THE SUN AND NEWS
VIEW Newspaper Group



A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS
Special section included with this edition

VOL. 147 NO. 45 | SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2025 | www.sunandnews.com

Hastings Public Library
227 E State Street
Hastings MI 49058

Officials deem threat at TK Schools 'not credible'

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

Classes at Thornapple Kellogg High School got off to a rough start Monday morning, Nov. 3, with a threat resulting in a "shelter-in-place" order. Though, the threat was later determined to be "not credible," according to officials with the Barry County Sheriff's Office.

According to a message by Thornapple Kellogg Schools Superintendent Rob Pouch, a student reported a threat written on a bathroom stall at the high school at about 10:30 a.m. Monday.

"Within minutes, law enforcement was contacted and arrived on site, and the high school entered a shelter-in-place protocol, which kept students in classrooms and limited hallway movement and visitors from entering the building," Pouch stated. "Given the nature of the incident, our team acted promptly and safely to secure the building and communicate with all stakeholders."

In an effort to be "transparent as possible," Pouch added that members of the TKS Board of Education and parents were notified once basic details related to the situation were confirmed.

After an initial investigation by TKS and law enforcement officials, the shelter-in-place order was lifted at about noon.

"A student saw the threat and reported it to the school administration," said BCSO Undersheriff Kevin Erb. "The school was put into a shelter-in-place while law enforcement and school staff investigated the threat. It was deemed not credible and the shelter-in-place was lifted.

"We are still investigating, along with the school," Erb added.

According to Pouch's statement, the incident on Monday serves as an opportunity for families to talk with students about "the seriousness of making or writing threats, even as a joke or in frustration."

"Please know that the district takes every report of a threat seriously, with the safety of our students and staff as our top priority," the superintendent stated.

Pouch also warned about incorrect information that was posted, reporting that the situation at the high school occurred around 7:30 a.m. on Monday. He stated, "This information is inaccurate and refers to a completely separate incident" in downtown Middleville and was "unrelated to the school."

In his message, Pouch also thanked the district's administrative team, staff, students and their families, as well as law enforcement, for their "calm cooperation" and "continued support."

The incident at TKHS comes less than a week after staff and students at Lakewood Public Schools were told to stay home on Wednesday, Oct. 29, after the local school district closed its buildings in response to an alleged threat made late Tuesday night, Oct. 28.

In a statement posted on X, MSP officials reported they were advised that a Snapchat video was circulating involving a 40-year-old male from Holt and his 17-year-old son from Sunfield. The video allegedly depicted a weapon and included statements suggesting the student might take the weapon to school and cause harm to faculty.

MSP officials added that a search warrant was obtained and executed at the residence Wednesday morning, resulting in the seizure of weapons and electronic devices.

A report on the incident was set to be submitted to the Eaton County Prosecutor's Office for review, MSP officials stated. And, while the subjects were not taken into custody, they were reportedly cooperating with the investigation.



Students at Thornapple Kellogg High School sheltered in place Monday morning after a student reported a threat written on a bathroom stall inside the high school. Law enforcement officials later determined the threat to be "not credible." **File photo**

PRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Greenville, MI
48838
Permit #338

RESIDENTIAL
CUSTOMER
EDDM
PO Box 340
Greenville, MI 48838
ECRWSS

Trojans win their way into district finals



Thornapple Kellogg junior lineman Brody Hammer heads to greet Hastings senior Trapper Reigler following the Trojans' 28-20 win over the Saxons in the MHSAA Division 3 District Semifinals inside Baum Stadium at Johnson Field in Hastings Friday, Oct. 31. TK was set to travel to Lowell Friday, Nov. 7, for its first district finals appearance since 2020. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

TK grad awarded $100K Presidential Scholarship to EMU

Middleville resident Rylee Seguin has been selected as a 2025 Presidential Scholar at Eastern Michigan University, an honor awarded to only 20 incoming students each year. The scholarship, valued at up to $100,000, covers full tuition, room, board and fees for a four-year period.



Rylee Seguin

In Seguin's sophomore year at Thornapple Kellogg High School, she served on the student council and began taking dual enrollment classes at Davenport University. She also earned the AP Scholar Award and the College Board's Rural and Small-Town Recognition Award. A two-year member of the National Honor Society, she volunteered with blood drives, tutoring programs, and at her former martial arts school. As a senior, she dual-enrolled at Grand Rapids Community College, earning Presidential List honors for both semesters. She graduated in the top ten of her class.

"I put in a lot of work to get here, and with the opportunities and connections that will come from this scholarship, I'd do it all again without question," said Seguin. "My family and I are beyond grateful, as we never saw a scholarship like this as a possibility. This gratitude keeps me motivated to give back to the Eastern community."

Looking ahead, Seguin is studying to become a high school science teacher through EMU's College of Education, with the hope of sparking joy and curiosity in her future students.

Eastern Michigan University representatives said they are proud to announce Seguin as a participant in the 2025 Presidential Scholars class. Seguin joins a distinguished class of 20 incoming first-year students who have been chosen for the honor. Collectively, the cohort represents exceptional academic achievement, with an average ACT score of 28, SAT score of 1280, and a 4.11 GPA.

As a secondary education major, Seguin said EMU is the ideal place for her to further her studies.

"Sometimes, when I walk around campus, I have to pause as I remember the huge gift I was given," she said. "Although this is my first semester at Eastern, I already know this program will set me up for success. As someone navigating my freshman year, I appreciate having a strong community of people who want to see me prosper." — *Eastern Michigan University*

FRONTIER
HEATING AND COOLING
High Efficiency
FURNACE & AIR
0% FOR 18 MONTHS FINANCING with equal payments on purchase of a furnace
Now through 11-15-25
OR
$200 OFF purchase of furnace and a/c


Must present this coupon. Expires 11-30-25
Other products available:
• Water Heaters • Heat Pumps
• Zoning Systems • Thermostats
and more!
"The company built by referrals"
210 East Main Street
Caledonia
616-891-8900

Mural underway in Middleville



Grand Rapids artist Nick Nortier begins painting a mural commissioned by Middleville resident Regina Bouchard this week. The mural, which should be completed in the coming weeks, will depict three sandhill cranes across the side of Bouchard's home. Passersby will get a good view of the mural, once finished, when driving into Middleville from W. State Road. According to Bouchard, Nortier used a VR headset this week to help outline the mural. **Photo by Regina Bouchard**

Voters approve Kent ISD millage

Karen Turko-Ebright
Staff Writer

Area voters passed a 10-year regional enhancement millage for schools in the Kent Intermediate School District that will reportedly provide funding for technological upgrades, improvement in academic and career readiness programs and a reduction in class sizes, along with addressing other needs within impacted school districts, according to initial results from Tuesday's election, Nov. 4.

