THE SUN AND NEWS
VIEW Newspaper Group
VOL. 147 NO. 42 SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2025 www.sunandnews.com

FIRE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES SUPPORT FROM FUNDRAISER
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Cool weather doesn't dampen spirits at Gaines Fall Heritage Festival

James Gemmell
Contributing Writer

Gray skies and temperatures in the low 50s appeared to keep the crowd size down only slightly at the 14th annual Fall Heritage Festival outside the Gaines Charter Township Hall on Saturday, Oct 11.

But it didn't seem to impact the mood of festival-goers.

The vendors, who sold everything from barbecue to beads, from homemade bread to arts, crafts and quilts, seemed to be in a cheerful mood.

The annual event also included pony rides, a mobile petting zoo and live music.

The six-hour festival is held on the second Saturday in October and celebrates the town-

See **FESTIVAL** on 5



A Revolutionary War reenactment camp was set up at the Fall Heritage Festival in Gaines Township on Saturday, Oct. 11. The group included (l-r) Nick Trzcinski, Jerry Berg, Daylin Woods and Ryland Wellman. **Photos by James Gemmell**

TK FFA barn project still underway after hitting snag

Hunter McLaren
Contributing Writer

The FFA barn project approved by Thornapple Kellogg board members nearly a year ago is still underway after running into some unforeseen challenges.

TK Superintendent Rob Pouch provided an update on the project to board members Monday. The $147,000 project approved by board members called for the construction of a cold barn for FFA students. Pouch said he attended the groundbreaking for the project in June shortly after he joined the district.

"As we went to start building it, we found out that we do not have any permits and we do not have the documents required to get the permits," Pouch said.

That snag required the district to "hit the reset button on the project," Pouch said. The board met with an attorney during a closed session in August and decided to continue to move forward with what was approved in the $147,000 project.

"Since then, we've been working 100 miles per hour to try to get this thing built as soon as possible for our folks," Pouch said.

The district is working on gathering what it needs for the required permits. Licensed drawings were purchased from the architect on the project, and the district is working with contractor Performance Services to complete electrical drawings for the site. Performance Services is working for the district at a significantly reduced rate, Pouch said, at a flat fee of $5,000 and a lowered hourly rate.

Once they've acquired the electrical drawings, the district will then apply for permits from the state, which could take months to be approved. If all goes

See **FFA** on 3

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Trojan homecoming royalty crowned



Seniors Oliver Lietz and Avery Hagemann are crowned the 2025 Thornapple Kellogg High School homecoming king and queen at halftime of the TK varsity football team's OK Black Conference contest against East Grand Rapids inside Bob White Stadium in Middleville Friday, Oct. 3. The Pioneers toppled the Trojan football team 34-7. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

Township approves site plan amendment to $120M project

James Gemmell
Contributing Writer

The Gaines Charter Township Board of Trustees unanimously approved, by a 6-0 vote, an amendment to a Planned Unit Development, or PUD, site plan for the $120 million Prairie Wolf Station town center at its Oct. 13 meeting.

The approval was necessary to tweak the consent judgment that settled a $4 million lawsuit against the township in 2022. The amendment will next be submitted to a court for judicial review.

The lawsuit was filed by American Kendall Properties, an Indianapolis-based company that will build an approximately $120 million town center on 84th Street, east of Kalamazoo Avenue and just east of the township hall.

The township board voted 5-4 in February 2022 against the proposed PUD. However, the developer argued it should be allowed to move forward with the project under guidelines stated within the township's zoning ordinance at the time.

A Kent County Circuit Court judge agreed and set the conditions under which the development could be built. Those included the lawsuit being dropped in exchange for the township agreeing to allow the Prairie Wolf project to proceed.

The development will feature a village center concept, including a retail and mixed-use residential center on an 82-acre site of former farmland, across the street from Cornerstone Church. The project will also feature apartments, townhomes and single-family housing.

In addition, plans call for commercial, office and retail buildings, one senior living building with 110 living units, and two future commercial lots.

One of the reasons the township board voted against the Prairie Wolf Station project in 2022 was that it would be built on agricultural land, which township officials have been trying to preserve from 84th Street southward to the Allegan County line.

The impact of such a large development in a somewhat rural area, including increased traffic and how it would affect local schools, were among other concerns expressed, not only by township officials, but large crowds of residents who spoke out against the development at public meetings.

A construction team began preparing the site this past spring by compacting the soil and starting to construct a watermain along 84th Street.

But AKP Gaines Township LLC., a subsidiary of American Kendall, requested the township board allow it to amend the site plan for the PUD.

Gaines Community Development Director Dan Wells said the primary reasons for the site plan amendment are changes to the layout prompted by some requirements being imposed by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes & Energy. Those pertain to wetland preservation, engineering for

See **PROJECT** on 6

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A $500 check was presented to the Yankee Springs Fire Department from the Southern Spoon fundraiser breakfast on Sept. 23, which helped raise funds for the department's "If we can't find you, we can't help you" initiative. The check presentation included (from left) Kenna Graham, Dan Miller, Al Bouma and Robin Hinckley. **Courtesy photo**

Fire department receives support from fundraiser

Karen Turko-Ebright
Staff Writer

A breakfast fundraiser on Sept. 23 helped raise money to support the Yankee Springs Fire Department's "If we can't find you, we can't help you" initiative, with the department officials recently being presented with a check by organizers to help residents to install reflective green address signs.

Southern Spoon was able to present a $500 check to YSFD officials as a result of the fundraiser, which also helped to kick off Gun Lake Fall Fest 2025 held the following weekend.

The funds will help provide green reflective fire code address signs to families in need, particularly those who may be physically unable to install or unable to purchase the signs.

For those who can afford the signs, they are available at the fire department for $25.

According to YSFD officials, the reflective signs are essential for helping first-responders locate homes quickly during emergencies, improving response times and potentially saving lives.

"We love our Yankee Springs Fire Department, and over coffee one morning we learned about this important initiative," said Kenna Graham, owner of Southern Spoon. "As a part of the community, we thought, 'How can we help?'

"We decided cooking breakfast for the community and raising money would be a good start," Graham added. "Gun Lake's Fall Fest was a great opportunity. We are community strong."

Graham added that a generous donation from Superior Foods allowed everyone to enjoy a high-quality, homestyle breakfast while supporting a life-saving cause, with tickets for the breakfast sold for $15 per person.

"We also put out a fireman's boot and encouraged cash donations," Graham said. "Then, we had the ladies from St. Vincent De Paul host a bake sale at Southern Spoon and they split proceeds from that with the fire department."

For more information or to purchase an address sign, persons may contact the YSFD by calling 269-795-1650.

THE SUN AND NEWS

The Sun and News
Proudly Published
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1351 N. M-43 Hwy.
Hastings, MI 49058
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BCUW allocation applications available

The Barry County United Way allocations applications are now available for the 2026-27 funding year.

Agencies applying for funding must be a health and human service charitable organization 501(c)3 as determined by the Internal Revenue Service or be a 501(c) incorporated entity in the State of Michigan.

The not-for-profit agency must have a record of providing services to Barry County residents in one of the four funding areas, including: helping youth achieve their full potential, supporting families to achieve well-being and success, assisting senior adults find support and maintain independence, and addressing urgent and emerging needs in Barry County.

