THE SUN AND NEWS
VIEW Newspaper Group
VOL. 147 NO. 49 SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2025 www.sunandnews.com



SPEEDY FIGHTING SCOTS HOPE TO IMPROVE ON LAST YEAR'S SIX WINS
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Hastings Public Library
227 E State Street
Hastings MI 49058

Microsoft confirms plans to build data center in Gaines Twp.

James Gemmell
Contributing Writer

Microsoft Corp. has confirmed to Gaines Charter Township officials that it intends to build a data center in the township.

That's according to Gaines Community Development Director Dan Wells.

He said some township officials had a brief "meet and greet" discussion in November with some Microsoft executives who relayed their desire to build a data center but did not provide any conceptual plans for the project, including its size or location.

In October 2024, Microsoft officials announced that the company had purchased 316 acres of industrial land on the northwest corner of the intersection of 76th Street and Patterson Avenue from Steelcase Inc. for $45.3 million.

The Right Place economic development group hinted at that time that the property might be developed into a major data center at some point.

"The opportunity ahead with Microsoft fits into our 10-year tech strategy to develop the Greater Grand Rapids region into a leading tech hub in the Midwest," said Randy Thelen, Right Place president and CEO, in a written statement at the time.

See **MICROSOFT** on 7



The northwest corner of Patterson Avenue and 76th Street potentially could serve as the site for a major data center in Gaines Charter Township. **Photos by James Gemmell**

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Gun Lake Business Association (GLBA) President and Treasurer Deb Timmerman encourages friends and neighbors to stop into their hometown businesses, meet the owners, shop and dine. **Courtesy photos**

Area businesses encourage residents to shop local this holiday season

Karen Turko-Ebright
Staff Writer

In an effort to support small, locally-owned businesses, area leaders are asking everyone to continue to shop in their hometowns this holiday season and throughout the year.

According to U.S. Small Business Administration data, small businesses make up over 98% of Michigan's businesses and employ half of the state's workers. For every $100 spent at a local business, roughly $68 stays in the local economy.

Small business owners throughout the area are gearing up for the holiday season.

Once the summer tourism crowd thins out in the Gun Lake area, it's up to locals to support their retail stores, grocery stores and restaurants. Gun Lake Business Association (GLBA) President and Treasurer Deb Timmerman is encouraging residents to stop into their hometown businesses, meet the owners, shop and dine.

"When you shop locally, you're strengthening the very community you live in. Every dollar spent in the Gun Lake area circulates through our small businesses, supporting local families, funding local events, and helping our area continue to grow and thrive," said Timmerman, who owns Less Stress in Life in Gun Lake. "We're not a big-box destination and it's a place where people still know your name, where owners pour their hearts into what they offer, and where your purchases make a real difference."

Like Timmerman, Tracy Baker, real estate agent and chair of the Hastings Business Connection, believes in shopping locally — and she lives by example.

"I don't leave town. I always shop local," Baker said. "It's a last resort if I leave town — there's some stuff I cannot get. But if I can get it here, I will get it here first."

Another ally of supporting small businesses is Shannon Richardson, executive director of the Caledonia Chamber of Commerce.

"It is vital that our community never forget the importance of our small-town businesses because they are the backbone of our local

See **LOCAL** on 5

Twp. Planning Commission approves permit for residential solar array

James Gemmell
Contributing Writer

An 8,800-square-foot solar array will be installed on a 15-acre residential site in Caledonia.

Gaines Township planning commissioners voted unanimously at their Nov. 20 meeting to approve a special-use permit for the ground-mounted solar setup at 2844 100th Street. That is just west of Hanna Lake Avenue and across the street from two neighbors who commented on the project during a public hearing at the meeting.

The property is reportedly zoned agricultural/rural residential. The township zoning ordinance requires the granting of a special use permit for any solar project that exceeds 1,500 square feet.

Local builder Dave Van Haitsma of Grandville applied for the permit on behalf of the property owner, the Ron VanderPol Trust.

Ron Whitman, who lives across from the site, told the Planning Commission members that he has no objection to the project, though he did ask several questions. Those included whether neighboring residents would be visually shielded from the solar panel system, whether it would produce a high noise level, and if it could cause a power surge or outage in the area.

"Our view of the solar array will be the full east side of it," he said. "That's 200 and some feet deep. Anywhere from 10 to 13 feet high. That's exactly what we'll be looking at (if there is no visual screening). What I would like to see is if they're going to (plant) something like pine trees."

Another resident, Jason Prins, who also lives across from the project site, said the landowner should be able to do what he wants with his property. But he mentioned that the trees in the front yard are too sparse to screen the view of the solar array.

"But I'd love to see him work with us," Prins said. "Just make sure we don't have to look at it. It is an ugly site. Nobody wants to see it.

"But it is his property," he added. "Do what you want. Just work with us. That's all we ask."

Greg Oliver, business development manager for Spring Lake-based Agathon Solar, attempted to answer the neighbors' concerns.

He said the rectangular solar units that convert sunlight into direct current (DC) electricity don't produce glare. The township is also requiring that hedges or other greenery be planted to screen the view of the solar array from the roadway.

Oliver acknowledged that the solar inverter that converts the direct current into alternating current (AC) will produce some noise. But he said it will be muted because the solar inverter is placed inside a structure to provide a barrier.

"So, there would be no noise outside of that structure on a large property," Oliver said.

Wells pointed out that the solar project would generate power to the house.

"There may well be some other electrical connections to other portions of the property," he said. "We don't really regulate that under our ordinance."

Oliver added, "As you go through an interconnection process, Consumers Energy is going to look at the size of the system and the electrical infrastructure that is upstream from it. And they will make a determination if the transformer, fuses, lines, or anything has to be upgraded to protect against surges."

Because the house is located on the south end of the property near a wooded area, the solar array will be installed in the front yard.

"As long as it's screened properly, I think that this placement in the front yard is probably fine," Wells said. "You probably won't see it. It's well done and well landscaped."

After the public hearing, Planning Commission member Tim Haagsma said, if the solar array is screened from the view of neighbors, it should be fine.

"The good thing is, where it needs to be screened is on the north side, so we're not going to be blocking any sun," he said.

Planning Commission chairperson Connie Giarmo said she was concerned



This aerial view shows where a large ground-mounted solar array will be installed in the front yard of a home on 100th Street west of Hanna Lake Avenue in Caledonia. **Source: gainestownship.org**

that the applicant did not provide a more complete landscaping plan for the board to review. She noted that the project covers about 8,800 square feet.

"It's a pretty significant area," she said. "So, I want to be fairly clear on what the landscaping plan is going to look like and what is required here."

"I will volunteer to go out on site and meet with Ron to take a good, close look at it and meet with Dave, and we can take care of the visual aspects on site," Wells said.

"I wish there was more of a visual we could look at and see," Planning Commission secretary Lani Thomas said. "But I'm comfortable with them working with Dan (Wells) and staff to provide the proper screening."

Wells said the township usually requires a planting plan for an indus-

See **PERMIT** on 3

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

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PERMIT

Continued from Page 2

trial or commercial site.

"This is a little unusual because this is a residential property," he said. "We don't really require it for (agricultural) uses. But this is basically an industrial installation in an ag area. So, it's kind of a blend of those things."

The Planning Commission voted 5-0 to approve the special use permit for the solar array, but with a couple of conditions. Those require township planning staff to meet with VanHaitsma and the two neighbors to devise a plan for screening the property visually. The project applicant also must adhere to all requests from the township engineer and building officials.