Thornapple Kellogg Schools and Caledonia Community Schools are among the list of Kent County schools that will benefit from the millage increase.

Kent County voters approved the ballot proposal by a margin of 64,402 "yes" votes and 37,612 "no" votes, according to the Kent County Clerk's office.

The ballot measure approved by voters Tuesday renews the regional enhancement millage set to expire in 2026.

According to the ballot measure, the millage will levy 0.9 mills that will generate a revenue of $35.6 million in 2027.

The Kent County Board of Canvassers are set to certify election results on Nov. 18, according to the Kent County Clerk's office.

THE SUN AND NEWS

The Sun and News
Proudly Published
Since 1870
1351 N. M-43 Hwy.
Hastings, MI 49058
Phone: 269-945-9554
www.sunandnews.com

CONTACT US
Editor: Molly Macleod
mmacleod@mihomepaper.com
Sports: Brett Bremer
bbremer@mihomepaper.com
Advertising Manager: Chris Silverman
csilverman@mihomepaper.com

Community Papers of Michigan

PRINTED ON 100% RECYCLED PAPER.
Please recycle this newspaper

PUBLISHED BY
VIEWnewspaper Group
Rick Burrough, President
Wes Smith, Group Publisher

Copyright 2025
©2025 Jams Media, LLC
All Rights Reserved
Printed in the U.S.

All advertising in The Sun and News is subject to the conditions in the applicable rate card or advertising contract, copies of which are available from The Sun and News Ad Dept., 1351 N. M-43 Hwy., Hastings, MI 49058 (269-945-9554). This newspaper reserves the right not to accept an advertiser's order. Our ad takers have no authority to bind this newspaper and only publication of an ad constitutes acceptance of the advertiser's order.

Planning Commission gives final OK for Dutton Center's second phase

James Gemmell
Contributing Writer

Officials with Michiana, a subsidiary of Allen Edwin Homes, are now set to kick off construction of the second phase of the Dutton Center mixed-use project.

At its Oct. 23 meeting, the Gaines Township Planning Commission voted, 6-0, on the final approval for a nearly 30-acre condominium plan on 68th Street, near the intersection with Hanna Lake Avenue, in Dutton. One commissioner was absent.

The project plan includes 51 single-family lots in the southern section of the development, including a mix of ranch, two-story and bi-level homes, as well as infrastructure for utilities, stormwater drainage and roads.

Chris Kohane, project manager with Allen Edwin Homes, reminded commissioners that the second phase was approved in December 2024 as a plat, but that company officials later decided to convert it to a site condominium. Preliminary approval was then obtained in June.

"We've gone through all the approvals with the township engineer and the (Byron-Gaines Utility Authority)," Kohane said. "We have our approvals from the road commission, the drain commission, all our (Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes & Energy) permits for water and sewer, and wetland impact."

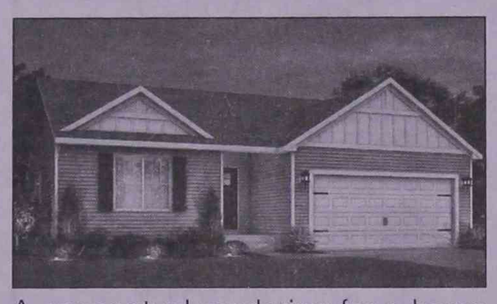
In July, commissioners unanimously approved the final site plan for the first phase of the 233-unit mixed-use Dutton Center, as part of a five-phase project that will also include some commercial development. The first phase included 37 rental townhomes in the northeast section of the parcel, plus two neighborhood commercial buildings and some single-family detached homes.

"I'm excited to see this one start to get going," Gaines Community Development manager Dan Wells said. "The roadways here will connect down to Thornapple Farms (subdivision) to the south. So, this is a critical piece for them to get that second point of connection to be able to start building down to Thornapple Farms."

The interconnected public roadway network between Dutton and Hanna Lake avenues will provide a second emergency access point off Dutton Avenue.

Allen Edwin Homes has been building houses for the first two phases of the Thornapple Farms subdivision off Hanna Lake Avenue, between 68th and 76th streets. But Wells said construction won't be completed for at least a few months yet.

The final three phases of the Dutton Center project call for a blend of commercial development and more multi-family housing units laid out in a way to create a type of village center.



A conceptual rendering for a home in the Dutton Center subdivision. **Source: gainestownship.org**



This aerial view shows the boundaries of where Dutton Center will be built on 68th Street at Hanna Lake Avenue. **Source: gainestownship.org**

Annual November Sale
20% Off Fabrics
(excludes sale items)
Sale ends November 30th
† Pray for our Nation †
QUESTIONS: ASK US...
Sisters Fabrics
218 E. State St., Hastings • 945-9673
OPEN: Monday-Friday 8 am-5:30 pm; Saturday 9 am-3 pm
Hulst Cleaners Pickup Station

edwardjones.com/findyourrich | Member SIPC
Let's find your rich
Edward Jones
Your financial strategy should support a life you love. Because the key to being rich is knowing what counts.
Contact me today.
Casey J VanEngen
Financial Advisor
6617 Crossings Dr. SE
Suite 103
Grand Rapids, MI 49508
616-281-9026
EJB-16762A-A-E-AD-1 © 2025 EDWARD D. JONES CO. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. AECSPAD 26821172

Obituaries

Stephen Clarence Garrett

Stephen Clarence Garrett, age 88, passed away peacefully on October 30, 2025. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather whose warmth, humor, and steadfast love will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Born on December 21, 1936, Stephen lived a life filled with family, kindness, and a deep commitment to education. He shared a beautiful life with his beloved wife, Deanna Belle Garrett, and together they built a home grounded in love and laughter.

Stephen earned his bachelor's degree from Western Michigan University and went on to complete his Master of Education at Central Michigan University. His career in education began in Hastings, where he started his teaching journey. He went on to serve as principal in the Columbia School District, later becomingassistant superintendent and then superintendent in Coleman, DeWitt, and Middleville. Throughout his decades-long career, Stephen was dedicated to making a difference in the lives of students, staff, and his community. He truly loved what he did and believed in the power of education to change lives.



Stephen was also deeply involved in his community through the Lions Club and Rotary Club, where he continued his lifelong mission of service. Even after retirement, he was never done sharing his talents—always finding ways to lend a helping hand, offer guidance, or bring joy to those around him.

He is lovingly remembered by his children, Stephen "Gregory" (Brenda) Garrett, Laura (James) Demorest; his grandchildren, Sarah, Molly, Gregory, and Emily; and his great-grandchildren, Ayla, Chloe, Olive, Alex, Violet, Josephine, Hayden, Dawson, and Emma; his sibling, Merita Kyler. Each of them carries a piece of his generous spirit and gentle heart.

