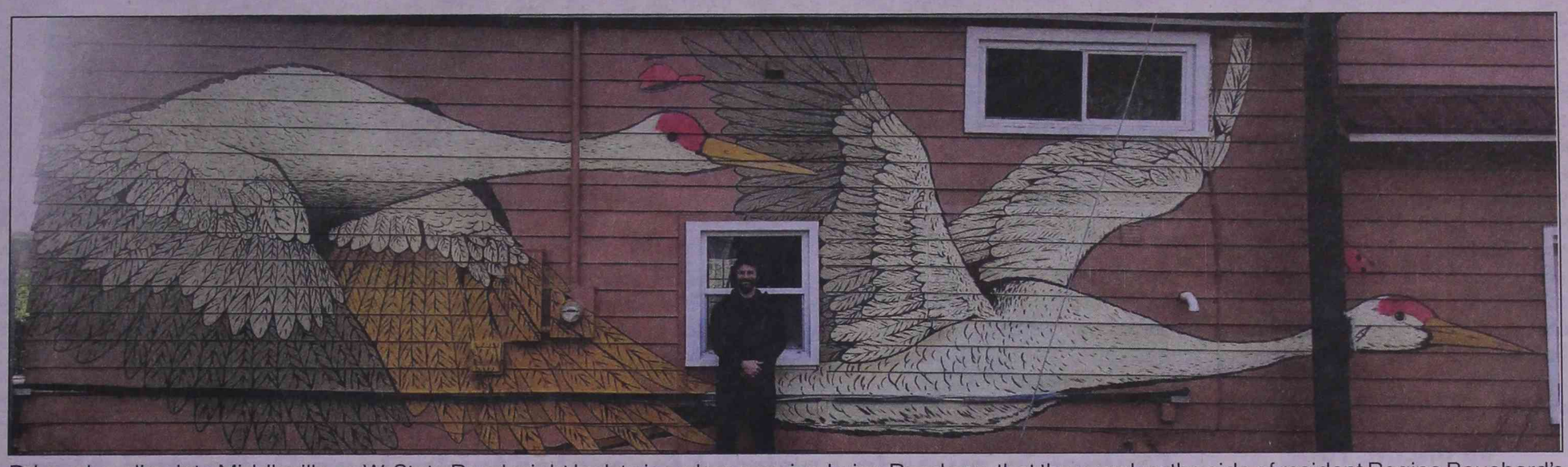
THE SUN AND NEWS
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FIGHTING SCOTS ARE UNDEFEATED CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS AGAIN
PAGE 12



Hastings Public Library
227 E State Street
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# Mural complete at Middleville resident's home



Drivers heading into Middleville on W. State Road might look twice when passing Irving Road now that the mural on the side of resident Regina Bouchard's home is complete. Grand Rapids artist Nick Nortier of Old Growth Creative (pictured) was commissioned for the piece, which depicts two sandhill cranes in flight across the east side of the home overlooking the Thornapple River valley. Bouchard said sandhill cranes are a common sight in her backyard. Now, they will greet passersby as they enter Middleville. More information about Nortier and his art can be found at oldgrowthcreative.com. **Courtesy photo**

# Gaines Twp. trustees approve hiring of full-time firefighters in Cutlerville

**James Gemmell**
Contributing Writer

The National Fire Protection Association recommends a minimum of four firefighters be on duty for each fire station shift, and Gaines Charter Township is getting closer to meeting that standard.

The Gaines Township Board of Trustees voted 6-1 on Monday night, Nov. 10, to authorize township staff to hire three full-time firefighters for the township's Culterille fire station. The hirings will begin in early 2026 and the cost will be added to the fiscal year 2026 public safety budget.

"Right now, the plan is to place those new full-time firefighters at the Cutlerville station," Township Manager Rod Weersing said. "But, if needs change down the road, we can move them to the Dutton station."

Trustees said the three firefighters will be additions to each of the three shifts that the township currently has at the Cutlerville station, officially known as Gaines Fire Station No. 1.

Weersing said the firefighters at Station No. 1 operate on a 48/96 work schedule, working two consecutive 24-hour shifts followed by 96 hours off. The cycle repeats after the four days off.

The township's Fire Advisory and Personnel committees had recommended the township board approve adding the additional full-time firefighters.

"If you go into a structure fire, you want to do the life-saving efforts," Trustee Rob DeWard said. "But you also want to put the fire out, and you can't do that with the number of people we have provided. So, you end up waiting for paid on-calls or mutual aid (to

See **APPROVE** on 5



Gaines Township's new platform fire truck will arrive from Pierce Manufacturing in Wisconsin this month. **Photo courtesy of Gaines Township**

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# Hundreds gather in Yankee Springs to honor veterans



Hastings High School students Garrett Sawyer and Owen Boge play "Taps" during the Saturday, Nov. 8, tribute to veterans at the Yankee Springs Township Fire Station. **Courtesy photos**



Hastings High School students Owen Boge (left) and Garrett Sawyer pose with their trumpets. The two played "Taps" at the Yankee Springs Veterans Day Ceremony on Saturday, Nov. 8

Over 150 people braved the weather to attend the Yankee Springs Township Veterans Day Ceremony on Saturday, Nov. 8.

Township Supervisor Rob Hoothuis welcomed the crowd before John R. Smith gave the invocation. Rob Geyer, a United States Army First Lieutenant, gave a history of "The Star-Spangled Banner," and the audience joined together to sing the patriotic song.

Next in the program, Dr. Tyler Veneman, owner of Yankee Springs Dental, spoke on the importance of veterans' history. Trustee Dave VanHouten, who served as a First Lieutenant in the Navy, spoke of the importance of young adults joining the armed forces.

Mick Lane sang two different songs appropriate for the tribute. Three veterans were honored with a Quilt of Valor from presenter Carol Ditkof.

The ceremony wrapped up with a three-rifle volley from American Legion Post 45 in Hastings, followed by two Hastings High School students, Garrett Sawyer and Owen Boge, playing "Taps" on their trumpets.

After the solemn tribute, the crowd gathered together for lunch and cookies provided by Curley Cone and the Gun Lake Women's Club. — *KTE*

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## Township awards contract for water tank along Patterson Avenue

James Gemmell
Contributing Writer

Construction of a 2-million-gallon water storage tank along Patterson Avenue in Gaines Township is scheduled to be completed by Oct. 31, 2027.

Township Manager Rod Weersing said it is uncertain when Preload LLC will begin building the 40-foot ground-mounted tank, roughly a half mile south of 68th Street.

Township staff said the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes & Energy must approve the construction permit before the project can begin.

Gaines Township trustees voted 7-0 at the township board meeting Monday, Nov. 10, to award the contract to the Louisville, Kentucky-based company, noting Preload was the lowest of two bidders for the $4.6 million project.

The cost will be evenly split between Byron and Gaines townships, which jointly operate the Byron-Gaines Utility Authority, which maintains the water and sewer systems for both townships.

Weersing said the Gaines Township portion of the bill will be paid through the township's water fund.

The township's consulting engineer, Jeff Gritter of Vriesman & Korhorn,

See **TANK** on 6



Consulting engineer Jeff Gritter with Vriesman & Korhorn informed Gaines Township staff that two bids were received for the Patterson Avenue water tank project. **Photo by James Gemmell**

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Phone: 269-945-9554
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CONTACT US
Editor: Molly Macleod
mmacleod@mihomepaper.com
Sports: Brett Bremer
bbremer@mihomepaper.com
Advertising Manager: Chris Silverman
csilverman@mihomepaper.com

