THE SUN AND NEWS
Your Hometown Newspaper Serving the Middleville, Caledonia and Gaines Township Areas
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MIDDLEVILLE RESIDENT COMMISSIONS MURAL
PAGE 2

Caledonia board approves new contract with teachers' union

Karen Turko-Ebright
Staff Writer

The deal is done. The Caledonia Community Schools Board of Education unanimously approved a new three-year contract with the Caledonia Education Association at a special meeting Monday, Sept. 22.

The three-year agreement runs from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2028.

"We're pleased to have been able to reach a contract settlement with the teachers' union," said Superintendent Dirk Weeldreyer. "We have great teachers here in Caledonia.

"We know that they will continue to do the great job that they always have been," he added. "Now, we just look forward to moving forward."

The new contract includes the following details, according to a written statement from CCS officials:

- Teachers will receive a 5% base increase in the first year (2025-26), plus a step increase ranging from an additional 1 to 4.8%;
- Teachers will receive a 3% base increase in the second year (2026-27), plus a step increase ranging from an additional 1 to 4.8%;
- At a future date, the parties will negotiate the amount of salaries in the third year (2027-28);
- An increase in the starting teacher salary to $50,261;
- Additional increases in the compensation for certain staff such as school psychologists, social workers, speech pathologists and occupational, and physical therapists;
- A cap on the district's health insurance contribution if Public Act 15-152 is amended

See **CONTRACT** on 3

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Many festival-goers enjoyed encounters with superheroes and princesses in downtown Middleville during the annual Heritage Day celebration on Saturday, Sept. 13. **Courtesy photos**

Heritage Day organizers already planning for next year's celebration

Karen Turko-Ebright
Staff Writer

After Heritage Day in Middleville two weeks ago, one village staffer is already marching forward with ideas for next year's festival.

Kassandra Clark, the village's community development coordinator, said the annual community celebration held Saturday, Sept. 13, was a "big success" and is looking forward to Heritage Day 2026.

"Every event has room to grow, and for next year I'd like to focus on even more family-friendly activities and ways to showcase our local businesses and, of course, the return of the parade," said Clark, who coordinated the event for the first time. "We had a fantastic turnout and, now that I've experienced the flow of the day, I see opportunities to streamline vendor placement and better spread activities throughout downtown."

Clark added she worked closely

See **CELEBRATION** on 5

Mobile SOS office set for stop in Caledonia

Caledonia Community Schools officials recently announced that the Michigan Secretary of State Mobile Office will be onsite at the new Cal Community Center on Tuesday, Oct. 7, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

According to officials, the mobile office provides senior citizens and others an opportunity to take care of common Secretary of State services without needing to travel to a permanent branch office.

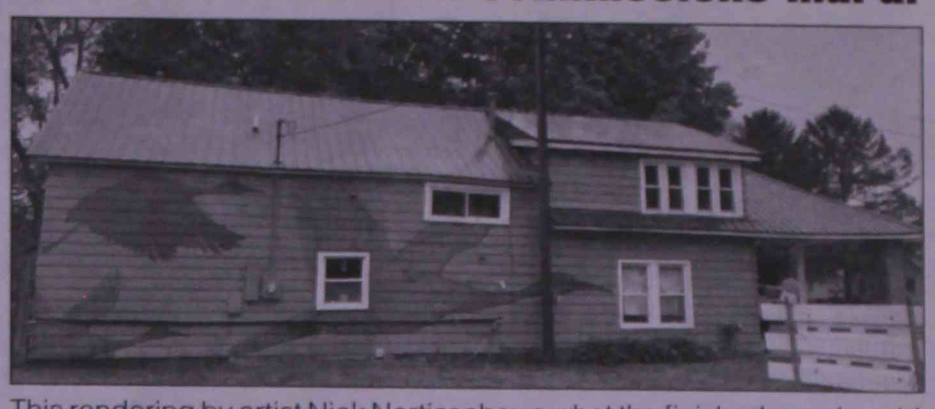
Services available at the mobile office reportedly will include renewing driver's licenses and state IDs, updating vehicle registrations, changing addresses and registering to vote.

CCS officials stated that several residents have already signed up for the mobile office's Oct. 7 stop in Caledonia at the community center on Kraft Avenue, though walk-ins will be welcomed as time allows.

"This is a great way to bring important services closer to home," said Monique Brennan, CCS community education and outreach coordinator. "We hope many of our senior residents will take advantage of this opportunity." — *DM*



Middleville resident commissions mural



This rendering by artist Nick Nortier shows what the finished mural could look like on the side of Middleville resident Regina Bouchard's home.

Molly Macleod
Editor

Travelers heading into Middleville on W. State Road may soon be welcomed by large wading birds upon approaching the corner of Irving Road and Main Street.

Middleville resident Regina Bouchard is commissioning a mural to decorate the exterior wall of her home, facing Irving Road. Nick Nortier, of Grand Rapids-based Old Growth Creative, will be lending his artistic skills to adorn her home with three sandhill cranes — a common natural sight in the area.

"Having been in this spot, this is our 10th year here, we've grown to appreciate it so much. We have the perfect spot that's overlooking the river right over the valley. We get tons of wildlife back there — that was kind of what gave me the idea. The sandhill crane has been something that has popped up in my life, even long before I could appreciate it," said Bouchard.

Bouchard said she commissioned the mural as a celebration of her 10-year anniversary of living in her home in Middleville. Now that construction on Irving Road is reaching its final stages, Bouchard said the mural, once complete, will help contribute to an informal "grand opening" of the redone road.

Bouchard explained that Nortier came out to meet with her in Middleville in August to prepare for the mural. The two received approval from the village council, but were delayed by the construction on Irving Road, also beginning around that time.

The wait is only making Bouchard more excited for the finished product, she said.

Once construction wraps up in the coming days and weeks, Nortier will get started on the mural. Though dependent on weather and other factors, the mural could be finished in the coming weeks.

Nortier's style is marked by bold colors and geometric shapes. Bouchard said she was immediately drawn to his work after seeing him at a Grand Rapids art show in the spring.

