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LUMINARY WALK LIGHTS WAY IN PRAIRIE WOLF PARK
PAGE 5 AND 6



Gaines Twp. gets new platform truck

James Gemmell
Contributing Writer

"Way cool." That's how Tim Haagsma described Gaines Township's new $1.7 million platform fire truck.

He and the other township trustees paused their meeting for 20 minutes to go outside and view the fire truck up close for the first time, before going back inside the township board room to resume their meeting Monday, Dec. 8.

The trustees had been waiting for the 100-foot aerial ladder truck to arrive from Pierce Manufacturing in Appleton, Wis., since the Gaines Township and Byron Township boards each voted unanimously at an October 2022 joint meeting to split the cost of buying it. At that time, they were hoping it would arrive in about 29 months.

But that was before the Byron Township Board stunned Gaines trustees in July 2023 by voting to sever a 73-year partnership with Gaines Township in jointly operating the Cutlerville Fire Department. The Byron trustees said at that time they needed to build their own fire department in Cutlerville to better handle the growing demand for fire and rescue calls in one of Kent County's fastest-growing communities.

Byron Township announced in late September this year that it had opened its new fire station in Cutlerville at 6675 Clay Avenue at a cost of $2.4 million.

Gaines Township Manager Rod Weersing said Gaines trustees decided to go ahead and foot the full cost of the new platform fire truck after Byron trustees opted out. Gaines officials said it

See **TRUCK** on 2

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On Wednesday, Dec. 3, the community gathered for a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the reopening of Calvin Hill Memorial Park in Middleville after the completion of major playground upgrades. Pictured at last week's ribbon cutting are (from left) Dr. Debbie Mulligan, Francie Tobin, Kim Martin, Shannon Maier, Middleville Director of Public Works JD Pennock, Village Council Trustee Robert Bishop, Village Manager Craig Stolsonburg and Dr. Craig Mulligan. **Courtesy photos**

Playground upgrades complete at Calvin Hill Memorial Park

The Village of Middleville recently announced the completion of major playground upgrades at Calvin Hill Memorial Park, bringing modern, safe, and engaging play opportunities to local families.

The $155,000 project was made possible through a $15,000 donation from Craig and Debbie Mulligan in honor of Craig's mother, Rita Mulligan, a longtime school social worker who served children and families in the community. The Village funded the remaining project cost.

The project marks a significant transformation for the park, according to village staff. Aging equipment—some of which had been in place for nearly 50 years—was removed, including original swing sets, stainless steel slides, a teeter-totter and the former merry-go-round. These features, while nostalgic, no longer met modern safety standards.

In their place, the Village installed an all-new suite of playground amenities designed to inspire creativity, physical activity and inclusive play. The centerpiece of the project is a treetop play structure featuring multiple climbing elements, slides and imaginative nature-themed play components. Additional improvements include modern swing sets with updated safety features, new park benches for families and caregivers and engineered wood fiber surfacing to enhance safety and accessibility.

Village Manager Craig Stolsonburg said he appreciates the community's support.

"Calvin Hill Park has been a beloved gathering place for

See **PLAYGROUND** on 6

Hitting the high notes



Eighteen members of the Caledonia High School Choir participated in the MSVMA Region A Honors Choir on Saturday, Dec. 5. Schools from all over West Michigan traveled to Caledonia for the event, and more than a dozen CHS Choir students volunteered their time to help run the music festival. In addition, nine students will be advancing to the state level to perform at the Michigan Music Conference in January. Participating CHS students included (back, l-r) Allison Malone*, Benji Rewa*, Ella Rigley, Caleb Parlin, Savannah Robinson, Addison Cook*, Sophie Steenwyk*, Zahara Muriithi* and Malachi Hanson; and (front) Charlie Scott, Lydia Shoesmith*, Lilliana Klein, Alma Cortes Diaz*, Katelyn Jaquish*, Kylee Zimmerer, Alister Brew and Parker Diemer. Not pictured: Derick Prichard*. (*) Denotes CHS students who will be advancing to the State Honors Choir. **Courtesy photo**

TK BOE approves TAPRC resolution, tackles full agenda

Karen Turko-Ebright
Staff Writer

A number of action items filled the agenda for the Thornapple Kellogg Schools Board of Education at its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, Dec. 8.

That included a resolution for the Thornapple Area Parks and Recreation Commission recreation plan, which is up for renewal.

Catherine Getty, TAPRC chairperson, said every five years the commission updates the Middleville parks and recreation plan.