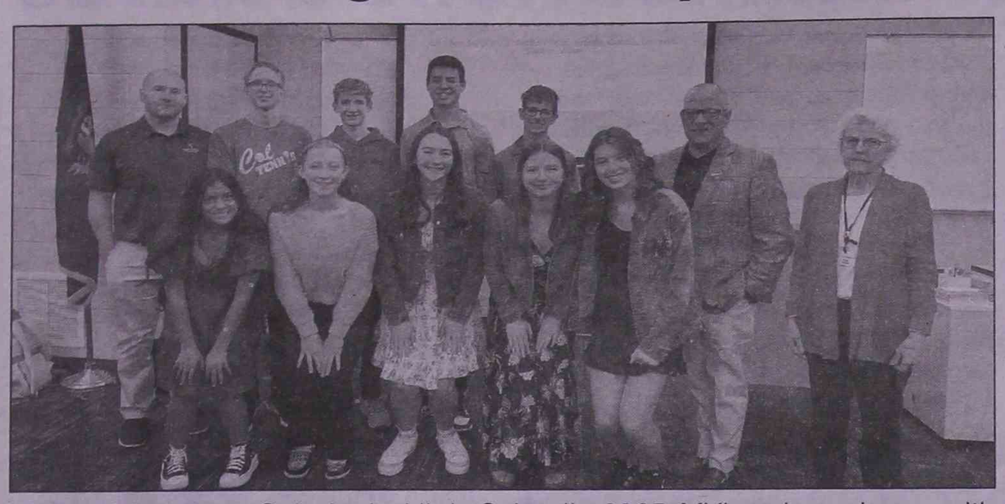
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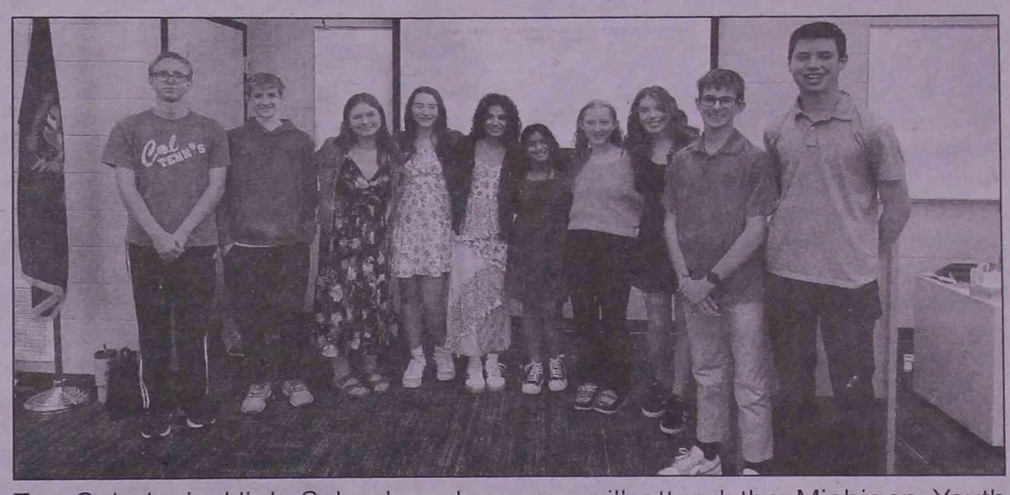
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# Caledonia High School sophomores selected for state leadership conference



Pictured here are Caledonia High School's 2025 MYLead nominees with representatives from local sponsors Hulst Jepsen Physical Therapy, Highpoint Community Bank and the Caledonia Women's Club.



Ten Caledonia High School sophomores will attend the Michigan Youth Leadership (MYLead) conference this spring. The selected sophomores include (from left) Zack Zupin, Gavin Grysen, Stella Barnwell, Isabella Palmitier, Tiona Sakala, Shrimathi Kumar, Brinley Lyzenga, Isabelle Horning, Nick Amorose and Owen Marshall. **Courtesy photos**

Ten sophomores at Caledonia High School have been selected to attend the Michigan Youth Leadership Conference (MYLead). The GFWC-Caledonia Women's Club, in collaboration with Caledonia High School and generous community sponsors, is funding the students' trip.

This year's honorees will spend three days this spring connecting with peers from across Michigan to develop leadership skills, gain new perspectives, and bring back ideas to strengthen their school and community, according to school officials. Students selected to attend the conference include Nick Amorose, Stella Barnwell, Gavin Grysen, Isabelle Horning, Brinley Lyzenga, Owen Marshall, Isabella Palmitier, Tiona Sakala, Shrimathi Kumar and Zack Zupin.

The students and their families were recently honored at a brunch celebration, where last year's MYLead participants shared insights from their

See **LEADERSHIP** on 7

## Teen dies after colliding with truck in Gaines Twp.

**James Gemmell**
Contributing Writer

The Kent County Sheriff's Office has identified the teenager who died in a traffic crash in Gaines Township on Nov. 6 as Alexander Rodriguez.

The fatal accident occurred just before 7 a.m. last Thursday. According to sheriff's office officials, Rodriguez was transported to a local hospital with critical injuries and later died that day.

KCSO Sgt. Scott Dietrich said the 19-year-old, who reportedly lived close to the scene of the accident, was driving the dirt bike on 68th Street when he apparently ran a red light and slammed into the side of a cement truck on East Paris Avenue.

Dietrich added the dirt bike was not considered to be street legal, in that the bike allegedly did not have the proper lights and other required safety equipment.


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# Cal Schools receives communications awards

Caledonia Community Schools (CCS) recently announced that it has earned multiple awards from the Michigan School Public Relations Association (MSPRA) in recognition of outstanding achievement in school communications. The district received three Awards of Excellence and one Award of Merit. District representatives say the awards highlight the district's continued commitment to transparent, engaging and creative storytelling that reflects the heart of the Caledonia community.

CCS received an Excellence Award in the Social Media Campaign category for its May 6 operating millage renewal campaign, which effectively informed and engaged voters. The campaign was recognized for its clarity, consistency and community collaboration across all digital platforms.

An Excellence Award was also presented in the Newsletter category for "The Cal Communicator: Sharing Our Story," the district's community newsletter that showcases student success, staff excellence, and district updates. The publication was recognized for its dedication to connecting with families and residents through meaningful and accessible storytelling.

The district earned a third Excellence Award in the Photo category for Branded Purple and Gold, a striking visual representation of Caledonia pride. The award-winning image captures the vibrant spirit and unity of the Fighting Scots community.

CCS was also recognized with a Merit Award in the Marketing Materials category for "Destination Caledonia: Where People Make the Difference," a campaign that celebrates the district's identity and emphasizes Caledonia as a destination for excellence in education, community and culture.

"These honors reflect the care and creativity our team puts into every project," said Dirk Weeldreyer, superintendent of CCS. "Every story, campaign, and image represents the incredible people who make Caledonia what it is, a community where people truly make the difference."

The MSPRA awards recognize exemplary work in school communication and public relations across Michigan, celebrating efforts that foster understanding, trust, and engagement between schools and their communities.

Representatives from CCS extended their gratitude to MSPRA for this recognition and to its staff, students and families for their ongoing support and partnership in sharing the district's story. — *Caledonia Community Schools*


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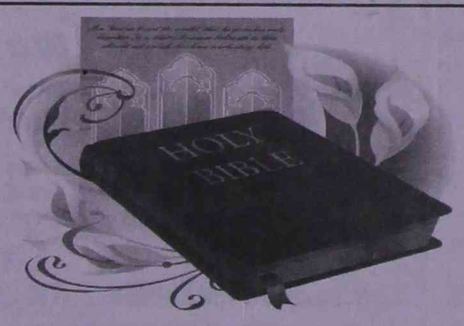
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## MIDDLEVILLE TOPS 546

The Nov. 10 meeting opened with roll call and the secretary's report. There is only one fish in the fishbowl.

After putting their meal cards in order, members spent their meeting time combining the "Our Day One" book and the meal cards. They each looked at meal plans they can work with.

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.*

## APPROVE

Continued from Page 1

arrive)."

The Byron Township Board of Trustees voted in July 2023 to end its 73-year partnership with Gaines Township in mutually running the Cutlerville Fire Department.

At that time, Byron Township officials decided to build their own fire station in Cutlerville in response to the growing number of fire calls in Byron Township. The split between the townships took effect last year.

Gaines Township trustees changed the name of the Cutlerville Fire Department to the Gaines Charter Township Fire Department.

Township staff reported the number of calls for service in Cutlerville declined slightly this fall after Byron Township launched its new $2.4 million fire station on Clay Avenue on Sept. 22.

"I have no doubt that we'll reach that point where the call volume's going to go back up again," Trustee Kathy VanderStel said. "But right now, the volume dropped a fair amount."

"We knew that the number was going to go down for a short while, because we aren't serving Byron anymore," added DeWard. "But nonetheless, it's an ideal situation to get us fully staffed so we're not sending firefighters into a hazardous situation."

Trustee Dan Fryling was the only board member to vote against the hirings.

"Personally, I think we should wait until next year when we have a full year of numbers and facts and figures from Byron (Township)," Fryling said.

"Although I think it's ridiculous what Byron did (in abruptly severing the partnership with Gaines Township), the one thing it does do, is it puts mutual aid – another station – within a half-mile of our station," he added. "I would run with what we have and see what those stats are a year from now."

Weersing was asked why it was important that the township board approve the hiring of three full-time firefighters now rather than waiting a year.

"The real reason for moving it ahead at this time was safety for our residents, safety for our firefighters," he replied.

The State of Michigan's budget for 2026 reportedly offers municipalities new public safety grants. That includes $8 million in one-time funding for the purchase of fire equipment.

Township Clerk Michael Brew asked at the board meeting whether Gaines will pursue the grants.

"It looks like we would be candidates (in applying) for those particular grants," he said.

Weersing added there is $81,000 in new revenue sharing funds from the state in the township's public safety budget, but it is earmarked for the policing side of public safety.

"It does help the overall budget, because that's money that we don't have to put toward the fire side," Weersing said.

Brew said the township should pursue potential grants.