Agencies have the opportunity to apply for available funding through the allocations process that begins with filling out the application. Submissions are due before 5 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 4, and are available online at bcunitedway.org/our-documents or at the BCUW office on South Broadway in Hastings.

"The goal for this year's campaign of $850,000 is based on what agencies have said they need to continue to provide programming in our community," stated Courtney Collison, allocations chairperson.

If interested in participating in the Barry County United Way campaign, contact the BCUW by calling 269-945-4010 or contributions can be accepted online at bcunitedway.org/donate.

According to BCUW officials, 100% of contributions are distributed throughout the local community thanks to the Florence Tyden-Groos Administrative Endowment Fund held by the Barry Community Foundation that covers all administrative costs. — *DM*

Yankee Springs Twp. Board discusses public comment, local projects and community updates

The Yankee Springs Township Board had a packed agenda covering a range of local issues, from financial updates and infrastructure projects to community events at the Oct. 9 meeting.

Heading off the meeting with his report, YS Fire Chief Dan Miller said his department responded to 15 fire calls and 36 medical responses last month. He recalled this year's numbers were similar to last year's. Miller shared that the recent Fire Prevention Week Open House was well attended. He said recent training in search-and-rescue and operating the utility task vehicle (UTV) proved beneficial for a challenging call this month.

During public comment, a resident criticized the board's recent 4–1 decision not to restore the second public comment period, calling the reasons "insufficient" and urging more transparency. He also asked the board to place a proposed resolution on a future agenda directing the YS Township Planning Commission to include protections for residents in the gravel mining ordinance.

County Commissioners Marsha Bassett and Catherine Getty updated the board on county matters, including approval of an airport expansion and a presentation from the Barry County Medical Examiner. Gun Lake Improvement Board representative Bill Bryker reported that invasive Eurasian watermilfoil is being treated in an area south of Bay Pointe. Algae control efforts will resume in the spring in the channels, and Elmwood Beach residents may manually remove native weeds under Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) guidelines.

The board unanimously approved the September financial statements and current payables totaling nearly $62,000. The planning commission continued work on the mining ordinance and approved two new short-term rentals and an addition to the Sand Bar & Grill.

Committee reports included updates on park improvements, recycling upgrades, and preparations for the upcoming Veterans Day ceremony at 11 a.m. on Saturday, November 8, at the Veterans Memorial. Dr. Tyler Veneman of Yankee Springs Dental will offer free dental services to veterans on November 14.

The clean water committee announced a $75,000 grant to expand water capacity at last week's meeting, with a pilot study awaiting EGLE approval.

The board also discussed ongoing parking issues on Roberts Road near Bassett Lake. After reviewing a letter from resident Susan Siragusa, the board decided to take no action while the matter is under court review. —*KTE*



Members of the Thornapple Kellogg FFA chapter toss the first shovels full of dirt out of the ground at the site of their future barn set to be built on Bender Road in July. The barn project is on hold while the district gathers required permits for the construction.

File photo by Brett Bremer

FFA

Continued from Page 1

to plan, Pouch said construction should be on track to commence late 2025 or early 2026, with a targeted completion date of July 2026.

Pouch said that although there has been community discussion about adding to the project outside of its original scope — things like bathrooms, interior counters, plumbing, paved parking — those items can't be added without going to bid with the rest of the $147,000 project. This could deter community donations for those items, as the bid process requires more stringent requirements for applicants.

"We're just not there yet, but we're just not there yet," Pouch said. "Thankfully we have a community that may help us get there someday."

He also reminded board members that the project is only intended to be used for extracurricular activities, such as FFA student work. Were the barn to be treated like a classroom, it would likely require over $1 million to make the building adhere to safety, security and accessibility standards.

"Hopefully this helps provide answers to any questions the board may be getting," Pouch said. "I think there's some folks in our community who, rightfully so, expected a barn to be built and kids in it by now. Unfortunately, along the way a few steps were missed."

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Obituaries

Jason R. Bardwell

Jason R. Bardwell, a cherished father, son, brother, and friend, passed away peacefully on the 9th of October, 2025, at his home in Middleville, MI. Born on December 5, 1975, in Hastings, MI, Jason was the son of James E. Bardwell and Barbara J. Holtrust.

A proud graduate of Thornapple-Kellogg High School, Jason's athletic prowess shone brightly on the football field, where he left an indelible mark with his dedication and teamwork. His love for sports was only matched by his passion for the outdoors, especially fishing, where he found tranquility and joy in the simplicity of nature.

Jason's world revolved around his children, Jaxon and Emmi Bardwell, whom he loved with all his heart. He instilled in them the values of kindness, perseverance, and the importance of laughter. His role as a father was the one he cherished most, and his legacy will live on through the lessons he taught and the memories they shared.



He was a beacon of strength and comfort to his family, including his loving mother, Barb Pullen; his supportive brother, Jamie Bardwell; his caring sister, Amanda (Will) Meachum and family; dear stepbrother, Scott (Tammy) Pullen and family; and his playful nephews, Sea Bass and Carter.

Jason's presence will be profoundly missed by his many close family members and friends, who found in him a loyal and compassionate companion.

Jason was preceded in death by his father, James Elbert Bardwell; his step-father, Charlie Pullen; and his brother, Jesse Bardwell. Their reunion is a comforting thought to those Jason left behind, as they envision them together once again.

The void left by Jason's passing is immeasurable, yet the warmth of his spirit will continue to light the lives of those who had the pleasure of knowing him. His laughter, his kindness, and his unwavering friendship will be deeply missed by everyone whose life he touched.

Jason's celebration of life service will be held on Sunday, Oct. 26 from noon to 2 p.m. at the Bradford-White UAW Hall, Middleville. Please visit www.beelergoresfuneral.com to share a memory or leave a condolence message for Jason's family.

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MIDDLEVILLE TOPS 546

The Oct. 13 meeting opened with roll call and the secretary's report. There is only one fish in the fishbowl.

Everyone talked about the Fall Rally they attended on Saturday in Battle Creek. A Michigan advocate, Becky Malerba, brought attendees back in time in her presentation titled, "Let's Go Back." Let's go back to when food choices were a lot belter and we ate healthier. It was a nostalgic talk all enjoyed. TOPS Advocate Diane Dallas-Strang's presentation was titled "Cruising Down the Road of Life." She talked about how we need to take care of ourselves and how we perceive ourselves.

Then, attendees all had a discussion on what has worked for them in the past and what didn't work at all. They discussed which organizations or diets have been good or bad choices for each of them.

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

Linda 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.



The Mary's Country Critters mobile petting zoo was a big hit with the children at 14th annual Fall Heritage Festival held at the Gaines Township Hall on Saturday, Oct. 11.



Mini horses were among the animals participating in the annual Fall Heritage Festival on Oct. 11.

FESTIVAL

Continued from Page 1

ship's agricultural and farming heritage, and is organized by the Gaines Historical Society.

The festival has been canceled a couple times since it was launched in 2011 due to inclement weather. And, while Saturday's weather was not ideal, it didn't rain and was only a tad chilly.

