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

HOMECOMING VICTORY MUCH NEEDED FOR FIGHTING SCOT FOOTBALL
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CHS crowns homecoming royalty



Seniors Parker Lipsman and Avery Middlemiss (front) react along with their classmates to being named the 2025 Caledonia High School homecoming king and queen during halftime of the Caledonia varsity football team's contest with Grand Haven inside Ralph E. Myers Stadium in Caledonia Friday, Oct. 3. The Fighting Scots defeated the visiting Buccaneers 28-6 in the football game. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

Caledonia graduate receives special honor during homecoming festivities

Karen Turko-Ebright
Staff Writer

During her introduction at halftime of Caledonia's varsity homecoming game on Friday, Oct. 3, Jodi Vander Velde ran across the field and waved to the crowd inside the newly renovated football stadium as she was recognized as the 2025 Caledonia Education Foundation's honored alumna.

"The award means a lot to me because I have community support," said Vander Velde, a member of the CHS Class of 1995. "Everyone is always so kind to me.

"I've lived in Caledonia my entire life, and I couldn't love a community more."

With family and friends cheering her on, Vander Velde received her recognition and shook hands with CHS assistant athletic director Jeremy Palmitier.

The ceremony added to the homecoming celebration that also included a 28-6 victory by the Fighting Scots over the visiting Grand Haven Buccaneers.

After high school, Vander Velde first attended Canisius College in Buffalo, New York. She then transferred back closer to home to Grand Valley State University.

The Caledonia native fueled her academic travels on a full basketball scholarship at both schools, working her way to a double major in both physical education and psychology.

Vander Velde grew up in the business community. Her grandparents and parents together purchased the Caledonia Family Tavern in 1972.

According to the CEF, Vander Velde's father was diagnosed with dementia and, when he could no longer run the business, Jodi bought it from her parents, Neil and Linda Vander Velde, in 2012. That meant moving back home to take over ownership and manage the family business on East Main Street in Caledonia.

See **GRADUATE** on 3



Jodi Vander Velde, a member of the Caledonia High School Class of 1995, waves to the crowd as she was recognized as the Caledonia Education Foundation's honored alumna during halftime of the homecoming football game on Friday, Oct. 3.
Photos by Brett Bremer

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Yankee Springs FD sees good turnout at first annual open house



The Yankee Springs Township Fire Department hosted an open house on Monday, Oct. 6, to celebrate Fire Safety Prevention Week with the theme, "Charge into Fire Safety: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home." **Photo by Dan Miller**

Karen Turko-Ebright
Staff Writer

With summer temperatures still clinging on at the beginning of the week, many could not resist the open house at the Yankee Springs Township Fire Department. Fire trucks, safety experts and more took center stage for families and friends to learn and explore.

The event kicked off Fire Safety Prevention Week on Oct. 6, with this year's theme: "Charge into Fire Safety: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home."

Fire Chief Dan Miller said the event drew an "excellent turnout" of visitors.

"The kids had fun," he said. "Parents learned a lot on fire safety, especially with lithium batteries."

Other topics included smoke detectors, power lines and what to do when calling 911.

Lithium-ion batteries fall in the category of Household Hazardous Waste (HHW). To learn what is considered HHW and how to properly dispose of dangerous products and materials, including lithium-ion batteries, visit barrycounty.org/barrycountyrecycles/index.php.

Miller wants every homeowner to ensure fire safety protocols.

"Fire safety should be every day, not just (in) October. Every home should have a smoke detector in every bedroom, in hallways, living room, basement, on every level of a home," Miller said. "They should be tested monthly; if they're not 10-year batteries, then the batteries should be replaced every six months.

"New smoke detectors out now are good for 10 years. The outside of the detectors should be vacuumed to keep the dust from collecting on them."

Miller said homeowners should make a plan in case of a fire.

"Families should have a safe meeting place outside, where if there is a fire that everybody goes to that meeting place, to make sure everybody has made it out of the residence or structure," he said.

"Proper smoke detector placement is crucial for your home's fire safety," Miller continued. "Should the smoke detector go off, make sure everybody is aware of the alarm and do not go back inside whatsoever."

Miller said not to forget about carbon monoxide (CO) detectors either, especially with colder weather on the way.

Other safety precautions from Miller include:

- If you live in a multi-story house, make sure you install CO detectors on every floor, including the basement and attic.
- Do not forget to install CO detectors in every sleeping area and rooms where people spend the most time, such as the living room.
- Install as many CO detectors as needed to be safe in your home.

Carbon monoxide is a toxic gas that you can't perceive without a device. High levels are potentially lethal, and it's simply not worth risking your and your family's health and life by not using the right number of CO detectors, Miller said.

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Jodi Vander Velde shakes hands with CHS assistant athletic director Jeremy Palmitier while being recognized as the Caledonia Education Foundation's honored alumna on Friday, Oct. 3.

GRADUATE

Continued from Page 1

She said she enjoys working with people and making new friends.

Her family also purchased the Marathon gas station in Caledonia in 2008, and she has steadily grown the business alongside her twin brother, Marc, and older brother, Chad.

"I love owning the tavern because it's been in my family for three generations now – my grandparents, my parents and now myself. Family means a lot to me," Vander Velde said. "We all have certain job duties we are responsible for.

"I have been so blessed to meet so many people."

Vander Velde receiving the honor from the CEF during a sporting event seemed appropriate, as she was a talented high school athlete who played basketball, volleyball and softball.

Vander Velde was the first freshman to play on the varsity softball team and was named all-conference for all four years of playing softball.

She also earned "All-State Dream Second Team" honors in basketball and was chosen as the CHS "Athlete of the Year" as a senior.

"My younger years were all athletic accomplishments, which are great," Vander Velde said. "But, as you age and your community recognizes you, that means so much more."

Pair of CHS seniors honored as 'commended students'

Caledonia High School officials announced on Wednesday, Oct. 9, that students Sophia Anderson and Ayden Hoisington were recently named as "commended students" in the 2026 National Merit Scholarship Program.

According to the announcement, a letter of commendation from the school and the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, which conducts the program, will be presented by CHS' principal to the two seniors.

Anderson and Hoisington will reportedly be among the estimated 34,000 commended students throughout the nation who are being recognized for their academic promise.

Although they will not continue in the 2026 competition for National Merit Scholarship Awards, commended students placed among the top 50,000 students who entered the 2026 competition by taking the 2024 Preliminary SAT/ National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

Those being named Commended Students have demonstrated outstanding potential for academic success," commented a spokesperson for NMSC. "These students represent a valuable national resource; recognizing their accomplishments as well as the key role their schools play in their academic development is vital to the advancement of educational excellence in our nation. We hope that this recognition will help broaden their educational opportunities and encourage them as they continue their pursuit of academic success." — *DM*



Sophia Anderson



Ayden Hoisington



Jodi Vander Velde walks off the field at Ralph E. Myers Stadium after the coin toss for the homecoming clash on Friday, Oct.3.

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Obituaries

Kary Sue Henning

Kary Sue Henning passed away peacefully on September 30, 2025, entering the loving arms of her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Her cherished husband, Michael Henning, was holding her hand until her final breath.

The love Kary and Michael shared was remarkable—a true love story. Married for 24 years, they equally adored one another, had unwavering devotion, and were blissfully inseparable.

Kary was born on May 3, 1977, and made her home in Middleville, MI. She loved this town and the people in it. She will be remembered as incredibly generous, funny, and quick-witted. Kary had a gift for taking care of everyone around her, always putting others first and making them feel important. The middle of three girls, she assumed the leadership role of her sisters from a very young age, often doing the talking and decision-making on their behalf.

She enjoyed camping with friends, traveling, and spoiling those around her. Kary had a sweet tone to her speaking voice and was also a beautiful singer.