"With the uncertainty in our revenue sharing and the way that (lawmakers) re-did the state budget … I would encourage us to go after whatever money we can go after," Brew added. "Because there are so many questions that they didn't answer by doing it at the very, very last minute at the state level."

Before Byron Township decided to end its partnership in mutually running the Cutlerville station, the township had agreed to split the $1.7 million cost for a new platform fire truck.

Weersing said Gaines Township ended up having to pay the full cost for the new 100-foot aerial fire truck, which will be delivered this month from Appleton, Wisconsin-based Pierce Manufacturing.

The new fire truck will replace the old Gaines fire truck that has been in service for more than two decades.

"The current (one) is ready to be taken out of service," Weersing said. "You hit the point where (aging trucks) just become a money pit. And every time you take them out, something different is breaking.

"So, this is a long-term investment in a new piece of equipment that will better serve the residents of the township."



Veterans were honored during Thornapple Kellogg High School's Veterans Day program on Tuesday, Nov. 11. Courtesy photo

## TKHS, community honor veterans at annual program

For 15 years, Thornapple Kellogg High School has invited the public to attend a school and community Veterans Day program. It was started largely by the efforts of John Loftus and later Charlie Pullen. Even though neither of those two men is with us anymore, the pride and tradition of the Veterans Day event remain — and it is a program they would almost certainly continue to be proud of today, say school officials.

TKHS held its annual Veterans Day program on Tuesday, Nov. 11.

Students play a significant role throughout the event. The high school band and honors choir performances leave the filled gymnasium quiet with respect and honor. When the solo bugler played "Taps," the gym reportedly became so quiet one could literally hear a pin drop — all to honor those who have served.

Several students shared readings and poems about Veterans Day and its meaning.

TKHS sophomore Leigha Jones started off by welcoming everyone to the event and thanking the veterans for attending. Sophomore Kayla Price gave the student address on what Veterans Day means to her. Her grandfather, Lance Flierman, sat among the honored veterans, but didn't know Kayla was giving a speech. Afterward, the two embraced.

"Veterans Day is very personal to me, because through Veterans Day, I remember how grateful I am for my grandpa and how, even though he doesn't see it all the time, he helps me be brave and courageous…When I think about him, I always know I have someone there supporting me and cheering me on, just like how he and his buddies were there for each other in the Air Force," said Price.

"It's easy to get caught up in our daily routines

See HONOR on 7


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# Serenity Village welcomes new executive director


Greg Hooson

Serenity Village Compassion Home, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing end-of-life care, recently announced the appointment of Greg Hooson as its new executive director.

According to a prepared statement on his appointment, Hooson brings a distinguished career in nonprofit leadership and human services. Hooson's background reportedly aligns perfectly with Serenity Village's mission of caring for guests at the end of their lives with compassion, respect, and dignity.

"We are honored to welcome Greg to Serenity Village," said Stephanie Fekkes, chairperson of the group's board of directors. "His deep understanding of human service organizations and his compassionate leadership style will help guide us as we prepare to open our doors and begin serving families in our community."

Under Hooson's leadership, officials with Serenity Village look forward to opening at the beginning of the new year a home-like setting for guests in their final days. The organization's mission is to ensure that no one in the community faces the end of life alone or without compassionate support.

"I am deeply humbled to join Serenity Village at such an important moment," said Hooson. "This home represents the heart of what community care should be — surrounding each guest and their loved ones with comfort, respect and compassion. I'm honored to help bring that vision to life."

Serenity Village will soon announce opportunities for community involvement, volunteer support, and partnerships as it prepares to welcome its first guests.

For more information about Serenity Village Compassion Home, visit online at serenitybc.org or visit the Serenity Village page on Facebook. — *DM*

## TANK

Continued from Page 2

had recommended approval of the project in a letter to Weersing.

"Please note that Preload LLC has constructed the two existing concrete ground storage tanks that are currently a part of the Byron-Gaines water system," Gritter wrote.

One of the ground-mounted water tanks is located on Eastern Avenue, near 92nd Street in Gaines Township, and the other on Division Avenue south of 92nd Street in Byron Township.

There also is an elevated water tower on 60th Street west of Wing Avenue. Combined, township records indicate they hold a total capacity of 4 million gallons of water.

Gaines Township obtains and purchases its municipal water supply from the City of Wyoming. Township staff said they received a notice from the city last year that the BGUA must increase its water storage capacity due to growing demand in Kent County's two fastest-growing townships.

After Monday's meeting, Weersing said the township has been considering adding more capacity for several years. One reason is so that the municipal water pumps will not have to run constantly during peak demand times.

"They've been suggesting it as something they would like to see happen, because of that strain on the pumps to move the water into the system," Weersing said. "So, by adding extra storage it gives us the ability – once we fill the tank – to let it run off gravity and give the pumps a break. It will be long-term better for the infrastructure."

The area of the township where the water tank will be built reportedly is rapidly growing in population, plus commercial and industrial growth.

The water storage tank will be located just south of the Amazon Fulfillment Center. Microsoft purchased a 316-acre site last year on Patterson Avenue at 76th Street for future development. Switch Inc. runs a major data center at its nearby pyramid building site on East Paris Avenue, Great Lakes Coca-Cola operates a distribution center on Rapids Drive, and Siliconature and Old Dominion Freight Shipping have facilities on 68th Street.

Prior to receiving bids, the township engineer and some Gaines Township staff members figured the project would be a lot more expensive.

"Jeff Gritter's estimate for this project was $5 million two years ago," Weersing said. "So, he figured they would probably come in (with bids) between $6 million and $7 million. When they opened at $4.6 million, Jeff was delighted."

Trustee Rob DeWard asked Weersing if Wyoming is comfortable with the water tank project planned for Patterson Avenue.

"Yes, they were good with it," Weersing said. "They were glad to see it keep moving down the road. They will be really happy when it's done. They're happy to see progress."

Township officials have also discussed recently the potential of adding a second connection point to the City of Wyoming's water system in the future. Some of the existing underground water and sewer pipes were installed in the early 1970s. They have expressed concern about the aging infrastructure and the potential crisis that could occur if the township's only water connection to Wyoming were to break at some point.

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# INCREASE:
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Zach Santmier

Money isn't the destination—it's the fuel that powers your journey. We all have places we want to go in life, but getting there requires a full tank. And if you've ever looked at your "financial gas gauge" and seen it hovering near empty, you know how stressful that can be.

For years, I lived paycheck to paycheck, constantly running on fumes. I was always trying to move forward, but my lack of financial structure kept me stranded. That's when I decided to follow a simple system built around eight financial markers—each one a checkpoint toward a full tank of peace and purpose.

The first and most foundational marker? Spend less than you make.

Simple. But not always easy. We all know the math: if you spend more than you earn, you'll end up empty. Yet most people struggle to live this out. Budgeting sounds good in theory, but how many of us actually stick to it? Too often, it becomes a source of frustration or conflict instead of a path to freedom.

When my wife and I started budgeting, I was excited about it—she wasn't. Not because she didn't care, but because sitting down to talk numbers while a baby cried in the background wasn't her idea of fun. Over time, we learned that it wasn't about building the perfect budget—it was about finding and fixing the leaks.

Find your leaks! Most expenses—your mortgage, utilities, gas—don't change much month to month. The real problem is the little leaks:

Eating out more than you realize.

Quick gas station snacks that add up.

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These leaks are subtle, but they sabotage your financial progress. To patch them up and truly spend less than you make, try these three proven strategies:

1. The Buddy System

Accountability changes everything. Find someone—a friend, mentor, or spouse—who will hold you to your goals. My wife is my built-in accountability partner. Before making an impulse buy, I run it by her. Whatever you have a leak in your budget, have a buddy who can be a buffer between you and an empty bank account.

2. The 24-Hour Pause

Impulse spending is the enemy of progress. Online shopping, especially on Amazon, makes it too easy. Before you hit "Buy Now," wait 24 hours. Let the emotional impulse fade and revisit the decision with a clear head. You'll be surprised how often you decide you don't really need that item after all.

3. Use Cash

If you really struggle to stop spending, go old school. Use cash. It's inconvenient—and that's exactly the point. When you physically hand over bills, you feel the weight of the transaction. That friction helps curb impulse buys and reinforces mindful spending.

To reach financial freedom, you must first stop the leaks. Spend less than you make, get a buddy, practice the 24-hour pause, and if needed, put cash between you and your purchases. Do this, and you'll be well on your way to a full financial tank—ready to go wherever your journey leads.

*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.*

## LEADERSHIP
Continued from Page 3

own conference experience and the impact it had on their personal growth and leadership journey.

Last year's MYLead participants included Alister Brew, Allison Dryburgh, Vivian Fink, Gabriella Henney, Braden Hofstee, Ty Kimbrell, Mackenzie Krentz, Madison Lockwood, Gretchen VanderEide and Meghan Venhuizen.