"The long-range forecast was for it to be sunny and 70 degrees," Bruursema said while at the event. "(But) I don't see the sun."

Many people stopped by the GHS' tent manned by Sheryl Ackerman and Linda Crumback.

"The heritage festival celebrates all of the products that are made by the farming community here," Ackerman said. "And we also display some of the farm animals and tractor pulls, and things like that. We've had a good run out here for several years, except when it rains."

Crumback said interacting with the community is a highlight for her.

"People come up here and you start talking," she said. "Or you meet cousins like Sheryl did just a little while ago. It's just fun to talk to the people of Gaines or whoever comes and visits us."

Former Gaines Township Supervisor Don Hilton, former supervisor Rob DeWaard – now a township trustee – and current township supervisor Bob Terpstra added to the festivities by grilling hot dogs and bratwursts.

"We've had quite a few people in and out today," Hilton said "We're handing out brats and hot dogs here and chips, and people can leave a donation if they want to. If not, they're free."

Township Manager Rod Weersing expressed his excitement over the festival while stopping in at the hot dog stand.

"Great turnout," he said. "Pretty decent weather. Glad to see lots of vendors out and lots of the community residents."

Terpstra also said he was pleased with the turn out.

"People are stopping by to meet the supervisors, and they're asking questions about the future of Gaines, which is exactly why I'm here," he said.

"It's a pleasure to have all these people here today," DeWaard added. "And working with our fellow supervisors. It's been enjoyable."

Jerry Berg of Comstock Park, who provides historical reenactments, had a Revolutionary War camp set up on the township grounds. He and three others were dressed up in period uniforms from that period.

"I love reenacting, I love living history," Berg said. "I believe it's one of the biggest tools for education of our time."

The group also performed firing demonstrations as members of the 8th Massachusetts Regiment, a Continental Army infantry unit that served during the Revolutionary War.

"It's fun at this festival," said Shirley Lowell of Byron Center, a vendor who has attended the festival the past four years. "There's all kinds of things to do and I love selling my stuff, my crafts."

Also participating in the festival were members of the Gaines Charter Township Fire Department and the Kent County Sheriff's Office, among others.



The Thornapple Wind Band will present its fall concert, "Joy," on Sunday, Oct. 19, at 3 p.m. at the Hastings Performing Arts Center in Hastings. **Courtesy photo**

Thornapple Wind Band presents fall concert Oct. 19

The Thornapple Wind Band will present its fall concert, "Joy," on Sunday, Oct. 19, at 3 p.m. at the Hastings Performing Arts Center in Hastings.

Admission is free and all are welcome to attend.

According to band officials, the program is set to feature a wide-ranging collection of works that reflect themes of celebration, peace and the human spirit, and promises to engage and inspire listeners of all ages.

First organized in 1995, the Thornapple Wind Band is a community-based organization with the stated mission of bringing wind band music to the Barry County area while giving adults the opportunity to combine their musical talents with others.

The Hastings Performing Arts Center is located at 520 W. South St. in Hastings.

For more information, visit the band's Facebook group, "Thornapple Wind Band," at facebook.com/groups/243150282418580. — *DM*

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TK senior earns National Merit Scholarship honor

Thornapple Kellogg High School senior Thomas Poll was recently named as a National Merit Scholarship "Commended Student."

According to an announcement by TKHS officials, commended students are recognized for the exceptional academic promise demonstrated by their outstanding performance on the PSAT qualifying test.

Poll, the son of Stacey and Larry Poll, reportedly has yet to decide where he will attend college but hopes to study some form of engineering.

Upon hearing the news of the honor, the senior said he was surprised and honored by the award.

In addition to his academics, Poll is a member of the varsity baseball and the Science Olympiad teams.

Poll also serves as a TK representative on the Barry County Youth Advisory Committee, and reportedly enjoys drawing, hanging out with friends and playing video games. — *DM*



Thornapple Kellogg High School senior Thomas Poll (left) was recently named as a National Merit Scholarship "Commended Student." **Courtesy photo**

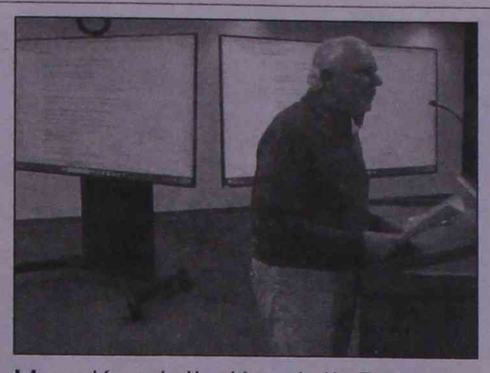
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Max Kendall, Kendall Property Group LLC chairman, addressed the members of the Gaines Township Board of Trustees during their meeting Monday, Oct. 13. **Photo by James Gemmell**

PROJECT

Continued from Page 2

utilities and right-of-way easements for roads, as well as planning for senior housing that will be part of the project.

There is also protected wetland along Gull Prairie Drive.

"We had a requirement that the buildings along Gull Prairie Drive be set five feet from the property line to the pavement," Wells said. "And the fact that MDEGLE determined that that was a wetland to be preserved basically blew that out of the water."

Also, officials with the Leo Brown Group, an Indianapolis-based developer that is partnering in the project, said more space than was designated in the northern section of the site was needed for the senior living facility and requested to build it on a larger lot just south of Gull Prairie Drive.

"So, they needed to flip down to the south, which actually makes a lot more sense from a planning perspective," Wells said. "Because now you've got the senior housing living area adjacent to the properties to the south of this project, which creates a better buffer than if it was retail-commercial cars coming and going."

Under the revised plan, all the retail and commercial development will be moved closer to the 84th Street/Kalamazoo Avenue intersection.

Until the judge approves the amendment to the consent judgment, construction of the senior housing cannot begin. However, work on other parts of the development that are not being changed, such as the townhomes, may proceed.

The portion of the project that Eastbrook Homes will be building to the east will remain the same. That entails apartment buildings and single-family housing.

The township board also voted 6-0 to approve an interim construction agreement for early start construction of Prairie Wolf Station. Last year, the board removed the early-starts provision in the township code of ordinances that allowed for construction to begin on multi-family buildings before the infrastructure was installed.

"The way that section was written for early starts didn't really give the township any protection in case a project went belly up and didn't get completed," Wells said.

Township officials reportedly had no way to recoup expenses to complete a project or tear it down, if that were to occur, and removed the early-starts provision last year.

But American Kendall requested this past spring that the provision be reinstated so it could get work underway before this coming winter. The township board did reinstate early starts but amended the ordinance to protect the township from financial liability, if a company were to walk away from a project.

"This will allow them to pour foundations before winter hits, so that the slabs are intact," Wells said. "And they are able to install the utilities to go underneath those slabs prior to having the roads and all the water and sewer facilities finished, inspected and ready to go."

Max Kendall, Kendall Property Group LLC chairman, told the Gaines trustees that his company has posted a $1 million letter of credit.

Township Supervisor Bob Terpstra asked Kendall if allowing the early start allows his company to get going on the project as soon as he hoped.

"We would've liked to have been going six months ago," Kendall replied. "We're just trying to get ahead of winter here. As Dan said, if we can get a few slabs in we can do vertical (construction) during the winter and not miss a three- or four-month period there."