Kary is survived by her cherished husband, Michael Henning; stepdaughter, Ashley and son-in-law, Andrew Andree; father, Sandy Schondelmayer and Barbara Schondelmayer; father-in-law and mother-in-law Alan and Pat Henning; sister Kelly Schondelmayer; sister, Tracy George and brother-in-law, Chip George; and sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Nick and Emily Wheeler. She also leaves behind many nieces and nephews who simply adored her.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Carolyn Getty, and her sister, Renee Louise.

In keeping with Kary's wishes, there will be no formal service. A private celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Her legacy as a devoted wife, generous and kind spirit, and quick-witted nature will live on forever in the hearts of those who knew and loved her.

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MIDDLEVILLE TOPS 546

The Oct. 6 meeting opened with roll call and the secretary's report. There is only one fish in the fishbowl.

Virginia gave everyone an instruction sheet so members could all learn about each other. The project is called "Open Book." Members will write a short story about their weight loss journeys. The stories will include what worked and what didn't work. Members will tell their stories at next week's meeting and have a discussion.

The Fall Rally will be held in Battle Creek on Saturday.

Virginia was the best loser for the month of September.

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

Maryellen lost 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.

Brenda Colburn



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BUILDING BRANDS

Why your brand must embrace local journalism through advertising dollars


Emily Caswell

Sunday, Oct. 5 is a special occasion, as it marks the start of the 85th celebration of National Newspaper Week. (It's also my birthday, but I'm afraid you'll ask how old I am, so we'll skip that part.)

National Newspaper Week is a week-long promotion of the newspaper industry in the United States and Canada. This year's theme is: Embracing Local Journalism for a Brighter Future.

From the National Newspaper Week website, "In a world increasingly shaped by global headlines and social media noise, reconnecting with local news is vital for civic engagement, accountability, and community resilience."

Regular readers of our 22 locally-owned, locally-connected community newspapers across the state of Michigan know this and already embrace local journalism. Chances are each of you has a unique reason why you love and read your local paper. And maybe that reason changes from week to week. For some it may be as simple as seeing your friends or neighbors featured in our papers. Some may enjoy following high school sports. Others want to know about upcoming events, concerts, plays, fundraisers and more. Parents want to know what is happening in their child's school and throughout the district. Everyone wants to stay informed about increases in taxes, water bills, street projects and road construction, local elections, on-going developments and new businesses opening in the community.

Of course, there's another reason many people read our newspapers — the advertisements. Whether you are car shopping, need your furnace serviced, looking for the best deal on ground beef for the week or wondering what to do this weekend, the pages of our papers are filled with marketing messages from local and national businesses and nonprofits that inform and reach our readers in a way that no other form of advertising can offer. The thousands of brands that use our newspapers to advertise know this because their print ads deliver results.

The money businesses and organizations invest in newspaper advertising, however, does more than just benefit their bottom line, it benefits the entire community. Our community newspapers are supported in large part by advertising dollars, meaning, no advertising, fewer newspapers. That doesn't mean community newspapers are a charity case. Brands aren't handing over their hard-earned dollars to keep us in business. I'll say it again, brands use our newspapers to market their goods and services, <u>because it works</u>. Their print ads attract and retain customers, but the impact is bigger than that. Here is why your brand must support local journalism with advertising dollars. Newspapers with local journalism:

Provide a connection to a trusted source: Placing your marketing messages in the pages of our community newspapers automatically makes you credible with consumers. Just as newspapers are held to the highest standard when it comes to truth and accuracy in our reporting; so is true with the marketing messages in our newspapers. As a locally-owned company we have the right to refuse an advertising partner that isn't trustworthy. Do you think social media platforms ever turn away money? I don't. Bottom line, newspapers are trusted. A recent piece on *newspapers.org* sites this study: "According to the 2024 Trust in Media Study conducted by America's Newspapers and Coda Ventures, local newspapers are the most trusted news source in the country. Readers rank them highest for transparency, ethical standards and connection to their communities — qualities that are critical in an environment saturated with misinformation and national polarization."

Help in employee retention and attraction: Studies find that communities with newspapers are safer, have lower taxes, have a better turnout in local elections and are more connected. You know who likes to live in communities like that? Your team members. Brands that exist is news deserts may find it hard to recruit and retain talent if the community in which talent is asked to live doesn't feel connected, has high taxes or poor schools.

Associate your brand with smiles: While there are times when our community newspapers have to report on bad, sad or what some might consider slightly boring news, the majority of what we deliver our readers delivers smiles. Students on a special day at school, young community members enjoying a fundraising event, local artists sharing their works, stories of love, redemption, inspiration and more grace our pages daily. Our readers get a jolt of joy and on the same page they see your brand and associate you with that feeling.

If you're ready to embrace local journalism or expand upon your current plan, contact me at *ecaswell@mihomepaper.com.*

Emily Caswell is the Brand Manager for VIEW Group, the branding division of View Newspaper Group.

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A gift for you


Zach Santmier

When I was a young teen, I went to Disney World for the first time with my entire extended family. My older cousin and I were just at the age where we could run off on our own and choose which rides we wanted to ride.

We had a little card that we could swipe at certain rides that allowed us to get one fast pass. This pass allowed us to jump to the front of the line and practically walk right on the rollercoaster. We only had so many fast passes we could get for the entire day, so we had to use them wisely. We saw the Buzz Lightyear ride and we decided to use one of our last two fast passes for the day to jump to the front. As we went to the fast pass kiosk, there were a lot of little white tickets on the ground. We thought they were free fast passes because they looked just like the real ones, but when we picked them up, they all said, "Rejected" on one side.

So we swiped, and a real fast pass popped out. We showed the ticket to the guy at the front of the ride, walked through the empty fast pass line, and then handed our fast pass ticket to another worker who let us on the ride. We watched as he just threw the white ticket away without even looking at it.

In our teenage boy brains, we both had the same idea. As soon as the ride was over, we decided to use our last fast pass for Buzz Lightyear. But this time, we collected some of the "Rejected" white tickets that looked identical. At the front of the line, we showed the worker our real Fast Pass, but this time, when we went to hand in our ticket to the other worker, we handed him the "Rejected" card. We were both a little nervous of if we'd get caught, but without a second thought, he grabbed our "fake" and threw it away. We had gotten away with it! We sat down on the ride and for the second time, we listened to the departing instructions. "Keep your hands and feet in the cart at all times, aim your blasters at the bad guys and save our planet!" Something like that!

After our second ride, what do you think we did? You better believe it! We got some more rejected tickets and tried it again, and again, and again. After about 10 times around on the ride, we had memorized every word in the departing instructions. We would laugh as we recited them together, even putting in the same pauses as the operator. We thought we were getting away with the heist of the century.

Friends, as you get ready to launch on the roller coaster of personal financial success, I want you to know the instructions forwards and backwards. I want you to fully know and understand the systems and principles that I have taught so that you can recite them back to me, even saying them how I say them. You have only learned these principles one time. It took me over a year to write the material, and I've been teaching this for years. Remember, I don't want you to have just gained head knowledge, I want you to apply knowledge and digest what you've learned.

So, here's my gift: I want to give you access to every article I have written in this column so you can refer back to them again and again:

Visit trumbleagency.com/money-tips, where you can read every article we have published and refer back to them again and again.

I am also considering an in-person class to help you jump-start your personal financial success. If this would be of interest to you, shoot me an email at zach@trumbleagency.com. I'd love to hear from you!

Just as we were laughing and reciting the instructions on Buzz Lightyear for what was soon to be the last time, a worker came up to us and pulled out the rejected tickets from the trash can. We had been caught red-handed. They threatened that if we did anything like that again, we'd be kicked out of the park. With our tails between our legs, we unbuckled our seat belts and walked the walk of shame back towards the entrance.