See **MURAL** on 8

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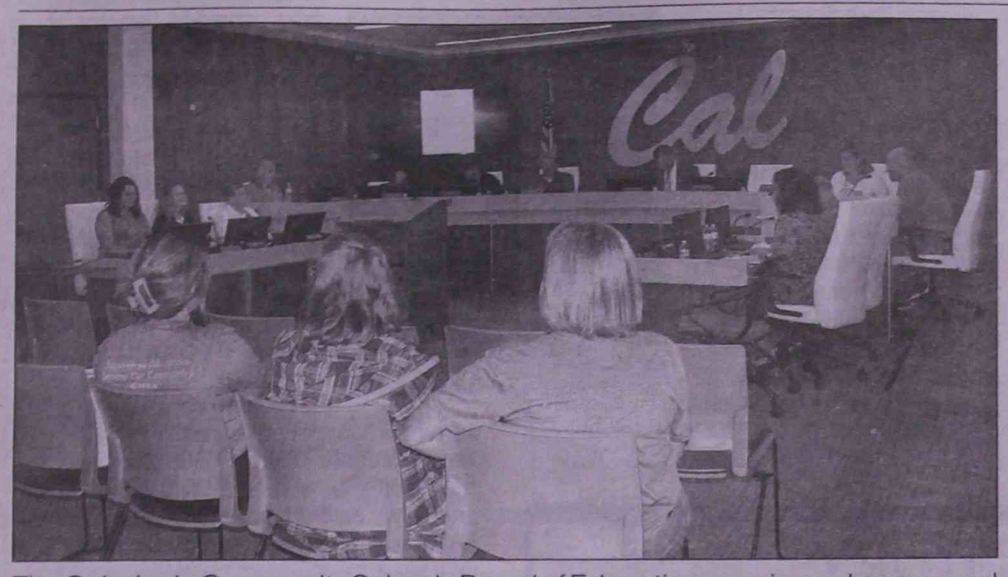
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The Caledonia Community Schools Board of Education unanimously approved a new three-year contract with the Caledonia Education Association. The three-year agreement runs from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2028. **Photos by Karen Turko-Ebright**



The Caledonia Community Schools Board of Education, including (l-r) board Vice President John Brandow, President Tim Morris and Superintendent Dirk Weeldreyer, met during a special board meeting on Monday, Sept. 22.

CONTRACT

Continued from Page 1

or repealed;

• Increase in compensation for mentor teachers;

• Addition of paid advisor/coach positions for Science Olympiad, E-Sports, and the Creative Writing Team;

• A stipend for elementary music teachers;

• Updates incorporating provisions of the new Earned Sick Time Act;

• Various other language updates, including provisions governing vacancies, layoff and recall, evaluation, comp time, staff meeting scheduling, and the grievance process.

The final agreement will be posted on the district's website, calschools.org, in the near future.

"I just want to say this has been a very complex negotiation," Morris said. "The board was dealing with some new and unforeseen items.

"So many of us have been negotiating as we go in closed session in learning about the process. That was good. I will say there were some things that really took me and some of us on the board by surprise."

Morris also took time to address what he considered misinformation that came about during the negotiation process.

"The financial big picture claiming that we have $50 million in reserves – much of it unrestrictive – that is simply not true," he said. "This does not help with negotiations and there's also the financial responsibilities that start with fair pay. It's very misleading at best. I can tell you we would rather not have that out there.

"We want to give our teachers the most pay we can. We did negotiate without a budget, so these are things that are unnecessary," he added. "I just want to say that for the record. Our hearts are in the right spot. You need to know that."

According to CCS officials, with the contract approved, a letter was sent out to school families sharing the full school calendar for 2025-26, which is posted on the district website.

"After many months of back-and-forth at the table, it feels great to say that teachers and the district have reached a fair contract," CEA president Melissa VanGessel said. "Teachers put so much of their time and energy into students, far beyond the school day, and this agreement lets them stay focused on the classroom.

"Having a settled contract gives stability to families and staff, and that stability builds trust," VanGessel added. "When teachers are supported, students thrive, and when students thrive, the whole community grows stronger."

VanderVelde to be honored before CHS homecoming game

A Caledonia High School graduate will be honored before CHS's homecoming game next week, Oct. 3. This year's Caledonia Education Foundation Honored Alumna, Jodi VanderVelde, will be honored at the Calapalooza event ahead of Caledonia's homecoming game. VanderVelde graduated with the Class of 1995 from CHS. Her parents are Neil and Linda VanderVelde, and she has three siblings: Marc, Jodi and Chad. — *KTE*



Jodi VanderVelde

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Obituaries

Judy France

Judy France, age 77, of Alto, MI went to be with her Lord on Thursday, Sept. 18, 2025.

She was preceded in death by her beloved son, Kevin; her parents, Jack and Trudy Hekker; brother, Jim Hekker; mother and father-in-law, Merle and Marie France; infant sister, Geraldine Hekker; brother-in-law, Warren VanAllsburg.

She will be lovingly remembered by her husband, Phil France; their children, daughter-in-law, Bethany France (Kevin), Carolyn (France) and Chris Matthysse, Chris and Jenny France; grandchildren, Maddie, Colter, Alek, Sophia, Cooper, Topher, and Lindsey; sister, Jackie and brother, Jerry; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Nancy and Pat Burchardt, Karen and Carl Elliot, Paul and Barb France, Marsha and Jim Ray; many nieces, nephews, cousins, godchildren, and friends.



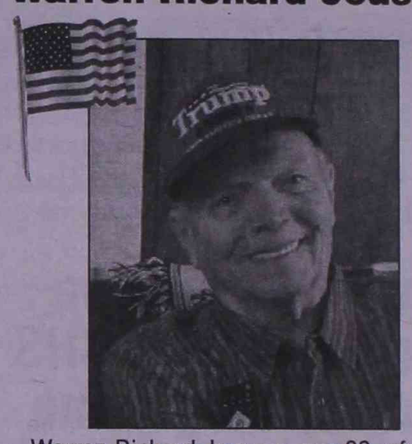
Judy had a beautiful soul, and touched many lives. She began her professional life as an executive secretary before dedicating herself to raising her family as a stay-at-home mother and volunteering for The Parent Aide Program. She offered friendship and support for parents who were struggling and worked specifically with three troubled parents and their children for several years. Judy later served as Director of Religious Education at Holy Family Church, where she grew the program through her faith and leadership. In her later years, she embraced her most cherished role as a loving and devoted grandmother. Judy was also a talented cook and baker, known for preparing each person's favorite dishes with joy and care.

Funeral mass will be held 11 a.m. Friday, Sept. 26, 2025 at Holy Family Catholic Church, 9669 Kraft Ave. SE, Caledonia, with Rev. Michael Cilibraise and Rev. Loc Trinh co-officiating officiating. Burial will be at Resurrection Cemetery at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, those who wish may make memorial contributions to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Condolences may be sent online at www.mkdfuneralhome.com.

Arrangements made by Matthysse Kuiper DeGraaf Funeral Home, 616 E. Main St. SE, Caledonia.

Warren Richard Jousma



Warren Richard Jousma, age 93, of Lowell passed away on Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2025.

He was preceded in death by his son, Jeff Jousma; daughter-in-law, Cheryl Jousma.