Stephen will be remembered for his steady wisdom, quiet strength, and the joy he found in family gatherings and the simple pleasures of everyday life.

A celebration of Stephen's life was held at the Beeler-Gores Funeral Home in Middleville on Wednesday, Nov. 5.

In lieu of flowers, the family welcomes donations to Carveth Village, in honor of his giving nature and love for helping others.

He will forever remain in our hearts.

Please visit www.beelergores-funeral.com to share a memory or leave a condolence message for Stephen's family.

LOCAL CHURCH DIRECTORY

ALASKA BAPTIST CHURCH
Service Times
Sunday at 9:30 AM & 6:00 PM
www.alaskabaptist.org
7240 68th Street SE, Caledonia

Caledonia Vine Street Church
Join us for our traditional yet casual worship service, in person or online, at 9:00 am
Rev. Robert Mayo, Interim Pastor
250 Vine Street 616-891-8669

cornerstonechurch
Join us in person or online Sundays 9:30 & 11am
1675 84th St. SE
Caledonia, MI 49316
cornerstonemi.org/weekend

FIRST BAPTIST Middleville
Sunday Service 10:30 AM
Livestream: facebook.com/firstbaptistmiddleville
FBCMIDDLEVILLE.NET - 5215 M37 - 269-795-9726

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
908 W. Main Street, Middleville
(Missouri Synod)
Sunday Worship..... 9:30 a.m.
Pastor: Rob Wurst
http://goodshepherdlcms.googlepages.com
Church: (269) 795-2391

HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH
9669 Kraft Ave., Caledonia
Phone: 616-891-9259
www.holyfamilycaledonia.org
Saturday Evening Mass ..... 5:00 p.m.
Sunday Masses..... 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Considering becoming Catholic?
Call or see our website for information.

JOURNEY CHURCH
Caledonia Location -
9185 Cherry Valley Ave SE
9:15 am and 11:00 am
Middleville Location -
1664 M-37
9:30 am and 11:00 am

PEACE CHURCH
PEACECHURCH.CC
Sundays at 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 AM
Lead Pastor: Pastor Ryan Kimmel
616.891.8119
6950 Cherry Valley Rd., Middleville, MI 49333
peacechurch.cc

St. Paul Lutheran Church
Sunday Worship:
8:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.
Fellowship
9:45 to 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School
10 to 10:45 a.m.
@ St. Paul Lutheran Church & Preschool
8436 Kraft Ave., Caledonia, MI 49316
Office 616-891-8688 • Preschool (616) 891-8688
www.stpaulcaledonia.org

THORNAPPLE VALLEY CHURCH MIDDLEVILLE
SERVICE TIMES:
Sunday at 9:30am & 11:00am
20 State Street, Middleville, MI / www.tvcweb.com



Yankee Springs Bible Church
8900 Duffy Road
Middleville, MI 49333
"Shining Forth God's Light"
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 a.m.
Community Group.....11:00 a.m.
James L. Collison, Pastor
www.yankeespringsbiblechurch.org

NEWSPAPER ADVERTISING DEADLINES
AD-VISOR & CHRONICLE
Monday at 4 p.m.
BATTLE CREEK SHOPPER NEWS
Monday at 5 p.m.
THE HASTINGS BANNER
Tuesday at Noon
THE REMINDER
Wednesday at Noon
THE SUN AND NEWS
Wednesday at Noon
VIEW Newspaper Group
mihomepaper.com



Freemans celebrate 50th years!

Mark and Barb Freeman will joyfully celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on November 8th, 2025. The couple was married at Caledonia United Methodist Church on November 8th, 1975 and have shared five wonderful decades of love, laughter, and memories together.

Mark and Barb are proud parents of four children, Erin Benjamin, Joel (Christine) Freeman, Katie (Brandon) Furtwangler, and Mindy (Ryan) Wilson and loving grandparents to 11 grandchildren.

The Freemans will celebrate their Golden Anniversary with a family trip to Hawaii in Spring 2026. Friends and family are invited to celebrate with them by sharing cards, memories, and well wishes.

Congratulations, Mark and Barb, on 50 wonderful years together!

MIDDLEVILLE TOPS 546

The Nov. 4 meeting opened with roll call and the secretary's report. There are now two fish in the fishbowl. One fish jumped out.

After last week's meeting on meal cards, the group decided to order a set for everyone. Members spent the meeting putting each set together. Next week, members will continue the discussion on how to use the cards.

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.

Blood drive set for Nov. 11

Versiti-Blood Center of Michigan is partnering with local churches to host a blood drive at Holy Family Catholic Parish on Kraft Avenue in Caledonia on Tuesday, Nov. 11, from 1 to 6:30 p.m.

According to organizers, the goal for the upcoming blook drive is 55 pints. The blood drive is open to the public and anyone 17 or older is eligible to donate blood. Persons 16 years of age are also eligible to donate with parental permission.

If interested in donating blood, persons may sign up online at versiti.org/ccc or call chairperson Char Mello at 616-901-2803.

Persons interested in donating blood are encouraged to make an appointment is preferred, though walk-ins are welcome as schedule allows. — *DM*

Classifieds

BUSINESS SERVICES

HANDYMAN SERVICES OFFERED. Misc. repairs, construction services, light plumbing, electrical and roofing. Licensed and insured. Free Estimates. 269-243-0468.

CONSTRUCTION

CONSTRUCTION: POLE BARNS, Siding, Decks, Roofing, etc. Licensed, 30 Years. Tom Beard (269)838-5937

INTERIOR DESIGN

HK DESIGN INTERIORS: Interior painting, Wallpapering, Seasonal/ Holiday decorating, Room layout & Design. Local, Experienced. Face-Book @ HK Designs Interior Stylist. Contact today for information or estimates. 616.403.7949

PAINTING

PAINTING: LET 30 YEARS experience care for your home! Interior and exterior. Booking for winter and next summer. Licensed and insured. Locally family owned and operated. Call for free estimate. Phil Johnson Painting (269)953-7877

TREE SERVICE

BUYING WALNUT, HARD maple, and white oak trees. Will buy single walnut trees. Free Estimates. Fully Insured. Fetterly Logging 269-818-7793.

WANTED

WANTED TO BUY: Standing Timber. Conscientious timber harvester. Saw Mill Office- 517-254-4463. Family owned and operated.

FIREWOOD

FIREPLACE WOOD FOR SALE: Comes by the Rick, Cord, or truck-load. Complete Landscaping available also! (269)818-7722

SEASONED HARDWOOD. $70 per face cord. Cash and Carry. Delivery extra. 269-945-7624.