According to Getty, TAPRC was established in 2000 through a joint arrangement with TKS, The Village of Middleville and Thornapple Township to help plan for park and recreation resources in the Middleville area. The five-year renewal by TAPRC is to update the recreation plan that must be submitted to the State of Michigan to be eligible for grants.

Getty added that updating the renewal is an opportunity for TAPRC to ensure alignment with what the people in the community want to see done. But, she said the real value of the five-year plan is to Thornapple Township,

See **TAPRC** on 7



Gaines trustees stand outside the township's new aerial ladder on Monday night, Dec. 8. Those township officials getting a closer look include (from left) trustees Kathy VanderStel, Tim Haagsma, Gaines Fire Chief Ken Van Hall, Treasurer Laurie Lemke, Trustee Dan Fryling, Clerk Michael Brew and Supervisor Bob Terpstra. **Photo by James Gemmell**

TRUCK

Continued from Page 1

was needed to replace the township's nearly two-decade-old platform truck.

"It's a great piece of equipment that's going to serve the township well," Weersing said. "It's well thought out, it's going to be very efficient. The mid-mount setup is going to be more conducive for firefighters."

Township trustees voted last year to dissolve the old Cutlerville Fire Department and launched the new Gaines Charter Township Fire Department on Jan. 1 of this year. It includes the Cutlerville fire barn on 68th Street near Division Avenue, which is called Fire Station No. 1, and the Dutton fire station on 68th Street in Dutton, officially known as Fire Station No. 2.

The Gaines Township Board of Trustees voted in November to authorize staff to hire three full-time firefighters for Fire Station No. 1.

The aerial platform on the township's old truck is mounted in the back of the truck, but Weersing said the platform bucket on the new truck is mounted in the middle.

"It keeps the bucket from hanging over the front of the engine," he explained in a post-meeting interview. "It nicely compacts it on the back of the engine. It makes it a lot more stable by being in the middle as opposed to the end."

Weersing said the new platform fire truck arrived in the township Friday, a few weeks later than anticipated due to some final inspections in Wisconsin.

"They wanted to do a software upgrade to the stabilization system that was brand new," he said. "So, we've got the latest software on it, which keeps it from having to go in to have that updated."

"It's an exciting time for the township," Gaines Supervisor Bob Terpstra said.

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Phone: 269-945-9554
www.sunandnews.com

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

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Donors give the gift of hope at annual Pine Rest Giving Tree fundraiser

James Gemmell
Contributing Writer

Residents at Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services will wake up with presents under the tree come Christmas morning.

That is thanks to community members who are donating gift cards and cash to purchase the gifts through the Pine Rest Giving Tree holiday charity program.

On Tuesday, the Gaines Chamber of Commerce and Pine Rest hosted their annual Giving Tree luncheon at the Postma Center on the Pine Rest campus in Cutlerville. The business and community leaders who attended it bid on Christmas auction baskets and other items, with the proceeds going to the Pine Rest Giving Tree families. Besides the silent auction, some bidders won candy jars and poinsettias.

The chamber's executive director, Barb Nauta, served as the emcee of the event, which also served as the chamber's quarterly business luncheon.

"We had 22 total donations from area businesses, including baskets, gift cards and monetary contributions," she said.

The first guest speaker was Pine Rest Foundation executive director Donald MacKenzie.

"I love this event," he said. "I'm so appreciative of Gaines Township and the giving that you do. I mean, it's called the Giving Tree. Every one of you sitting around these tables is involved with different organizations; there are different charities that you give to, there's different philanthropy that you're involved with. I'm honored that each year you choose Pine Rest to support. I want to thank you for that."

Nauta said fundraising totals would not be added up until the end of the week, because online donations were still being accepted at pinerest.org/giving-tree.

"It's been an exciting year of fundraising here at Pine Rest," MacKenzie said. "In March, we're going to open up the Pediatric Behavioral Health Center. It's the first of its kind in the state. Super excited about it. (There will be) 66 inpatient bedrooms … It's going to be a first in our area: a psychiatric urgent care center just for kids."

The 74,000-square-foot building is being constructed at the southeast corner of the Pine Rest campus.