He will be lovingly remembered by his wife of almost 71 years, Marvel; children, Mike Jousma, Christy and Bob Jastifer, Steve and Brenda Jousma, Tracy and Dwayne York; eight grandchildren; 11 great grandchildren; one great great grandchild; extended family and friends.

Warren proudly served in the US Marine Corps in the Korean War. He was an electrician by trade, but his real love was for farming. When he was either driving a car or riding a tractor, he was the happiest.

According to his wishes, cremation has taken place. A private burial will be held at Alaska Cemetery at a later date.

Condolences may be sent online at www.mkdfuneralhome.com.

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www.alaskabaptist.org
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Church: (269) 795-2391

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THE SUN AND NEWS VIEW Newspaper Group

CELEBRATION

Continued from Page 1

with volunteers, the village council and community partners to carry the Heritage Day tradition forward.

Annually, the event includes activities for all ages – from live music to the market, car show, and family-friendly entertainment.

"The highlights for me were seeing kids light up at seeing their favorite princesses while dressed in their finest ball attire and those dressed in costumes to greet their favorite superheroes, hearing music drift over the crowd at the Riverbank stage, the interaction at the dunk tank with officials getting dunked," Clark said. "And watching families and friends gather together downtown. Our local businesses played such a huge role in the day's success, and seeing residents fill their shops and enjoy their food was very special.

"The fire department's turkey dinner was also a heartwarming moment that really reflected the best of small-town tradition," she added.



Middleville hosted its annual Heritage Day festival in the village's downtown district on Saturday, Sept. 13.

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NCTA-Chief Noonday Chapter celebrating trail addition Oct. 18

The North Country Trail Association-Chief Noonday Chapter is inviting everyone to come celebrate and explore the newest addition to the trail. The chapter is hosting a celebratory hike along the new stretch of trail at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 18. Hikers will meet at the Middleville Village Hall, 100 E. Main St., before embarking on the hike.

Over 40 volunteers have spent recent weekends working on the trail's addition near Middleville. Ryan Bowles, an award-winning trail designer, laid out the design for the new stretch of trail.

"Hikers can now leave a heavily-traveled road to enjoy a mile-and-a-half of wooded beauty," said NCTA-Chief Noonday Chapter volunteer Jane Norton.

A mixed hardwood and red pine forest greets those who tread on the new trail. Some observant hikers may spot the witch hazel tree at one of the turns.

Norton said hikers should be prepared for a few hills, which were benched to lessen the grade. There is ample room for faster hikers to pass those pacing slower.

The new segment allows hikers to avoid the busy road walk required in the past, which shared the hike with heavy, 55 mph traffic.

Hikers participating in Oct. 18's celebratory hike can park at the Middleville Village Hall, where bathrooms will be available. The group will leave for and return from the hike from the village hall.

Those with questions are directed to contact Norton at 269-808-7334 or email jane_a_norton@yahoo.com. — *MM*

October 4, 2025

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FREE Childrens ID Kits: Courtesy of Michigan Masons. Each kit includes an inkless fingerprint kit, DNA collection kits, and wallet information cards.

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MIDDLEVILLE TOPS 546

The Sept. 22 meeting opened with roll call and the secretary's report. There are still two fish in the fishbowl.

Sue treated everyone to the chocolate banana smoothie bowl from the Sept./Oct. TOPS magazine. Everyone enjoyed it. Other recipes were discussed. Club members all promised to try to have a no-gain week next week.

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

Linda 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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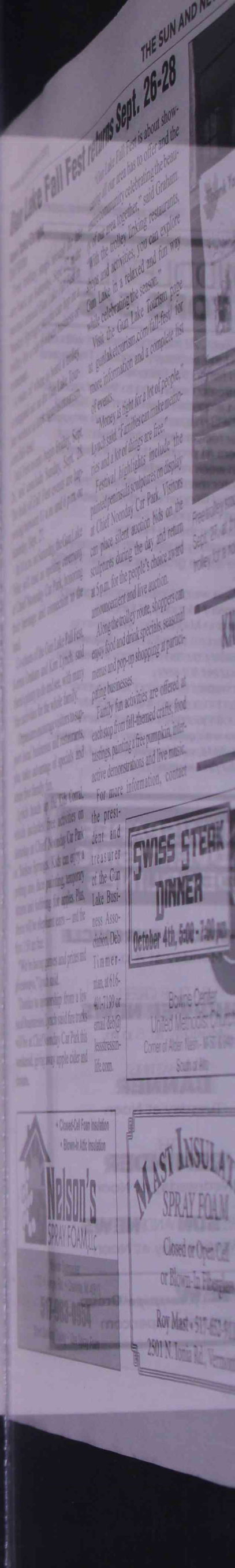
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THE REMINDER
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Gun Lake Fall Fest returns Sept. 26-28

Karen Turko-Ebright
Staff Writer

Free trolley stops around the lake are back on Saturday, Sept. 27, at the second annual Gun Lake Fall Fest in Yankee Springs. Anyone can hop on a trolley for a ride to a local business or restaurant.

A route of where to board a trolley is mapped out on the Gun Lake Tourism website at https://gunlaketourism.com/fall-fest/.

Fall Fest events begin Friday, Sept. 26, and conclude Sunday, Sept. 28. The bulk of Fall Fest events are happening between 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 27.

At 11 a.m. on Saturday, the Gun Lake Tribe will lead an opening ceremony at Chief Noonday Car Park, honoring their heritage and connection to the land.

Co-chairs of the Gun Lake Fall Fest, Kenna Graham and Kim Lynch, said there's plenty to do and see, with many free activities for the whole family.

Organizers encourage visitors to support local businesses and restaurants, plus take advantage of specials and some free family fun.

Lynch heads up the Kids Corral, which includes free activities on Saturday at Chief Noonday Car Park in Yankee Springs. Kids can enjoy a petting zoo, face painting, temporary tattoos and bobbing for apples. Plus, there will be elephant ears — and the first 150 are free.

"We're having games and prizes and giveaways," Lynch said.

Thanks to sponsorship from a few local businesses, Lynch said fire trucks will be at Chief Noonday Car Park this weekend, giving away apple cider and donuts.

"Gun Lake Fall Fest is about showcasing all our area has to offer and the entire community celebrating the beauty of our area together," said Graham. "With the trolley linking restaurants, shops and activities, you can explore Gun Lake in a relaxed and fun way while celebrating the season."

Visit the Gun Lake Tourism page at gunlaketourism.com/fall-fest/ for more information and a complete list of events.

"Money is tight for a lot of people," Lynch said. "Families can make memories and a lot of things are free."

Festival highlights include the painted peninsula sculptures on display at Chief Noonday Car Park. Visitors can place silent auction bids on the sculptures during the day and return at 5 p.m. for the people's choice award announcement and live auction.