"We are deeply grateful to our local sponsors for investing in Caledonia's future leaders and helping provide this transformative opportunity," school officials stated in a press release. "We look forward to seeing how these students use what they learn at MYLead to continue making a difference in our community." — *Caledonia Community Schools*

## HONOR
Continued from Page 5

and forget how much has been given to make our lives possible. That is why it's important to take a moment and appreciate what we have and thank those who made it possible. Most of us know someone who has served, whether it's a family member, a friend, or even just a neighbor. And Veterans Day is a reminder to show them that gratitude, — not just today, but every day. Let them see how much we really do appreciate them and value them as heroes who have given us freedom, safety and opportunities we take for granted."

Flierman said after the program that he was impressed by his granddaughter's words.

"There's no better benefit I get as a veteran than having you as my granddaughter," he said as he hugged her after the ceremony.

The guest speaker was TK graduate Bruce Rendon, Class of 1969. He addressed the students and community members on behalf of his father, Rigoberto Rendon, who served in World War II.

High School Principal Tony Petersen introduced Rendon. "While Bruce is not a veteran, he too has served his country by being a member of the Michigan House of Representatives, where he passed several bills, including one that prohibits disorderly conduct at a military funeral. His father, Rigoberto, was his inspiration for his work ethic, his approach to government and his commitment to family and his quest to make the world a better place."

Rendon was honored to be invited back to TK to speak at the assembly and hoped he could hold it together while he spoke about Veterans Day and his own father. "Veterans Day – the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month – 1918 Armistice Day that ended World War I."

Rendon said his father grew up in Texas and one day, just before he turned 19, he received a letter in the mail calling him to service. Before long, he found himself on a freighter headed to North Africa to join in World War II.

Rendon related the stories he heard from his father about being in the trenches and taking two-hour shifts with a partner. His partner got sick one night, so Rendon had to cover many shifts. He also told of his father and partner in the trenches taking a direct hit; his partner was killed.

He described how, as a soldier, his father would crawl through the night, getting close to German troops and trying to capture them. His father was wounded twice while in service. Once, a sniper shot him.

"He felt something hit his back…he took his backpack off and here's this hole and a slug in a container of rations in his backpack. He did get shot by a sniper in the shoulder area and had to walk back to the front lines for medical treatment."

Rendon said his father was at the Rhine River when Hitler surrendered. "They went on to Munich, and Dad's outfit liberated Dachau (a German concentration camp.) He wasn't in on the first advance, but he was there."

Rendon said of his own experience that when he graduated from TK in 1969, he was ready for Vietnam and figured he would get called. "There was a 1S college deferment, so I started college at Ferris State. Well, that deferment went away and I went 1A and I thought, well, now I'm going. Then they came up with the lottery. They said they would get to 200. I drew 209 and they got to 203."

"For whatever reason, I wasn't called to duty, but here's how I look at it for myself," he said. "I did serve my state and my country by becoming a state representative and serving the public in the house and successfully getting 22 different acts passed, including House Bill 4284, which states that you cannot disrupt a military funeral."

Rendon said he was proud of his father and of all the veterans who have served or are still serving.

TK students offered several readings about Veterans Day including Aubree Stevens reading "The MIA POW Table" and Abigail Hoebeke reading "They Did Their Share." Exley Roon read "Thank a Veteran," and Gabriel Van read "The Best on Earth: A Veteran's Day Tribute."

The high school choir sang "We Honor You" and "Unsung Hero." The band performed "The Star-Spangled Banner," "Torch of Liberty," and "US Armed Forces Salute."

Veterans were recognized individually as they stood or waved to the crowd and then accepted a standing ovation after the final names were read. They were then welcomed to a luncheon served by high school students. — *Thornapple Kellogg Schools*

# Sporting News

## Record runner total, high-mileage at fourth annual Cal Crusher

**Brett Bremer**
Sport Editor

It was the biggest Cal Crusher yet.

A group of 125 runners took part and the top performer set a new record for mileage at the 30-hour endurance race spanning Nov. 1-2 in downtown Caledonia.

"It's a 30-hour endurance run," event founder Becky Bravata said. "People can come and the goal is just to run as many loops as you can. I's about a five-mile loop, 4.8. We have kids from elementary. I coach middle school cross country and middle school track, so we get a lot of my athletes. You'll see a lot of kids here. And I'm always amazed. I have a boy here that, I mean they run a 5K or they run two miles at our [school] races, I think he did 40 miles yesterday and today. They really just amaze themselves and go as far as they can go, and it's just kind of a social thing."

This was the fourth year of the Cal Crusher. The course was headquartered at the Caledonia Community Green Park Pavilion and traversed the trails and sidewalks from there around Emmons Lake, across the Caledonia Community Schools campuses, around the library and back to the park.

All monies raised by the event are donated to charity each fall, and Bravata said that typically totals between $3,000 and $4,00 a year. This year funds are going to benefit research into Type 1 diabetes.

Runners can come and go as they please throughout the event, which began on Saturday morning and concluded Sunday about noon of that weekend. A poster board and a marker awaited runners at the pavilion for check off each loop completed, along with a table of snacks and a couple propane heaters that helped keep Bravata warm throughout the night at the check-in station.

Bravata did a 100-mile run herself about five years ago, and then got into a challenge where the race organizer was looking for everyone to run a 50K, a 50-mile, a 100K and a 100-mile race. She got to the 100-mile portion and was starting to think about the cost and time involved in entering and traveling to a 100-mile race. She didn't want to run the 100 miles alone.

She gathered members of a local running group and others from the community, found volunteers to work aid stations as she could, and the event has taken off.

"It's just us doing something we love to do. It is great for people to get out here and meet new people and encourage each other Bravata said. "Everybody kept saying we love that there are so many kids here this year."

That was due in part to the fact that most of the high school and middle school cross country runners were done with their season. The event has typically been a little earlier in the fall – when it's not so chilly through the night. The only local school runners still going at that point were the Caledonia varsity boys who were running in the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 1 Cross Country Finals at Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn the afternoon of Nov. 1.

The 2025 Cal Crusher top mileage runner knows a little something about international racing. Scott Whisler has completed a marathon in each of the 50 states and is now working on completing a marathon on each of the seven continents. He went 115 miles over the course of the weekend, a new Cal Crusher record even if he didn't quite reach his goal of finishing 125 miles. It is still the furthest he has ever run.

Erika Burgess, Krista Greaves, Rachel Everett and Adelyn Fienstra were the top female performers. They each covered 62 miles.

Runners come and go as they please on the course. There is typically a celebration about 10 p.m. the first evening of the race. Some folks choose to run over night. Some swing through for a few laps Saturday and another couple Sunday morning.

Whisler's previous best on the course was 105 miles. He has taken part in all four Cal Crusher events, and this was the third time he has surpassed 100 miles at the event. It was a pace of a mile every nine and a half minutes for Whisler for about the first 50 miles. By the end, he figures he was closer to a 20-minute mile pace.

"I didn't know what I was doing when I first started doing this," Whisler said of long-distance events. "I swore off running for a while, and then I had a buddy who wanted to try to qualify for Boston, and we ran several races trying to qualify in several states. Then we thought, hey it'd be kind of cool to try and do one in every state. So, that was kind of the goal. I just finished that about a year and a half ago, I got all of them. I started playing with continents now. I've got three continents and all 50 states."

He ticked off Europe with a marathon in Berlin, Germany, and competed in Brisbane, Australia too.

"This is pretty cool that she started doing this," Whisler said. "Each year it's a different fundraiser and it's always good to support something other than just running for no reason."

This year's event did have an extra-hour, making it a 31-hour event because of the end of daylight savings time in the middle of the race.



# Fighting Scots fight back from 2-0 down for district title

**Brett Bremer**
Sport Editor

A district trophy seemed a long way off after two sets and close to 50 points of set number three at Plainwell Thursday, Nov. 6.

Plainwell won the first set. A pair of set-point opportunities got away from the Fightings Scots at the end of set number two - another Trojan victory. Plainwell served for match-point twice near the end of set number three.