YOU'RE NOT JUST OUR READERS.
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Your Community Connection

'Let It Snow' reading challenge underway at local libraries

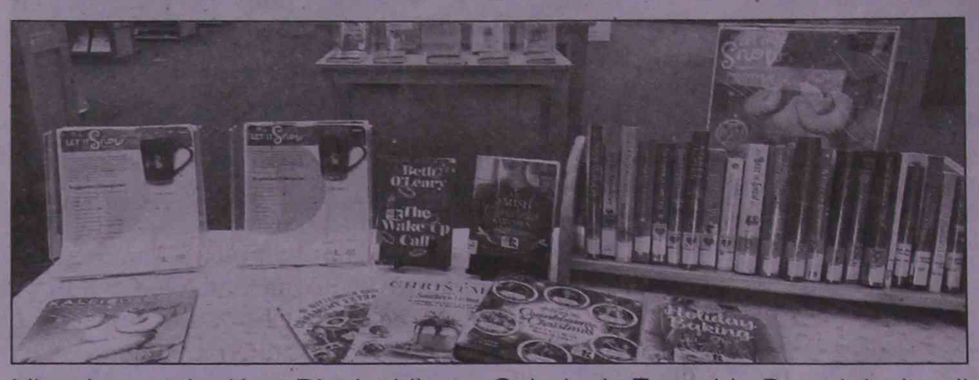
Winter is a great time to stay home and cuddle up on the couch with a good book. Locals can sign up for Kent District Library's (KDL) "Let It Snow" reading challenge online at https://kdl.beanstack.org/reader365.

The Caledonia Township and Alto library branches are two local libraries participating in the program.

Adults and teens 11 and older who read or listen to six books between Dec. 1 and Feb. 27 will earn a collectible "Let It Snow" mug.

If that's not enough reading, participants can log four more titles — for a total of 10 books — by Feb. 27 and be automatically entered into a drawing to win a gift card to a local indie bookstore.

KDL Programming Specialist Amber Elder said, "Let It Snow is the perfect choose-your-own-reading adventure for adults and teens. You can reread your favorite books, pick up the next one from your TBR (To Be Read) pile, look at 'Let It Snow' displays in your local branch until a book speaks to you or find a book in any of the category suggestions that our adult and teen librarians have provided. It's a challenge that will keep you excited for your next book and that will keep you reading all winter long."



Librarians at the Kent District Library Caledonia Township Branch invite all to come in and see the "Let It Snow" reading challenge display table and check out books for a winter reading adventure. **Photo by Ashten VanderPloeg**

Participants can track reading progress online using Beanstack or by completing and turning in a paper form, available at any KDL branch.

Stop inside the KDL Alto Branch on 6071 Linfield Ave SE in Alto or call 616-784-2007 to learn more about the "Let It Snow" reading

See READING on 5

HOLLY TROLLEY



Celebrate the Holidays Shopping with the Family

HOLLY TROLLEY SCHEDULE 2025

DATES	TIME	LOCATION	SPONSOR
Sat. Nov. 29, 2025	10 am – 3 pm	Delton	Revitalize Delton and Scrapaloo
Sun. Nov. 30, 2025	6 pm - 8 pm	Hastings	Jones Solar and Electrical Services
Mon. Dec. 1, 2025	6 pm - 8 pm	Hastings	McDonalds of Hastings
Wed. Dec. 3,2025	6 pm - 8 pm	Hastings	Hasting Pharmacy
Thurs. Dec. 4,2025	5 pm – 8 pm	Middleville	Downtown Development Authority
Fri. Dec. 5, 2025	6 pm - 8 pm	Hastings	Jingle Mingle Event - WBCH
Sat. Dec. 6, 2025	1 pm – 4 pm	Hastings	Jingle Mingle Event - WBCH
Sun. Dec. 7, 2025	11 am – 3 pm	Hastings	Jingle Mingle Event - WBCH
Mon. Dec. 8, 2025	6 pm - 8 pm	Hastings	Clearstream Rehab and Nursing Center
Tue. Dec. 9, 2025	6 pm - 8 pm	Hastings	Christin Jones Hair Salon
Wed. Dec. 10, 2025	6 pm - 8 pm	Delton	DABA Delton Home Town Christmas Event – Chapple Reality
Thurs. Dec. 11, 2025	6 pm - 8 pm	Hastings	DB Designs
Fri. Dec. 12, 2025	6 pm - 8 pm	Nashville	Nashville Route 66 Business District
Sat. Dec. 13, 2025	2 pm – 5pm	Delton	DABA Delton Home Town Christmas Event – The Delton Market
Sun. Dec. 14, 2025	6 pm - 8 pm	Hastings	Advantage Plumbing and Drain
Mon. Dec. 15, 2025	6 pm - 8 pm	Hastings	Rehmann
Tue. Dec. 16, 2025	6 pm - 8 pm	Hastings	Autism Alliance
Wed. Dec. 17, 2025	6 pm - 8 pm	Hastings	Green Street Church
Thurs. Dec. 18, 2025	6 pm - 8 pm	Hastings	Green Street Church
Fri. Dec. 19, 2025	6 pm - 8 pm	Hastings	Highpoint Community Bank
Sun. Dec. 21, 2025	6 pm - 8 pm	Hastings	Commission On Aging
Mon. Dec. 22, 2025	6 pm - 8 pm	Hastings	TriFit
Tue. Dec. 23, 2025	6 pm - 8 pm	Hastings	Coleman Agency
Wed. Dec. 24, 2025	6 pm - 8 pm	Hastings	High Point Community Bank

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Obituaries

Edwin "Neil" Vander Velde's

We won't get to hear Cornelius Edwin "Neil" Vander Velde's legendary wit any longer, at least not in this life. Neil, 76, passed away on November 23, 2025, leaving behind a lifetime of laughter, eye-rolling one-liners, and stories his friends and family will be retelling (and censoring) for years to come.

Neil was born July 9, 1949, the son of Gerald and Harriet "Mandy" Vander Velde. He leaves behind his exceedingly patient wife, Linda; sister, Kathy; children, Chad (Shelly), Marc (Joelle), and Jodi (Shannyn); and grandchildren and great-grandchildren, Andrea, Caroline, Evan, Owen, and Madison, all of whom inherited some mix of his humor, stubbornness, and sense of adventure. Neil also loved his many Van Singel in-laws, nieces, and nephews.

Neil spent 40 years running the Family Tavern in downtown Caledonia. People came for the food, but they stayed for Neil's humor, warmth, and knack for making everyone part of the story, whether they wanted to be or not. He built friendships that became like family, including hosting employees and customers for Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners.

He loved seeing the world beyond the bar, with many trips to Las Vegas, golf tournaments, and cross-country adventures with friends, collecting stories that only got better with retelling. If you ever saw him talking with his best friend Bob, you would enter at your own risk.

Heaven may not have been ready for Neil, but he's surely settling in, probably running the



celestial bar like only he could, rolling dice at the divine craps table, and making new friends whether they asked for it or not. His big personality will continue causing harmless trouble wherever he goes.

A special thank you to the staff at Legacies Assisted Living facility in Caledonia, as they took great care of Neil in the last years of his life. I'm sure they will miss Neil asking them every day, "Are you married?"

A memorial gathering to celebrate Neil's life was held on Sunday, Nov. 30, 2025 in Stonewater Country Club.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Guiding Light or the Humane Society of West Michigan.

Hurst Funeral Home, Greenville, is serving the family. Memories and messages of condolence may be shared via www.hurstfh.com.

Bonnie L. Dulyea (DeGraves) Shade

Bonnie L. Dulyea (DeGraves) Shade joined her husband and family in Heaven on Friday, Nov. 28, 2025. She will be remembered for her smile, devotion to her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, her extreme Scrabble abilities, and love of reading.

Born May 10, 1937, in Grand Rapids, MI, to Alta Mae (Kuiper) and Douglas Dulyea, she married Jim on May 18, 1955; she attended Godwin High School and received her high school diploma in Oceanside, CA, while he was stationed at Camp Pendleton.

Bonnie was preceded in death by her husband and love of her life, Jim DeGraves, in 1974; her parents; her sisters, Joanne (Bill) Hamilton, Marilyn (Jerry) Verhulst, and Kay Hoffman; her brothers-in-law, Bob and Fred DeGraves and Reo Rood; her sister-in-law, RuthAnne Rood; and her second husband, Herb Shade; nephews, Richard Rood, Steve Hamilton, Rick Hamilton; and nieces Vicky VerHulst and Pam Allen.

She is survived by Brenda (Tom) Bremer; Lindsay (Jim) Mason; Logan and Natalie Mason; Whitley Bremer Combs; Hudson and Mac Combs; Jamie DeGraves; Hillary (Eric) DeBoer; Wyatt and Emelia DeBoer; Mallory (Trevor) Mullen; Adaline and Tate Mullen; Cade (Jill Guthrie) Bowman; Mark DeGraves; Chloe DeGraves; sisters-in-law Anne and Doris DeGraves; brother-in-law Bob Hoffman; and many nieces and nephews.