Along the trolley route, shoppers can enjoy food and drink specials, seasonal menus and pop-up shopping at participating businesses.

Family fun activities are offered at each stop from fall-themed crafts, food tastings, painting a free pumpkin, interactive demonstrations and live music.

For more information, contact the president and treasurer of the Gun Lake Business Association, Deb Timmerman, at 616-401-7199 or email deb@lessstressinlife.com.



Free trolley stops around the lake are back from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 27, at the second annual Gun Lake Fall Fest. Anyone can hop on a trolley for a ride to a local business or restaurant. **Courtesy photos**

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Church to host 'Blessing of the Animals' mass Oct. 5

A Bellevue area church will be hosting a very special service to kick off October.

Our Lady of Great Oak Catholic Church in Bellevue will celebrate a "Blessing of the Animals" mass on Sunday, Oct. 5, at its service at 8:30 a.m.

All persons are invited – with or without pets – to the Oct. 5 service. Attendees are asked to bring blankets or lawn chairs for seating, and to bring their animals on leashes or in carriers.

The service and blessing will take place outdoors in the tree-lined church yard with Father Harold Potter officiating. Refreshments will be served after the service.

In case of rain, the event will be canceled.

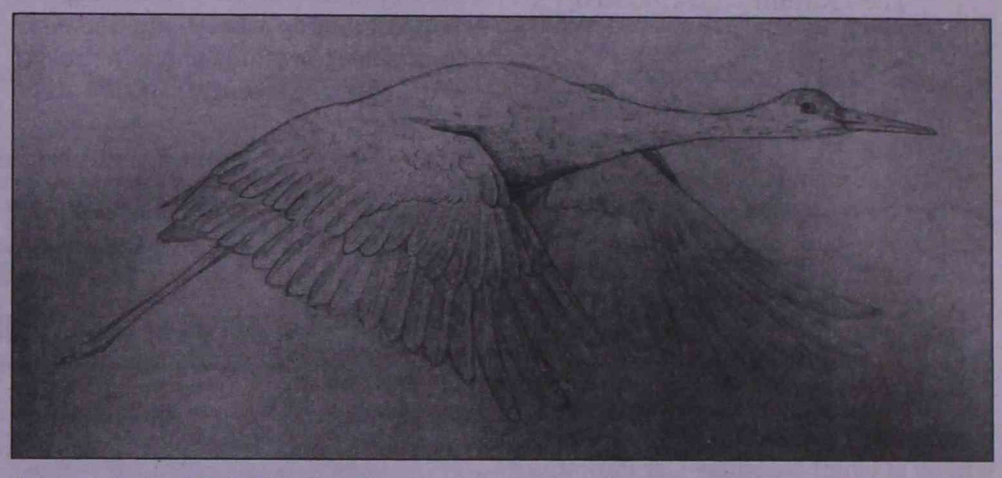
The Our Lady of Great Oak Catholic Church is located at 6547 Lacey Road, between North Avenue and M-66.

For more information, persons may call 269-758-3116. — *DM*



Our Lady of Great Oak Catholic Church in Bellevue will celebrate a "Blessing of the Animals" mass on Sunday, Oct. 5, at its service at 8:30 a.m. **Courtesy photo**

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To learn more about Serenity Village of Barry County visit www.serenitybc.org



A sketch by Nick Nortier shows the design for one of the sandhill cranes that will be painted on the side of Middleville resident Regina Bouchard's home. **Courtesy photos**

MURAL

Continued from Page 2

"His art was just so good, and it was using the nature that's here in Michigan," Bouchard said.

Together, Nortier and Bouchard crafted a vision for her mural in Middleville.

Bouchard said that when driving into Middleville from State Road these days, she looks to her house and where the mural will be, trying to envision what it would look like to passersby.

"To me, it's the perfect spot," Bouchard said. "I feel like it would be like, 'Oh, this is a cool little village that I'm coming into.'"

More information about Nortier's work can be found at oldgrowthcreative.com/.

Sporting News

Trojans win big in GR on first night of OK Black play

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Trojans have their first three-game winning streak since 2020.

The Thornapple Kellogg varsity football team opened OK Black Conference play with a 42-6 win over Ottawa Hills in Grand Rapids Friday, Sept. 19.

"The O-line has been doing a nice job," TK head coach Jeff Docks said. "Jacob Welch, Brody Hammer, Abram Dutcher, Isaac Fleischmann, Adam Lozada and Logan Goggins - they all play really hard. We are undersized, but come off the ball and get after it."

That line helped five different guys rush for touchdowns against the Bengals. Debo Robinson led the way for the TK backs with ten rushes for 73 yards and two scores. He scored on a pair of four-yard runs in the second quarter.

Malachi VanEngen, Jackson Smith, Micah Dock and Maddox VanEngen each scored once for TK.

Malachi had six rushes for 58 yards and got the scoring started with a 12-yard TD run in the first quarter. Smith upped the TK lead with a one-yard TD run in the first. The TK lead grew to 35-09 at the half with Robinson's two TD runs and a 13-yard TD run by the quarterback Micah Dock in the second. Maddox VanEngen capped the scoring with a 20-yard TD run in the third quarter.

Trojan kicker Mason Chivis was a perfect six-for-six on extra-point kicks.

The Trojans amassed 323 yards of offense ind the game while limiting the Bengals to just 42 offensive yards and three first downs. Passing the ball, Micah Dock was 2-of-2 for 32 yards. Cam Peter, Elliott Neff and Lucas Ploeg had one reception each. Zeke Webster came on and completed his only pass attempt for TK, for 24 yards to Peter.

Robinson Maddox VanEngen, Peter and Ploeg each had one tackle for loss for the TK defense. Goggins was in for four tackle assists. Ploeg, Eldridge and Zayne Whitmore had one tackle and three assists each on the defensive side. Blake Bossenberger had three assists too.

"The good thing is we got a lot of kids quality playing time," coach Dock said. "Overall, we played well on both sides of the ball."

TK girls shoot to fourth in jamboree at Maple Hill

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Thornapple Kellogg varsity girls' golf team shot its way to a fourth-place finish at the OK Gold Conference jamboree hosted by Wyoming at Maple Hill Golf Course Monday.

The TK team shot a 190 led by a 45 from junior Vivian Hansson. She had three pars throughout her round.

Junior Jordan Price put up a score of 47 strokes and junior teammate Katie Chase added a 48. The number four for the TK team was junior Molly Middleton who scored a 50.

South Christian kept its hold on the conference lead by winning with a team score of 155 ahead of West Catholic 170, Northview 187, TK 190 and Wayland 207.

South Christian senior Averie Noesen was the day's individual champ with a one-over-37. West Catholic senior Sarah Chen and South Christian senior Anna Marcusse both shot 38.