AUCTIONS

THE FOLLOWING STORAGE UNITS at Caledonia A-1 Affordable Storage will be sold at ON-LINE Public Auction to the highest bidder via M37 Auction.com whose business address is 9790 Cherry Valley Ave SE, Caledonia MI 49316. ON-LINE auction to take place as follows: Pre-Bidding/Viewing begins November 6 and auction close date of November 11, 2025 for this auction in order to satisfy storage liens outstanding as of sale date. Items are pertaining to the following units and are all miscellaneous general household & garage type items: Melinda Litts - Jacobson #62 and Heather Brubacker #114a.

TRAILERS

VEHICLE HAULING TRAILER - 16' droptail. Call 269-953-8274 for details.

EMPLOYMENT

BARN HELP WANTED Must have experience with horses. Full and part time positions available with competitive pay. Please call 269-207-4218 or email at zlpowell@yahoo.com if interested.

• Closed-Cell Foam Insulation
• Blown-In Attic Insulation
Nelson's SPRAY FOAM, LLC
Nelson Schmucker
1700 N. Ainger Rd. • Charlotte, MI 48813
517-983-0954
Start Saving Today ~ Use Spray Foam

517.646.0439 * Lansing
269.967.8241 * Battle Creek/K-zoo
517.740.1533 * Jackson/Ann Arbor
antennamen.customer@gmail.com
www.theantennamen.com
www.cellsignalpros.com
The Antenna Men
Digital TV Antennas * Towers * StarLink Installs *
Wireless Data Links * Cellular Enhancement Systems
CELL SIGNAL PROS
*Building-to-building, Point-to-Point WiFi Extensions
* High definition outdoor cameras to monitor your property

GD WOOD PRODUCTS
Family Owned & Operated
SAW MILL OFFICE
517-254-4463
Conscientious Timber Harvester Wanting to Buy Standing Timber

INCREASE:
A ROAD MAP TO FINANCIAL HEALTH

Your favorite financial topic


Zach Santmier

We are on an eight-step path as we systematically fill up our financial fuel tanks. Just as there are eight marks on your fuel gauge for a full tank, there are eight marks on your financial fuel gauge that indicate if you are financially healthy.

Here's where we have been: Step 1 – Balanced Budget; Step 2 – Give 10 Percent; Step 3 – New Zero in Checking; and, today, we are beginning Step 4 – Adequate Insurance.

Today, I'm going to discuss the subject you have probably been most excited about. Yes, you guessed it, I'm talking about insurance! Oh, come on! Who doesn't like a good lesson on deductibles and coverage limits? I'm obviously kidding. Insurance — what a snooze fest! But I promise to make it fun, and I promise to give you some good information that I believe will fill in the gaps of your financial foundation that you're working hard to lay.

Here's my definition of insurance: taking a small financial loss now, so that later, you don't have to potentially take a larger financial loss. Yes, my definition of insurance is taking a financial loss — but let me explain.

If someone's house were to burn down, do you think that most people would be able to afford to rebuild their house again with cash? Probably not, right? There were a bunch of boat owners in England who were having a similar problem. This is a true story. They were in a gentleman named Lloyd's coffee shop, and they were sharing their woes of losing ships and not being able to replace them after they sunk to the bottom of the sea. They realized, as they were sitting there, that only a couple of them would have this problem in a given year and the rest would get off scot-free — until it was their turn, at which point they would need to pay the piper. A light bulb went off, and someone suggested that instead of being sunk by their lost ship figuratively and literally, they should pull their money together and all agree to take a small financial loss each year so that when their year came and their ship sank, they wouldn't have to take a massive financial loss. Lloyd's coffee shop became Lloyd's of London, which is now one of the oldest insurance companies in the world.

We now call these small financial losses premiums, and the same principle applies. Some people can afford to not have insurance. Those people are called "independently wealthy," and have so much money that their house burning down is no more than an accounting error. But for the rest of us, we can't afford to not have insurance. Like the sailors, we can afford a small, consistent loss spread out over years and years, but we can't afford the blow that a one-time catastrophe could cause us.

This principle of insurance is extremely important. If you can afford the potential blow, then it's not necessary to purchase insurance for that risk. For instance, I was in the self-checkout line not too long ago at a store which I won't disclose. As I scanned my item, an item that cost around $50, I was asked if I would like to purchase insurance protection for this item by clicking a simple button. First, not only will this item be covered on any homeowners policy or renters policy as personal property, but second, it was $50! I didn't need to purchase the protection because I can absorb the potential risk. The worst thing that could happen is I could lose $50. In this case, you can see how me being able to absorb the potential loss negates the need for insurance.

But let's think about the other side of the coin. Unfortunately, I have to witness very tragic events in my insurance agency as people call us when things go bad. A couple years into my career, I received a call from a mother who had recently purchased insurance through our agency. She was crying on the phone, not because her or her family were hurt, but because her daughter had accidentally hit a motorcyclist. It was dusk, she was turning left and didn't see the oncoming gentleman on his motorcycle. The motorcyclist was killed instantly. And the mother was calling me as her daughter could hardly speak from what had just happened. In the months that followed, our client was sued and understandably so. The settlement was over $1,000,000.

Next week, with your new understanding of insurance, I will begin helping you make good choices on what insurance to purchase and how to best purchase it.

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.





Land of the Free

THANKS *to the* BRAVE

A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS



VETERANS DAY
NOVEMBER 11
HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

To all of our troops and veterans,
Happy Veterans Day
and thank you for your service!
Your courage, commitment ***and*** sacrifice
fill us with admiration and gratitude.

TKHS invites community to Veterans Day assembly



Veterans salute the flag at last year's Thornapple Kellogg High School community Veterans Day program. **Courtesy photo**

Beginning at 10 a.m. on Veterans Day, Tuesday, Nov. 11, Thornapple Kellogg High School will open its doors to the community and all local veterans to the annual Veterans Day assembly in the large gymnasium.

Veterans, families and friends can enter the athletic lobby and park in the south parking lot off Bender Road.

Guests should arrive early to check in and be seated prior to the event starting.

The event gives students and community members a chance to honor local veterans who have served in any branch of the military at any time. Event organizers say it serves as a valuable lesson to students about what Veterans Day is all about and why it is recognized each year.

A local veteran will be a guest speaker and TKHS students will participate in honoring and remembering veterans through readings and essays. The high school honors choir and band will perform.

Veterans are encouraged to provide a photo for a slideshow that is shown during the assembly. Veterans who have shared photos in previous years need not resubmit a photo. Those who have not yet submitted a photo can email Mindy Wert at mwert@tkschools.org or call 269-795-5441 with questions.