Bonnie was blessed with two dear friends, Betty Moore and Carol Hurst, their company, and Scrabble competition.

The family appreciates the care and love Bonnie received at Carveth Village, and love, compassion, and dignity that Interim Hospice provided, especially Kailey VanEngen and Madison Lindquist.

A celebration of life will be held at Middleville United Methodist Church on Friday, Dec. 12, 2025, at 4 p.m., with a luncheon to follow.

In lieu of flowers, consider the Michael J. Fox Parkinson's Foundation, the Middleville United Methodist Church Food Pantry, or the Friends of the Middleville Library.

LOCAL CHURCH DIRECTORY

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James L. Collison, Pastor
www.yankeespringsbiblechurch.org

LOCAL

Continued from Page 1

economy and the soul of our identity," Richardson said. "These businesses are owned by our neighbors, staffed by local families, and are deeply invested in the well-being of Caledonia.

"When residents choose to support local businesses, their dollars stay within our community—funding local jobs, supporting youth programs, contributing to municipal taxes, and helping new ideas and entrepreneurs flourish.

"If we forget our small-town businesses, we risk losing more than storefronts—we lose gathering places, personal connections, and the unique charm that distinguishes Caledonia from every other place."

About 7 miles south of Caledonia in Middleville is Community Development Coordinator Kassandra Clark. She hopes all will stop by her community and see what local businesses have to offer.

"Our small businesses are the backbone of Middleville. They sponsor our community events, donate to local causes, employ residents, and help create the charm and vitality that make people want to live here," Clark said. "When residents support their hometown businesses, they are helping ensure that our downtown continues to grow, flourish, and offer meaningful experiences for years to come."

Lying almost a half-hour south of Middleville is the quaint town of Delton, displaying a streetscape with a variety of stores and restaurants. The growing town drew in shoppers on Small Business Saturday this past weekend, providing easy travel accommodations to stores and restaurants by offering trolley service to customers. Marie Ferris and Ashly Wilson from the Revitalize Delton Project put their heads together to offer a great Saturday of shopping for locals in Delton.

"They, for one, have a ton of courage to open a business door in a smaller community without as much foot traffic. That tells me they love their small town," Ferris said. "It is the perfect day once a year to show appreciation to them."

"I'm very grateful on many occasions not to have to drive 30 to 40 minutes into the city. It's nice to get what I need in my hometown as often as I can," Ferris added.

Organizers from the Revitalize Delton Community Project hosted the Small Business Saturday event in Delton in hopes neighbors and friends continue to remember their local businesses throughout the holiday season — and all year-round.

"Shopping at our local businesses is crucial for the vitality of our town. I hope that everyone in our communities throughout Barry County recognizes that these small businesses are the ones that contribute generously to our local events, support our athletes, and enhance our school activities," Wilson said.

READING

Continued from Page 3

challenge. Patrons can also visit the library's webpage to sign up for the program, kdl.org/locations/ALT/

Librarians at the KDL Caledonia Township Branch are inviting all to come in and see the "Let It Snow" reading challenge display table and check out books for a winter reading adventure. Stop in the library at 6260 92nd St SE, Caledonia, or call 616-784-2007 for more information. A sign-up page for the "Let It Snow" reading challenge is posted at kdl.org/locations/CAL/. — *KTE*

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INCREASE:
A ROAD MAP TO FINANCIAL HEALTH

Lower your insurance premiums



Zach Santmier

We've been walking through the eight steps that help you fill up your financial tank and finally move toward the dreams that have been put on the back burner for far too long.

We've covered Step 1: Spend less than you make.

We've hit Step 2: Give 10%.

And last week, we talked about Step 3: establishing a "New Zero" in your checking account.

And today, it's time for Step 4: Adequate Insurance—the protection mark on your Financial Fuel Gauge.

Up to this point, you have already been making financial strides to lay a solid financial foundation. Now, we want to make sure that we don't go backwards. Insurance is a financial tool to transfer risk onto an insurance company so you aren't flying solo, hoping bad things don't happen.

Now, when most people hear "adequate insurance," they think we're about to get buried in fine print, endorsements, exclusions, and all the other stuff no one reads until after disaster strikes. And if you're local here in West Michigan, you may know that I own Trumble Agency, a local independent insurance agency, and deal with this subject as my day job.

But today we're simplifying it—because the heart of this step isn't about becoming an insurance expert. Today I want to focus on one element that will provide clarity to all of your insurance policies: your deductible. A deductible is your "self insurance." Instead of transferring 100% of the risk to an insurance company, a deductible is put in place so your risk is capped at a predetermined dollar amount.

So let me give you my philosophy, and it might surprise you: Your deductible should be as high as you can comfortably afford.

Why? Because insurance is designed for the big stuff—not minor inconveniences. Yet most people set their deductible low so when it comes to making small claims, it "feels free." But as in life, nothing in insurance is free. A low deductible means the company is taking on all of the risk — and charging you for it every single month. And the more you use it for small things, the more the monthly rates rise.

And here's the part people don't realize: Most families go years—sometimes decades—without filing a claim.

So what does that mean? It means most people overpay month after month after month, all for a deductible they rarely, if ever, use.

When you raise your deductible to a level you could handle—without feeling uncomfortable—you immediately lower your monthly premium. And that savings, over the course of a year, two years, five years… becomes real money in your wallet. Money that can go toward filling other parts of your financial tank: paying off debt, building savings, investing, or hitting those goals you've been putting off. This year alone, my team at Trumble have helped our clients save over $1,500,000 by adjusting deductibles and simplifying their insurance.

Now, here's the key: I'm not saying choose a deductible that scares you. I'm saying choose the highest deductible that still lets you sleep at night that is under your New Zero which is one month of your expenses.

If you have your "New Zero" established—your buffer in your checking account—this becomes even easier. Think about it: The money you've already set aside to protect yourself from life's bumps is now the same money that could absorb a larger deductible.

And let me say this as clearly as I can: Insurance should not be a maintenance plan. This is unpopular for an insurance guy to say, but insurance is not meant for every cracked windshield, every tiny ding, every little something that goes wrong. It's there to protect your financial life when something big hits—something you couldn't comfortably handle on your own.

By choosing a smart deductible, you stop overpaying for the small stuff and start using insurance for the big stuff—exactly how it was designed.

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So this week, take a look at your policies—auto, home, health, all of them—and ask yourself: "Is my deductible set for convenience, or is it set intentionally to maximize my savings?"

When you fix that, you're not just checking a box—you're moving one more step toward a full tank.

To get caught up on past articles, visit trumbleagency.com/increase where a complete library of all of the articles can be found.

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.







Members of the Gaines Township Planning Commission discuss business at their Nov. 20 meeting. That included (l-r) vice chairman Ronnie Rober, secretary Lani Thomas, chairperson Connie Giarmo and Commissioner Talimma Billips.

MICROSOFT

Continued from Page 1

Microsoft officials also announced in the fall of 2024 that the company had purchased 274 acres a few miles south of Gaines Township in Allegan County's Dorr Township, on 144th Avenue between US-131 and 14th Street.

Combined with the site in Gaines, Microsoft purchased 590 total acres for future development. But details related to the development of the properties have not been publicly disclosed.

"Microsoft is recommending a next step for a public meeting to walk through power distributions for data centers," stated Gaines Township Supervisor Bob Terpstra.

Terpstra said the meeting would give Microsoft officials a chance to "dispel in advance the assumptions people are making."

Terpstra did not specify what those assumptions are, but added the meeting will be held at an undetermined large venue in the township, likely in late February.

"As to their timing and plans, that is still under a (non-disclosure agreement) and that has not been revealed," Terpstra said

Township Manager Rod Weersing said no meeting date has been set yet.

"They're working on an open house, which I think will be beneficial to the community," he said. "We still don't know a lot about it, what it's going to look like, if it's going to be one building or more than that. We're anticipating (receiving) more information."