The Sailor team also got 40s from junior Meredith Helmus and senior Tessa Vugteveen.

South Christian hosted the team at the Pines Wednesday and took another victory.

The Sailors won on their home course with a score of 179 ahead of West Catholic 181, Northview 187, Wayland 218, Thornapple Kellogg 220 and Grand Rapids Union NTS.

Hansson shot a 52 to lead TK. Price scored a 58, Chase a 53 and senior Sophia Lahaie added a 57.

Northview senior Grace Laflure had the day's best round shooting a 40. Chen shot a 42, and South Christian junior Katelyn Alles and Northview senior Allison Hale tied with 43s.

The OK Gold Conference Championship will be played Thursday, Oct. 2, at Le Kaufman Golf Club.





The Rotary Club of Middleville would like to thank the

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Rotary Middleville

Trojans draw Wildcats, face OK Gold leading Sailors Monday at TKHS

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

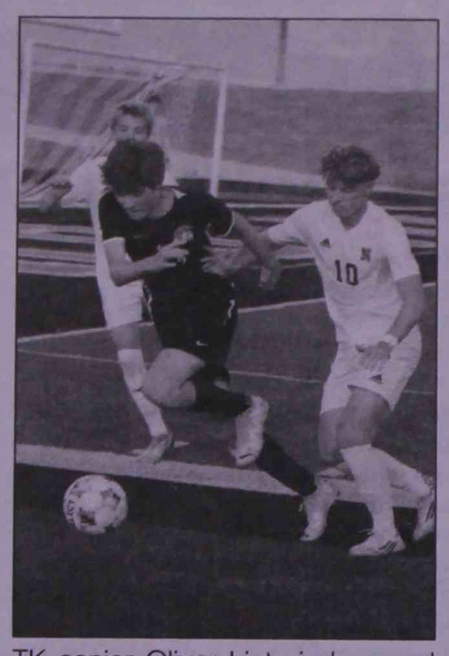
The final week of the OK Gold Conference boys' soccer season is ahead.

The Thornapple Kellogg varsity boys' soccer team will be home on the turf inside Bob White Stadium to take on South Christian Monday, Sept. 29, and Grand Rapids Union, Oct. 1, in the final two matches of the conference season.

TK is 2-6-2 so far in OK Gold Conference matches after playing Northview to a 0-0 draw Wednesday evening in Middleville.

In the final road tilt of the conference season TK fell 6-1 at West Catholic Monday.

The South Christian boys, among the honorable mention ranks in the coaches' poll in Division 2, can clinch an outright conference title with a win over the Trojans Monday. The Sailors are 9-0-1 in conference play so far this fall.



TK senior Oliver Lietz is bumped off the ball by Northview senior Jackson Dowdle during the first half of their 0-0 draw in Middleville Wednesday evening. **Photo by Brett Bremer**



CHS spikers win three close sets with Mona Shores

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Caledonia varsity volleyball team got its first OK Green Conference win of the season Thursday, Sept. 18, knocking off visiting Mona Shores in three tight sets 25-22, 25-20, 27-25.

Caledonia moved to 1-1 in the conference with the win.

Aubrey Reynolds had a team-high 20 kills for the Scots to go with 13 digs and two blocks.

"We did a great job of staying aggressive on offense, and Aubrey Reynolds really stepped up for us with 20 kills. She kept swinging with confidence and set the tone for our attack all night," Caledonia head coach Ashley Brown said.

"I'm really proud of how mentally tough our team was … Even when we got down, we kept grinding, stayed composed, and found a way to finish. This win showed our grit. We had to dig deep and play tough in the big moments, and our team proved they could handle that pressure. We've been really focusing on mental toughness in practice, and tonight was proof that the work is paying off. The way we battled and finished shows the growth this team has made.

Junior setter Reese Stafford put up 32 assists to go with 13 digs for Caledonia. Senior Kyla Charles had nine kills and four blocks and sophomore Lydia Bell chipped in five kills and five blocks.

Caledonia followed up that performance with a 2-2 day at the Lakewood Invitational Saturday.

The Fighting Scots beat Big Rapids 25-10, 25-14 and Petoskey 25-16, 25-19. The two losses were a 25-15, 25-19 contest against Grand Rapids Christian and a three-set match with East Grand Rapids which the Pioneers won by the scores of 22-25, 25-18, 15-10.

Reynolds had 41 kills on the day and hit .350. She added four aces, 25 digs and four blocks.

Stafford had 81 assists and five aces. Charles contributed 12 kills, three aces, eight digs and three blocks. Bell hit 24 kills and six blocks.

The Scots also got 25 digs from junior Avery Seif and junior Kayleigh Miersen added 18 digs, seven aces and seven kills throughout the day.

Caledonia was scheduled to be back at it in action in the conference Sept. 25 at home against Reeths-Puffer. Jenison will host the Scots in the conference Oct. 2.

TK and Falcons end in draw after three-set doubles matches

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Thornapple Kellogg varsity boys' tennis team moved its record to 3-1-1 in OK Gold Conference duals this fall finishing in a 4-4 tie at Grand Rapids West Catholic Monday.

TK senior first singles player Franklin Wilkinson hit his way to a 6-0, 6-0 win against West Catholic senior Kyle Carpenter, and the TK team pulled out three close doubles matches to earn the tie.

The TK first doubles team of juniors Layne Schilthroat and Samuel Teachout scored a three-set win over the Falcons' Jake Overbeek and Nick Christopher by the scores of 6-4, 3-6, 7-5.

TK won in three sets at fourth doubles too with the team of senior Alex Eggleston and junior Mark Cuison coming from behind to best West Catholic sophomores Anthony Maslanka and Gus Bernreuter 5-7, 6-4, 7-6(5).

The Trojan team got a point at second doubles too with sophomore Graham Eden and junior Gideon Scott outscoring the team of West Catholic senior Alex Devries and sophomore Maksym Zimmerman 6-4, 6-2.

The Falcons needed to pull out a three-set win at third doubles to preserve their side of the draw. Sophomores Luke Latchana and Lucas Schultz beat out the TK team of junior Aiden Riffel and senior Luke Archer 6-1, 5-7, 6-3 to pick up that point.

The Falcons won the second, third and fourth singles matches in straight sets.

TK was slated to close out the season of conference duals against Northview Sept. 24. The OK Gold Conference Championship Tournament will be hosted by South Christian High School Thursday, Oct. 2. TK heads to Holland for its regional tournament Oct. 8.

Jenison win pushes Scot tennis record to 2-2 in Green

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Caledonia varsity boys' tennis team had its OK Green Conference record evened at 2-2 Wednesday as it was downed 7-2 at Jenison.