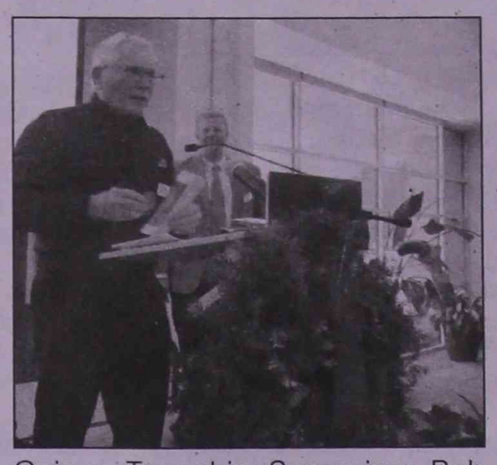
Pine Rest intake coordinator Nancy Carter was next to step onto the podium.

"Our residents and our patients here are precious people … and we need your services and your support and help," she said. "And so, thank you. Thank you because you're helping us take care of people in their moment of crisis. Or, if they're living here on our campus, you're helping us support them."

Nauta then gave a brief presentation. She said the Gaines Chamber added 50 new members this year and is continuing to grow its social-media presence. The chamber also is expanding its scholarship program.

"We were able to distribute 11 community student scholarships this year," Nauta said. "Because of our successful golf event and all of you."

Nauta then introduced the vice president of Moayyer Real Estate, April Moayyer, and Mike Nitz with ServePro of southeast Grand Rapids. They announced the formation of a morning business networking group called Fire Starters. It will meet on the second Wednesday of each month from 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m.



Gaines Township Supervisor Bob Terpstra addresses Gaines Chamber of Commerce members at the Pine Rest Giving Tree fundraiser on Tuesday, Dec. 9, in Cutlerville. **Photo by James Gemmell**

"I'll be hosting that over at the Good Mooed Café," Nitz said. The coffee shop is located at 3555 68th St. in Dutton.

A Fire Starters roundtable will be held on the third Thursday every other month where peers can learn from each other. Moayyer said details will be included in the chamber's newsletter that will be sent to member businesses.

Gaines Township Supervisor Bob Terpsta then took the stage and tossed some gift items into the crowd. He said the inaugural Taste of Gaines event organized by the Chamber and held outside the township hall on September 26 was an "enormous" success. Township officials estimated it drew more than 2,000 visitors.

Terpstra also talked about the new logo brand the township just rolled out. It will be included in township newsletters and other documents.

"You'll see the imbedded 'G' in there," Terpstra said of the logo. "It has a tree. It has a moving line that

See **GIFT** on 5

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Local music students present recital

Music students from the studio of Robert C. Oster will present a recital on Thursday, Dec. 18, at 7 p.m. at the Grace Lutheran Church in Hastings.

The program will feature solo vocal music from the mid-17th century through Broadway genres and organ selections from several time periods.

Singers performing at the Dec. 18 event are set to include Caledonia High School sophomore Sean Thompson and junior Lydia Shoesmith. Adult performers will feature Cindy Thelen of Lake Odessa and Mary Kuhlman of Hastings.

Also included will be Woodland homeschooler Debbie Harrison at organist.

The recital is open to the public free of charge. — *DM*

Legal advice offered at no cost to Barry County seniors

The Legal Services of South Central Michigan-Battle Creek office will conduct phone interviews for legal advice and possible representation, without charge, to interested Barry County seniors next week.

Those who wish to speak with an attorney should call 269-224-5040 between 9 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 17.

Legal Services of South Central Michigan-Battle Creek office is a nonprofit organization that provides legal assistance, representation and education to low-income people in Calhoun and Branch counties and seniors in Barry, Branch, Calhoun and St. Joseph counties. The agency seeks, through its board, staff, volunteers and pro bono attorneys, to ensure that its clients are given equal access to the justice system. The advice and counsel at the senior sites are funded primarily the CareWell Services Southwest through the Michigan Bureau of Aging, Community Living, and Supports under the Older Americans Act of 1965. — *MM*

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MIDDLEVILLE TOPS 546

The Dec. 8 meeting opened with roll call and the secretary's report. There are now two fish in the Fishbowl.

Virginia's program from the "Woman's World" magazine was titled "Stay Safe From Slips and Falls." The National Safety Council says falls are responsible for 8.5 million emergency room visits a year. Avoid falling by loading up on leafy greens like collard greens, kale, broccoli and broccoli rabe. They are all good sources of calcium. Those who ate these veggies had less incidents of falling. Calcium maintains nerve and muscle function. Another tip is to do the "tiptoe trick. "Standing on one's toes 100 times a day substantially improves women's balance and strengthens calf muscles. Lower back muscles get stronger, too.