This past year, I took my girls to Disney World and introduced them to the Buzz Lightyear ride. As I got on and heard the departure instructions, it was like riding a bike. I could nearly recite them word for word.

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

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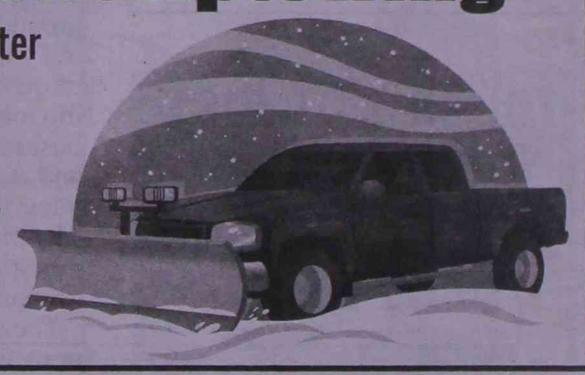
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EDITORIAL

Local journalism focus of National Newspaper Week 2025

October 5th through the 11th marks the 85th celebration of National Newspaper Week. Since 1940, Newspaper Association Managers, a professional organization of newspaper associations, has sponsored and supported National Newspaper Week, a week-long promotion of the newspaper industry in the United States and Canada.

The theme, or we might say, the rallying cry, of this year's celebration is "Embracing Local Journalism for a Better Future."

Local journalism is the heartbeat of informed communities. It brings stories to light that national outlets often overlook — stories about school board decisions, city council debates, neighborhood events, and local heroes. In a world increasingly shaped by global headlines and social media noise, reconnecting with local news is vital for civic engagement, accountability and community resilience.

Why Local Journalism Matters:

• Informed Citizens: Local reporting empowers people with the information they need to make decisions in their everyday lives — from voting to attending town hall meetings.

• Accountability: Local journalists often serve as watchdogs, uncovering corruption or negligence that directly impacts their communities.

• Community Connection: Local news fosters a sense of belonging by highlighting stories that resonate on a personal level.

Embracing Local Journalism *for a Better Future*

National Newspaper Week
October 5-11, 2025

• Economic Development: Thriving local media can support small businesses through advertising and partnerships, strengthening the local economy.

• Trust: According to the 2024 Trust in Media Study conducted by America's Newspapers and Coda Ventures, local newspapers are the most trusted news source in the country. Readers rank them highest for transparency, ethical standards and connection to their communities — qualities that are critical in an environment saturated with misinformation and national polarization.

View Newspaper Group Serves Local Communities:

With our 22 locally-owned community newspapers serving readers and advertisers across14 Michigan counties, View Newspaper Group was founded and built on local journalism. Today, we deliver more than 350,000 printed newspapers every week into readers' homes in more than 60 cities and villages and dozens of townships. In most of those communities, we are the only professional local news organization. Without our coverage of local government, schools, nonprofits, agriculture, businesses and economic development, people in many of those communities would lack the consistent, unbiased and thorough news and information that is most important to their daily lives.

Numerous studies have shown that local newspapers, in our watchdog role, hold local government officials accountable to voters and taxpayers while the absence of local newspapers has the opposite effect.

Beyond reporting news and information, the View team members serve as marketing experts, community boosters and nonprofit champions by serving on multiple boards and committees. View Newspaper Group contributes more than $180,000 annually to local nonprofits, service organizations, charitable causes and fundraisers along with providing those groups with hundreds of thousands of dollars more in free publicity. Social media, digital advertising and search engine corporations do not give back to our communities.

A Call to Action:

To build a better future, we encourage your support of local journalism through subscriptions, sharing stories and sharing your point of view in our letters to the editor pages. We encourage local businesses to commit a portion of their advertising budgets to our local and effective newspapers. We encourage local government and school officials and community leaders to subscribe to — and read! — our newspapers. Schools, libraries, and civic groups can also play a role in educating the next generation about media literacy and the importance of a free press.

Celebrate National Newspaper Week with Us!

By embracing local journalism, we're not just preserving the past — we're shaping a more informed, connected, and empowered future. National Newspaper Week is a time to reflect on and reinforce the vital role newspapers play in informing, empowering, and uniting our communities.





Scots swim through another perfect season of conference duals

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Caledonia varsity girls' swimming and diving team is something that Grand Rapids Gators head coach Jeff Saltzgaber would like to see his program grow into in the future.

The Caledonia girls finished off their second straight undefeated season of OK Conference East Division duals with a 132-45 victory over the visiting Gators at the Cal Community YMCA Tuesday.

The Fighting Scots have gone from a part of the Byron Center co-op team along with South Christian, to hosting meets in their own pool as the lead school in a co-op with South Christian and Lowell that regularly finishes the season with girls on the state medal stand and chases conference championships.

The Gators are currently in their second season as a co-op led by Thornapple Kellogg along with Hopkins, West Catholic and West Michigan Aviation Academy Swimmers. A first step forward to the TK girls, who previously swam with Hastings and DeltonKellogg, has been getting the chance to practice in the pool in Middleville.

A little more time in the pool for those Thornapple Kellogg girls and a little less in the car has certainly proven a positive – even if the Gators aren't ready to outrace the Fighting Scots yet.

Caledonia improved to 5-0 while the Gators fell to 0-4 so far this fall in conference duals.

All-state swimmer Sophie Gaylord had a strong day, as usual, for the Scots. She won the 50-yard freestyle in 24.25 seconds and the 100-yard breaststroke in 1:10.78 while also swimming as a part of the Scots' winning 200-yard freestyle relay team.

Fellow all-stater Mya Vanderzwaag won two individual events for the Fighting Scots on the day too. She took the 100-yard backstroke in 1:04.44 and the 100-yard butterfly in 1:02.11. Caledonia's Caitlyn Morris took the 200-yard freestyle in 2:11.51. Nora DeHaan won the 100-yard freestyle in 59.59 – a new personal best for her by almost two seconds.

Caledonia closed out the evening with the team of Aubrey Klapmust, Vanderzwaag, Morris and Amelia McCann winning the 400-yard freestyle relay in 4:09.76.

"We had some very great swims and some very near misses," Caledonia head coach Amber Pearson said. "Mya popped off in her fly … that is an all-time best with us. We rotate the swims, so they swim everything really fresh. They hit everything, and that way they have chances to PR and that way they're not beating a dead horse. She doesn't train that a whole lot. It is not a first-choice swim, but that is a huge drop for her.



Caledonia's Mya Vanderzwaag races to a winning time in the 100-yard backstroke during her team's OK Conference East Division win over the visiting Grand Rapids Gators Tuesday at the Cal Community YMCA. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

"Nora had a big one today too, the sub-minute in her 100 free. Missed her MISCA cut by .09, but I think she has dropped like four seconds on that this season."

The Gators had two wins on the day. All-state diver Lydia Slagel had one of those wins putting up a score of 238.95 points in the diving competition. She is the returning conference diving champion.

"Her diving has just continued to progress throughout the season. She is hitting all her benchmarks. She is adding more dives," Saltzgaber said. "She is really stepping up to those challenges, and all the while being very kind and humble about her pathway."

A big push in the breaststroke powered Gator sophomore Mckenna Hawks to a win in the 200-yard individual medley early in the meet. After slipping a little behind during the backstroke and butterfly legs of the race, Hawks pushed past Caledonia's Lena Gesing in the breaststroke leg and then held her off through the 50 yards of freestyle swimming.

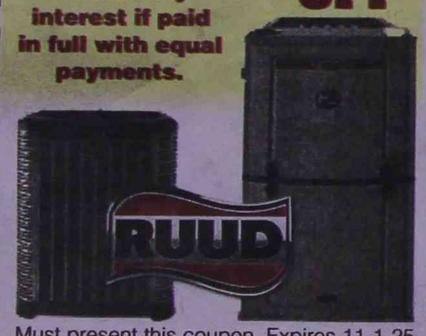
Hawks trimmed almost two and a half seconds from her personal best in the race with her winning time of 2:38.07.