As for how Prairie Wolf Station will affect Gaines Township long term, Wells said he does not think it will have a negative financial impact.

"It's a huge investment, especially with the apartments and the senior housing," he said. "It will generate a lot of tax revenue for the township."

However, Wells also acknowledged that some of that will be offset by the increased demand for police, fire and rescue services the project might create.

INCREASE:
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Don't rely on 'experts'


Zach Santmier

When it comes to your personal finances, you should never solely rely on so-called "experts."

In life, we wear a lot of hats, don't we? Between kids (or grandkids), activities, church obligations, work and taking care of ourselves, there are a lot of things we are responsible for managing.

Often, when it comes to our personal finances, we just want a "guy" for that. Whether it is for our retirement accounts, insurance or savings, people often rely on "experts" to manage and protect their hard-earned assets.

But in doing this, many people are taken advantage of and make decisions without fully understanding the consequences.

When it comes to your money, nobody knows your situation like you do. With my team at Trumble, we have a motto we live by: Our clients are smart people and can make good decisions when given good information. It is then our sole responsibility to give good information so our clients can make an informed decision.

What financial decisions have you delegated to other people?

Retirement: Do you know where your money is invested in your retirement account? Do you know why it is invested that way? Is it structured in the best way to maximize tax savings and increase your return on investment? These are not questions for your financial planner. They are questions for you that you personally need to be able to answer.

Insurance: How much coverage do you have on your house? Is it enough to build your home back if it were to burn down? What are your deductibles? Are they high enough to maximize savings and low enough to be able to afford if you need to pay them? Again, these are questions you need to answer. You don't need to be an expert, but you do need to know why you have what you have.

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Your life is your life. Financial professionals should be there to provide advice and information. However, as you receive that information, you should never feel forced into blindly following them. They should be a teacher who educates instead of a dictator who tells you what to do.

As the last two lines in the poem "Invictus" says, "I am the master of my fate; I am the captain of my soul." Seek professional advice, but remember, you are standing at the steering wheel of your life and the financial decisions you make should steer you in the direction you wish to go

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.

Nonprofit receives matching funds to strengthen mission


Pastor Gale Kragt

Officials with Spiritual Care Consultants of West Michigan, a faith-based nonprofit dedicated to healing hearts and restoring lives, recently announced that it has received a $250,000 matching fund for its endowment at the Barry Community Foundation.

According to the announcement, every dollar donated will be matched up to $250,000 and double the impact of each gift, ensuring SCC's ministry continues to touch lives for generations to come.

"This matching fund is a tremendous blessing," said Pastor Gale Kragt, SCC executive director and co-founder. "It allows us to secure long-term stability for the ministry and continue serving those who are hurting across Michigan and beyond."

SCC partners with local churches, schools, medical professionals and businesses to bring spiritual and emotional care to people from all walks of life.

To donate and financially assist SCC's mission, persons may mail checks to the Barry Community Foundation, 231 S. Broadway St., Hastings, MI 49058. Checks may be made out to Barry Community Foundation, with Fund #165 – Spiritual Care Consultants in the memo line. — *DM*

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Sporting News

Kietzman becomes third leader for TK girls in three conference races

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

There were a lot of highs and lows for both Thornapple Kellogg varsity cross country teams this fall in the OK Gold Conference.

But the Trojans put a couple pretty good packs together on the flat, fast course at Riverside Park in Grand Rapids Wednesday at the OK Gold Conference Championship Meet.

Junior Peyton Hardy and senior Madison Kietzman finished off runs to all-conference honors by leading the Trojan team. Amya Gater, Brielle Miller and Carmen Reynolds from the TK girls' team and Grady Galaviz and Owen Bremer from the TK boys' team were honored as honorable mention all-conference runners at the conclusion of the meet too.

Kietzman made it three different leaders in the three conference races for the TK girls. She hit the finish line 11th Wednesday with a time of 21 minutes 40.12 seconds. Hardy was right behind her in 12th place with a time of 21:41.26.

The freshman Miller and juniors Reynolds and Breanna Schut were right behind the two leaders for the TK ladies. Miller placed 14th in 21:51.21, Reynolds 16th in 22:00.52 and Schut 17th in 22:05.80.

Senior Avery Hagemann ran her fastest race of the season to finish as the TK girls' number five and sophomore Karsyn Boersma was the TK team's seventh runner. They were 28th and 31st overall respectively.

Both TK teams were running Wednesday without the student-athlete who lead them at the previous conference jamboree. Gator was out with an injury and Bremer was out sick.

That didn't change the placement in the standings much for the TK ladies, who still finished second, but it was a big hit for the TK boys who finished the day in fifth-place but had the chance to maybe finish as high as third at full-strength.

The South Christian teams won girls' and boys' championships in the conference this fall.

The Sailor girls finished the championship meet with 19 points ahead of TK 70, Wayland 74, West Catholic 95, Northview 103, Grand Rapids Union 187 and Wyoming 197.

South Christian had three girls in the top ten including the three fastest runners. Senior Chloe Rinzema won the race in 18:52.47 with freshman Lily VanEyk the runner-up in 18:53.78 – a new PR for her.

The Sailors won the boys' meet with 28 points ahead of Northview 38, Wayland 115, Grand Rapids Union 116, Thornapple Kellogg 141, Wyoming 147 and West Catholic 156.

Northview's Rhys Holmes and South Christian's Thad VanderLaan, a pair of seniors, both set new personal record times while leading the pack. Holmes won the race in 16:17.80 and VanderLaan checked in at 16:22.60.

The top 15 in the race included seven Northview runners and six South Christian runners. The only two from another team were Wayland's Mason Fein (fifth) and Ethan Manning (seventh).

Junior Grady Galaviz had a strong race to place 19th in 18:17.54 for TK.

'I'm happy for Grady to finally have a competitive race where he looked confident coming all the way through even with a mile to go, and was happy with his performance," TK boys' coach Josh Reynolds said. "That is hopefully a good uplift going into regionals and then Barry County over at Lakewood … We had a really good workout last Thursday and we talked about just that confidence. We moved some of our PR times up a little bit to try and build some confidence and do some mental work on what this race was going to be."



Thornapple Kellogg freshman Brielle Miller races along the first mile of the course at Riverside Park in Grand Rapids Wednesday during the OK Gold Conference Championship. Miller had a 14th-place finish.

A pair of TK sophomores set new personal records. Wyatt Richardson came in 30th with a time of 19:14.46. Pender Workman was 34th in 19:46.11.

Sophomore Garrett Holzhausen

See next page





Continued from previous page

placed 29th in 18:57.95, senior Benjamin Postma was 31st in 19:17.26 and freshman Parker Robinett was 32nd in 19:23.31.

"They were super confident about keeping their group together," coach Reynolds said, "which is what we have been working on all season. Really trying to make that cohesion be throughout the whole race so it wasn't just three individuals or four individuals racing. It really was where they were having those conversations out on the course in terms of what their strategies were and what they wanted to do."

TK's number seven for the day was senior Noah Donker who finished 39th.