The program will be followed by a luncheon provided by TK Schools for veterans and their guests. — *Thornapple Kellogg Schools*



Veterans stand at the Caledonia Veterans Memorial Wall inside Caledonia High School near the fine arts entrance. **Courtesy photo**

Veterans' legacies live on at Cal Veterans Memorial Wall

Karen Turko-Ebright
Staff Writer

Americans across the country will pause to remember veterans and thank them for their bravery, courage, service and sacrifice next week. Veterans Day is right around the corner on Tuesday, Nov. 11, and several local tributes will happen throughout the week. One school wants you to remember veterans every day. That's why a Veterans Memorial Wall is displayed at the fine arts entrance at Caledonia High School.

Anyone can add the name of someone who has served in the military with Caledonia ties to the wall. The digital wall displays the names of local veterans and adds information to the Veterans Memorial database.

Locals can submit names to the wall through a form found at calschools.org/community/veterans/.

Veterans honored will be forever commemorated both on the memorial wall and in the digital database.

The Veterans Memorial Wall at CHS was established through a collaborative effort spearheaded by Brody Woodwyk, a member of the Class of 2024, whose goal was to create a lasting tribute to those who served.





'Operation Green Light' helps highlight veterans, veterans services

James Gemmell
Contributing Writer

As part of the third annual "Operation Green Light" initiative, Kent County Veterans Services has been handing out green light bulbs to help "light the county green."

This year's endeavor began on Nov. 4, and it will run through Veterans Day on Tuesday, Nov. 11.

Kent County Veterans Services states on its website that lighting up in green is a "visible way for residents, businesses and government organizations to say, 'We see you. We thank you.'"

Veterans Services had 2,000 green bulbs to pass out. Dan Zar, the agency's community outreach specialist, said that is the most bulbs the agency has ever given out.

And they were going quickly at the Veterans Services office on Fuller Avenue and at the various Kent District Library branches, as well as the Grand Rapids Public Library branches. The light bulbs are available during open hours of operation, but Zar said individuals should make sure there are still some available before heading there.

Veterans Services officials encourage residents and businesses to swap out their outdoor lights for green bulbs to show support for military veterans.

"So, it's been really, really nice," Zar said. "It's a very simple mission. Operation Green Light is a chance for you to show support for military veterans."

The operation also allows KCVS officials an opportunity to draw attention to the services it provides for veterans in the county.

"We hear every day from veterans that are overwhelmed by the amount of paperwork (required)," Zar said, referring to applications for things like service-connected disability or VA non-service-connected pensions.

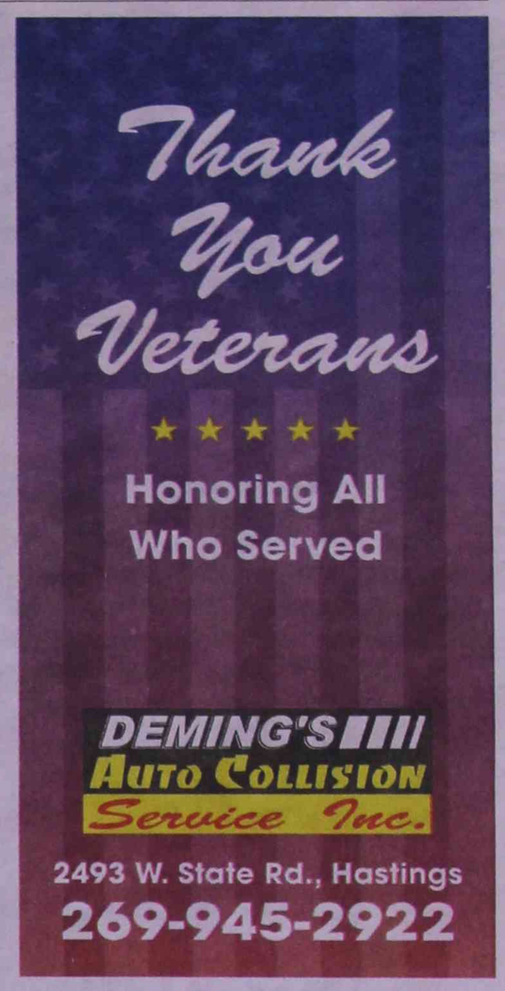
"And so, we are kind of their easy button. And we're a free service, so they come in, they bring their paperwork, and we kind of follow them from the start of filing the claim to the end," he added.

The week-long Operation Green Light observation will culminate with the United Veterans Council of Kent County's annual Veterans Day Parade on Nov. 11 in downtown Grand Rapids. The parade will step off at 6 p.m. from the corner of Ottawa Avenue and Lyon Street.

"There will be a ton of different fire trucks and police cars," Zar said. "Our office will have a car in the parade. And we'll be handing out candy and merchandise about our office."

The parade will proceed south along Monroe Avenue, before turning left onto Fulton Street and heading east to Veterans Memorial Park for a ceremony of remembrance.

"And it's just so nice to see the streets lined, and all for veterans," Zar said. "So, come on down, meet us there. We'll be looking out for all the people who we expect to attend."





★ SALUTE TO VETERANS ★

TSC Hometown Heroes™

10% OFF
this Veterans Day, Nov. 11, for verified Hometown Heroes

Veterans, military family members and first responders, get verified today for savings and special benefits.

TSC TRACTOR SUPPLY Co

petsense by Tractor Supply



THE SUN AND NEWS | VIEW

TK holds late lead this time, knocks off Saxons

Manley said last time it is great for both communities, a super physical football game. They're going to feel it. If you say happens, we know our kids can top this time. Super exciting for our kids, our community, everyone. It's awesome.

Robinson had two-yard and 14-yard touchdown runs in the first quarter as Hastings is the Trojans built a 14-0 lead. TK never trailed.

Winebrenner eventually scored on a 15-yard run and then followed up with a two-point conversion run to get the Saxons within 20-14 of the Trojans 15 seconds before halftime. Hastings tied the ballgame on a 71-yard touchdown run by Hastings 53 seconds into the second half.

Trojan senior Zach Eldridge scored what proved to be the game-winning touchdown on a seven-yard run with 4:17 to go in the third quarter. He took a pitch out to the right, made sure he got the first down and then weaved through traffic to the end zone. A Robinson two-point run provided the final points of the game.

Pressure from the Trojans' defensive front in a couple of rare passing situations for the Saxons helped TK hold that eight-point lead for the final 16 minutes. TK junior Logan Goggins came through the first two with a Tossup a pass attempts on a fourth-and-7 from the TK 22-yard-line early in the fourth.

The Saxon defense finally stopped a TK drive that lasted more than six minutes by stuffing a run at the Hastings 25-yard-line with 4:21 to go.

Just like in the first match-up in Middleville, Hastings headed towards the TK end zone as the clock was ticking down. The Saxons moved the ball from their

See HOLDS on 12

LIGHT TRUCK PARTS
FULL SERVICE & TOW PULL IN
269-381-2360
USED PARTS · USED TIRES
1011 LAKE ST. KALAMAZOO

TK holds late lead this time, knocks off Saxons

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Thornapple Kellogg junior lineman Brody Hammer rushed to the end of the handshake line for some extra hugs grabbing Hastings' Trapper Reigler, Mason Tossava and others.