"I was really happy to see Mckenna Hawks step up in such a big way, as a captain as a sophomore. She is just following in the footsteps of her sister, and continuing to raise the bar."

Hawks placed ninth at the conference championship meet a year ago in the breaststroke, but has shifted her focus to the 500-yard freestyle and the 100-yard butterfly this fall.

"I would definitely say that is the secret ingredient in the 200 IM, if you have a really strong breaststroke you can really make some moves. She

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Chivis field goal forces overtime where TK wins by a touchdown

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Thornapple Kellogg varsity football team took a 37-30 overtime victory in OK Black Conference play at Northview Friday, Oct. 3, to move to 2-1 in the conference.

The Trojans got the ball first in the overtime session, where each offense gets to start a drive from the ten-yard-line. Senior back Debo Robinson carried the ball to the six. Junior quarterback Micah Dock took it to the three. Junior back Camden Peter took it the rest of the way to the end zone on third down, and Mason Chivis' extra-point kick put TK up by seven.

The Trojan defense stopped the Wildcats on their possession, and the Trojans got to celebrate as they head into their homecoming week.

In what must feel like a rarity for the Trojans, even when things felt like they were going awry the ball just kept bouncing their way.

TK had a couple receivers collide on a fourth down play in Wildcat territory with 1:24 to go in the fourth quarter trailing 30-27. The defense came up huge. The offense got a little help. Northview lost the handle on a reverse and went backwards, and then a botched Northview snap to the punter in the closing minute set TK up at the Wildcat 30-yard-line.

With no timeouts left and 38 seconds to play, Dock tossed the ball back to senior back Zach Eldridge who lofted a pass towards the end zone that came up short and was intercepted by the Wildcats. The Northview celebration didn't last long though, as there was a flag for defensive pass interference behind the play to keep the TK offense on the field and move the ball to the 15-yard-line with 30 seconds to go. Eventually, Mason Chivis kicked a 33-yard field goal with six seconds left in regulation to tie the game at 30-30.

The Trojans had the last lead of the ballgame, and they had the first lead of the ballgame. Dock scored on a 20-yard run to finish off the opening possession of the ballgame midway through the first quarter.

There was no stopping either offense in the first half. Northview led 22-21 at the half.

Aaron Johnson answered Dock's opening score with an eight-yard touchdown run for the Wildcats with a little over a minute to play in that opening quarter.

The two teams were tied 7-7 at the start of the second quarter, but that didn't last long. Malachi VanEngen took a pitch through the left side 39 yards for a TK touchdown 35 seconds into that second quarter.

It was back the other way to even the score for the Wildcat offense with seven and a half minutes to play in the first half. The Northview offense broke a 39-yard run of its own to get inside the TK 10, and then Jalen Gant scored on a seven-yard TD rush.

Zach Eldridge answered for TK with a 19-yard touchdown run on the next possession.

Northview closed out the first half with a two-yard touchdown run by Beau Peterson with four seconds left in the half. When the Trojans were flagged for a penalty on the extra-point attempt, the Wildcats went for two and Peterson found the end zone again to put his team in front for the first time.

The Trojan defense got the first stop of the game after a more than six-minute drive by the Wildcats to start the second half. On a third-and-goal from the eight-yard-line, Northview had a pass go off the hands of its intended receiver at the goal-line and up into the hands of the Trojans' Maddox VanEngen for an interception.

TK took the lead back with a drive that covered 79 yards in 6 minutes and 23 seconds. It ended on a three-yard touchdown run by Debo Robinson that had TK in front 27-22 with 11:13 to play in the game. A two-point conversion try was unsuccessful for TK after a holding penalty took away a successful attempt and backed the Trojan offense away from the goal-line.

That lead lasted for about four minutes for TK. Peterson took a hand-off running left on a fourth-and-two play at the TK 26 and miraculously managed to pinball off one TK tackler behind the line of scrimmage and then still be everyone around the corner not only for a first down but he kept right on going for a touchdown. Collin Gessner ran in the two-point try to boost the Northview lead to 30-27 at the time.

Both TK and Northview moved to 4-2 overall this season. The loss dropped the Wildcats to 1-2 in the OK Black.

TK was set to host East Grand Rapids for its homecoming contest Friday, Oct. 10, a battle between two teams in the middle of the mix for one of the 32 playoff spots in Division 3. TK is home for its final three games of the regular season also hosting Holland Christian Oct. 17 and Wyoming Oct. 24.

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Homecoming victory much needed for Fighting Scot football

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

A 13-play, 80-yard drive to start off homecoming night inside Ralph E. Myers Stadium earned the Fighting Scots all the points they needed to secure their first OK Red Conference victory of the season Friday in Caledonia.

Caledonia beat the Grand Haven Buccaneers 28-6 in a battle to see who could get their first conference win first. Both teams got off to an 0-3 start to conference play.

"That was a big deal. The last three weeks have been tough for these guys. They haven't quit. They have a lot of fight in these kids, so it was good to see some reward for what they have going on," Caledonia's first-year head coach Whitney Bell said following his first OK Red Conference win leading the program.

Senior running back Ryne Wysocki plowed through the line and stretched the ball out across the goal line for the game's first points six and a half minutes into the contest. The first of four extra-point kicks by junior Landry Mueller had the Scots in front 7-0.

It was 21-6 at the half. Caledonia got a 39-yard touchdown pass from senior quarterback Andrew Hanna to junior Aaron Collins on a middle screen that boosted the Scot lead to 14-0.

"We needed it. It felt great," Hanna said of the homecoming win. "We were just running the ball really well. Our O-line was doing amazing, blocked really well, and our receivers were catching the ball really good."

Caledonia's sophomore quarterback Conlan Schultz scored on a three-yard run with 63 seconds left in the first half to put his team back up two scores after the Buccaneers answered that second Scots' TD.

An early season injury to starting quarterback Bryce Backus has Hanna and Schultz trading time at quarterback the past couple weeks.

"It is working pretty good," Hanna said. "We help each other out and everything. We encourage each other and all that, split reps, and making sure we're doing what we're supposed to be doing. And having fun with each other."

Bell said Hanna and Schultz are ultimate team players.

"You can see them every single week, their confidence keeps building, and building, and building," he said.

The Scot lead went to lead 28-6 with a two-yard TD run by Wysocki. The score was set-up by a fine catch from junior receiver Lincoln Senti with a a defender in his face, off a throw from Hanna, that moved the ball from the Grand Haven 43 to the two-yard-line.



Caledonia senior back Ryne Wysocki reaches the ball over the goal-line to put the Fighting Scots in front in the first quarter of their homecoming game against visiting Grand Haven inside Ralph E. Myers Stadium in Caledonia Friday, Oct. 3. The Fighting Scots took a 28-6 OK Red Conference win over the visiting Buccaneers. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

The guys in the trenches continued to lead the way for the Scots, creating holes for the backs to run through, giving Hanna and Schultz plenty of time to try and throw the ball, and on the defensive side doing the dirty work to let the linebackers and guys in the secondary step up and make plays.

Caledonia amassed 334 yards of offense and held Grand Haven to 185. Hanna was 6-for-8 passing for 11 yards and the one touchdown. Schultz was 3-for-4 for 31 yards. Bell especially liked the way his guys pass blocked Friday.

"The plan tonight was just to do what we do, and do it better than they do what they do," CHS senior right tackle Liam Moore said. "We really just wanted to punch it through and beat them in every aspect of the game."

"I think the O-line as a whole played great tonight. I thought the running backs made us look good too. It was a total team effort tonight," Moore added.