If Microsoft develops a large data center, it potentially will make Gaines Township a major data hub.

Officials with Switch Inc. have stated its data center pyramid campus on East Paris Avenue is already one of the largest in the nation east of the Mississippi River. The center is located about four miles north of the Microsoft property.

Wells mentioned Consumers Energy has proposed the future public meeting to discuss how an energy distribution network might work. He said the meeting would be an informational meeting or a learning session.

"If you have questions about power distribution systems, capacity and that sort of thing," he said. "So, we're going to discuss internally when it would be good to have that (meeting). And there will be an invite for planning commissioners and board members to ask any questions that they might have."

Allen Bacon, principal external engagement manager for Consumers Energy, briefly introduced himself to members of the township's Planning Commission at their Nov. 20 meeting. Wells said Consumers proposed holding the meeting.

"While project plans, capital investment and potential employee numbers are yet to be finalized, we will provide updates as information becomes available," Microsoft officials stated last year.

Microsoft was considering purchasing some additional property earlier this year, about four blocks north of the industrial land it bought at Patterson Avenue and 76th Street.

But it withdrew a request in March for the township to potentially rezone the undeveloped 40.5-acre parcel at 7147 Patterson Ave.

The request was to rezone it from a planned unit development, large-scale phased designation to light industrial.

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MIDDLEVILLE TOPS 546

The Dec. 1 meeting opened with roll call and the Secretary's report. There are now two fish in the fishbowl. Virginia was the best loser for the month of November.

Sue's program was on "The Macros." Macro is short for macronutrients. They consist of protein, carbs and fats that are needed in large amounts in our daily diet. Micronutrients are vitamins and minerals needed in smaller amounts.

Protein is made up of building blocks called amino acids. They build and repair muscles and bones, reduce appetite, hunger levels and cravings, boost metabolism, increase fat burn, helps in weight management and reduce muscle loss during aging. Protein is found in dairy, poultry, fish, seafood, eggs, red meat, beans, lentils, tofu, tempeh, nuts and seeds.

Carbs are the main source of fuel for physical activity, brain function, organ operation and promoting digestive health. Complex carbs are the fiber found in fruit, veggies, whole grains and legumes. They aid in digestion, regulate sugar, lower bad cholesterol and keep you fuller longer. Starches give you vitamins and minerals. They take longer to break down. Simple carbs break down very fast and cause the sugar spikes and drops. They are found in cookies, chips, pretzels, candy, pastries and sugary beverages.

Fat helps absorb vitamins A, D, E and K. It gives us essential fatty acids, makes food taste better, regulates hunger hormones, and keeps us fuller longer. Trans fats have no health benefits. They can increase heart attack risks and are found in highly processed foods, fried foods and fast foods. Saturated fats are the fatty cuts of meat, cheese, butter, dairy, coconut and palm oils. Limit fat to 10% of your total calories for the day. Unsaturated fats have many benefits and are found in nuts, seeds, and avocados. All three are needed as part of a healthy, balanced diet.

Members were told to focus more on eating lean protein, fiber rich carbs and healthy fats.

Virginia 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.

Farm Toy Show
December 13th
Doors open from 8am-2pm
Free Admission @ 9 am
($5 for early)

Contact: 616-840-0731 or patrickvanderkolk6@gmail w/questions
Hosted by:
Caledonia FFA Alumni
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Caledonia High School
9050 Kraft Ave
Caledonia, MI 49316

Top video games for holiday gifting this year

Gaming remains a wildly popular pastime. According to TechJury, more than 3.3 billion people worldwide played video games in 2025, and gaming is a mainstream hobby across all generations. The Entertainment Software Association's 2025 Facts About the U.S. Video Game Industry report indicates the average player is 26-years-old and female and male gamers are nearly evenly split (47 percent versus 52 percent). Baby Boomers and even older generations also play video games each week and benefit from the mental stimulation and relaxation the hobby offers.

Given the popularity of gaming, gifting video games for the holidays can be a smart tactic. The following are some 2025 releases that can be wrapped up as gifts this year.



· **Donkey Kong Returns HD:** Players will blast out of barrels, ride mine carts, stomp enemies, and more in this popular game newly imagined for the Nintendo Switch. Players join Donkey Kong and Diddy Kong on their wild adventures to retrieve their stolen banana horde.

· **Split Fiction:** In this game, a player and partner become Mio and Zoe, two writers who are trapped in a simulation of their own imaginations after a high-tech attempt to steal their creative ideas goes awry. This unlikely duo will need to work together in order to escape with their memories intact from a world filled with dragons, trolls, cyber ninjas, and robo-parking attendants. The game is available for PlayStation 5.

· **Star Wars Episode 1: Jedi Power Battles:** Video games often tap into nostalgia, which is perhaps why gamers were excited to find out that this popular Star Wars game was being remastered for modern consoles. This enables players to enjoy the original experience with only minor updates that include a simpler control scheme.

· **Citizen Sleeper 2:** Starward Vector: This role-playing game is a sequel to the popular game from 2022. Players control an escaped android with a malfunctioning body, a price on its head and no memory of the past. The goal is to get a ship, find a crew and take on contracts.

· **Doom:** The Dark Ages: This game is a prequel to the popular Doom experience, including Doom and Doom Eternal. It tells an epic story, and players inhabit the boots of the Doom slayer in this medieval and sinister war game.

· **Elden Ring: Nightreign:** This game is a standalone adventure within the Elden Ring universe. It's crafted to offer players a new gaming experience by reimagining the core attributes of play. Players join forces with others to battle the creeping night and become heroes.

Video games are popular gift ideas, and 2025 doesn't disappoint with its newest crop of exciting releases perfect for gamers of all ages.

— Source: Metro Creative Connection

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Bowne Center Historical Society will also host an OPEN HOUSE at the Museum and the one-room Schoolhouse.

This wonderful event takes place at the corner of
12051 84th St. & Alden Nash Rd. (M-50).



Did you know?

Every year certain gifts emerge as the "hot" toys and games for children. These are the presents kids are eager to find wrapped up and ready for them. Adults often scramble to secure these popular items. According to the United Kingdom-based retailer Argos, the following are among the most popular items children were asking Santa Claus to deliver over the previous decade.

2024: BeyBlade Xtreme Battle Set
2023: Nerf Elite Double Punch
2022: LEGO Icons Optimus Prime "Transformers" Robot Model Set
2021: Bluey Family Home Playset
2020: Hatchimals Pixies Crystal Flyers
2019: Furreal Cubby Bear
2018: Fingerlings Untamed T-Rex and Dino Cage
2017: Cozmo, White Robot
2016: Hatchimals, Purple Egg
2015: Barbie Saddle 'N Ride

— Source: Metro Creative Connection

Why supporting local small businesses matters

The holiday season is a time of year when shopping takes center stage. While online giants and big box retailers offer an endless array of products with the convenience of low prices, small businesses provide a range of benefits that go far beyond the ease of a mouse click. Shopping local retailers is more than just a transaction, it is crucial for maintaining the economic foundation of local communities. Let's take a look at the many ways it pays to shop small businesses.

Strengthen the local economy: A large percentage of the money spent at small businesses stays in the community. That's because these businesses often are owned and operated by local residents who are invested in the community themselves. Various studies indicate that for every $100 spent at a small business, roughly $70 stays in the community.

Enhanced customer service: Owners and employees of small businesses have a keen interest in keeping customers happy. They often do so by providing superior customer service. Tailoring recommendations, willingness to accommodate special requests, more engaging shopping experience, and being more friendly sets many small businesses apart.

Support the community: Small businesses serve the community through the products and services they offer, and many give back in other ways as well. Small, locally owned businesses often sponsor schools, sports teams and charities. This helps foster a sense of belonging in the community.

Innovative offerings: Small businesses are not held to corporate policies or franchise restrictions, so they can bring new life to existing ideas and trends. Small businesses can offer customers different options that larger retailers cannot match.

Job creation: Small businesses employ a significant percentage of the workforce and frequently provide jobs that might not be available in larger corporate settings. Keeping residents working helps strengthen local communities.



There are numerous benefits to shopping at small businesses. Such firms help to establish a more resilient, diverse and bustling local community.