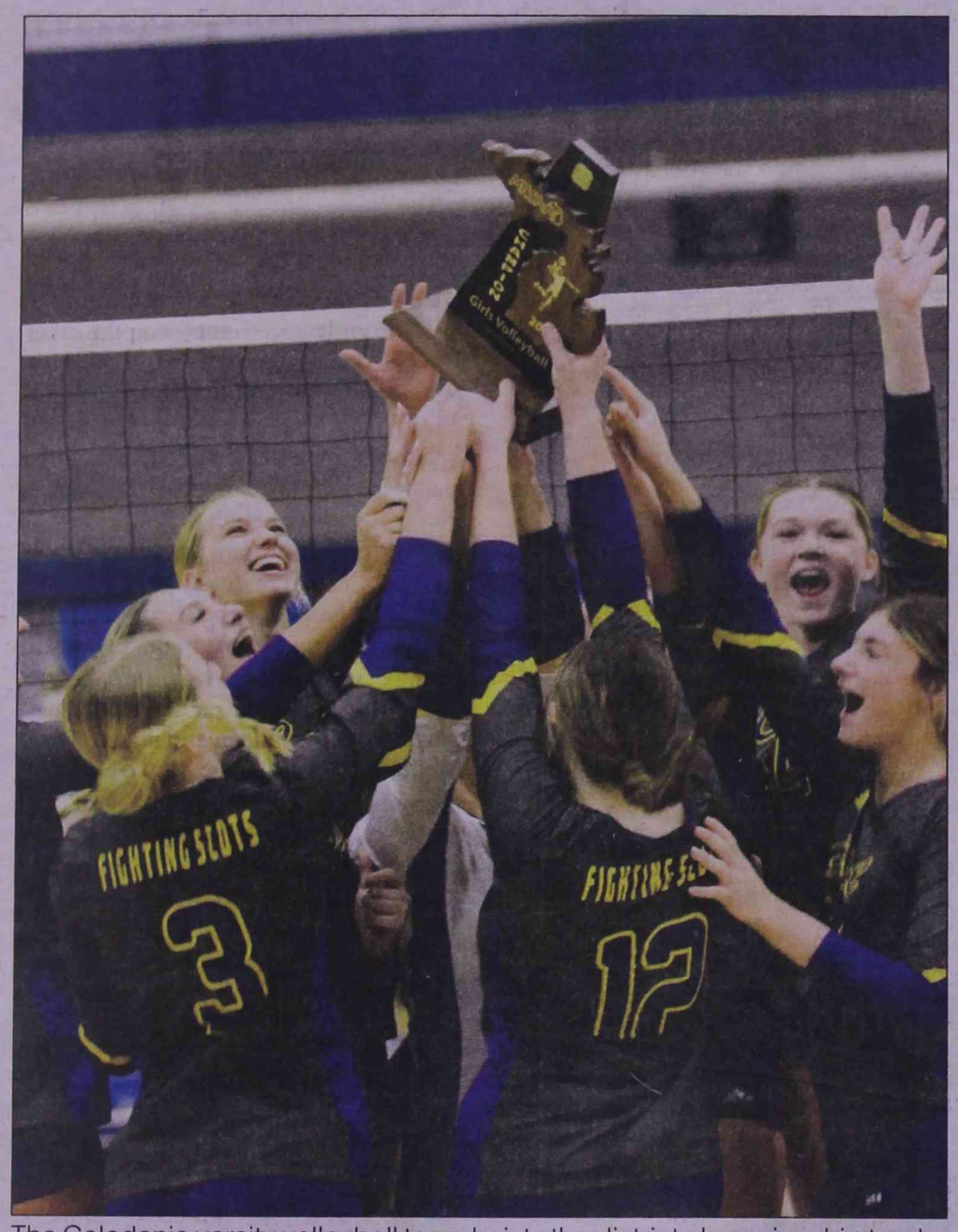
That trophy wasn't out of reach until the final point though, and eventually the Caledonia varsity volleyball team hoisted its first district championship trophy since 2018 with a three-set rally for a 3-2 win over the host Trojans in the MHSAA Division 1 District Finals. It was the second five-set win of the district tournament for the Fighting Scots who beat Gull Lake in five in the semifinals a day earlier.

Caledonia eventually bested Plainwell in the district final by the scores of 14-25, 25-27, 27-25, 25-13, 15-13.

"I couldn't be more proud of this group," Caledonia head coach Ashley Brown said. "To come back from being down two sets in a district final shows incredible grit, belief and trust in each other. They refused to give up and played with so much heart. This win was a true reflection of our growth as a team. Earlier in the year, we might not have had the poise to battle back like that. But this group has matured mentally, and they just kept finding a way. This was such a special win for our program.



Caledonia senior Kyla Charles (left) and Plainwell senior Autumn Gravelyn duel above the net during their MHSAA Division 1 District Final at Plainwell High School Thursday, Nov. 6.




The Caledonia varsity volleyball team hoists the district championship trophy after a five-set win over host Plainwell in the MHSAA Division 1 District Final at Plainwell High School Thursday, Nov. 6.

"It's been years since Caledonia brought home a district trophy, and to do it the way we did — coming from behind and playing fearless volleyball — makes it even more memorable."

Its only the third district championship in the history of the Caledonia program, and a nice addition to the OK Green Conference championship the Fighting Scots won in the fall of 2024.

Fighting Scot junior outside hitter Aubrey Reynolds, fresh off a school-record 38 kills including her 1,000th, led the Fighting Scot attack, led the Scots with 22 kills and 22 digs. Sophomore Lydia Bell had 17 kills to go with four blocks.

"Aubrey and Lydia were unbelievable in that game," Brown said. "When we needed big swings, they delivered over and over again. Aubrey's composure and

See **SCOTS** on 10

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## SCOTS

Continued from Page 9

ability to take over a match is incredible, and Lydia came up huge with key kills that completely shifted the momentum. Those two set the tone for our comeback."

"Our comeback didn't happen without our defense providing us opportunities to set up the offense. Kayleigh [Miersen] made some incredible reads and kept rallies alive, and Avery [Seif] was all over the court — steady, fearless, and making play after play. Our back row gave our hitters a chance to take over."

Seif led the Scots in digs with 23 and Miersen finished with 19 digs to go along with six kills.

After the tough set-two loss, the comeback really picked up steam late in set number three, but Caledonia had to fight off two match-points to keep their hopes alive.

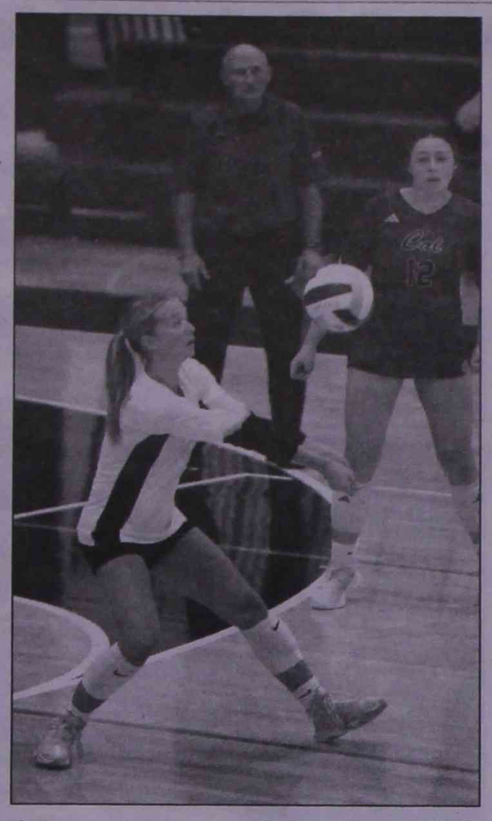
"During a time out we talked about how this is it," Brown said. "They have to choose to go play volleyball, and fight for every single touch."

Plainwell led 24-23, getting their the Trojans' first chance at match-point following a Caledonia timeout. The Scots fought off that match point and then another to get to 25-25 as long rally ended in a kill by Caledonia senior Kayla Charles in the middle. Charles then stepped back to serve and fired an ace to put her team up 26-25.

After a Plainwell timeout, a Trojan attack failed to clear the net and the Scots had new life with a 27-25 win.

The offense kept rolling from there through setters Reese Stafford and Charles. Charles had a team-high 31 assists to go with ten kills, three aces, three blocks and 12 digs. Stafford had 22 assists and 12 digs in the match.

"Their decision-making and composure under pressure were huge for us," Brown said. "They kept our hitters in rhythm and spread the ball around so we could stay unpredictable."



Caledonia junior libero Avery Seif pass a Plainwell serve as junior teammate Aubrey Reynolds looks on during the MHSAA Division 1 District Final at Plainwell High School Nov. 6.

Sophomore Quinn Ziegler stepped to the service line to start set four and helped her team serve up a 10-0 lead to start set four.

"Throughout the match, we struggled a bit on getting a block up on their big outside hitter and we had lots of blocking errors," Brown said. "The last play of the fifth set, junior Kayla Briseno blocked their outside to win that set, and I couldn't have been more excited for her and the team.

"We just never gave up and wanted that game so bad."

Briseno closed the match with three blocks.

The Caledonia season closed in the MHSAA Division 1 Regional Semifinals at Portage Northern High School Tuesday, Nov. 11, as the Scots found themselves in the same position. This time, the Battle Creek Lakeview Spartans didn't let the Scots finish off that third-set rally.

Lakeview took a 25-9, 25-20, 28-26 win over the Fighting Scots.