The Buccaneers moved the ball a bit

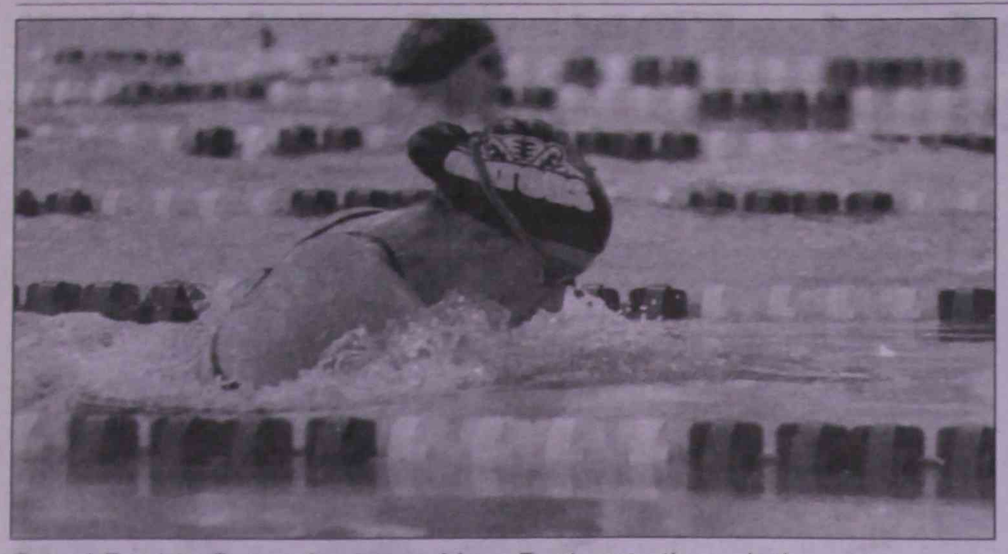
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Grand Rapids Gators freshman Mara Raak cuts through the water on her way to a third-place finish in the 100-yard breaststroke during her team's OK Conference East Division dual against Caledonia at the Cal Community YMCA Tuesday. Raak cut nearly a second from her personal best time in the race.

PERFECT

Continued from Page 8

certainly did," Saltzgaber said. "That enabled her to surpass her competition, and to be honest last year that was more of her bread and butter. This year we have another great, strong breaststroker which allows us to diversity in our events – that's Mara Raak who also did great today."

That breaststroke race was one of the most exciting ones of the evening. Gaylord was the clear champion. DeHaan was the clear runner-up in 1:15.08, but there was a great battle for third with Caledonia senior Anneka Schuurmans racing against the Gator freshman Raak. Raak had a great finish to beat out Schuurmans by one hundredth of a second 1:21.58 to 1:12.59. Raak and DeHaan both had a personal best by almost a second in the race.

"That was so fun to watch," Saltzgaber said. "[Raak] has worked on her finish and came in just how she was supposed to."

Raak and Hawks teamed with Jenna Robinett and Eloise Nichols for a runner-up time of 2:19.85 in the 200-yard medley relay to start the meet, finishing behind the Caledonia foursome of Madelyn Foerch, DeHaan, Lena Gesing and Schuurmans that won in 2:04.57. The CHS team of

Hawks continues to score well for the Gators all around. She was the runner-up in the 500-yard freestyle with a time of 6:27.45. Foerch won that one in 6:15.87. She jumped right back in the pool after that race to anchor the Gators' 200-yard freestyle relay team to a runner-up time of 2:04.94. She joined with Raak, Robinett and Nichols in that race too.

"She just continues to show grit and perseverance, and I am very proud of the work that the team does. Those types of actions really build comrade and culture," Saltzgaber said.

The Gators have one final conference dual against Wayland Thursday, Oct. 16, which they'll score during a tri-meet with Otsego in Otsego.

"It has been really fun to feel the energy of the team this season," Pearson said. "Very similar number wise to what we had last year. We had like five more. But just the way they're showing up for one another and the way they're cheering, it's night and day difference in the best way possible. That is not saying anything bad about last season, but they're just being such great teammates."

Caledonia and the Gators will be together again Nov. 7-8 for the OK Conference East Division Championship Meet. A location for that meet is still to be determined. A year ago, the conference got together to decide its champion at the CERC in Hastings.

Coach Parsons said Ottawa Hills is probably the biggest challenger to a championship when that time rolls around.

Continued from previous page

offensively with junior quarterback Easton Hintz slinging the ball around and firing off the occasional option pitch, but for the most part the Caledonia defense held Grand Haven's offense in check. Hintz had a one-yard TD run with 9:30 to go in the first half that got his team within 14-6.

The five Grand Haven possessions following the Buccaneers' lone touchdown ended in three punts and the ball being turned over on downs twice.

Bell liked how is defense was able to contain the Buccaneers on the perimeter, in large part by being physical up front.

"I thought Lincoln Senti had a really good game coming downhill and tackling well, and Elliott [Clark] and Colton Sheely, I thought got over the top of things very well. But here is the deal, you can't do all those things if you don't have a very good D-line controlling the O-line, like Brien Martin, Cody Meyers, Brent DeYoung,and our outside backers did a very good job of controlling the line of scrimmage so they couldn't get to the next level."

The Fighting Scots are honing each other along the lines throughout the week.

"When we're practicing our offense, they give us really good looks. They're always pushing us to be better. We're always pushing them to be better and it showed tonight," Moore said.

Caledonia was scheduled to visit West Ottawa Oct. 10 in OK Red Conference play, and the Scots will be at Rockford Oct. 17.

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Wilkinson wraps up undefeated OK Gold first singles seasons

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Thornapple Kellogg senior Franklin Wilkinson wrapped up an undefeated conference season as the top player in the OK Gold Conference Thursday.

Wilkinson took the first singles championship at the 2025 OK Gold Conference Championship tournament, played out on the courts in Middleville and at South Christian High School.

Wilkinson pulled out a 7-6(2) win in a tie breaker at the end of the first set against South Christian sophomore Joe Maas and then took set two 6-1 for the title. Maas was the only guy in the conference to win a set against Wilkinson this fall.

Wilkinson opened his day with a 6-1, 6-2 victory over Wayland senior Chesney Hudson.

Maas and his teammates won enough points to take the outright conference championship though. The Trojans were second Friday and second in the final overall conference standings. The Sailors won the tournament with 16 points ahead of TK 13, West Catholic 12, Northview 10, Wayland 9, Grand Rapids Union 2 and Wyoming 1.

TK freshman Parker Sylvestre was second at second singles and the second doubles team of Graham Eden and Gideon Scott also had a runner-up finish for the Trojans.

Mark Gielincki was third at fourth singles, the third doubles team of Aiden Riffel and Luke Archer placed third and the fourth doubles team of Mark Cuison and Alex Egleston was third too.

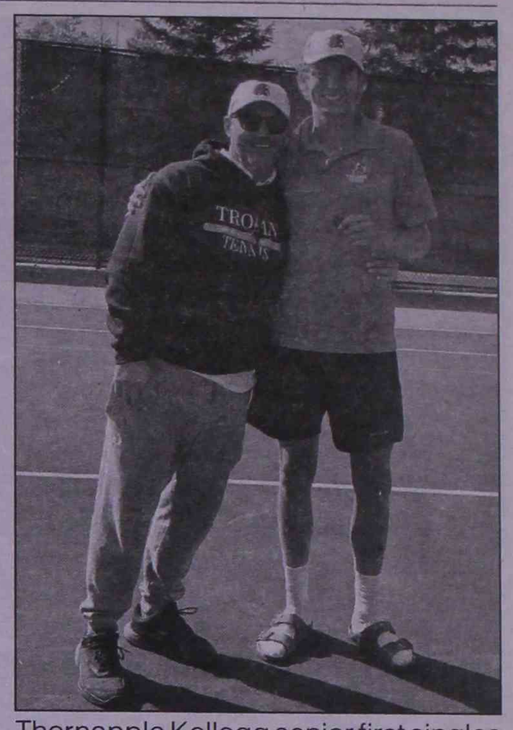
The TK team also had Max Lepper fourth at third singles. The TK first doubles team of juniors Layne Schilthroat and Sam Teachout had to bow out of the tournament early because of an injury after going 1-1 in their first two matches of the day.