Coach Reynolds also said he was pretty pleased with his JV runners. Senior Alex Frizzell, freshman Magnus Galaviz and junior Michael Mullin all set new personal record times. TK also got a PR from sophomore Harper Phillips in the JV girls' race.

The Trojans return to action Saturday, Oct. 25, at their MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 2 Regional hosted by South Christian.



Thornapple Kellogg junior Grady Galaviz gets out in front of the crowd during the start of the OK Gold Conference Championship race at Riverside Park in Grand Rapids Wednesday. Galaviz earned honorable mention all-conference for the second year in a row with his performance. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

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CHS boys beat out Jenison for their first title in the OK Green

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Caledonia had 11 different guys finish among its top seven scorers at the three OK Green Conference meet-ups this fall.

Having the two fastest runners in the conference and a lot of depth added up to the first OK Green Conference championship for the Fighting Scot varsity boys' cross country team.

Caledonia beat out runner-up Jenison by three points to win the OK Green Conference Championship meet at Riverside Park in Grand Rapids Tuesday afternoon. Caledonia senior Noah Johnston was the day's individual champion with a time of 15 minutes 52.34 seconds and sophomore teammate Ethan Snapper improved his PR to 15:54.37 to place second.

Jenison won the first conference jamboree of the season, but the Fighting Scots bounced back to win the second meeting and Tuesday's race was the ultimate tiebreaker.

The top ten on the day was made up entirely of runners from the two sides. Jenison was led by sophomore Chase Sherman who had a personal record time of 16:04.32 to place third.

Caledonia sophomore Sean Thompson was fourth in 16:16.09, while dealing with an injury Thompson missed the first conference match-up, and his addition was the big difference in the final two conference get-togethers, but it took some other strong performances for the Scots' to pull out a 26-29 win over the Wildcats in downtown Grand Rapids.

Senior Eli Velting came up big for the Scots with a ninth-place time of 16:34.99. He was a part of a Caledonia 'B' squad a week and a half earlier at the Portage Invitational after being a regular varsity contributor throughout the first half of the season.

Velting said running at the front of that 'B' team pack helped him have a stress free race in Portage, he was able to be free and run, and it turned out good.

"It kind of helped me be confident with this," he added after the conference championship run.

"He's been having kind of an off season and, you know, he just he really found it today and it was what we needed," Caledonia head coach Ben Thompson said. "Honestly, he passed at least two, if not three people, coming down the home stretch and when you win by three that's that's the difference right there. From where I was with about a quarter mile to go, he passed three people."

The Scots also had sophomore Bentley Nichols place tenth in 16:39.57.

The team's six and seven runners this time around were senior Valin Barrett and sophomore Cole Mckenna who both ran new personal record times. Barrett was 19th in 17:12.87 and Mckenna 20th in 17:12.98. Those two were new to the top seven for the Scots in the conference this season.

"We did great, we all did great. I am really proud of them," Velting said.

"At practice we're very good at running together and pushing each other so we're all better," he added. "In a race, we all run together as a team and we motivate each other throughout the race. It's a team sport for sure."

Jake Potgeter and Luke Smith are other guys who have stepped up and filled those last few scoring places for the Scots throughout this season, and coach Thompson said that is really the strength of this team.

"The beauty of our team is we have a lot of guys in that, like five, six, seven through 12 spot, and you' probably see in the results that it is just kind of always moving around. It's nice that it is not like one guy, like if you don't do it today we're in trouble. So we have got a bunch of guys to kind of shoulder the load together."

Jenison's top four behind Sherman placed fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth. Jenison beat out the Scots for the conference championship in 2024.

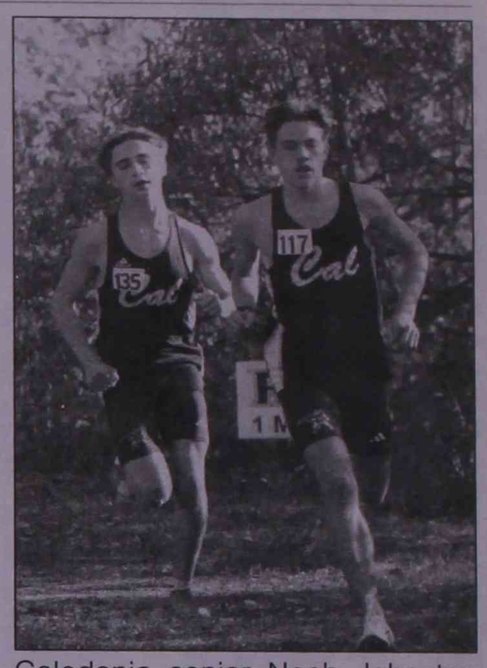
The fastest guy from another school was Byron Center sophomore Zachary Newman who placed 11th in 16:42.06.

Byron Center was third in the boys' meet with 87 points ahead of Mona Shores 104, Reeths-Puffer 153 and Muskegon 176,

Now the challenge for coach Thompson is sorting through those six, seven, eight nine … 12 runners to decipher which seven give the team the best chance of running to a state finals appearance. Caledonia heads to its MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 1 Regional at Portage West Middle School Saturday, Oct. 25. The top three teams and top 15 individuals automatically qualify for the Nov. 1 state finals, and a minimum of seven runners not from those three state qualifying teams advance to the finals from each region too.

No one was catching the Jenison girls in their championship run Tuesday. The Wildcats won with a near-perfect 16-point score. Byron Center was second as a team with 58 points ahead of

See next page



Caledonia senior Noah Johnston (right) and Bennett Snapper race side by side a mile from the finish line at Riverside Park in Grand Rapids Tuesday during the OK Green Conference Championship. Johnston and Bennett finished 1-2 in the race, both hitting the finish line in less than 16 minutes, to lead the Caledonia team to its first championship in the OK Green.
Photos by Brett Bremer

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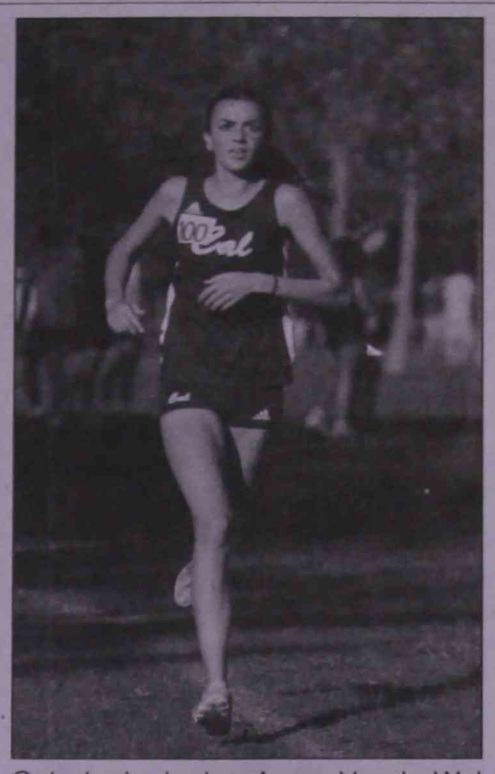
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Caledonia sophomore Sean Thompson rounds the final turn before a sprint to the finish during the OK Green Conference Championship at Riverside Park in Grand Rapids Tuesday.