The Fighting Scot junior fourth doubles team of Isaac Judd and Charlie Scott pulled out a 6-4, 3-6, 6-2 win to get the Scots a point on the doubles' side.

Senior Garrett Fales got the Scots' lone win on the singles' side taking a 6-0, 6-2 win over Jenison senior Collin Lason at third singles.

The doubles matches were especially competitive. The second doubles match went three sets as well. Caledonia senior Isaac Robotham and sophomore Russell Grandon took the opening set 6-4 against Jenison's David Ymker and Grady Smith. Smith and Ymker rallied from there to pull out the second set in a tiebreaker 7-6(2) and then won the third set 6-3.

At third doubles, the Jenison team of Elliot Wass and Jack Deveraux bested Caledonia's Derick Prichard and Caleb Harrison 6-4, 6-4.

The Caledonia boys will head back to Jenison Oct. 3 for the OK Green Conference Tournament.

The final dual of the regular season for the Scots is at Grand Haven Monday, Sept. 29.

Last Thursday, Sept. 18, Caledonia finished in a 4-4 tie on the road at Hamilton.

Fales had the lone singles win for the Scots that day too as he topped the Hawkeyes' Jackson Klinger 6-4, 6-3.

Hamilton pulled out the second doubles match in a super tiebreaker, but the Scots took the other three singles flights. Sophomores Quinn Cook and Cooper Sowerby outscored Hamilton's first doubles duo 6-4, 6-4. Prichard and Harrison scored a 6-0, 6-2 win at third doubles and Judd and Scott teamed up at fourth doubles for a 6-2, 6-0 win.

It was Ethan Miedema and Aiden Unema taking the win for the Hawkeyes at second doubles by the scores of 6-2, 4-6, (10-8) over Caledonia's Robotham and Grandon.

The singles flights were pretty competitive. At second singles, Hawkeye senior James Anderson outscored the Scots' junior Quinn Stanley 7-5, 6-4.

At fourth singles, Hamilton sophomore Grayden Lubbers bested Scot sophomore Zach Zupin 6-4, 6-3.

Senior Dylan Loew won the first singles flight for Hamilton by outscoring CHS senior Hudsen Derengowski 6-2, 6-0.

Scots shoot second-place score at home jamboree

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Senior Codie O'Krangley was a part of a three-way tie for second and the Caledonia varsity girls' golf team was second as a team at the OK Gold Conference jamboree hosted by the Scots at Saskatoon Wednesday.

O'Krangley shot a 38 to lead her team.

Byron Center took the day's victory with a team score of 159 strokes. The Fighting Scots were second with a 171 ahead of Reeths-Puffer 179, Jenison 183 and Mona Shores 199.

Senior Katie Honhart shot a 43 for the Fighting Scots to finish tenth individually. The CHS team also got 45s from senior Ella Burns and freshman Kendall Smith.

Reeths-Puffer junior Sophia McCollum was the day's individual champion with a two-under-33. She fired birdies on holes three, five and eight.

Jenison junior Kylie Coffey and Byron Center senior Holly Lawrence both matched O'Krangley's 38. Byron Center juniors Autumn Kartes and Izzy Tawoda both shot 40s.

Jenison will host a nine-hole conference jamboree at The Meadows Sept. 30 and the conference gets together for its 18-hole championship tournament at Muskegon Country Club Oct. 2.

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Grandville shuts down Scots after early touchdown

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Caledonia put together a 65-yard touchdown drive the first time it had the ball Friday, Sept. 19, against Grandville.

The Bulldog defense dominated the rest of the night.

Grandville scored a 28-7 OK Red Conference win over the Caledonia varsity football team at Ralph E. Myers Stadium in Caledonia.

That opening TD drive for the Scots was powered by a 47-yard run by Aaron Collins that got the ball inside the Grandville 20-yard-line right away. Following a four-yard TD run by running back Ryne Wysocki, the Bulldog defense held the Scots to 90 offensive yards the rest of the night.

Sophomore quarterback Conlan Schultz got the start and senior Andrew Hanna came on to lead the offense on its final couple drives of the night. The two have been sharing snaps a bit since junior starter Bryce Backus was knocked out due to an injury earlier this season.

The Bulldogs played much of the night without one of their key offensive pieces, as senior running back Jayden Terry came out of a pile with an injury on Grandville's first drive of the game.

A full wing-T backfield for the Bulldogs was still able to keep the chains moving. Braylen Haney led the way. He finished off that opening Bulldog drive with a two-yard touchdown run.

The Bulldogs pushed their lead to 20-7 by the half.

DJ Hardiman had a 29-yard TD run in the final minute of the first quarter, and then the Bulldogs put together another steady drive in the second quarter to take a 20-7 lead on a short TD run by Haney.

The Fighting Scots got a fourth down stop on a long Bulldog drive in the third quarter, inside the Caledonia ten-yard-line, and the Scot offense with Hanna at the helm was able to push the ball out away from its goal-line. A high shot gun snap, over Hanna, stymied that drive though and the Scots eventually had to punt the ball the other way.

Grandville sealed the win with a short drive that ended in a one-yard TD run by Haney in the fourth quarter.

The loss drops the Caledonia squad to 0-2 in the OK Red Conference. Caledonia was slated to visit East Kentwood in conference play Sept. 26. Conference foe Grand Haven comes to Caledonia for homecoming Oct. 3.



Caledonia sophomore quarterback Conlan Schultz (9) finds some running room on a QB keeper during the third quarter against Grandville at Ralph E. Myers Stadium Friday, Sept. 19. **Photos by Perry Hardin**



Grandville's DJ Hardiman (33) is stopped in his tracks by Caledonia seniors Brien Martin (76) and Carter Berends (24) on a run during their OK Red Conference ballgame inside Ralph E. Myers Stadium Friday, Sept. 19.

Village of Middleville
COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the September 9, 2025 Regular Council Meeting, that were approved on September 23, 2025, are posted at the Village Hall at 100 E Main Street and on the website at www.villageofmiddleville.org.

IRVING TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING SYNOPSIS
Sept 16, 2025

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm at 3425 Wing Rd. Hastings, Michigan 49058
Present: Lydy, Stout, Nagel, Buehler
Absent: Brummel
Agenda approved, as presented
Approved Minutes of August 19, 2025 Board Meeting
Fire Reports presented
Approved Treasurer's Report
Paid bills in the amount of $26,994.64
Reviewed ADA Audit
Approved to sign ADA Grant with MAMC for $10,000
Approved request from B.C. Road Commission to trim trees on Engle and Robertson Roads
Adjourn 7:23pm.
Full minutes are available at Irvingtownship.org or at 3425 Wing Rd, Hastings, MI 49058.
Prepared by Irving Township
Deputy Clerk, Shelly Lake.
Attested to by Supervisor, Dan Lydy.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CALEDONIA BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Meeting Minutes

The minutes for the September 3, 2025 Township Board of Trustees Meeting that were approved on September 17, 2025, are posted at the Township Offices at 8196 Broadmoor Ave., and on the website at www.caledoniatownship.org.