Wilkinson ran his season record to 18-5 overall with his two wins. The Trojan team was slated to take part in the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 2 Regional Tournament in Holland Wednesday, Oct. 8.

Sylvestre beat Northview sophomore Micah Wells 6-0, 6-1 and then South Christian senior Ben Vos 6-3, 6-3 to get into the second singles final Friday. It was a battle of freshman for the championship, and West Catholic's Crew VanBeynen won a marathon match by the scores of 5-7, 6-4, 6-2.

Still, it was good progress for Sylvestre who had lost to Vos in three sets and fallen to VanBeynen while winning just three games in their regular season match-ups. Sylvestre moved to 20-4 on the season with his run to the finals.

The senior Gielincki at fourth singles for TK beat Wayland sophomore Spencer Miller 6-4, 6-4 in the match for third at their flight.



Thornapple Kellogg senior first singles player Franklin Wilkinson and head coach Philipe Sylvestre celebrate Wilkinson's championship at the OK Gold Conference Tournament hosted by South Christian High School Friday.
Photo provided

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Public Accuracy test for the November 4, 2025 Special Election will be conducted on Tuesday, October 21, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the

Gaines Township Community Room, lower level, located at 8555 Kalamazoo Ave SE., Gaines Township, Michigan

The Public Accuracy test is conducted to demonstrate that the program and computers that will be used to tabulate the results of the election have been prepared in accordance with law.

Michael Brew, Clerk
Gaines Charter Township

Scots get a win at four doubles flights during OK Green tournament

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Caledonia varsity boys' tennis team placed fourth at the OK Green Conference Tournament Friday, Oct. 3, in Jenison.

Byron Center took the day's championship with a score of 16 points ahead of Mona Shores 12, Jenison 10, Caledonia 4 and Reeths-Puffer 3.

The Caledonia team got four doubles wins on the day.

Caledonia senior Isaac Robotham and sophomore Russell Grandon took a 7-5, 6-0 win over the second doubles team of Gabe Feirick and Landon VanderKooi for the Scots, and finished the day with a 1-1 mark. They lost a tough two-setter 7-6(6), 6-3 to Mona Shores' Connor Knop and Dylan Lyonnais in their first match.

It was as competitive one at third doubles between the Scots and the Sailors at third doubles too. There the Fighting Scot senior duo of Derick Prichard and Caleb Harrison took a 6-1, 6-7(4), 6-4 victory. That Scot team was also 1-1 with a 6-1, 6-4 loss to the number three team from Jenison.

Juniors Isaac Judd and Charlie Scott teamed up for a three-set win for the Scots at fourth doubles too. They outscored Jenison's Sam Gies and Max Wiltrakis 6-1, 4-6, 6-2 to earn the Scots a point. Byron Center's fourth doubles duo took a 6-0, 6-0 win over the Scots to close their day.

The fifth doubles team for Caledonia was 1-1 as well. Junior Shane Johnson and sophomore Zach Zupin teamed up for a 6-3, 7-6(9) win over the No. 5 team from Mona Shores, Dean Carmichael and Harrison Sischo. That Scot team was bested by Jenison in its other match, 6-1, 6-0.

Mona Shores freshman Reid Hackney won the day's first singles championship without giving up a game. He downed CHS senior Hudsen Derengowski in the semifinals and then Reeths-Puffer senior Ethan Frang in the championship match at the top flight.

O'Krangley shoots her way to spot in Division 1 State Finals

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

It was a thrilling final few moments of the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 1 Girls' Golf Regional at Muskegon Country Club for senior Codie O'Krangley and the Fighting Scots Monday.

O'Krangley finished off a birdie on the par-5 number 13 with a ten-foot putt, that curled around the cup as it dropped in, to close out her round with an 83.

She cheered from a little Caledonia gallery as junior teammate Emily Walbeck chipped in from the back side of the green on number 13 for a par to finish off her round. Walbeck was 16th individually for the day with a 90.

And she watched across hole ten as Grandville senior Lyla Chrisman rolled a tremendous putt for birdie, from the front of a brutal green sloping from her right to left, to within inches of the cup. Chrisman tapped in for par, but she needed that birdie putt to fall to force a playoff for the final individual state qualifying spots.

O'Krangley qualified for the MHSAA L.P. Division 1 Girls' Golf Finals for the first time as an individual. She finished in a three-way tie for fourth individually with Grand Haven sophomore Colbie Livingston and Portage Northern senior Brooke Randall.

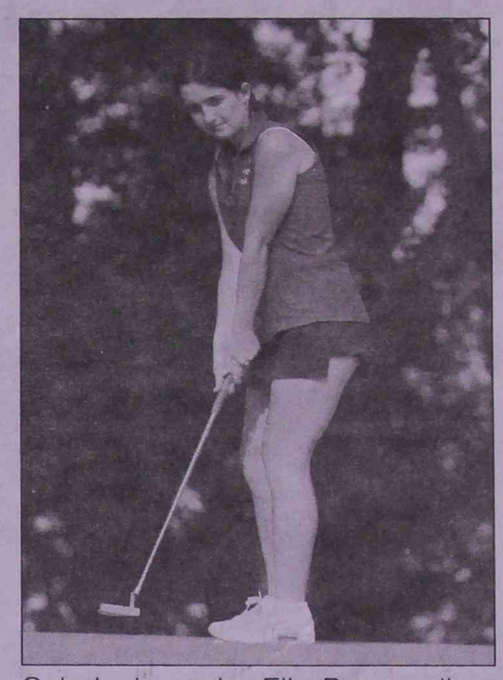
The top three teams and top three individuals not on those teams earned spots in the state finals that will be held at The Meadows on the campus of Grand Valley State University in Allendale Oct. 17-18. O'Krangley, Livingston and Randall were the three individual state qualifiers from the regional. If Chrisman's birdie putt would have found its mark on ten there would have been a four-person playoff for those three state spots.

If number 13 had been O'Krangley's final varsity hole, it would have been as good as any to finish out on.

"I hit a good drive and I think that was because my coach was standing there, and then I hit my four hybrid [just shy and to the right of the green. It was a really gutsy shot, cause if I hit it bad then I was not gonna birdie or par. So, then I had to hit my chip and it was a little short, but then I was like, okay, and then I felt good about my putt, so I was like, okay, we'e just gonna go for it."



Caledonia senior Codie O'Krangley watches her tee shot fly on number ten at Muskegon Country Club Monday during the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 1 Regional round. O'Krangley earned a spot as one of three individual state qualifiers from the regional. **Photos by Brett Bremer**



Caledonia senior Ella Burns rolls a putt towards the cup on the number ten green at Muskegon Country Club Monday during the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 1 Girls' Golf Regional hosted by Mona Shores.

She said her four hyrbrid isn't the most consistent club in her bag, but she wanted that extra distance – to go for it at the end of her senior season.

She also had a par on the par-5 number nine. That closed out a 40 on the front nine.

Byron Center took the regional championship with a team score of 336 strokes. Portage Central was second with a score of 337 and Rockford third at 365. The Caledonia girls were fourth missing qualifying for the state finals as a team, for what would have been the third consecutive season, by seven strokes. The Scots shot a 372. Jenison was fifth at the 15-team regional with a score of 388.

The CHS team got a 99 from senior Ella Burns, a 100 from senior Katie Honhart and the team's fifth score was a 102 from senior Halle Stout. Burns closed out her time as a varsity golfer strong starting her round with a par on number 12 and finishing it with one on number 11.