Caledonia junior Anna VanderWal runs to a tenth-place finish at the OK Green Conference Championship at Riverside Park in Grand Rapids Tuesday.

Continued from previous page

Caledonia 75, Reeths-Puffer 121 and Mona Shores 122.

Jenison had six runners among the first eight across the finish line, and the first four overall. Junior Paige McMeans won the race in 18:29.42 and sophomore teammate Madeline Aleisa set her PR at 18:51.44 to place second.

The top 11 in both the boys' and girls' race earned all-conference honors. The Caledonia boys' team had five among that group and the Caledonia girls' team had seven.

Caledonia junior Akaela Daman helped break up that Wildcat pack at the front of the girls' race a little with a seventh-place time of 19:38.90. Fellow Scot junior Anna VanderWal was tenth in 20:12.55.

"I think it's quite the experience," Daman said of leading this Caledonia girls' group throughout the season. "It's pretty fun."

She came into the season thinking she might be the second fastest Fighting Scot. She had some breathing issues over the previous year, but said got those figured out prior to starting racing this fall and she has taken off from there.

VanderWal was 14th at the first conference race, 13th at the second and jumped into that all-conference position at the championship, despite being annoyed by a shoe that came untied early in the race. She was happy to continue running her style of race in which she waves at many of the fans cheering her on.

"It actually keeps me alive," VanderWal said. "When I can't talk, my head is just thinking about how my body hurts."

Sophomore Tiona Sakala was the lone Scot among the scoring group that set a PR. She was 18th overall in 21:18.01.

The Scots had freshman Kendall Van Ryn 19th in 21:18.71 and sophomore Charlie Bont 21st in 21:38.04.

The top seven for Caledonia also included a 22nd-place finish from sophomore Elise Clarin and a 26th-place finish from freshman Addisyn Gerken.

CHS senior Martin wins his way into tennis regional semifinals

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Caledonia varsity boys' tennis team finished in a tie for eighth-place with four points at its MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 1 Regional hosted by West Ottawa Oct. 9.

The host Panthers and Rockford Rams dominated the tournament, with the Panthers outscoring the Rams 25-24 at the top of the standings.

Caledonia got four wins on the day.

Fighting Scot senior fourth singles player Colin Martin won his way into the semifinals before falling in a tough match with East Kentwood freshman Parker VanHouten. VanHouten took a 6-4, 7-6 win and went on to finish as the flight runner-up.

Martin was 2-1 on the day. He opened play with a 6-2, 6-0 win over Kalamazoo Central senior Ryan VanAvery and then scored a 7-5, 6-1 win over Grandville junior Nolan Sheriden.

Junior second singles player Quinn Stanley for the Scots outscored Grand Rapids Union junior Iohan Sanchez 6-1, 6-0 in their opening round match before he ran into East Kentwood's Simon Wolters, the flight's top-seeded player, in the quarterfinals.

Caledonia's other point came thanks to the first doubles team of sophomores Quinn Cook and Cooper Sowerby. They knocked off Loy Norrix seniors Dylan Duquay andJaxon Grubaugh 6-1, 2-6, (11-9) in the opening round. The top seeded team from Rockford bested the CHS duo in the quarterfinals.

Rockford teams won the top three doubles flights. West Ottawa took the win at fourth doubles. Those two schools met in a all four doubles finals.

Rockford also had first singles and third singles championships. West Ottawa won at fourth singles.

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Marshall fends off Trojans in Middleville for one-goal, district win

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Marshall snuck a free kick over the Trojan keeper early in the second half, added an insurance goal, and then fought off TK's final charge Thursday, Oct. 6.

The RedHawks scored a 2-1 victory in the MHSAA Division 2 District opener over the Thornapple Kellogg varsity boys' soccer team inside Bob White Stadium in Middleville.

In a physical game, played mostly between the boxes TK finally put some extended pressure on the RedHawk net with about eight minutes to play. The Trojans shot the ball back and forth across the RedHawk goal, eventually slipping a shot under the Marshall goalkeeper. As the ball rolled across the goalmouth, TK junior Milo McCormick slid in between a pair of RedHawk defenders to knock the ball across the goal-line.

The Trojans kept the pressure on for much of the final few minutes, but couldn't find an equalizer.

The two teams were knotted 0-0 at the half.

Sophomore defender Trenton Walkiewicz scored the game's opening goal six minutes into the second half. With a dozen or so Trojans and RedHawks lined up along the top of the penalty area, Walkiewicz fired a ball from almost 50 yards out over everyone, including TK keeper Jeremiah Cramer who was out off his line, into the back of the net.

The Trojans' best chance to knot the score actually would up turning into Marshall's second goal.

A Trojan corner kick led to a TK throw-in deep in RedHawk territory. The throw bounded off a Marshall defender in the box right to senior Bowen Dykstra who had one touch with his left foot from just above the penalty spot fly just wide of the right post.

Marshall's restart bounded around at midfield for a moment, but then the RedHawks rolled a pass ahead with sophomore midfielder Myles Olson charging hard at the TK net. He raced by the last TK defenders and then knocked a shot by Cramer and just inside the left post for a two-goal lead.

TK had one other big flurry late that didn't result in a goal.

Senior Inigo Evira Navarro chipped a ball across the RedHawk penalty area with a couple guys crashing on the far side including seniors Bowen Dykstra and Nathan Shoemaker. The Marshall keeper got a touch on the ball, and then Dykstra got a touch that headed towards the feet of Shoemaker before a RedHawk defender crashed through and knocked the ball from the left side of the goalie box went just wide of the post.



Thornapple Kellogg senior Diego Rodas beats Marshall's Ty Winchell to a ball in the midfield during the second half of their MHSAA Division 2 District opener in Middleville Oct. 9. Marshall advanced in the state tournament with a 2-1 win over the Trojans. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

The Trojans' ensuing corner kick led to a looping shot from just inside the 18 that flew over the goal.

The RedHawks advanced to face Harper Creek in the district semifinals Monday, where the Beavers scored a 2-1 overtime victory. Plainwell bested rival Otsego and then Wayland in its first two district matches to reach the final. The Plainwell Trojans defeated those Harper Creek boys 2-0 in the district final Wednesday, Oct. 15, in Plainwell.

TK ends its season with a 6-10-3 overall record.



Thornapple Kellogg senior defender Nathan Shoemaker heads the ball away from the penalty area in his end during the Trojans' district contest with Marshall in Middleville Oct. 9.

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Scot record evens in OK Green with loss to Byron Center girls

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Caledonia varsity volleyball team is 3-3 in the OK Green Conference after falling in four sets to visiting Byron Center Tuesday.

The Bulldogs took a 25-16, 26-21, 24-26, 25-17 win over the Fighting Scots.

Junior Aubrey Reynolds had 18 kills as well as 20 digs and three blocks in the loss for the Scots. Junior Avery Seif had 20 digs too. Junior Kayleigh Meirsen added 12 digs and two blocks.

Senior Kyla Charles and junior Reese Stafford shared setting duties. Charles had 15 assists as well as seven kills, seven blocks and 15 digs. Stafford finished with 17 assists.

Last Thursday, the Fighting Scots got their third conference win by knocking off Muskegon 25-7, 25-14, 25-7 in Caledonia.