With shoulder pads still wrapped in jerseys on the turf and the Baum Stadium at Johnson Field stands clearing out, Hastings' Jonah Hamp got a quick embrace from Thornapple Kellogg sophomore Zeke Webster.

There are 13 miles of road between Thornapple Kellogg High School in Middleville and Hastings High School, and for the second time during the 2025 varsity football season there was just one score between the two teams in the end. Thornapple Kellogg (7-3) avenged a two-point August loss to the Saxons (7-3) in Middleville by scoring a 28-20 victory in Hastings in the MHSAA Division 3 District Semifinals Friday, Oct. 31.

Thornapple Kellogg senior fullback Debo Robinson and Hastings senior running back Cardale Winebrenner took a second for a photo with each other. They'd just spent two hours knocking the snot out of everybody that got in their way – including each other.

Thornapple Kellogg senior center Jake Welch Jr. said there wasn't too much difference between the Trojans' early season match-up with the Saxons and Friday night's playoff opener. Hastings took a two-point win in the regular season opener in Middleville on a last-second field goal.

"Our defense was a big part of this," Welch said. "We were able to get a couple stops. Last time, I don't know if we stopped them. Maybe we stopped them once. We didn't have any mistakes. We didn't have that fumble on the goal-line. So, it was amazing. Even though we turnover the ball [on downs in the fourth quarter], our defense goes out and gets an interception and we get to celebrate, and we're playing Lowell! I'm excited."

The Trojans were set to visit Lowell (8-2) Friday, Nov. 7, to play for a district championship as the Red Arrows knocked off Coldwater 49-14 in the district's other semifinal contest Oct. 31.

"It's always a chess match," Thornapple Kellogg head coach Jeff Dock said. "They did a great job of adjusting, then trying to find what is working. Then it turns into a slugfest. Just like coach Murphy said last time. It is great for both communities, a super physical football game. They're going to feel it. We're going to feel it. It just so happens we came out on top this time. Super ecstatic for our kids, our community, everyone. It is awesome.

Robinson had two-yard and 14-yard touchdown runs in the first quarter in Hastings as the Trojans built a 14-0 lead. TK never trailed.

Winebrenner eventually scored on a 13-yard run and then followed up with a two-point conversion run to get the Saxons within 20-14 of the Trojans 13 seconds before halftime. Hastings tied the ballgame on a 71-yard touchdown run by Hamp 53 seconds into the second half.

Trojan senior Zach Eldridge scored what proved to be the game-winning touchdown on a seven-yard run with 4:17 to go in the third quarter. He took a pitch out to the right, made sure he got the first down and then weaved through traffic to the end zone. A Robinson two-point run provided the final points of the game.

Pressure from the Trojans' defensive front in a couple of rare passing situations for the Saxons helped TK hold that eight-point lead for the final 16 minutes. TK junior Logan Goggins came through the line to reject a Tossava pass attempt on a fourth-and-7 from the TK 22-yard-line early in the fourth.

The Saxon defense finally stopped a TK drive that lasted more than six minutes by stuffing a run at the Hastings 23-yard-line with 4:21 to go.

Just like in the first match-up in Middleville, Hastings headed towards the TK end zone as the clock was ticking down. The Saxons moved the ball from their

See **HOLDS** on 12



Thornapple Kellogg defenders Elliott Neff (left) and Debo Robinson (30) work to bring down Hastings running back Cardale Winebrenner as teammates close in to help during the Trojans' 28-20 win over the Saxons in the MHSAA Division 3 District Semifinal inside Baum Stadium at Johnson Field in Hastings Friday, Oct. 31. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

LIGHT TRUCK PARTS
USED PARTS • PICK UPS • ONE TONS • VANS • SUV'S • JEEPS • 4X4S
FULL SERVICE & YOU PULL IT
269-381-2300
USED PARTS USED TIRES
1811 LAKE ST., KALAMAZOO

616-891-0150
BUSINESS HOURS:
Monday - Friday: 8 A.M. to 5 P.M.
Ed's BODY SHOP
COMPLETE COLLISION REPAIR
110 Johnson Street SE
Caledonia, MI 49316
Your trusted Body Shop for over 32 years



Thornapple Kellogg junior defensive lineman Logan Goggins lets out a yell after batting down a Saxon pass for a fourth down stop during the fourth quarter of the MHSAA Division 3 District Semifinal at Hastings High School Friday, Oct. 31.

HOLDS

Continued from Page 11

own 23 quickly to midfield, converted on a fourth-and-two run by Tyler Frazer to the TK 40, responded to a TK defensive time-out by coming out in the shotgun formation instead of the Wing-T and getting a 12-yard pass for a first down from Tossava to Frazer.

Hastings had the ball first-and-ten at the TK 28-yard-line with 59 seconds to go. A fumble in the backfield forced the Saxons to use their final time out though; a second down pass missed its mark; and then Tossava rolled left on third-and-12 from the TK 30. With rushers coming his way he fired a pass down field that was intercepted by Thornapple Kellogg's Camden Peter.

Hamp, the intended receiver on the play, hauled down Peter with the help of Frazer and then laid on the turf an extra beat. Momentarily, Robinson hustled over to grab his left arm and Frazer grabbed his right, and they helped him to his feet.

Trojan junior quarterback Micah Dock only needed to kneel down once in the victory formation to erase the rest of the clock.

Robinson was the workhorse for the Trojan offense, behind a stellar effort from the TK offensive line. He rushed 17 times for 138 yards and the two touchdowns.

"Our offensive line did a nice hob. The kid is special," coach Dock said. "He runs incredibly hard. It's hard for one guy to bring him down, and he is consistently breaking tackles." Coach Murphy said his team certainly won't miss facing him next season.

TK also got a couple big bursts from Malachi VanEngen who closed the night with seven rushes for 122 yards and a touchdown. He scored on a 74-yard run in the second quarter to answer the Saxons' first touchdown. Eldridge closed the night with six caries for 48 yards for TK.

"Tonight was an everyone night … Debo did amazing. All of our A backs did amazing," Welch said, "Zach and Malachi they were great. Our wide receivers didn't get thrown the ball much, but we didn't need to. They did their job blocking. Our quarterback made his reads correctly. It was a great night all around.

"The offensive line was on fire the entire night. Everything was going right. Everything. It means the quarterbacks reads are easier, the ball carriers can run better. Everything is good when the O-line blocks."

It was a similar effort on the other side. Winebrenner had a team-high 21 carries for 71 yards and a touchdown. Hamp had 16 carries for 170 yards and hit a couple big ones. Hamp tallied the Saxons' first points on a 51-yard touchdown run a minute and a half into the second quarter that pulled his team within 14-6.