— Source: Metro Creative Connection & Freepik

CALEDONIA TOWNSHIP
6th ANNUAL HOLIDAY
Luminary Walk



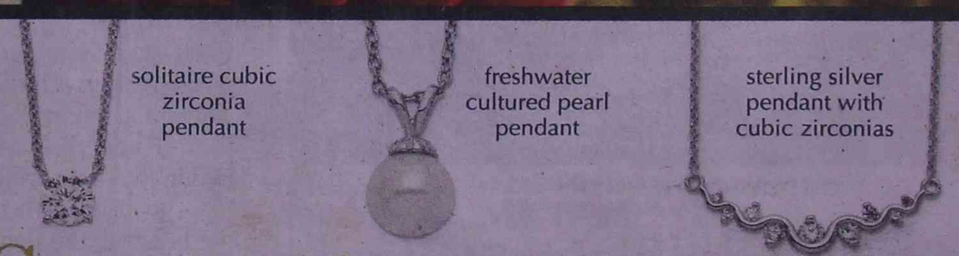
Saturday, December 13th
6:00 pm – 8:30 pm

PLEASE JOIN US once again for our 6th Annual Holiday Luminary Walk!
Come enjoy a walk down the Caledonia Trail, located near the Community Green Park and the Caledonia Library (9309 Dobber Wenger).

The trail will again be lit with over 1000 luminaries. Grab a donut and a cup of hot chocolate at the Pavilion, then visit Santa at the Amphitheater before you start your walk. The Dickens Carolers will again be joining us. We will have a Toys for Tots box if you would like to donate an unwrapped toy.

In case of inclement weather, the walk will be moved to December 14th at the same time.
Any questions, feel free to contact the Caledonia Township office. 616-891-0070





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Sporting News

Heavyweight comebacks boost Scots over Trojans

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

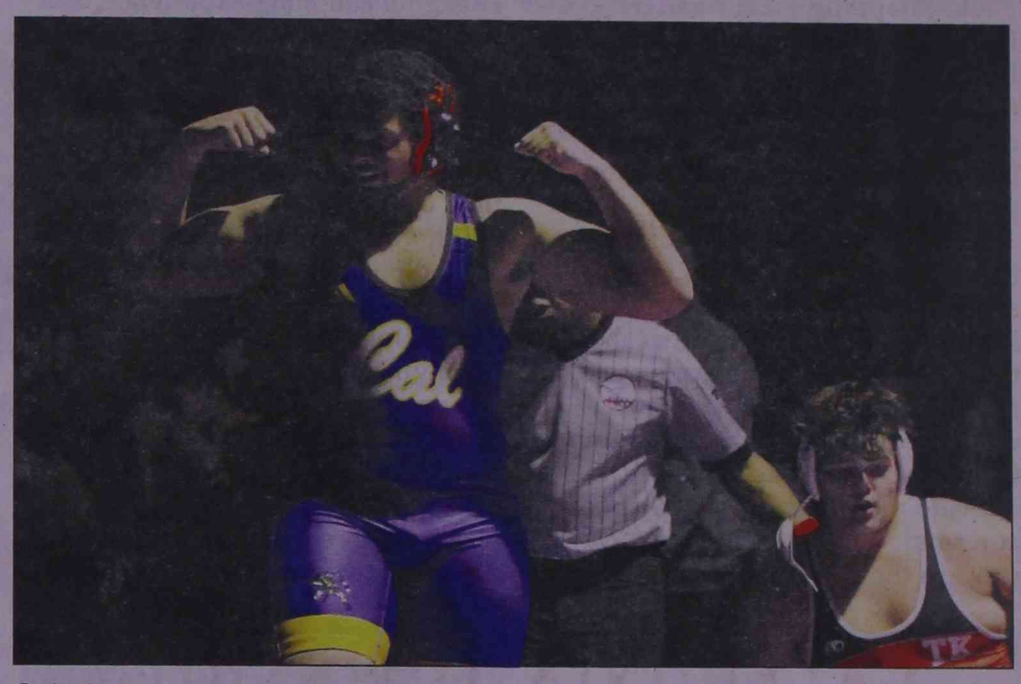
The Trojan heavyweights started out on top on the scoreboard, but the Fighting Scots finished on top on the mat at the end of the three-team meet at Caledonia High School Wednesday.

The Caledonia varsity wrestling team finished off the first night of the 2025-26 season by scoring a 41-37 win over the visiting Thornapple Kellogg squad.

Thornapple Kellogg had a 37-29 lead with two bouts to go. Caledonia 215-pounder Xavier Stewart and 285-pounder Ky Spencer both faced significant point deficits in the first period, but rallied for pins that turned the dual into a Fighting Scot victory.

Spencer clinched the win by pinning TK's Abram Dutcher 3 minutes and 33 seconds into the 285-pound match. Dutcher built a 7-0 lead early in the first period, holding Spencer down for four nearfall points. The two came out of the second period tied 8-8, and Stewart managed a take down midway through the third period and pinned Hammer at the 5:03 mark.

"Honestly, it was a perfect learning situation where they didn't have to lose to learn. It is exactly what we have been preaching to them: 0-0 after the first period is great," Caledonia head coach Shawn Veitch said in regards to his heavyweights. "They are great athletes. Everybody is fresh in the first period. If we can just beat them up a little bit, tire them down and then let our athleticism win as the match goes on. Gosh, we dug ourselves some holes didn't we, but hats off to them.



Caledonia sophomore Ky Spencer gives a smile and a flex under the spotlight after pinning Thornapple Kellogg's Abram Dutcher in the 285-pound bout at the end of their nonconference dual Wednesday at Caledonia High School. The six points from Spencer's second-period pin clinched a 41-37 Caledonia victory. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

"Our whole phrase this year is mental and physical toughness. We will not break mentally, and we are going to break people physically. I was so proud that even though they got down they didn't mentally break and stuck to the game plan."

The Scots should be tough at the top this winter as they also have junior Luke Kowatch there to compete at the 215-pound and 285-pound flights with Stewart and Spencer.

Kowatch got to compete Wednesday too, taking on the defending Division 1 285-pound state champion, Logan Tollison, from Grand Ledge in the Scots' opener at what turned into a three-team meet. Tollison pinned Kowatch in the middle of the first period of their match.

Grand Ledge was tough all around defeating Thornapple Kellogg 62-16 and then the Scots 42-29.

In that backyard dual between Caledonia and TK, the Fighting Scots got pins from Caleb VanLaan at 106 pounds, Escher Reeder at 132, Robert Restau at 144 and Caden Nostrant at 175 pounds as well as at those two heavyweight spots.

Caledonia's other points came thanks to an 18-1 technical fall by Max Schnurstein at 126 pounds.

The Scots had to forfeit the 120-pound weight class to TK's Daniel Nieboer, but coach Veitch said he expects that hole to be filled once guys start settling into their proper weight classes.

TK also got pins in the dual from Garrett Grummet at 113 pounds and Jackson Smith at 190. Ethan Strait got a couple of third period take downs to finish off a 20-14 win over the Scots' Shawn Restau in the 138-pound match. TK's Blake Bossenberger rode the Scots' Koleson Reeder through the third period of their 165-pound

See next page

NOTHIN' BUT A GOOD TIME



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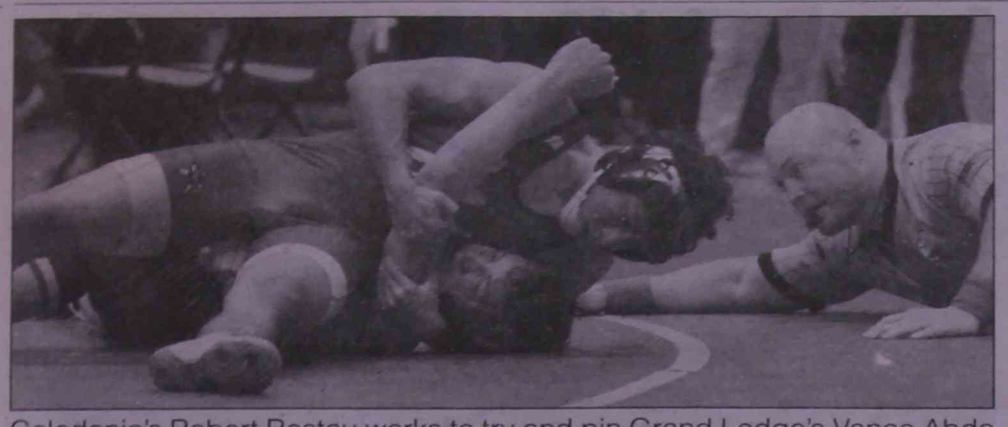
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Caledonia's Robert Restau works to try and pin Grand Ledge's Vance Abdo during the second period of their 144-pound match Wednesday at Caledonia High School. Grand Ledge finished on top of the evening's try with wins over the host Fighting Scots and the Thornapple Kellogg Trojans.