"They did a great job defensively and really keyed in on Aubrey," Brown said. "We just struggled to find ways to put the ball away consistently. Our girls competed hard and battled to the end. It just wasn't our night offensively. Lakeview had a great game plan and executed it well. They were able to slow down Aubrey, and we couldn't quite get into the rhythm we needed. Still, I'm proud of how our team kept fighting and tried to adjust."

The Scots adjusted after that slow start, and had something of a lead throughout much of set number two. They opened the set with an 8-1 run. Lakeview put together a surge to go from a 13-6 hole to a 15-14 lead, and Caledonia never had the lead again in that second set.

The Scots never found the roll they did against Plainwell in set number three to extend their season.

"I think mentally our kids were tired, playing two five-set games in the fashion that we did took a toll and we just fell short," Brown said.

Bell and Reynolds tied for the team lead with eight kills each against Lakeview. Reynolds added 15 digs. Bell had four blocks. Charles had another solid all-around match with five kills, 13 digs and 16 assists. Ziegler stepped up to hit seven kills.

The Scots also got ten digs and two aces from Miersen and nine assists from Stafford.

Caledonia's OK Green Conference rivals from Byron Center won the other regional semifinal in Portage Tuesday outscoring Mattawan 28-26, 25-13, 25-20. The Bulldogs and Lakeview Spartans were set to meet for the regional championship Thursday, Nov. 13, back at Portage Northern High School.

"We knew going into this season it was going to be a rebuilding year," Brown said. "We had a tough schedule consistently going up against ranked teams in the state, week after week. From day one, this group set big goals and never backed down from a challenge. Winning a district championship says so much about their work ethic and belief. I'm incredibly proud to be their coach.

"Our seniors (Maggie Loomis and Kyla Charles) led with heart and set the tone for what it means to play for Caledonia. They've left behind a foundation of leadership and belief that's going to carry this program forward for years to come.

"While it's never easy losing seniors, it's exciting to think about most of our team returning for next season. This season was all about growth and grit. We faced adversity, but every time they found a way to respond. That toughness, both on and off the court, is what we will continue building on and come back stronger next season."



The Caledonia varsity volleyball team celebrates its program's first district championship since 2018 after rallying from two sets down to defeat Plainwell in five in the MHSAA Division 1 District Final at Plainwell High School Thursday, Nov. 6. **Photos by Perry Hardin**

**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/**

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CALEDONIA**
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**
**Meeting Minutes**

The minutes for the October 15, 2025 Township Board of Trustees Meeting that were approved on November 5, 2025, are posted at the Township Offices at 8196 Broadmoor Ave., and on the website at www.caledoniatownship.org.

# Slagel conference diving champ for third time in three tries



Grand Rapids Gator teammates Jenna Robinett, Eloise Nichols, Mckenna Hawks and Mara Raak look up from the medal stand after a fifth-place finish in the 200-yard medley relay to open the OK Conference East Division Championships at the Community Education and Recreation Center in Hastings Saturday, Nov. 8.



Grand Rapids Gator junior Lydia Slagel comes out of her pike position on an inward dive during the OK Conference East Division Championships at the Community Education and Recreation Center in Hastings Saturday, Nov. 8. Slagel won the conference championship in the diving event for the third year in a row. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

**Brett Bremer**
Sport Editor

Caledonia has not been beaten in its two seasons back in the OK Conference East Division, and Grand Rapids Gators' junior Lydia Slagel hasn't been beaten in three seasons of varsity swimming and diving conference championships.

Slagel won a conference title for the third time with an overall score of 437.65 points. She beat her nearest competitor by more than 80 points over the course of the 11-dive competition at the Community Education and Recreation Center in Hastings Nov. 7-8.

"I think it went really well," Slagel said. "I am really happy with how it went. I know there were some dives that I could have done better, but we just go back to the drawing board and you learn from your mistakes and you just make them better."

Slagel earned All-America honors as a sophomore after placing fourth at the 2024 MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 1 Girls' Swimming and Diving Finals. She was 22nd at the state finals as a sophomore. In every one of her 11-dive competitions this fall the Thornapple Kellogg High School student-athlete has scored well enough to earn All-America consideration again.

Slagel was really happy with her forward 2-1/2 somersault in the tuck position dive during Friday's prelim's and her reverse 1-1/2 somersault in the pike position during Saturday's finals.

Her conference championship scores have climbed over the years. She won the OK Rainbow tier II Conference championship as a freshman with a score of 378.70 points. Her point total was up to 393.80 in the renamed OK Conference East Division Championship last fall as a sophomore.

"I have put in the work. I come into practice every day ready to do everything that I can do to get better. I will do everything to get better, and it has paid off," Slagel said.

"Mechanically, I am a lot better ... and diving takes a lot of mental strength," she added. "Before I wasn't as confident. Now, I'm a lot more confident because I do three to six of everything per day. I know for a fact that I am going to be able to make the dive."

Divers from around the state were set compete in regional meets Nov. 7. Slagel was slated for the Division 1 Regional in Hudsonville. The D1 MHSAA L.P. State Finals will be held Nov. 21-22 at Oakland University.

The Caledonia varsity girls' swimming and diving team finished off its second undefeated season in the OK Conference East Division, after moving over to the former OK Rainbow Conference Tier II form the OK Red, by winning Saturday's conference championship meet at the Community Education and Recreation Center in Hastings by 61 points over runner-up Ottawa Hills.

Caledonia remains a co-op with South Christian and Lowell student-athletes. The Grand Rapids Gators co-op with Thornapple Kellogg, Hopkins, West Michigan Aviation Academy and West Catholic girls placed fifth on the day as a team, tying Grand Rapids Union for fifth in the final overall conference standings.

Caledonia won with an overall score of 526 points Saturday ahead of Ottawa Hills 465, Wayland 341, Catholic Central 318, Grand Rapids Gators 151 and Grand Rapids Union 126.

Gators sophomore Mckenna Hawks was seventh in the 200-yard individual medley with a personal best time of 2 minutes 32.94 seconds. Freshman

See **CHAMP** on 13

# Fighting Scots are undefeated conference champions again

**Brett Bremer**
Sport Editor

Two seasons. Two championships. Zero defeats.

The Caledonia varsity girls' swimming and diving team rolled through their second undefeated season in the OK Conference East Division by winning Saturday's conference championship meet at the Community Education and Recreation Center in Hastings by 61 points over runner-up Ottawa Hills Saturday.

Caledonia senior Sophie Gaylord and Wayland senior Laney Wolf were the top two performers in the conference for the day with Gaylord a victor in all four events she participated in. Caledonia had five of the top ten scorers at the meet and seven all-conference honorees overall - a list that also included senior Aliya Van Hofwegen, junior Mya VanderZwaag, sophomore Amelia McCann, freshman Caitlyn Morris, sophomore Lily Klein and freshman Kailey Hall.



Caledonia senior Aliyah Van Hofwegen swims to a runner-up finish in the 100-yard butterfly during the OK Conference East Division Championships at the Community Education and Recreation Center in Hastings Saturday, Nov. 8.

Fighting Scots were better than the Division 1 state qualifying time in all three relay races at the conference championship and Gaylord and VanderZwaag had times good enough for spots in the D1 Finals in individual races too.

Caledonia remains a co-op with South Christian and Lowell student-athletes. The D1 MHSAA Lower Peninsula Girls' Swimming and Diving Finals will be held Nov. 21-22 at Oakland University.

Gaylord won the 100-yard backstroke in 57.74 seconds Saturday and the 100-yard butterfly in 57.68 Saturday, defending titles in both events from a year ago in the conference. Van Hofwegen was the 100-yard butterfly runner-up in 1 minute 3.90 seconds. And as far in front as Gaylord was, Van Hofwegen was still more than two seconds ahead of her nearest competitor.

The Caledonia girls won two of the three relays.

VanderZwaag, Hall, McCann and Gaylord won the 200-yard freestyle relay in 1 minute 39.6 seconds breaking a ten-year-old pool and conference record in that race set by Grand Rapids Catholic Central in what was formerly known as the OK Rainbow Conference Tier II. Caledonia made its return to the conference in 2024 after a few seasons competing in the OK Red Conference with the biggest schools in the Grand Rapids area. VanderZwaag, McCann and Gaylord were all also a part of that 2024 conference win in the race.

Gaylord, Van Hofwegen, VanderZwaag and Morris won the 200-yard medley relay in 1:49.46. Morris took over the spot of 2025 program graduate Bella Treib, who is now competing for Bowling Green State University and was a part of two of the Scots relay wins in 2024, in that medley relay.

VanderZwaag won the 100-yard breaststroke in 1:08.60 beating her nearest competitor by more than four and a half seconds.