Portage Central had two girls in the top three. Junior Seneli Amaratunga was the regional champion with a 79 and junior teammate Olivia Griswold was third with an 81. Byron Center junior Autumn Kartes was the runner-up with an 80.

O'Krangley was a part of the Fighting Scots' line-up at the state finals the past two seasons when they went as a team.

"I was telling myself that I really wanted to make states for my senior year by myself, cause I mean, our team's good, but we didn't know if we were gonna go to states as a team, because there are other really good teams."

It has been a little different of a season for O'Krangley, without her big sister Copelin who graduated last spring. Copelin led the Fighting Scot squad for the past four seasons and was third individually at the state finals in 2024.

Codie was 19th as a junior at the D1 Finals and 39th as a sophomore.

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Trojans and Scots do their best to beat the heat, and competitors, in Portage

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The crowd and the course provided the usual tough competition, but the heat made things a little tougher as the Thornapple Kellogg and Caledonia varsity boys' and girls' cross country teams competed in the annual Portage Invitational Saturday, Oct. 4.

Personal records overall were few and far between as a hot sun pushed temperatures into the upper 80s as the afternoon Division 2 and Division 1 races took off. Even organizers condensed the day's event, one of the largest in the state each fall, in an effort to put as few student-athletes at risk due to the heat. Varsity teams were allowed to run ten runners in each race and JV races were canceled in the day's leading up to the race.

Otsego sophomore Emma Hoffman blew away the girls' field in the Division 2 race with a winning time of 16 minutes 50.8 seconds. Pinckney junior Jaelyn Ray was second in 18:02.6 and Holland Christian sophomore Avery Engbers was third in 18:29.6.

Hoffman and the Otsego girls beat out Engbers and the Holland Christian girls by nine points for the championship. The Bulldogs finished with 109 points and Holland Christian with 118. Grand Rapids Christian was third with 168 points ahead of South Christian 176, Lexington 236, Coopersville 239, Pinckney 252, Cadillac 297, Ann Arbor Father Gabriel Richard 332 and Unity Christian 334 in the top ten.

The Thornapple Kellogg girls placed 27th with 715 points.

Junior Peyton Hardy led the Thornapple Kellogg girls with a 122nd-place time of 22:09.6 Freshman Brielle Miller ran to the Trojans' number two spot in 22:19.8 placing 132nd overall and junior Carmen Reynolds was right behind in 134th place with a time of 22:25.2.

TK senior Madison Kietzman placed 195th in 23:26.1 and sophomore Breanna Schut was 213th in 23:51.2.

East Grand Rapids won the Division 2 boys' competition with 117 points ahead of Lexington 172, Holland Christian 228, Grand Rapids Christian 262, Parma Western 263, Allendale 326, Pinckney 350, Otsego 354, Ann Arbor Father Gabriel Richard 393 and Forest Hills Eastern 414 in the top ten.

The Thornapple Kellogg boys were 43rd with 1,108 points.

Thornapple Kellogg had freshman Owen Bremer lead the way with a 113th-place time of 17:55.7. Sophomore teammate Garrett Holzhausen was about a minute back placing 203rd in 18:58.1.

TK freshman Parker Robinett was third for his team with a time of 19:42.8 ahead of junior Grady Galaviz 293rd in 19:58.5 and senior Benjamin Postma 314th in 20:17.3.

East Grand Rapids was led to its team win with senior Johan Workman scoring a runner-up time of 15:44.3 Robert Jazwinski III won the D2 boys' race in 15:13.3. A group of seven guys finished in less than 16 minutes. East Grand Rapids had a second guy in that group with sophomore Micah Becker sixth in 15:59.1.

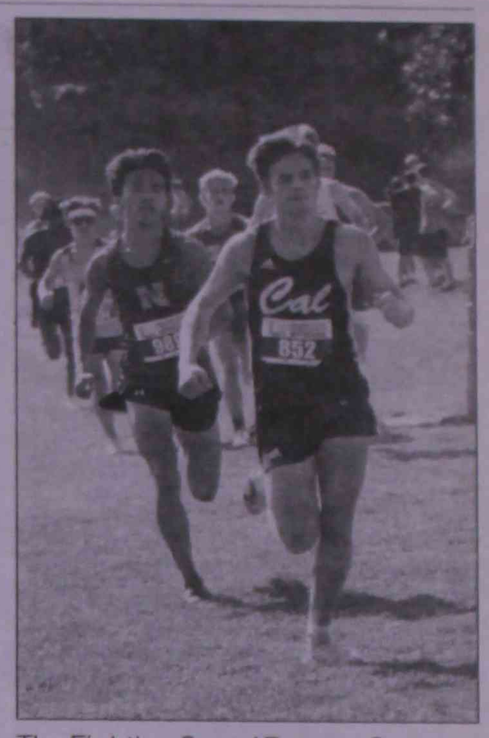
Division 1

A talented Ann Arbor Pioneer teams ran to the championships in the Division 1 boys' and girls' races. The Pioneer boys finished their race with 99 points thanks in no small part to having two of the race's three fastest runners.

Junior Kamari Ronfeldt won the D1 boys' race in 14:50.4 and senior teammate Beckett Crooks was third in 15:27.1. Grandville junior Caden Livermore was one of the few to run a new personal record time. He placed third in 15:17.7.

Midland was second in the girls' standings with 157 points ahead of Northville 164, Kalamazoo Central 170, Lowell 192, Brighton 207, Jenison 230, Zeeland West 243, Ann Arbor Skyline 247 and Saline 279 in the top ten. The Caledonia boys were 12th with 309 points just behind the Portage Central team that finished with 293.

Senior Noah Johnston led the Scots with a time of 16:25.6 that put him in 24th place. A trio of sophomores were next in for Caledonia. Bennett Snapper was 38th in 16:41.3, Sean Thompson 52nd in 16:55.1 and Bentley Nichols 89th in 17:28.2. The number five for the Scots was freshman Isaac Dinh who placed 115th in 17:48.6.



The Fighting Scots' Bennett Snapper races to a time of 16:41.3 and a 38th-place finish in the Division 1 boys' race at the annual Portage Invitational at Portage West Middle School. Snapper and the Caledonia boys placed 12th in a field of 32 teams on the unseasonably warm Saturday morning, Oct. 4. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

The Caledonia girls were led by juniors Akaela Daman and Anna VanderWal. Daman was 71st in 20:32.0 and VanderWal 88th in 20:51.0. CHS senior Hanna Bennett placed 149th in 22:19.0 and sophomore teammates Tiona Sakala and Charlie Bont were right behind her. Sakala placed 150th in 22:19.2 and Bont 152nd in 22:19.4.

The Ann Arbor Pioneer girls won with 56 points ahead of Brighton 144, Hudsonville 183, Romeo 184, Ann Arbor Skyline 193, Jenison 213, Northville 221, Rockford 238, Portage Central 268 and Okemos 287.

Pioneer had two girls in the top four including champion Natasza Dudek who clocked in at 16:44.1, and had four runners finish among the first 13. Sophomore teammate Sienna Klemmer was fourth in 18:06.2.

Okemos sophomore Rachel Smith was second in 17:22.5 and Romeo junior Annie Hrabovsky placed third in 17:47.5.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS
THORNAPPLE TOWNSHIP
PLANNING COMMISSION
MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2025, at 7:00 P.M.

Please be advised the Thornapple Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on October 27, 2025, at 7pm or as soon thereafter as possible. The public hearing will take place in the Township Hall, 200 E. Main St., Middleville.

The public hearings will address the following:

1. Special Use #179 – Applicants Taylor & Ali Cleary are applying for a Special Land Use for a Contractor Yard at 4904 Prairie Sunset Lane, Middleville, MI (parcel 08-14-021-004-02) per Thornapple Township Zoning Ordinance 19.35.