Thornapple Kellogg 113-pounder Garrett Grummet (top) holds down Caledonia's Takluem Sakui during the first period of their bout Wednesday evening at Caledonia High School. cored a pin in the final second of the first period.

Continued from previous page

match to hold onto an 8-2 major decision.

VanLaan at 106, Schnurstein at 126 and Robert Restau at 144 had pins for the Scots in the dual with Grand Ledge. Escher Reeder won a 6-0 decision at 132 pounds. Nostrant scored a 9-2 win at 175. In the 157-pound bout with the Comets, Egan Otto scored an 18-2 technical fall for the Scots.

Coach Veitch said Schnurstein and Escher Reeder are a couple of guys who he thinks could find a lot of success and really help the team once they are able to get down a weight class. They both found a lot of success with two wins each Wednesday.

Veitch also said he was really enthused by Robert Restau's efforts on the day.

"I had a great talk with him. I have never coached someone as athletic as him. If I can get him to work hard on technique and then bring it out here the sky is the limit for that kid."

The Scot coach was pretty pleased with the leadership from Nostrant and Ben Moss as well.

"I just really liked the team's sportsmanship. Everybody was into it. Everybody was screaming and supporting their guys. It is just great to see," Spencer said. "We have just worked so hard these past couple of weeks and it is so great to see it come together and result in that big win that we had right there."

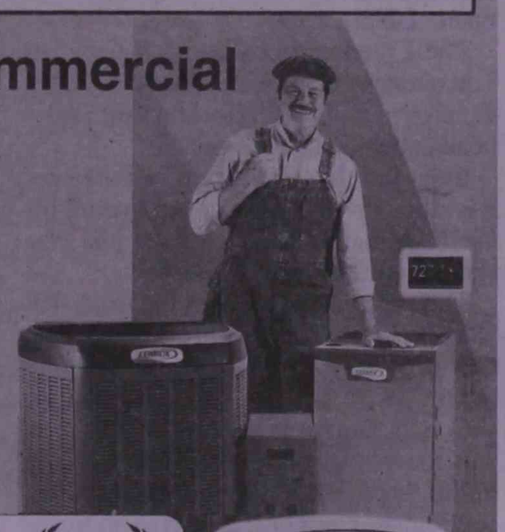
Garett Grummet at 113 and Griffin Grummet at 157 scored pins for TK in its contest with Grand Ledge, and the Trojan team also got a 16-5 major decision from Cam Peter in the 175-pound weight class.

Caledonia has plans to compete in a tournament at Greenville today, Dec. 6. Thornapple Kellogg is spending its Saturday at the Grandville Challenge. They'll be together again next Saturday, Dec. 13, at the Kent County Classic hosted by East Kentwood High School.

TK is at Plainwell for a quad Wednesday, Dec. 10, and Caledonia plays host to Reed City Wednesday.

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The Village of Middleville is seeking a qualified applicant as

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Candidates should meet the following requirements:

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- The Village, at its discretion, may consider an alternative combination of formal education and work experience.
- State of Michigan Vehicle Operator's License.
- Knowledge and understanding of State and locally adopted building codes and inspection processes.
- Thorough knowledge of the Village's property maintenance, rental property, and zoning ordinances.
- Skill in visually inspecting physical conditions and determining areas requiring more in-depth inspection.
- Skill in interpreting, applying, and enforcing related codes and ordinances.
- Ability to effectively communicate and present ideas and concepts orally and in writing.
- Ability to establish effective working relationships and use good judgment, initiative, and resourcefulness when dealing with property owners, the public, other professional contacts, and municipal officials.
- Skill in maintaining record-keeping systems and compiling reports.
- Ability to effectively communicate ideas and concepts orally.
- Ability to exercise a high degree of diplomacy in contentious or confrontational situations.
- Ability to critically assess situations, problem-solve, and work effectively under stress, within deadlines, and with changes in work priorities.
- Skill in the use of office equipment and technology, including Microsoft Suite applications and software specific to the department; and the ability to master new technologies.

Qualified candidates should submit an application, cover letter, and resume to

Village of Middleville
Craig Stolsonburg, Village Manager
100 East Main St – PO Box 69
Middleville, MI 49333

Application can be found on our website at

https://www.villageofmiddleville.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/VOM-Employment-Application-fillable-05-2023.pdf

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Applications accepted until position filled.

Speedy Fighting Scots hope to improve on last year's six wins



Fighting Scot junior guard Ben Geerdes is one of the leaders for a young Fighting Scots varsity boys' basketball roster this winter. The Scots are off to a 1-0 start after winning at Wyoming Tuesday. **File photo by Brett Bremer**

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Caledonia boys are off to a 1-0 start and they're looking to keep building the program up in the second year under head coach Nathan Burns.

Even with a solid group of returnees it is still a pretty young group overall for the Fighting Scots. There are just two seniors on the roster.

The top guys back from the team that went 6-17 a year ago are juniors Ben Geerdes, Bryce Backus and Lincoln Senti.

Coach Burns is looking for a few newcomers to play big roles, a group highlighted by junior Aaron Collins, sophomore Connor Bloemers and freshman Luca Galardi.

So far in the preseason, coach Burns said he likes his team's quickness and guard play.

"We should be able to push the pace more this season," Burns said.

He added that expectations are higher this season. He is looking for improvements statistically that will result in more victories.

The first victory came Tuesday as the Scots defeated Wyoming 72-61 in Wyoming.

Caledonia was slated for its home opener Friday, Dec. 5, against Kenowa Hills. The Scots go to Rockford Tuesday, Dec. 9, and will be home against Lowell Dec. 12.

The OK Green Conference season starts Jan. 13 when the Scots go to Mona Shores.

Muskegon ran through a 10-0 conference season a year ago and had a 19-2 record at the close of the regular season before eventually falling by two to Rockford in a district final. The Big Reds are expected to be the class of the conference again.

Trojans hope to match last season's success on the hardwood

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Thornapple Kellogg varsity boys' basketball team won 13 games and finished in a tie for third in the OK Gold Conference a year ago.

Head coach Phil Garber is hoping his guys can match that kind of success on the hardwood this winter.

TK put forth a stellar defensive effort in its season opener against Plainwell Tuesday, allowing the visiting Trojans just 35 points, but the host TK Trojans managed just 32 points of their own. Coach Garber expects the Trojans' rotating array of defense powered by its 1-3-1 zone to be a strength all season, and he's looking forward to steady improvements on the offensive end.

Senior forward Trey Hilton, senior guard Ben Lloyd and senior forward Lucas Ploeg are back to lead the way for the Trojan team this season. Hilton has some skill and fluidity around the basket. Lloyd is a guard capable of putting the ball in the basket from anywhere and running the point. Ploeg is a physical presence on both the offensive and defensive ends of the floor. Senior Zay Boafo returns as well this season to a guard spot.

Garber is happy to welcome Zach Eldridge back to basketball this winter too after he took a season off last winter. The TK head coach said he expects Eldridge to do all the little things like boxing out, rebounding, and getting after loose balls.

The junior group is highlighted by 6-10 center Sam Teachout, as well as guards Andrew Johnson and Braylon Rae. Johnson could turn into one of the team's top scorers as the season progresses according to coach Garber, and he thinks Teachout could get there too as his skills in the paint improve and as the TK offense gets used to having him there in the middle. Garber said the Trojans are going to work on getting Teachout the ball in positions where he can't help but put the ball in the basket.