Coach Dock said there isn't anything easier about facing the Saxons' Wing-T attack for the second time in a season, even if his guys did learn a little something from the first match-up.

"They're really good over there. They run their offense well. They've got a great coaching staff. They find the holes. They find what to do, and it stresses us big time."

Quarterback Micah Dock was 2-for-3 passing for 30 yard for TK. He was intercepted once, by Hamp, on the final play of the first half. Tossava closed the game for Hastings 4-of-8 passing for 68 yards.

"They're a good football team. We knew it," Murphy said. "They had a couple nice outside plays that gave us trouble in the first half, and we seemed to shut that down, but you shut down one thing and they go to another thing. They had nice combinations coming back in the second half and we had a hard time stopping them, and they did really, really well on defense."

"They were being very disciplined, and staying home and doing what they had to do," he added. "They kept a couple guys on the fullback and made it hard to run our inside trap. They stayed outside when we were running the fullback inside, and they stayed disciplined and stayed home. That does make it more challenging."

Peter led the TK defense with nine tackles. Hammer had eight tackles and Lucas Ploeg had six. Elliot Neff, Jack Smith, AJ Dutcher and Preston Gummo had five tackles apiece.

Tyce Richardson led Hastings in tackles with six. Frazer and Spencer Wilkins had five tackles each and Reigler added four.

Frazer missed some time throughout the night with an injury, another hit to an already thin stable of varsity regulars for the Saxons. A lot of varsity football teams are beat up around the state come November, and Hastings was no exception. The Saxons were without starting running back Trevin Russell, starting center Seth Arnold and stand-out cornerback Jack Webb. Russell and Arnold were both two-way starters.





Reynolds' record 38 kills power Scots into D1 District Finals

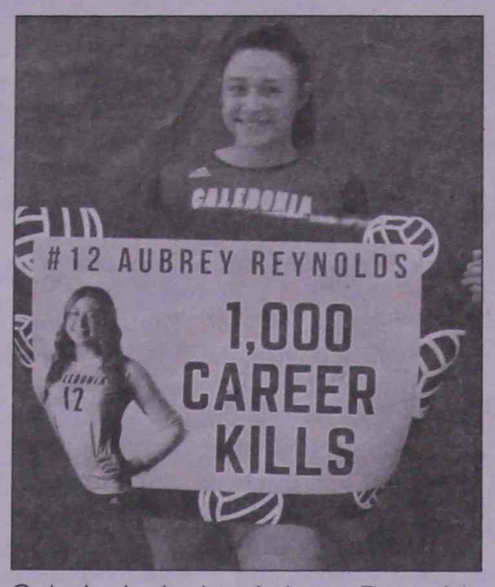
Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Caledonia junior outside hitter Aubrey Reynolds set a school record with 38 kills, surpassed 1,000 varsity kills and more importantly the Fighting Scots won three sets.

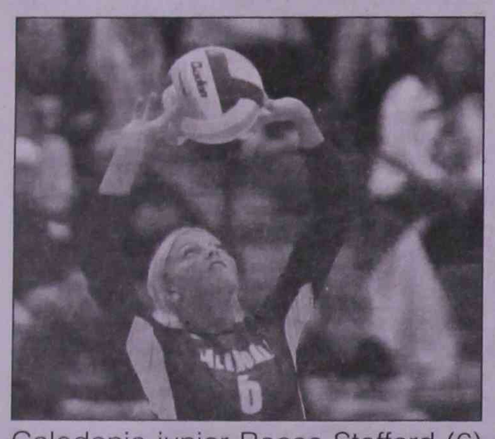
The Caledonia varsity girls' volleyball team bested Gull Lake in five sets in the MHSAA Division 1 District Semifinals at Plainwell High School Wednesday, and the Scots were set to face Plainwell in the district final Nov. 6 back in Plainwell.

The two teams were back and forth all evening wit the Scots winning in the end by the scores of 15-25, 25-16, 23-25, 25-13, 15-9

Reynolds had 18 digs and three blocks to go with her record-setting kill total. She earns a spot in the MHSAA record book with the 38 kills. Only 30 times has that total ever been surpassed in a single match.



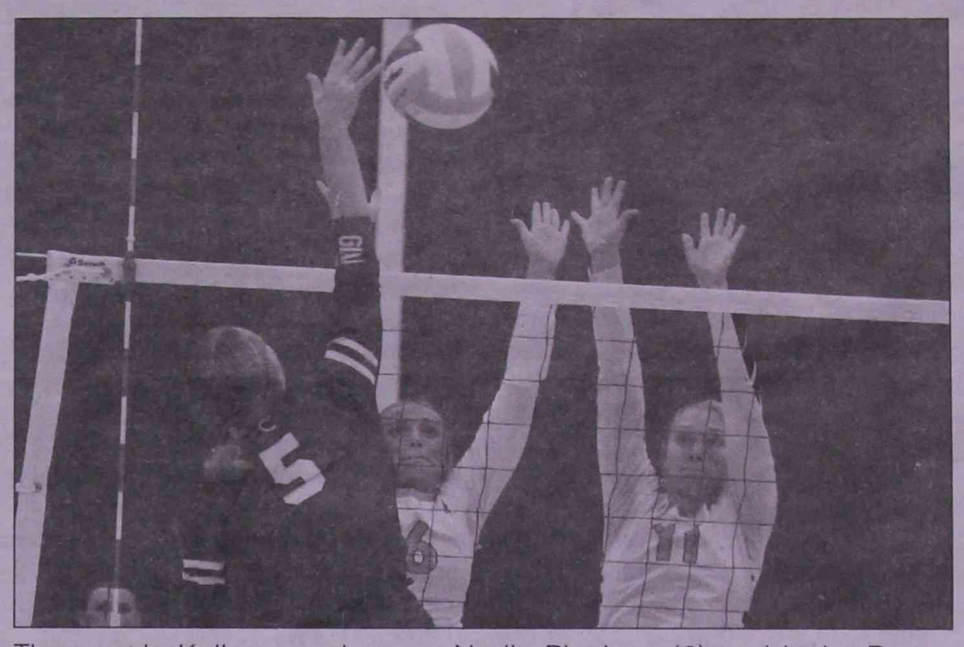
Caledonia junior Aubrey Reynolds (12) is celebrated for getting her 1000th varsity kill following her team's five-set win over Gull Lake in the MHSAA Division 1 District Semifinal at Plainwell High School Wednesday. **Photos by Perry Hardin**


Caledonia junior Reese Stafford (6) sets the ball at the net during the fifth game of her team's MHSAA Division 1 District Semifinal against Gull Lake at Plainwell High School Wednesday.