Thompson leap helps CHS boys into OK Green lead

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Fighting Scots welcomed sophomore Sean Thompson to the club of guys with a personal record better than 17 minutes on Wednesday, and caught Jenison in the OK Green Conference.

Thompson ran a personal record time of 16:42.59 at the OK Green jamboree at South Christian High School to break up the Jenison pack and place sixth overall. He was 22nd at the first conference jamboree of the season and beat his previous PR by more than 33 seconds.

Jenison beat the Fighting Scots by three points at the first conference jamboree of the season. With most everyone else running well too, Thompson's leap was more than enough to boost the Caledonia varsity boys' cross country team to the front of the pack. The Scots outscored Jenison 25 points to 33 at the top of the standings, and the conference championship will be on the line when the OK Green meets again Oct. 14 for the conference meet at Riverside Park in Grand Rapids.

The Caledonia girls are likely to be in a battle with Byron Center for second place in the OK Green at that conference championship meet next month after placing third Wednesday.

Sophomore Bennett Snapper ran to a win for the Fighting Scots in the boys' race at South Christian. He hit the finish line in 16:13.69. Senior Noah Johnston was second in 16:18.58 and sophomore Bentley Nichols placed third in 16:26.43.

Those three were the first finishers at the first conference jamboree this fall followed by seven Jenison runners. The seven Jenison runners were next again, but with Thompson breaking up that pack of Wildcats.

Junior Ethan Burks ran his PR to lead the Jenison team. He was fourth in 16:27.06. Senior teammate Nolan Wengloikowski was fifth in 16:38.28.

Senior Luke Smith improved his PR by a bit and moved up in the standings for the Scots too. He was the team's number five scorer and placed 13th in 17:17.36. Jake Potgeter placed 18th and Isaac Dinh 21st to round out the Scots' top seven.

Byron Center was third in the day's boys' standings with 81 points ahead of Mona Shores 113, Reeths-Puffer 155 and Muskegon 170.

Jenison took command of the girls' conference standings by winning again, this time with 19 points. Byron Center was second with 63 points ahead of Caledonia 68, Mona Shores 106 and Reeths-Puffer 118.

Fighting Scot junior Akaela Daman led her team with a sixth-place time of 19:58.44. Junior Anna VanderWal was 13th in 21:29.69. Senior Hannah Bennett clocked in 14th in 21:34.82. Sophomore Charlie Bont placed 17th in 21:49.53. Freshman Kendall Van Ryn ran her fastest race yet to place 18th in 21:51.93.

Sophomore Elise Clarin ran a PR to place 20th overall and sophomore Abigail Tava was 24th to fill out the Scots' top seven.

Jenison had six of the first eight girls across the finish line. Junior Paige McMeans led that group with a winning time of 18:55.29. Sophomore teammate Madeline Aleisa was second in 19:13.10. Byron Center senior Kailey Mann ran a PR of 19:43.82 to place third.

The Fighting Scots are back in action today, Sept. 27, at the Otsego Bulldog Classic.

Slagel improves her 11-dive team record at Spring Lake Invitational

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Her scores keep going up.

Grand Rapids Gator diver Lydia Slagel improved her team's 11-dive record with a score of 432.05 at the Spring Lake Invitational Saturday.

She bested her own school record by about 30 points in what was the first 11-dive meet of the 2025 season. Slagel put up an 11-dive score of 375.20 at the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 1 Girls' Swimming and Diving Finals in Holland last November to place fourth at the finals.

Slagel will get to compete again this Saturday at the East Grand Rapids Dive Meet.

The Gator co-op team of Thornapple Kellogg, West Catholic, West Michigan Aviation Academy and Hopkins placed fifth at the seven-team invitational.

Traverse City won the meet with 624.5 points ahead of Spring Lake 345, Holt 273, Muskegon Mona Shores 246.5, Grand Rapids Gators 162, Ludington 161 and Manistee 94.

A couple of fifth-place finishes were the top performances in the pool for the Gators. Freshman Mara Raak was fifth in the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 1 minute 23.78 seconds. Gator sophomore Mckenna Hawks placed fifth in the 200-yard individual medley with a time of 2:40.43 and fifth in the 500-yard freestyle in 6:24.54.

Raak also added an eighth-place time of 1:06.56 in the 100-yard freestyle.

Senior Jenna Robinett was eighth in the 100-yard butterfly in 1:28.07 and added a ninth-place time of 1:23.15 in the 100-yard backstroke.

Gator teams were fifth in both the 200-yard medley relay and the 200-yard freestyle relay.

Last Thursday, Sept. 18, the Gators were bested 60-34 in a dual at Fremont.

Hawks had a pair of wins in individual races in the dual. She took the 200-yard individual medley in 2:42.45 and the 500-yard freestyle in 6:29.97.

Raak won the 100-yard breaststroke in 1:23.56.

The Gator team also had the foursome of Eloise Nichols, Robinett, Hawks and Raak win the 400-yard freestyle relay in 4:48.88.

Nichols was the day's runner-up in the 200-yard freestyle with a time of 2:46.83. Robinett and Nichols went 2-3 in the 100-yard butterfly with Robinett finishing in 1:33.54 and Nichols in 1:46.69.

The Gators return to OK Conference East Division action at Grand Rapids Union Tuesday, Sept. 30.

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Trojan X.C. teams inch closer to top of Conference at Wayland

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

A hilly, twisty course around the Wayland Union school grounds and a few more weeks of training made for a much different OK Gold Conference jamboree the second time around this fall.

The Thornapple Kellogg varsity girls' cross country team inched a few points closer to league-leading South Christian and the TK boys jumped Grand Rapids Union to finish third as a team Wednesday in Wayland.

There was a big shuffle up in the order of finish for the TK ladies Wednesday with sophomore Amya Gater leading the way. She placed 13th with a time of 22 minutes 25.27 seconds. Junior Payton Hardy, the TK leader throughout the fall so far, was 14th overall in 22:25.44. Junior Carmen Reynolds was right behind them with a 15th-place time of 22:27.94.

South Christian won the jamboree with 21 points. TheTK ladies were second with 65 points, a gap between the Sailors and Trojans that was five points less than at the first conference get-together earlier this month at Riverside Park in Grand Rapids.

Wayland's girls were third with 74 points ahead Northview 114, West Catholic 114, Grand Rapids Union 179 and Wyoming 206.

South Christian had nine of the first 12 girls across the finish line in Wayland, and the first three overall. Senior Chloe Rinzema led the Sailors in 20:12.70.

