Tomson 4-6, 6-1, 6-1.

Wilkinson bested Wayland's top player Chesney Hudson 6-4, 6-2. TK also got a straight-set win from senior Mark Gielincki at fourth singles who downed Grant Dunkle 6-0, 6-1.

Wayland pulled out a three-set win at third doubles to avoid the sweep. TK had Schilthroat and Teachout win 6-4, 6-2 at first doubles, Eden and Scott win 6-1, 6-1 at second doubles and senior Alex Eggleston and junior Mark Cuison win 6-4, 6-0 at fourth doubles.

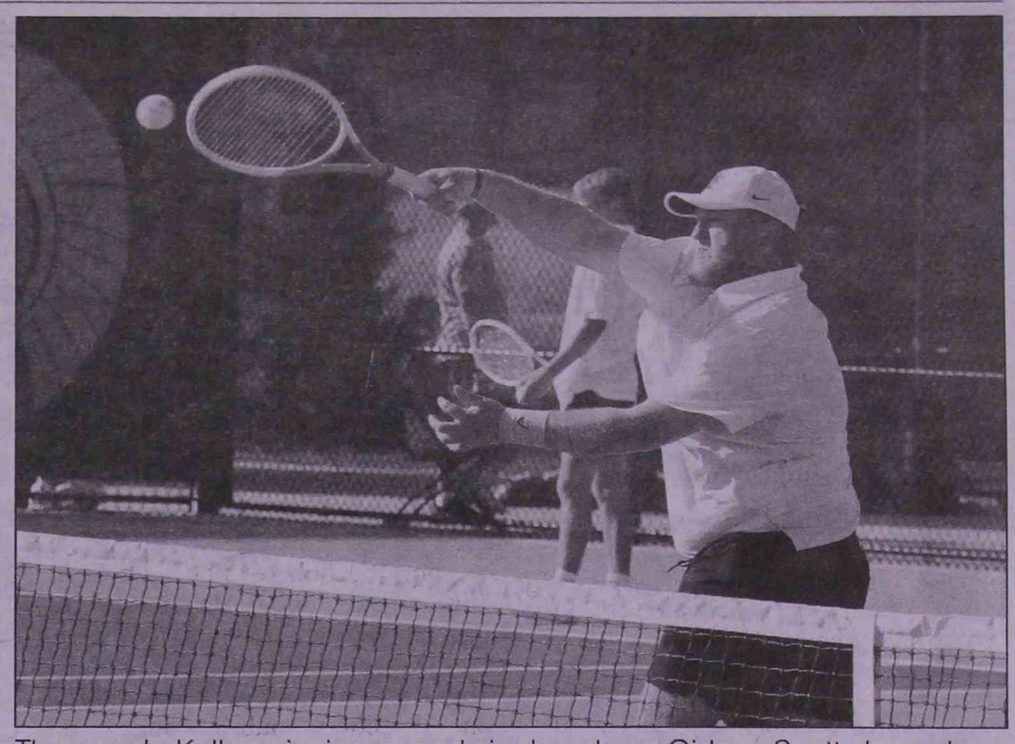
The Trojan team was tested over the weekend at the Big Rapids Invitational. The Trojans took a runner-up finish behind the host Cardinals. Big Rapids bested the TK boys 6-2, the Trojans defeated Sparta 6-2, and the TK team also took an 8-0 win over a Grant team that competed at just four flights throughout the day.

Trojan senior Luke Archer and freshman Joel Archer teamed up at third doubles won the first set of their contest with Wayland senior Asher Hendricks and sophomore Brycen Rookus, but the Wildcat duo rallied for 6-4, 6-2 wins in the final two sets.

Sylvestre at second singles and the fourth doubles team of Eggleston and junior Cuison were both 3-0 on the day. Those were the two flights where TK took wins in the dual with Big Rapids.