Senior setter Kyla Charles had two kills, 23 assists and four blocks for the Scots. Junior Kayleigh Miersen had five kills, 12 digs and two aces. Junior libero Avery Seif chipped in 18 digs and an ace. Junior setter Reese Stafford finished with 17 assists and four aces.

The winner of Thursday's district final will head to Portage Northern for a Division 1 Regional Tournament in the week ahead. The regional semifinals are scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 11, and the regional final Thursday, Nov. 13.

Kalamazoo Central knocks off TK ladies in D1 District Quarterfinal


Thornapple Kellogg sophomore Nadia Piccione (6) and junior Reece Ritsema (11) go up to try and block an attack from Kalamazoo Central senior outside hitter Savannah Henley during their MHSAA Division 1 District opener at Plainwell High School Monday, Nov. 3. The Maroon Giants took a 25-13, 25-16, 25-19 win over the Trojans. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

Caledonia Community Schools
will be posting an RFP for
"Lawn and Landscape Services"
RFP information will be found on the district website:
https://www.calschools.org/bond/

Your local agent insures your
Crops

Jason Parks
121 E. Main Street
Downtown Middleville
FARM BUREAU INSURANCE
Michigan's Insurance Company
(269) 795-8827
jparks@fbinsmi.com
FarmBureauInsurance.com

WE'RE HERE FOR ALL YOUR HEATING AND COOLING NEEDS
Residential & Commercial
–Gas Furnaces
–Gas Boilers
–Air Conditioners
–Heat Pumps
–Water Heaters
–Humidifiers

DeWeerd
HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING, INC.
DEWEERDHTG.COM 269-792-2234
68 years Since 1955
LENNOX
A+ BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS

Johnston leads trio of Scots in the 15's at D1 Finals

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

With about a mile and a half to go Caledonia senior Noah Johnston started working his way forward.

A mile into the race in a crowd of 251 boys in the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 1 Cross Country Finals at Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn Saturday, Nov. 1, Johnston was in 67th place. But he liked his pace.

"I got out, I think I was in like the top 60 at the mile, but I came through at 5:02. I knew that was the pace I needed so I wasn't too concerned with how far back I was,"Johnston said.

"I think at about a mile and a half I saw that there was a group ahead and they were starting to drop people, so I was like 'I need to catch that group.' And I caught that group and just hung on. That was the group that ended up getting all-state."

By the time mile number two was done he was in 29th place. The top 30 in each race at the MHSAA Cross Country Finals earn all-state medals.

By the end of mile three he was in 28th place. And in the end he earned an all-state medal, in his first appearance in the state finals, by placing 26th. Johnston hit the finish line in 15 minutes 37.60 seconds. The last of the 30 state medalists clocked in with a blistering pace of 15:46.20.

"It is a blessing. I was hoping to get it. I was pretty sure I could. I went out and raced it, and I did it. I got all-state. I am really proud of myself and my team," Johnston said.

Johnston just missed qualifying for the state finals as a junior, and said he matured this season. He said the strategy he used at the state finals, of not getting out too fast and knowing he'd have energy to push later in a race, was something he really focused on as a senior.

Caledonia varsity boys' coach Ben Thompson said he thought the chances of Johnston earning a medal at MIS were extremely high heading into the meet.

"He has just been so consistent just race after race after race," Thompson said. "He has had amazing workouts the last couple of weeks. You could just see that he was ready physically and mentally. He is always right even keel, which is just what you want. He was ranked right around 30 coming in, and I was just like 'you just need to run the way you've been running all year and you'll be fine.'

"We didn't even have too many talks about it this week. It was just like you're going to run well and you're going to get it. To run 15:37 was incredible. Super happy for him. That was one of the goals coming here today was to have him walk out all-state because of all the work he has done."

Caledonia had three guys finish in less than 16 minutes, but Johnston was the only one to finish on the medal stand. The other two set new personal records though, and will get two more shots at those medals. Caledonia sophomores Bennett Snapper and Sean Thompson placed 46th and 47th respectively. Snapper improved his PR to 15:54.20 and Thompson pushed his down to 15:55.50.

Fighting Scot head coach Ben

See next page



Caledonia senior Noah Johnston races through the crowd a mile and a half into the Division 1 boys' race during the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Cross Country Finals at Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn Saturday, Nov. 1. Johnston ran a time of 15 minutes 37.60 seconds to earn an all-state medal with a 26th-place finish. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

100 East Main Street ~ Middleville, MI 49333
269-795-3385
www.villageofmiddleville.org

The Village of Middleville
Is seeking a qualified applicant as

VILLAGE COUNCIL TRUSTEE

Members of the Village Council review meeting packets prior to each meeting to consider and act on special events, ordinances, and infrastructure projects; set tax millage rates and approve the annual budget; and any other business that comes before the Council. Members are also appointed to a committee or board to serve as a liaison between the Council and that committee/board.

The Council operates under the Michigan General Law Village Act of 1895. A member of the Village Council should become familiar with these laws. Attendance at the Michigan Municipal League's training and conferences is encouraged and paid for by the Village. The term of office will begin upon approval and swearing-in of the member and run until November 20, 2026. All Village Council members must reside within the Village limits and be a registered voter.

For more information regarding the open Village Council seat, please contact

Village Manager Craig Stolsonburg at 269-795-3385 or stolsonburgc@villageofmiddleville.org

Qualifying applicants should submit a completed

Application for Boards and Commissions and a letter of interest to:
Village of Middleville
Kevin Smith, Village President
100 E Main Street – PO Box 69
Middleville, MI 49333

Applications will be accepted until November 14, 2025.

An application can be be found on the Village of Middleville website at

https://www.villageofmiddleville.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Application-for-Boards-and-Commissions-updated-2025.pdf

or can be picked up at the Middleville Village Hall during our normal business hours.

Monday – Thursday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm and Friday 8:00 am – 12:00 pm

Posted October 29, 2025
Rhonda Van Polen, Village Clerk

100 East Main Street ~ Middleville, MI 49333
269-795-3385
www.villageofmiddleville.org

PUBLIC HEARING

The Village of Middleville Council
will hold a PUBLIC HEARING on Tuesday, November 25, 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
on the proposed 2026 Fiscal Year Budget and Water/Sewer Rates.

THE PROPERTY TAX MILLAGE RATE PROPOSED TO BE LEVIED TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSED BUDGET AND WATER AND SEWER RATES WILL BE A SUBJECT OF THIS HEARING.

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 Village Clerk at rvanpolen@villageofmiddleville.org, or drop them off in person to Middleville Village Hall. Written comments received prior to 4:00 pm on November 25, 2025 will be distributed to Council members and it will be noted that such comments were received prior to the meeting.

The proposed budget will be 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), and on the Village website beginning November 20, 2025.

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 10/30/2025
Rhonda Van Polen
Village Clerk