The Scots took care a third of their points at the service line with 25 aces. Briseno had five and Charles and senior Maggie Loomis had four aces each. A group of six other Fighting Scots had two aces each.

Caledonia had seven different girls with a kill. Reynolds led the way with nine and junior Kayla Briseno had four. Charles and Stafford had nine assists each.

The Caledonia girls were in action Saturday going 2-1 with a victory over Roscommon and losses against Detroit Country Day and Dexter at the Beasts of the East Tournament.

Caledonia was set to visit Mona Shores Oct. 16. The Scots return to conference action at Reeths-Puffer Oct. 21 and home against Jenison Oct. 23.



Caledonia's Lydia Bell (10) and Quinn Ziegler (8) combine to block a Lady Reds' attack Thursday, Oct. 9, during their OK Green Conference match at Caledonia High School.



Caledonia's Maggie Loomis (11) serves the ball during the matchup with Muskegon Thursday, Oct. 9, at Caledonia High School. **Photos by Perry Hardin**

Panthers and Scots go back and forth until West Ottawa wins in O.T.

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

West Ottawa answered a Caledonia field goal in overtime with a four-yard touchdown run by CJ Traylor on its offensive possession to score a 33-30 OK Red Conference win over the Fighting Scots in Holland Friday, Oct. 10.

Junior Bryce Backus returned at quarterback for the Fighting Scots and threw for 175 yards including a 50-yard touchdown pass that got the Fighting Scots on the scoreboard for the first time. West Ottawa had a 14-0 lead in the second quarter before that long Scots' touchdown.

Ryne Wysocki snagged a screen pass in the right flat and dodged the last couple tacklers who had a chance at him around the 35-yard line. The left side of the Scots' offensive line, Kylen Spencer and Luke Kowatch, got the job done still taking care of Panther defenders 20 yards beyond the line of scrimmage.

The score remained 14-6 at the half.

The Panthers got a 15-yard TD pass from Abel Anaya to Ron Ferguson in the first quarter and a four-yard TD run from Caleb Montgomery in the second to build their lead. Montgomery bumped the West Ottawa lead to 21-6 with a ten-yard TD run in the third quarter. He closed the game with 17 rushes for 123 yards and the two scores.

Caledonia made plays in every phase of the game to stay in the ballgame.

The Scots lost a fumble at their own 11-yard-line after the Panthers went up 14-0, but junior defensive back Aaron Collins intercepted an overthrow pass at the goal-line by the Panthers to keep it a two-score game. The ensuing drive ended in the Scots' lone first-half touchdown.

Caledonia also got a 33-yard interception return for a touchdown from junior safety Ben Geerdes in the third quarter to make it a 21-13 ballgame.

The Scots were within 21-19 by the end of the third quarter. Caledonia kicker Landry Mueller followed up the Geerdes TD by recovering his own rolling onside kick.

The Scots drove right down the field for a one-yard TD run by Backus, but a two-point attempt to tie the game was no good and the Panthers led by two.

An interception by the Scots' Carter Berends just before the end of the third helped the Scots go in front. Caledonia moved over the short field, from the Panther 39, and took the lead early in the fourth quarter at 27-21 thanks to a one-yard TD run by Wysocki. This time Wysocki dodged a couple Panther tackles to rush in the two-point try to make it a six-point lead.

West Ottawa scored in the fourth quarter on a one-yard run by Jeremiah Edwards-Tate before the fourth quarter was over to tie the game at 27-27. The Scots' special teams came up huge again to help earn overtime. Scot senior Cody Myers forced his way through the line to block the extra-point kick by the Panthers.

Each offense gets a chance from its ten-yard-line to score in four plays in high school overtime. The Fighting Scots. Wysocki picked up six yards on first down, but Backus was pulled down behind the line on second down and a third down pass fell incomplete. Mueller booted a 28-yard field goal to give the Scots a momentary 30-27 lead.

Wysocki closed the game with 22 rushes for 121 yards and a touchdown.

A couple of rushes got the Panthers to the five-yard-line on their overtime possession, then on third down CJ Traylor came from right to left on an end around and swept around the left side just reaching the goal-line for the game-winning score.

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CALEDONIA
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Meeting Minutes

The minutes for the September 17, 2025 Township Board of Trustees Meeting and the October 6, 2025 Township Board of Trustees Special Meeting that were approved on October 15, 2025, are posted at the Township Offices at 8196 Broadmoor Ave., and on the website at www.caledoniatownship.org.

Wyoming wins shootout with Scots in do-or-die district opener

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Fighting Scots bookended their season with shoot outs against the Wyoming Wolves.

The Caledonia varsity boys' soccer team won in August at Scotland Yard. The Wolves won in Wyoming in October.

The Scots would have preferred to win the latter.

Wyoming took a 1-0 win by outscoring Caledonia 6-5 in a shootout that lasted seven shooters long Wednesday, Oct. 8, in the opening round of the MHSAA Division 1 Boys' Soccer Tournament.

The Wolves earned a spot in the district semifinals with the win. Rockford bested Wyoming 2-1 Monday in the semifinals Monday. East Kentwood then knocked off Rockford 2-1 in a shootout to win the district championship Wednesday.

Noah Kaplan, Owen Mancuso, Rocco Calabrese and Noah Moberly converted their shots from the penalty spot as a part of the Scots' first five in the shoot out at Wyoming. Caledonia had a 2-1 lead in the shootout after the Wolves missed their second attempt. The Scots missed their fourth shot and the two teams went to additional shooters tied 4-4.

Gage Helinski made his PK to keep things tied at 5-5 for the Scots. Wyoming hit its seven attempt in the PKs and the Scots' seventh try flew wide of the goal to clinch the win for the Wolves.

Caledonia head coach Luke Dishnow said his guys had spent time in practice working on their penalty kicks for just such a situation.

"We were prepared. It is just what happens, ya know," Dishnow said.

Junior Nicolas Long returned from an ankle injury to play goal in the shootout taking over for freshman keeper Ryder Helinski. Helinski handled the keeper duties for the CHS varsity through the final few matches of the regular season, and he shut out the Wolves through regulation and the 20 minutes of overtime in the district opener.

"[Ryder] made some good saves. He did a good job. We went to Nic for the penalty shootout because he is just a bigger, taller goalie, and he did great in a shootout earlier in the season," Dishnow said.

"He wasn't ready for the field, but we knew he could do a good job in the shoot out. He had his fingers on multiple shots. He was right there. I still trust my gut in playing Ryder in the game flow. He made great saves. He did a great job. He kept it 0-0. I thought Nic did a good job in the PK shootout, he just couldn't quite get any of the saves."

The CHS head coach said he felt like his team controlled possession and had the better chances in the first half of the contest, but the Wolves picked things up in the second half.

The Scots end the season with a 9-7-4 overall record, and the Fighting Scot head coach thought his team tended to play to the level of its competition this season – which was great in contests with squads like top-ranked Portage Central and the OK Green champs from Byron Center. A late comeback from Mona Shores spoiling the Scots' senior night was a tough one late in the year.

"I think our whole team worked hard, cared for each other, was very positive," Dishnow said. "Anybody stepped up and had chances to do things in the games. No one's yelling at each other in the field. We just had good team chemistry I can hang my hat on. I proud of the way they worked hard all year and battled in all our games."