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

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

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

Kathy Medenblik, Thornapple Township Clerk

8196 Broadmoor Ave. SE
Caledonia, MI 49316

CALEDONIA TOWNSHIP

Phone: 616.891.0070
Fax: 616.891.0430

PUBLIC NOTICE
Charter Township of Caledonia
Kent County, Michigan

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Public Accuracy Test for the November 4, 2025 Special Election has been scheduled for Monday, October 20, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. at the Caledonia Township Hall located at 8196 Broadmoor Ave, Caledonia, Michigan.

The Public Accuracy Test is conducted to demonstrate that the computer program used to tabulate the votes cast at the election meet the requirements of the law.

Joni Henry
Clerk, Charter Township of Caledonia

Second swing at South Christian goes much better for TK ladies

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Thornapple Kellogg varsity volleyball team showed off some progress in its second OK Gold Conference meeting of the season with the South Christian Sailors.

The Trojans didn't get to ten points in their first set against South Christian this fall, and were outscored by double figures in each set at South Christian High School last month.

South Christian, the eighth ranked team in the state in Division 2, still managed a three-set win in Middleville Thursday, but the TK ladies made the Sailors work in each set. South Christian won by the scores of 25-21, 25-22, 25-16. The win moves the Sailors to 7-0 in conference matches this season. TK is now 4-4 after adding a three-set win at Grand Rapids Union Tuesday, Oct. 7.

First-year TK head coach Haley Grams said she is happy with how competitive her team has been lately, and she has really started to see her girls coming together as a team in recent weeks.

The Trojans went four sets with West Catholic Sept. 23 and pulled out a four-set win at Wayland Sept. 30.

"It has been an adjustment from last year to this year," Grams said, "just getting them to adjust to a new head coach, getting them to work together and pulling them in together. They all kind of have their own little crews, but I think we're finally meshing. We're coming together, which is really nice. Our last three games have really been hard fought, so it is nice to see."

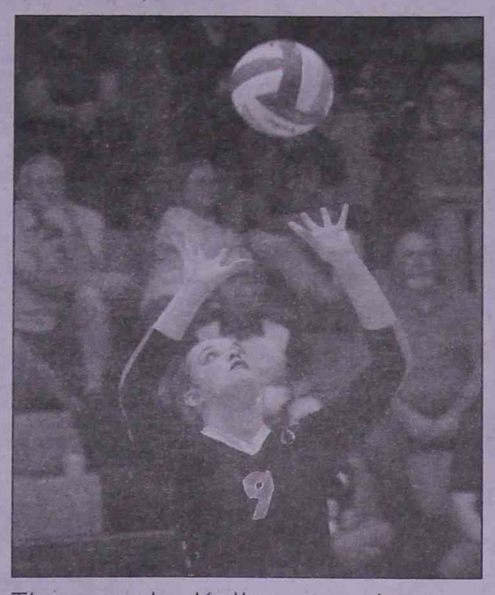
"Being in the 20's and competing with [South Christian] is amazing. I am super proud of them," Grams added. "The drive, the hustle it is all there and it is working."

She said physically her team is getting better at covering the court, especially on the serve receive. It was something they really struggled with in the early match-up with South Christian, making running through the offense as a whole almost impossible.

"Getting those serve receive balls up, we were able to put a hit down, get a set and a hit," Grams said Thursday.

Sophomore setters Abby Hoebeke and Olivia Fischer can certainly have an easier time running the offense and getting balls to hitters when those initial passes forward keep them keep the offense in rhythm.

Leading that attack were junior Reece Ritsema and senior McKenna Hoebeke, but they weren't the only ones willing to take a big swing at the net against the Sailors.



Thornapple Kellogg sophomore setter Abby Hoebeke settles under a pass during her team's OK Gold Conference match with South Christian in Middleville Thursday, Oct. 2.

"Reece has come a long way. She has been on varsity since she was a freshman, and it is amazing to see her flourish, work the net, own it and really be a leader on this team," Grams said.

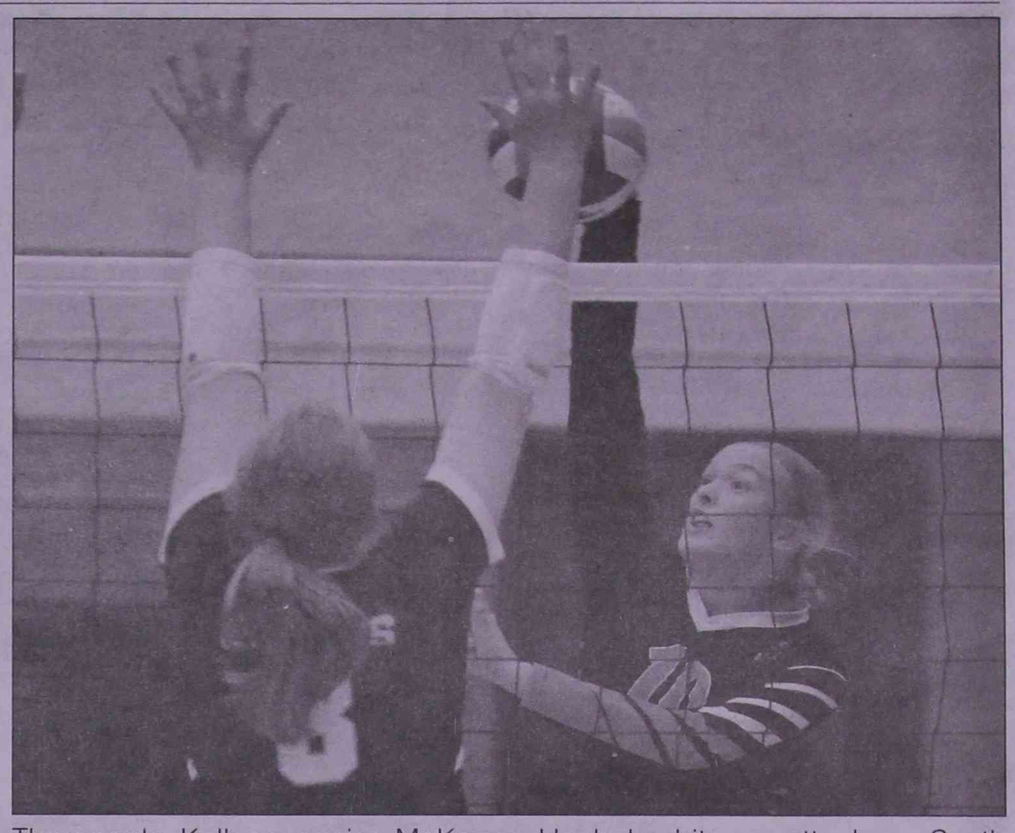
TK had a lead as late as 15-13 in set two, but the Sailors went on a little run to score nine of the game's next 12 points before finishing off the set.

It wasn't until the third set that South Christian really stretched a lead against the Trojans. The Sailors pushed a 5-5 game to 20-8.

"I think we got a little tired. We all started to hang onto our own mistakes, which is something we have really been working on this season – just letting our own errors go and keeping up and moving on for the team," Grams said.

TK did put together one last little rally. They got to within 24-16 with all kinds of contributions including an ace from senior libero Alexa Eden and another from senior Maria Piccione, a block in the middle by Ritsema and a big kill on the left side from McKenna Hoebeke.

The Trojans were scheduled to be a part of a quad at Forest Hills Eastern Oct. 9. They'll host an OK Gold Conference match with Northview Tuesday, Oct. 14, and then be home against for a quad Thursday, Oct. 16.



Thornapple Kellogg senior McKenna Hoebeke hits an attack as South Christian sophomore Kendall Kwantes (3) tries to protect her side of the net during their OK Gold Conference match in Middleville Oct. 2. The Sailors kept their conference record perfect with a three-set win.





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