Sylvestre, Gielincki and all four TK doubles teams scored wins over Sparta. TK got straight set wins from all four singles players in the match with Grant to go along with forfeits at the four doubles flights.

The Trojans are set to will travel to Vicksburg for the Bulldogs' Military Appreciation Tournament Saturday, Sept. 20. The Trojans are home again Monday, Sept. 22, for a tough conference dual with West Catholic and then home Sept. 24 to take on Northview.



Thornapple Kellogg junior second singles player Gideon Scott slams down an overhead winner during his win with teammate Graham Eden over Grand Rapids Union Monday in Middleville. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

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Moving the football tough for Scots at Hudsonville

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Caledonia didn't have the firepower it needed to keep pace with Hudsonville in the OK Red Conference opener in Hudsonville Friday, Sept. 12.

The Eagles handed the Fighting Scots their first defeat of the season by a 38-6 tally.

Stepping in at quarterback for the Fighting Scots, sophomore Conlan Schultz was 8-of-18 passing for one touchdown and one interception. Aaron Collins took a pass 96 yards for a touchdown to get the Scots within 14-6 in the second quarter, but Caledonia managed just 57 yards of offense the rest of the night.

Hudsonville bottled up the Fighting Scot rushing attack holding the Scots to 18 yards rushing.

The Eagles' Brady Van Laecke was 5-of-9 passing for 79 yards and also rushed for three touchdowns. He had ten rushes for 59 yards total.

Luke Brodnicki was his top receiving target catching two passes for 73 yards.

Tsega Beld hit a 27-yard field goal for the Eagles in the fourth quarter and was a perfect 4-of-4 on extra-point tries.

The Eagles got the first points of the game on a 16-yard run by wide out Braylon Miller. Van Laecke pushed his team's lead to 14-0 with a one-yard TD run early in the second quarter.

Collins got behind the Eagle defense to haul in a deep over the middle on a third-and-8 play from way back in the Scots' own territory for the Scots' lone touchdown. The Scots had the ball back as the first half clock ticked under two minutes, and moved towards midfield. On the final play of the half, Schultz fired a pass up the left side that Zaidan Dykstra picked off for the Eagles and returned 48 yards for a touchdown.

The Eagles move to 3-0 on the season with the win.

The Fighting Scots were set to be home Friday, Sept. 19, against Grandville and will head to East Kentwood to face the Falcons Sept. 26.

Defensive TD helps spark TK win at Wayland Union

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Through three quarters, the Trojan defense and the Wayland offense scored the same amount of points.

The Thornapple Kellogg varsity football team improved to 2-1 overall this season with a 41-14 win at Wayland in the final non-conference ballgame to open the season Friday.

Senior defensive lineman Owen Hood scooped up a Wayland fumble and returned it 22 yards for a touchdown to help put TK in front 14-0 in the opening quarter.

TK pushed its lead to 28-7 by the half.

"We played great team defense all night," TK head coach Jeff Dock said. "Played fast and physical."

He said junior Cam Peter had an especially great game. Peter finished the evening with three solo tackles and nine assists.

Junior quarterback Micah Dock rushed six times for 42 yards and two touchdowns, and was 3-of-4 passing for 62 yards and a TD pass to teammate Elliott Neff. Senior back Debo Robinson had ten rushes for 90 yards and a score, and senior Zach Eldridge busted loose for 73 yards on three carries.

As a team, TK finished with 210 yards rushing.

Malachi VanEngen opened the scoring for TK with a one-yard TD run and then TK added the defensive score. Micah Dock had a seven-yard TD run in the second quarter, and then after Wayland pulled within 21-7, Micah Dock connected with Neff on a 35-yard touchdown pass.

Micah Dock scored on a 16-yard run in the third quarter. Robinson found the end zone on a 49-yard run in the fourth quarter.

TK kicker Mason Chivis hit his first five extra-point kicks.

The Trojan defense also picked off one Wayland pass.

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