Van Hofwegen, McCann, Hall and Morris had a runner-up time of 3:46.90 in the 400-yard freestyle relay, finishing just behind the Wayland foursome of Sybil Williamson, Kaeli Whip, Stella VanWyk and Wolf who finished in 3:45.93.

Wolf was the conference champ in the 200-yard individual medley in 2:11.42 with VanderZwaag the runner-up in that one with a time of 2:15.02. In the 500-yard freestyle, Wolf won in 5:18.66 with McCann second in 5:31.50. Wolf and her Wildcat teammates were second to the Fighting Scots in the 200-yard freestyle relay, about three and a half seconds back.

Van Hofwegen won the 50-yard freestyle in 25.57, and teammates Morris (25.66) and Hall (25.71) were third and

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CALEDONIA TOWNSHIP

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**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CALEDONIA,
COUNTY OF KENT, MICHIGAN**

**NOTICE OF POSTING OF TOWNSHIP ORDINANCE**

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a proposed Caledonia Charter Township Ordinance which would adopt the 2021 edition of the International Fire Code has been posted in the office of the Township Clerk at the Caledonia Charter Township offices, 8196 Broadmoor Avenue, within the Township, for review by the public during Township office hours, and has also been posted on the Township's website, the address of which is www.caledoniatownship.org. The amending ordinance would adopt the 2021 edition of the International Fire Code as the fire code for the Township, with certain amendments, revisions and changes, including regarding the board of appeals, violations and penalties, stop work orders, automatic sprinkler requirements for existing buildings, and location regulations for flammable and combustible liquids. The amending ordinance would also provide for enforcement of the same and repeal Ordinance No. 00-03 and Ordinance No. 2020-02, which adopted older fire codes by reference.

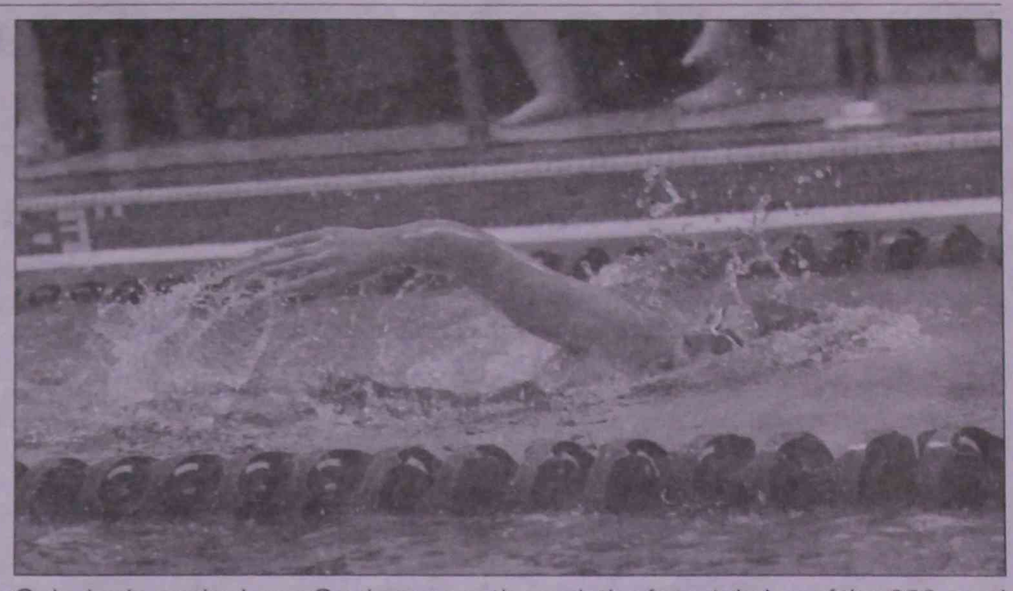
The above stated ordinance was considered by the Caledonia Charter Township Board on first reading at a public meeting of the Township Board held on November 5, 2025 and is expected to be considered on second reading by the Township Board at a public meeting on November 19, 2025. This notice is given in accordance with the Charter Township Act and is authorized by action taken by the Caledonia Charter Township Board.

Dated: November 11, 2025

Joni Henry, Township Clerk
Caledonia Charter Township



Caledonia teammates (clockwise from left) Aliyah VanHofwegen, Sophie Gaylord, Mya VanderZwaag and Caitlyn Morris celebrate their victory in the 200-yard medley relay on the medal stand at the CERC in Hastings during the OK Conference East Division Championships. **Photos by Brett Bremer**



Caledonia senior Lena Gesing races through the freestyle leg of the 200-yard individual medley at the OK Conference East Division Championships at the CERC in Hastings Saturday, Nov. 8.

fourth in that race. The top four girls were separated by less than a quarter of a second. CHS also had sophomore Chloe Kerkstra seventh in 26.95.

That wasn't the only race the Scots were especially deep and dominant in. CHS had four of the top eight in two individual races. The Scots had those top two in the 100-yard butterfly and also had Kerkstra fifth (1:06.55) and senior Lena Gesing eighth (1:14.61).

McCann had a runner-up time of 2:00.82 in the 200-yard freestyle chasing Ottawa Hills senior Rowen Heethuis who had a personal best time of 2:00.04 to win that race. Klein was sixth in that race in 2:07.48.

Behind Gaylord in the backstroke, the Scots had Klein third in 1:03.27 and Hall sixth in 1:06.66. Behind Vander-Zwaag in the breaststroke, the Scots had Nora DeHaan third in 1:16.19 and Anneka Schuurmans fifth in 1:18.91.

Caledonia freshman Madelyn Foerch placed eighth in the 500 freestyle in 6:15.11, Gesing was eighth in the 200-yard individual medley in 2:38.37 and Lily Smith placed eighth in the diving competition with an 11-dive score of 177.80.

The Grand Rapids Gators' Lydia Slagel, a junior, won the conference championship in the diving for the third time with an overall score of 437.65.

The Caledonia and Gator divers were set to be a part of the MHSAA Lower Peninsula Division 1 Diving Regional at Hudsonville Thursday, Nov. 13.

The Caledonia girls finished Saturday with 526 points ahead of Ottawa Hills 465, Wayland 341, Grand Rapids Catholic Central 318, Grand Rapids Gators 151 and Grand Rapids Union 126.

Catholic Central got a championship from senior Mae Braun's personal best time of 55.27 in the 100-yard freestyle. Morris was the runner-up in that one with a time of 55.83. Braun was also the runner-up to Gaylord in the 100-yard backstroke by 81 hundredths of a second.

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## CHAMP

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teammate Mara Raak placed sixth in the 100-yard breaststroke in a personal best time of 1:19.04. Those were the other two top-eight, individual medal-winning performances for their team.

Gator senior Jenna Robinett, Raak, Hawks and sophomore Eloise Nichols placed fifth in the 200-yard medley relay with a time of 2:15.73 and that same foursome was fifth in the 200-yard freestyle relay in 2:00.35. The Gator team of senior Devon Barnhill, sophomore Scarlett Hilzey, freshman Adelaide Nydam and freshman Leyna Kursch was sixth in the 400-yard freestyle relay.

The top 16 in each event scored for their team. Robinett and Nichols both finished in the top 16 in the 100-yard butterfly. Robinett was 13th in a personal best time of 1:25.05. Nichols improved her personal best to 1:34.93 to finish 16th. Robinett placed 14th in the 200-yard individual medley with a time of 3:06.67. Nichols swam a personal best time of 2:27.32 to place 16th in the 200-yard freestyle.

Nydam chipped in a 14th-place time of 33.75 in the 50-yard freestyle. Raak added a personal best swim of 6:47.52 to finish 14th in the 500-yard freestyle.

Caledonia girls won two of the three relay races and had four individual championships throughout the course of the 12-event meet.

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# Sluggish start too much for TK to overcome at Lowell

**Brett Bremer**
Sport Editor

The football was on the ground too often.

Penalty flags were on the ground too often.

Lowell quarterback Logan Dawson wasn't on the ground soon enough often enough.

The Thornapple Kellogg varsity football team fell into a 21-0 hole in the first half, battled back to within a touchdown a couple of times in the second half and eventually fell to the host Red Arrows 28-21 in the MHSAA Division 3 District Final inside Red Arrow Memorial Stadium Friday, Nov. 7.

Lowell (8-2), a district champion for the first time since 2016, will host Zeeland West in an MHSAA Division 3 Regional Final Nov. 14. It wasn't the prettiest of victories, but the Red Arrows will take it.

"We didn't execute well. We didn't block the right people. Way too many penalties at crucial times, and then next thing you know we would shoot ourselves in the foot again," coach Dock said. "You can't beat anyone, let alone playoff football, doing that stuff. Unfortunately, we come out and this reminded me very much of the East Grand Rapids game where we laid an egg in the first half and we came out in the second half. Unfortunately, that's exactly what we did. We laid an egg in the first half and then we came out and we competed our tails off in the second half.