TK tennis gets wins at six flights at Division 3 regional tournament

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Freshman second singles player Parker Sylvestre won his way into the semifinals and Thornapple Kellogg got opening round victories at five other flights at the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 3 Regional in Holland Wednesday, Oct. 8.

The Thornapple Kellogg varsity boys' tennis team finished in tie for fourth at the regional tournament.

Sylvestre was the third seed at second singles. He opened his day with a quarterfinal win over Zeeland East junior Daniel Steenwyk by the scores of 6-1, 6-3. Second-seededConner VanDrunnen from East Grand Rapids bested Sylvestre 6-3, 6-3 in the semifinal round.

TK first singles player Franklin Wilkinson, the 2025 OK Gold Conference champion, saw his senior season end with a tough loss to fourth-seeded Floyd Webb from Holland at their flight. Webb pulled out a 6-4, 7-5 win over Wilkinson.

Trojan sophomore Max Lepper at third singles and senior Mark Gielincki at fourth singles both won opening round matches in straight sets before falling to seeded players in the quarterfinals.

TK had the same results at first, second and third doubles. Juniors Samuel Teachout and Layne Schilthroat pulled out a 7-6(5), 6-0 win over Holland's top doubles team before falling to the first-seeded duo at their flight from Holland Christian.

At second doubles, TK sophomore Graham Eden and Gideon Scott scored an opening round win over Wayland. At third doubles, TK junior Aiden Riffel and senior Luke Archer scored a close 6-4, 7-5 victory over a team from Hamilton.

Holland Christian won the regional championship with 28 points. South Christian was second with 17 ahead of Unity Christian 15, East Grand Rapids 15, Zeeland East 11, Thornapple Kellogg 7, Grand Rapids Christian 7, Otsego 3, Hamilton 2, Holland 2 and Wayland 2.

First singles was the only flight that the Holland Christian boys did not win. East Grand Rapids' Andrew Owings took three-straight set victories to take the first singles title. He defeated Unity Christian's Edmundo Berain Saucedo 7-5, 6-3 in the championship round.

The top four teams all qualified for the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 3 Boys' Tennis Finals that will be held at the Midland Tennis Center Oct. 24-25.

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PUBLIC HEARING

The Village of Middleville Planning Commission will hold a PUBLIC HEARING on Thursday, November 6, 2025 at 7:00 pm, or as soon thereafter as possible, in the Council Chambers at the Middleville Village Hall at 100 East Main Street.

The purpose of the PUBLIC HEARING is to receive public comment and consider an application for Special Land Use Permit on property located at 4695 N M-37 (parcel #41-022-135-00).

The Special Land Use Application seeks Planning Commission approval for a Special Use Permit in accordance with Section 78-323 of the Village of Middleville Code of Ordinances, which allows day care centers as a special use in the C-2 General Commercial District.
The applicant is requesting approval to establish a day care center on the above-described property.

The public is invited to attend this open meeting and to offer comments. Alternatively, to participate in the meeting by providing written comment, you may email your comment to the Director of Community and Economic Development at powersd@villageofmiddleville.org, or drop them off in person to Middleville Village Hall. Written comments received prior to 4:00 pm on November 6, 2025 will be distributed to Planning Commission members and it will be noted that such comments were received prior to the meeting.

A copy of the Special Land Use application is available for public inspection at Middleville Village Hall at the address indicated above during normal business hours (Monday thru Thursday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm and Friday 8:00 am to noon).

Persons with special needs who wish to attend should contact the Village Clerk no less than 3 days prior to the meeting. The Village Clerk can be contacted by phone at the number indicated above or by email at rvanpolen@villageofmiddleville.org, during normal business hours (Monday thru Thursday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm and Friday 8:00 am to noon).

Posted 10/15/2025
Rhonda Van Polen, Village Clerk

Poor first half hinders TK in homecoming game against EGR

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Trojans at times this fall have been good, they've been great, they've had heartbreak and heroics.

For the first time this season the they just weren't good enough for an extended period of time.

East Grand Rapids took a 24-0 lead over the Thornapple Kellogg varsity football team on homecoming night inside Bob White stadium in Middleville Friday, Oct. 10, and went on to a 34-7 win over the Trojans.

"Our kids came back in the second half and fought like crazy. They played hard," TK head coach Jeff Dock said. "I don't know what the outcome is, but if we play the two halves like that second half and good things happen … but we sure as heck can't do what we did in the first half. We laid an egg."

The Trojans started the ballgame receiving the opening kick-off, but didn't get their first, first down of the football game until the second play of the second quarter. It was the Trojan offense's only first down of the first half.

East Grand Rapids meanwhile scored on each of its four first half possessions. Pioneer senior quarterback Josh McCune completed a pass to senior wide receiver Dylan Buck in the left flat and he raced for a 22-yard touchdown on EGR's first drive. McCune scored on a six-yard run on the Pioneers' second possession. Senior wide receiver Tyler Blake had a six-yard TD run.

Pioneer junior kicker Will Klein was perfect on his first three extra-point kicks and then drilled a 21-yard field goal as time expired in the first half.

Thornapple Kellogg mostly righted the ship in the second half putting two steady offensive drives together right away while the defense forced a turnover on downs and a punt. Senior back Debo Robinson scored on a 30-yard run at the end of the Trojans' first drive of the second half to get TK within 24-7 after kicker Mason Chivis' extra-point.

The Trojans' second drive of the second half started at their own three-yard-line, and made it all the way to the Pioneer 12-yard-line. A 38 yard pass up the left side from quarterback Micah Dock to senior Zach Eldridge was the big gainer on the drive. Things stalled inside the Pioneer 20, and on a fourth-and-one play from the EGR 12, the Trojans lost a fumble. The ball on the ground didn't just end the drive though. Blake, a defensive back on that side of the ball for the Pioneers, scooped the ball off the turf and raced 89 yards for a touchdown.

A Pioneer interception on the first play following their kick-off and another EGR field goal effectively put the game away.

TK head coach Jeff Dock said there weren't any major adjustments offensively to move the football better in the second half.

"We just played," Dock said. "We did not have a great first half. We didn't do anything fundamentally. We didn't run our offense. They are good. Their defense is really good, don't get me wrong, but we did not execute our offense.

"It was fundamentals, like week one stuff."



Trojan seniors Jake Welch Jr. (50) and Preston Gummo (65) are at the front of the line as the Thornapple Kellogg varsity football team enters Bob White Stadium in Middleville Friday, Oct. 10, for its homecoming contest against OK Black Conference foe East Grand Rapids.



Trojan junior ballcarrier Camden Peter (left) tries to fight off East Grand Rapids junior defensive back Vinnie Hecker during the second half of the Pioneers' 34-7 win over the Trojans in Middleville Oct. 10. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

EGR improves to 5-2 overall this season and 3-1 in the OK Black Conference with the win. TK is now 4-3 overall and 2-2 in conference play.

"I guess better now than down the road. We've got to learn from it and move on," Dock said.

The Trojans were set to host Holland Christian Friday, Oct. 10, and will close out the 2025 regular season at home Oct. 17 taking on Wyoming.





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