The TK girls' team had Breanna Schut 22nd in 23:11.38 and freshman Brielle Miller 23rd in 23:19.58 in its top five. TK junior Alaina McCrumb was right behind in 24th-place and senior Madison Kietzman placed 29th.

In the boys' meet, the TK boys improved from fourth at the first conference meet-up to third.

TK freshman Owen Bremer moved up into the top ten with a tenth-place time of 18:30.45.

Trojan junior Grady Galaviz placed 19th in 19:15.60 and freshman Parker Robinett was 25th in 19:55.01. The top five for the TK boys also included sophomore Garrett Holzhausen 30th in 20:11.26 and sophomore Wyatt Richardson 33rd in 20:16.84.

Rounding out the top seven for TK were seniors Benjamin Postma and Noah Donker who were 35th and 36th respectively.

South Christian won for the second time in two races on the boys' side, this time with 29 points. Northview was second with 48 points ahead of Thornapple Kellogg 110, Grand Rapids Union 119, Wayland 133, Wyoming 137 and West Catholic 167.

The first two guys across the finish line were Sailors, and South Christian had four of the top ten overall. Sailor junior Ben Verlin won the race in 16:57.65 and senior teammate Thad VanderLaan was second in 17:19.31.

The Trojans are set to be a part of the Otsego Bulldog Classic Saturday, Sept. 27, and then will head to the Portage Invitational Saturday, Oct. 4.



TK senior Noah Donker races along the tree line behind Wayland Union Middle School on his way to the finish at the OK Gold Conference jamboree hosted by the Wildcats Wednesday. **Photos by Brett Bremer**



Thornapple Kellogg's Amya Gater races towards the finish line just a couple strides ahead of teammate Peyton Hardy and Carmen Reynolds at the OK Gold Conference jamboree hosted by Wayland Union High School Wednesday.

The OK Gold Conference Championship will be hosted by West Catholic at Riverside Park Oct. 15.

PUBLIC NOTICE
GAINES CHARTER TOWNSHIP
BOARD MEETING SYNOPSIS
September 2025

The Gaines Charter Township Board held a regular meeting on Monday, September 08, 2025, and took the following actions.

1. Reviewed the Consent Agenda.
2. Approved the Meeting Agenda
3. Discussed the October 11, 2025 Harvest Festival
4. Discussed Public Safety increased costs due to new developments
5. Held a public hearing on the Public Safety Special Assessment District Assessment Rate
6. Approved the consent agenda
7. Ratified the motion added to the August 11, 2025 Trustee Board meeting that was not published in the August 11, 2025 agenda.
8. Approved the August 11, 2025 meeting minutes as corrected.
9. Adopted the 2025 operating millage rate of .8012 mil.
10. Approved the Public Safety Special Assessment District Assessment Rate of 1.5 mils.
11. Approved the expenditures of the published equipment list for the new Platform 65.
12. Approved applying for a Special Events Liquor License for Taste of Gaines.
13. Scheduled a public hearing for October 13, 2025 regarding the 2026 Gaines Charter Township Budget.
14. Adjourned the meeting at 8:21 p.m.

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

Michael Brew
Gaines Charter Township Clerk

THORNAPPLE TOWNSHIP
BOARD
200 E MAIN ST.
MIDDLEVILLE, MI 49333
SYNOPSIS OF MEETING MINUTES
Monday, September 8, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. with six members present.

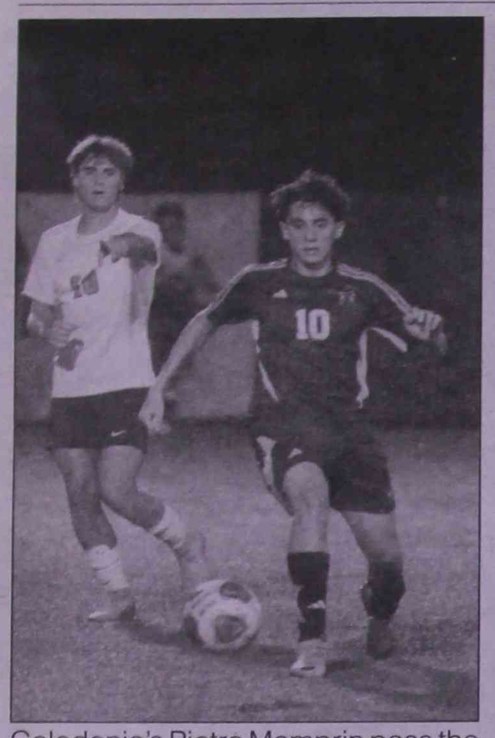
Items approved:

1. Printed Agenda approved as presented.
2. Consent Agenda approved as presented.
3. Approved resignation of Cindy Ordway as Township Clerk.
4. Approved appointment of Kathy Medenblik as Township Clerk.
5. Approved reimbursement to Kathy Medenblik for election training.
6. Approved purchase of fit tester.
7. Approved upgrade of UIV.
8. Approved maintenance to Robertson Road by County.

Meeting adjourned at 7:46p.m.

Prepared by Deputy Clerk Brenda Hess. Approved by Township Supervisor, Eric Schaefer.

Copies of the meeting minutes are available upon request from the Township Clerk or by visiting https://thornapple-twp.org/meeting-minutes/ Office hours 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday.



Caledonia's Pietro Mamprin pass the ball to the sideline as Byron Center's Kaleb Smith follows close behind during the second half of their OK Green Conference match Thursday, Sept. 18.



The Fighting Scots' Scots Gage Helinski clears his zone with Byron Center's Ben Newell (15) breathing down his neck Thursday, Sept. 18. **Photos by Perry Hardin**

Scots find the net three times to topple Sailors

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Caledonia varsity boys' soccer team got back on the winning track by outscoring Mona Shores 3-1 in an OK Green Conference match on the road Tuesday.

The win moves the Fighting Scots' record to 7-5-4 overall this season and 3-2-2 in the conference.

The goals were the first for the Scots since an 8-0 win over Muskegon Sept. 11. The Scots were winless in their previous four outings before Tuesday night.

The Scots were set to visit Reeths-Puffer in the OK Green Thursday, Sept. 25, and will close out the conference season with matches at home against Jenison Sept. 30 and at Muskegon Oct. 2.

Byron Center improved to 6-0 in conference play, one victory from clinching the outright conference championship, and 11-2-1 overall with a 5-0 victory over the visiting Scots last Thursday, Sept. 18.

Correction:

The goalkeeper in the photo with the Caledonia varsity boys' soccer story on page nine of last week's edition of the *Sun and News* was incorrectly identified. The photo was of Caledonia freshman keeper Ryder Helinski making a save against Portage Central.

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