Learning how to earn free throw attempts and honing the ability to put the ball in the basket are going to be keys.

The TK coach said the big challenge early on is just building continuity. A solid group graduated a year ago, and one or two other key pieces aren't back.

Aiming for a third-place finish in the conference again appears a realistic goal with Northview and South Christian once again expected to be battling it out at the top of the standings as a couple of the top teams in West Michigan.

The Trojans were set for a non-conference ballgame with Lakewood in Middleville Thursday, Dec. 4. TK is set to visit Forest Hills Eastern Dec. 9 and then play host to Forest Hills Central Dec. 11. The Trojans have a few other December contests before the break and then will be a part of the Cornerstone University Showcase Jan. 3, taking on Holt.

The OK Gold Conference season starts with Northview coming to TK Jan. 6.



Lucas Ploeg is one of four returning seniors on the TK varsity boys' basketball roster this fall. The Trojans were 13-11 a year ago and finished third in the OK Gold Conference, marks they are hoping to at least match this winter. **File photo by Brett Bremer**

8196 Broadmoor Ave. SE
Caledonia, MI 49316

Phone: 616.891.0070
Fax: 616.891.0430

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CALEDONIA,
COUNTY OF KENT, MICHIGAN
NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF TOWNSHIP ORDINANCE
AND SUMMARY OF THE REGULATORY EFFECT THEREOF

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on November 19, 2025, the Township Board of the Charter Township of Caledonia adopted Ordinance No. 25-01. The following is a summary of the principal terms of the ordinance:

1. 2021 Fire Code. The amending ordinance adopts 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.

2. Fire Apparatus Access Roads. The amending ordinance would delete the provision in the 2021 edition of the International Fire Code regarding fire apparatus access roads and provide that if the remaining provisions of Appendix D are inconsistent with the Township's Zoning Ordinance, the more stringent provisions will apply.

3. Repeal. The amending ordinance also repeals Ordinance No. 00-03 and Ordinance No. 2020-02, which adopted older fire codes by reference.

4. Effective Date. The amending ordinance will be effective upon this publication.

A copy of the ordinance may be inspected or purchased at the offices of the Township Clerk, Caledonia Township Hall, 8196 Broadmoor Avenue SE, within the Township, during normal business hours.

Dated: December 3, 2025

TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CALEDONIA

8196 Broadmoor Ave. SE
Caledonia, MI 49316

Phone: 616.891.0070
Fax: 616.891.0430

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CALEDONIA,
COUNTY OF KENT, MICHIGAN
NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF TOWNSHIP ORDINANCE
AND SUMMARY OF THE REGULATORY EFFECT THEREOF

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on November 19, 2025, the Township Board of the Charter Township of Caledonia adopted an ordinance to adopt Amendment No. 1 to the Valley Point Industrial Park Planned Unit Development Ordinance, Ordinance No. 25-03-Z (the "Ordinance"). The following is a summary of the principal terms of the Ordinance:

Section 1 of the Ordinance provides the legal description for the lands comprising the Valley Point Industrial Park Planned Unit Development.

Section 2 of the Ordinance provides the legal description for 8184 Broadmoor Avenue SE, which is the subject of the amending ordinance:

Parcel No. 41-23-17-400-054
PART SE 1/4 COM AT SE COR OF SEC TH N 0D 44M 06S W ALONG E SEC LINE 1888.22 FT TH S 73D 56M 49S W 606.02 FT TH S 0D 44M 06S E 271.73 FT TH S 74D 05M 00S W 212.18 FT TH N 58D 20M 00S W200.0 FT TO BEG ON THIS DESC – TH WLY 225.50 FT ALONG A 270.75 FT RAD CURVE LT/ LONG CHORD BEARS S 82D 11M 36S W 219.04 FT/TH S 73D 56M 49S W TO CL OF BROADMOOR AVE TH S 27D 40M 56S E ALONG SD CL 264.95 FT TH S 82D 46M 07S E 312.48 FT TO A LINE BEARING S 9D 20M W FROM BEG TH N 9D 20M E 325.90 FT TO BEG SEC 17 T5N R10W 2.60 A.

Section 3 of the Ordinance amends Section 5 of the original planned unit development ordinance for the Valley Point Industrial Park PUD (the "PUD Ordinance") to allow 8184 Broadmoor Avenue SE to be used as an indoor sports business.

Section 4 of the Ordinance provides that in additions to the terms and contiions of the original PUD Ordinance, all additional terms in conditions in the Township Board resolution approving the final site plan for 8184 Broadmoor Avenue SE must be complied with for the development of 8184 Broadmoor Avenue SE.

Section 5 of the Ordinance provides that the original PUD Ordinance is only amended in the respects specifically stated in the Ordinance, and all other terms and provisions remain in full force and effect.

Section 6 of the Ordinance provides that other than an indoor sports business, 8184 Broadmoor Avenue SE may only be used for one of the uses allowed in the original PUD Ordinance.

Section 7 of the Ordinance provides that it will become effective seven days after this publication.

A copy of the ordinance may be inspected or purchased at the offices of the Township Clerk, Caledonia Township Hall, 8196 Broadmoor Avenue SE, within the Township, during normal business hours.

Dated: December 3, 2025

TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CALEDONIA

Village of Middleville 2026 MEETING SCHEDULE

The **MIDDLEVILLE VILLAGE COUNCIL** meets regularly on the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Jan 13 & 27	May 12 & 26	Sep 8 & 22
Feb 10 & 24	Jun 9 & 23	Oct 13 & 27
Mar 10 & 24	Jul 14 & 28	Nov 10 & 24
Apr 14 & 28	Aug 11 & 25	Dec 15 (3rd Tue)

The **MIDDLEVILLE PLANNING COMMISSION** meets regularly on the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Jan 6	May 5	Sep 1
Feb 3	Jun 2	Oct 6
Mar 3	Jul 7	Nov 4 (Wed)
Apr 7	Aug 5 (Wed)	Dec 1

The **MIDDLEVILLE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY** meets regularly on the first Tuesday of every month at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Jan 6	May 5	Sep 1
Feb 3	Jun 2	Oct 6
Mar 3	Jul 7	Nov 4 (Wed)
Apr 7	Aug 5 (Wed)	Dec (No meeting)

The **LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE AUTHORITY** meets quarterly as indicated at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Jan 15	Aug 20
Apr 16	Oct 15

The ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS meets the third Thursday of January, and as needed, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.
Jan 15

The **WELLHEAD PROTECTION GROUP** does not have regularly scheduled meeting dates but meets as business requires in the Village Offices.

Notices of all special meetings and meeting changes will be posted at the Village Hall and on the Village Website: www.villageofmiddleville.org. Minutes will be available for public inspection at the Village Office during regular business hours for each of these bodies in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, the Freedom of Information Act, and other applicable law, and on the Village's website. The public is welcome to attend and participate in any open session of these bodies. The Middleville Village Hall is located at 100 E. Main Street, Middleville, MI 49333.



Caledonia junior alternate captain Harmon Esch talks things over with a referee during an early season contest at Patterson Ice Center. Esch is one of a number of returning upperclassmen on the roster this winter that has new head coach Tyler Jaenicke liking his team's depth. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

New Fighting Scot hockey head coach appreciative of team's depth

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

It's a 4-3 start for the Caledonia varsity hockey team in the first year with new head coach Tyler Jaenicke.

Jaenicke takes over a program that put together an 18-7-1 record a year ago.

The new Fighting Scot head coach really likes the group of leaders he has back for the co-op team that also includes student-athletes from Thornapple Kellogg and Lowell.

That returning group is highlighted by senior forwards Harmon Esch and Ty Lewandowski, junior forwards Ethan Sova and Drew Nichols, junior defender Gabe Supuk and senior goalkeeper Sam Hoag.

Jaenicke said the strong returning group provides great depth for the team this winter, and that depth is spread across the line-up.

The program will get a boost this season from the addition of senior forward William Maelum-Micheelsen, an exchange-student from Denmark, sophomore forward Bryce Mitchell, sophomore defender Aiden Eitel and freshman defender Evan Moore.