"Super proud of them. They responded super well, and they did exactly what I asked and they were awesome in the second half."

Friday was an evening where both teams offered up more opportunities to their opponent than they would have liked.

TK fumbled away the opening kickoff and the Trojan offense moved the ball forward just 15 yards in the first half before one final run as the half ended netted a first down.

The Lowell punting unit had a pass fall incomplete on a fake attempt in its own end early in the third quarter, and then a bad snap on the next drive result in a hurried, blocked punt. TK turned the short field into a touchdown both times. TK could have used one more gaff by the Red Arrows, but it never came.



The Thornapple Kellogg varsity football team takes a moment together inside Red Arrow Stadium in Lowell after a 28-21 loss to the host Red Arrows in the MHSAA Division 3 District Final Friday, Nov. 7. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

Dawson rushed 33 times for 120 yards, rushed for three touchdowns and threw for one more. It was preferable for the Trojans to have him throwing the ball. He was just 2-of-7 passing for 15 yards.

Dawson was shifty in the backfield to find running lanes and avoid defenders, and proved powerful enough to break away or keep moving forward once hands were on him.

"They're big, and number two (Dawson) is a special player. He is really good," coach Dock said.

His touchdown runs were all short ones. An eight-yard TD run and a two-yard TD run in the opening quarter had his team up 14-0. He fired an 11-yard TD pass to Crue Huisman in the end zone with 12 seconds left in the first half to make it 21-0 at the break.

The powerful Lowell line helped the squads other hard-running backs succeed too. Mitchell Eikey had 12 carries for 63 yards and Marek Pullen had 12 carries for 48 yards.

"We made several small adjustments, but we started playing ball," coach Dock said. "We flew to the ball, and we tackled well, and we played physical. All that stuff was really, really awesome in the second half."

TK got within 21-14 thanks to the Red Arrows' special teams' mishaps with a four-yard TD run by senior fullback Debo Robinson and a one-yard TD run by junior quarterback Micah Dock.

It wasn't the quite the final nail in the Trojans' season, but the Red Arrows were nearly there once they put together a 63-yard touchdown drive that ate up a little over six and a half minutes in the fourth quarter. Dawson notched his third rushing touchdown on a two-yard run with 3:49 to go in the game. The Red Arrows led 28-14.

TK got a five-yard Robinson TD run with 2:31 to play in the game to make it a one score game.

Of all people, Dawson fell on the loose, on-side kick attempt by TK. The Red Arrow offense then moved the ball just well enough, with the help of a couple flags against the TK defense, to eat up the rest of the clock.

"The second half, when we came out of the locker room, Micah said, 'competitive greatness' right out of the huddle," TK junior lineman AJ Dutcher

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**PUBLIC HEARING**

The Village of Middleville Council
will hold a PUBLIC HEARING on Tuesday, December 16, 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 consider a proposed Amendment No. 2 ("Amendment No. 2") to the Amended and Restated Tax Increment Financing and Development Plan for the Village of Middleville Downtown Development Authority, as amended (the "Amended Plan"), pursuant to the Recodified Tax Increment Financing Act (Act 57 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 2018, as amended).**

The boundaries of the Downtown Development Authority Development Area are described and shown in the Amended Plan, which is available for public inspection during regular business hours at the office of the Village Clerk, 100 East Main Street, Middleville, Michigan.

Amendment No. 2 to the Amended Plan does not propose or require the relocation of families or individuals from the Development Area. The proposed amendment updates project listings, revises financial projections, and extends the plan duration through December 31, 2030.

All aspects of the proposed Amendment No. 2 and any other related information that the Village Council deems appropriate are open for discussion at the public hearing. At the hearing, citizens, taxpayers, and property owners may be heard regarding the proposed amendment. Written comments may be submitted to the Village Clerk's office up to the time of the public hearing.

Authorized by the Village Council of the Village of Middleville on November 12, 2025.

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 December 16, 2025 will be distributed to Council members and it will be noted that such comments were received prior to the meeting.

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 11/13/2025
Rhonda Van Polen, Village Clerk

Continued from previous page

said. "That is one of our core values and everybody needed to go, and we all knew it. We jumped the gun and we almost had it."

Still, the Trojans close out one of their best seasons in the lifetime of most of their players. TK finishes with a 7-4 record. It is just the second time in the past 15 seasons that the Trojans have won seven games.

Dutcher said it was a great group of leaders in this TK senior class.

"They were perfect all summer," Dutcher said. "It was just consistency, consistency, consistency. They worked on us. I feel like they built the juniors for next year, to be ready to lead as seniors and lead it all."

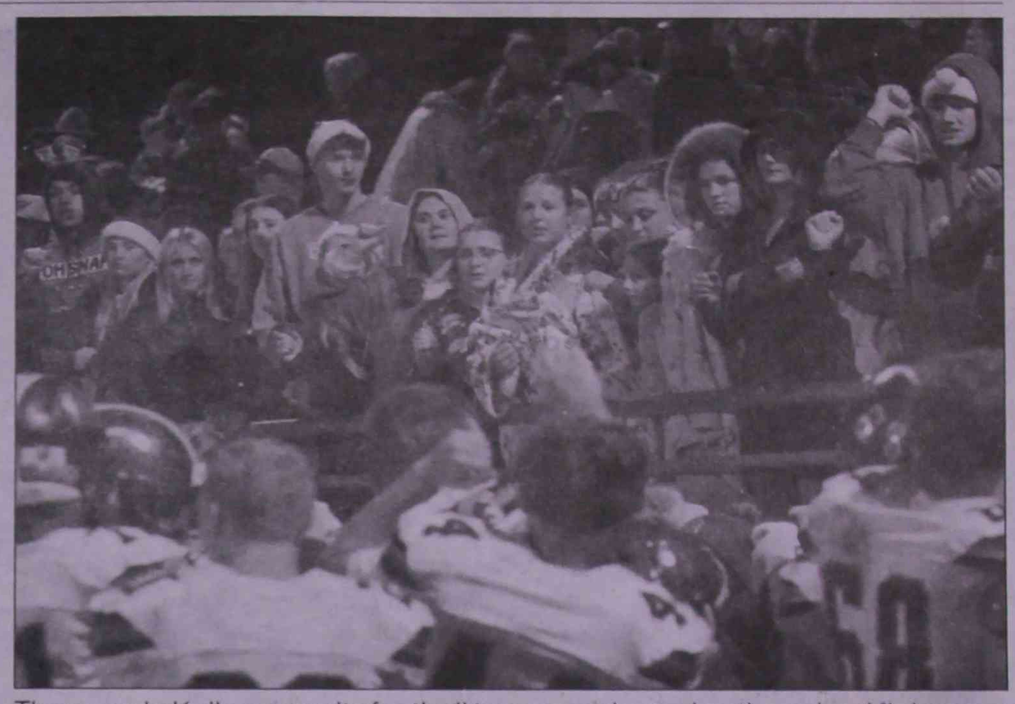
The roster included 11 seniors this fall including most of the Trojans' key ball-carriers. Robinson had a team-high 12 rushes for 57 yards in the ball-game. Malachi VanEngen added four carries for 23 yards and Zach Eldridge had six rushes for 16 yards. VanEngen also had an 11-yard reception.

"We don't have very many seniors, but super proud of them. They're a big reason why we're here, in regards to some key components, but we have a lot of juniors coming back. I think we have a lot still left in the tank. We'll see how that goes. Any time you can get here and get playoff experience and extra practice, all of that stuff is really good. It is just a matter of carrying over the momentum into the offseason and carrying it over into the fall.

"And learning from the mistakes. We've got to be way more disciplined."



Thornapple Kellogg junior quarterback Micah Dock fires a pass against Lowell at Red Arrow Stadium Friday, Nov. 7, in the MHSAA Division 3 District Final.



Thornapple Kellogg varsity football team members sing the school fight song with their Christmas clad classmates in the Trojan student section following the team's 28-21 loss to Lowell in the MHSAA Division 3 District Final at Red Arrow Stadium in Lowell Friday, Nov. 7.



Thornapple Kellogg junior Zeke Webster fights to try and bring down Lowell quarterback Logan Dawson in the backfield during the MHSAA Division 3 District Final inside Red Arrow Stadium in Lowell Friday, Nov. 7.

**Yankee Springs Township**
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**YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP**
**PLANNING COMMISSION**
**NOTICE OF OPEN FORUM SESSION**

TO: THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF YANKEE SPRINGS, BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN, AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

The Planning Commission will be hosting an Open Forum Session to gather community input regarding the Yankee Springs Township Master Plan during their regular monthly meeting on November 20th, 2025 at 7:00 pm at the Yankee Springs Township Hall, 284 N. Briggs Road, Middleville. Community members are encouraged to attend and share their thoughts on the future of Yankee Springs Township.

YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

By: Shana Bush, Chairperson
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