The Fighting Scots are off to a 2-0 start in the OK Conference Rue Division so far with wins over Rockford and Forest Hills Central. Coming into the season coach Jaenicke said he expects Byron Center and East Grand Rapids to be a couple of the top contenders for a conference crown. He had the Rangers, who his team his squad bested 5-0 Nov. 22 as another one of the expected conference leaders.

Caledonia will face the Byron Center and the East Grand Rapids squads in January with East Grand Rapids hosting the Scots' Jan. 16 and Byron Center visiting the Scots Jan. 23. Both contests will be at Patterson Ice Center which is the new home ice for the Caledonia program this winter.

The Fighting Scots have been very good close to home this season, but had a tough time at the Alpena Showcase last weekend. Chippewa Valley United defeated the Scots 4-1 Nov. 28 and Alpena downed the Scots 6-1 Nov. 29.

Landen Moore notched a goal in the Scots' loss to Chippewa Valley United, with assists coming from Sova and Bryce Mitchell. Supuk scored in the contest with Alpena, getting assists from Sova and Jagger Burnes.

Sova and Supuk came out of the showcase at Northern Lights Arena tied for the team lead in points with nine each.

The Scots are a part of a Grand Rapids Showcase Tournament this weekend at Patterson Ice Center slated for games Dec. 5 against Salem and Dec. 6 against Big Rapids. Caledonia will be home Dec. 12 to take on Marysville.

Scoring scarce as Plainwell wins battle of Trojans in Middleville

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Thornapple Kellogg boys expect to win some games based on the strength of their defense this season.

The offense needs to be a little more successful than it was in the season opener though.

The Thornapple Kellogg varsity boys' basketball team fell 38-32 to Plainwell in Middleville Tuesday evening.

"Our defense is going to be really solid the whole year," TK head coach Phil Garber said. "That is a tough team. That team went to regionals and lost in regional finals last year. They bring most of their guys back. They are tall, athletic and very disciplined. To hold them under 40 was good."

Plainwell was on pace for a lot more points early on. The visiting blue and white Trojans shot out to a 7-0 lead through the first two minutes.

TK senior forward Trey Hilton put in a free throw 2:10 into the contest for TK's first point of the season.

Plainwell led 21-12 at the half. A long three from the top of the key by junior Andrew Johnson sparked TK early in the second half. Senior guard Ben Lloyd assisted Hilton in transition for a bucket. Eventually, a put-back by Johnson boosted TK to a 26-25 lead about three minutes into the second half.

"Our 1-3-1 really got us back in that game," Garber said. "We came out in that out of halftime and we went on a 7-0 run and really started ramping up."

Plainwell led 31-30 at the end of three quarters and then got a put-back and a TK turnover that led to a bucket to improve its lead to 35-30 early in the fourth quarter. The score sat there through most of the period.

A couple free throws by Lloyd had TK within 36-32 with 24.1 seconds to play, but TK couldn't get any closer.

Lloyd finished with a team-high 13 points. Hilton had six and Johnson had six. Junior Braylon Rae chipped in five points.

Garber said his team clearly missed senior forward Lucas Ploeg, who suffered an injury during warm-ups. TK was able to make up for some of his effort and physicality on the defensive end, but his experience on the offensive end of the floor was sorely missed.

The TK boys were set to be back on their home floor Dec. 4 taking on Lakewood. The Trojans visit Forset Hills Eastern Tuesday, Dec. 9,and then will be home to take on Forest Hills Central Thursday, Dec. 11.

DNR offering fuel wood permits through the end of the year

Those feeling a budget pinch this fall may consider "shopping" for firewood from dead or downed trees in a state forest in the state according to the Michigan DNR.

Fuelwood permits cost $20 and allow collection of fuelwood for personal use from select state-managed land in the Upper Peninsula and northern Lower Peninsula. Permit holders may collect up to five standard cords of wood, a stack measuring 4 feet by 4 feet by 8 feet. In the 12-county area affected by the severe ice storm in March, the limit is raised to 10 cords. Collected wood must be from already dead and downed trees within 200 feet of the road.

There are three ways to get fuelwood permits, which are good through Dec. 31:

Buy a permit online at mdnr-elicense.com.

Purchase a permit in person at DNR customer service centers in the northern Lower Peninsula or Upper Peninsula. A few forestry field offices also will sell permits in person; call to confirm business hours and availability.

Mail an application to the DNR office that manages the state forest land where you wish to collect fuelwood.

A few rules are in place to ensure wood is collected safely and sustainably:

Do not drive vehicles off the road, though you may use a wheelbarrow or handcart to carry wood to your vehicle.

Gather wood only from already dead and downed trees; do not remove wood from trees that are dead and still standing.

Have your permit with you and fill out the collection log before transporting your wood. Failure to do so could result in a citation.

Do not sell or trade firewood. It is for personal use only.

Avoid spreading invasive pests and diseases; collect firewood near where it will be used.

If you're collecting wood in the northern Lower Peninsula this year, ice storm debris can be treacherous. Be aware of your surroundings and look for hazards on the ground and overhead when collecting wood. If you are collecting wood during deer season, consider wearing blaze orange for visibility.

For more information on fuelwood permits and list of frequently asked questions, visit Michigan.gov/Fuelwood. — *BB*

Village of Middleville
COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the November 12, 2025 Regular Council Meeting, that were approved on November 25, 2025, are posted at the Village Hall at 100 E Main Street and on the website at www.villageofmiddleville.org.

NEWSPAPER ADVERTISING DEADLINES

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CHS has eventful early slate with T.C. trip and big arena ballgames

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Fighting Scots are going to do some holiday traveling to open the 2025-26 varsity girls' basketball season.

The Caledonia varsity girls' basketball team opens the season Tuesday, Dec. 9, at home against Forest Hills Central and then will be off to Traverse City Central for ballgames against Traverse City West Dec. 12 and Traverse City Central Dec. 13. The Caledonia girls face off against Lansing Waverly in the Aquinas College Showcase Dec. 20. There are also plans for the Fighting Scots to take on Grandville at VanAndel Arena in Grand Rapids Dec. 27.

It's not until mid-January that the Fighting Scots get to start the defense of their 2024-25 OK Green Conference Championship. Mona Shores will host the Scots Jan. 13 for the conference opener.

Overall a year ago, the Scots put together an 18-6 record and they were 9-1 in the conference.

There is talent, athleticism, versatility and a lot of enthusiasm in the group of girls that head coach Todd Bloemers brings back, but overcoming injuries will be a challenge as the season gets rolling.

A trio of freshmen guards were huge contributors, to say the least, last winter and back for a sophomore season are guards Olivia Foster and Myla Gortmaker. Emily Stauffer was an honorable mention all-state ballplayer, but she is recovering from an ACL surgery as the season gets underway – and she's not the only one. The Scots will also be missing junior guard Leah Hileman who was capable of being a strong contributor for the squad on the floor.

Leading the group of returnees are senior guard Baylee DeVSWries and senior forward Jolie King. The junior group returning includes forwards Kayla Briseno and Addison Veldt.



Senior Baylee DeVries is one of a number of key returnees for the defending OK Green Conference Champions from Caledonia as the 2025-26 varsity girls' basketball season gets underway. **File photo by Brett Bremer**

Coach Bloemers had a strong young group on the varsity again with the addition of freshman guard Reese Abbott, sophomore center Mallory Graham, sophomore forwards Brooklyn McLeod and Isabella Palmitier and junior guard Maya Terryn.

Bloemers really likes the team culture of competitiveness, inclusiveness and focus he and his girls have been building. He sees the opportunity for dynamic line-ups that feature speed and athleticism or size and strength as needed, and he really likes the overall depth with a lot of girls who can contribute.

He is also a big fan of his team's sense of "collective responsibility."

"Our roster has a variety of players who can lead us in scoring, assists, and rebounds on any given night," Bloemers said.

Overall he's really just looking for the group to improve every day and to embrace the process. He said he expects his girls to "surrender the outcome, and focus on attacking the habits that promote team success."

That first conference ballgame against the Sailors will be a key one. Bloemers said he expects Muskegon and Mona Shores to be the two teams providing the toughest challenge to another conference championship.

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