When outside, wear a scarf to keep toasty—it keeps your muscles ready to keep you from falling. Wear sneakers while in the house to increase traction. They lower the rick by 56%. To feel calmer during the day, splash cold water on your face when you get up. It primes the body to bounce back faster. Singing like you're on stage triggers the "feel-good" molecules. They stay circulating, giving you a good mood longer. If on edge, play silly animal antics that make you giggle. Laughing helps lower cortisol by one third and that starts telling your body it's safe to relax. Your stress hormone production lowers within seconds. Joint pain can get relief by eating salmon. Omega-3 fatty acids block inflammation and aches. Standing on an anti-fatigue floor mat decreases discomfort in the back, hips, knees, neck and shoulders. Eating ginger is an anti-inflammatory that improves joint problems—500 mg is the recommended amount.

Sue 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.

Gaines Chamber lights the way with Luminary Walk in Prairie Wolf Park

James Gemmell
Contributing Writer

The smiles on the faces of those who took the scenic stroll through Prairie Wolf Park on Saturday night, Dec. 6, seemed almost as bright as the candles that illuminated the one-and-a-half-mile path.

The Gaines Chamber of Commerce's executive director, Barb Nauta, said more than 375 people attended the second annual Luminary Walk in the 45-acre park on Kalamazoo Avenue just south of 84th Street.

"We're so excited that everyone could come out," Nauta said. "It's a free event.

There was more snow on the ground this year than during the inaugural year, when the temperatures were in the upper 30s – and when it was much windier.

"We have the beautiful white snow that's a wonderful backdrop to what we've got going on here," Nauta said.

Volunteers said 250 white paper bags weighted down with sand were placed along the trail, each containing an LED candle to light the way through the park. They said they decided they needed a lot fewer than the 450 candles that were placed there last year. According to the Gaines Historical Society, Gull Prairie Wolves roamed the area of present-day Prairie Wolf Park well into the 19th century.



A sign welcomes visitors to the second annual Gaines Luminary Walk. **Photos by James Gemmell**

Some tall candy canes were lit up on the walkway Saturday night leading to a booth where Santa Claus sat with children for photo-taking.

"It's very festive," said Santa Claus, who handed out candy canes and glow sticks. "I love to have the children come and visit me. I think some of the best moments are when the little shy ones come up. They're hesitant to come all the way up, but with a little convincing they'll come up and, at least, grab a candy cane, if not say hello."



Gaines Chamber of Commerce executive director Barb Nauta.

The Gaines Chamber got help from township volunteers in stringing lights, shoveling and salting the pathway, and putting up lanterns and decorations.

"This is the first time we've been here," volunteer Jace George said, standing next to Dave Nauta at the entrance gate to the trail. "I brought a generator and some extension cords so they have power. And then, we've been putting up garlands and lights."

Dave Nauta, who is Barb Nauta's husband, said they received help from volunteers in placing the luminary candles and bags along the trail. He set up some lanterns with candles powered

See **GAINES** on 6

GIFT

Continued from Page 3

represents the creeks in the township and the deep roots. So, we will not be ignoring who we are, where we came from."

The tag line accompanying the logo is "Gain More."

"This (coming) year, I want it to mean gain more engagement," he said. "So, we're going to get our Facebook (page) going. The (township) website is getting redone. There are ways for us to push out information to you, and we need you to follow us. We're going to make that happen."

Gaines Community Development Director Dan Wells outlined some of the housing projects that are being built in the township. He mentioned Prairie Wolf Station and Prairie Wolf Landing that are in the preliminary stages of development on 84th Street.

"They will be building apartments there as part of the first phase," Wells said, adding that construction of a 100-unit senior housing building was approved last month for development on the site across Kalamazoo Avenue from the township hall.

"This is a huge thing for the township. We have very limited senior living facilities," he said. "And I've had a number of our senior citizens coming in asking about when this is going to be ready for them to move in."

Wells added that Jeff Hundley with Colburn Hundley Inc. is handing the business-related leases for the development.

Correction:

In the Saturday, Dec. 6 edition of The Sun and News, a photo caption in the article "Microsoft confirms plans to build data center in Gaines Twp." mistitled Gaines Township Planning Commission vice-chairwoman Ronnie Rober. We regret the error.

Classifieds

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Santa Claus passed out candy canes and glow sticks at the Luminary Walk in Prairie Wolf Park last Saturday night, Dec. 6.



Some bright lights adorned many of the trees along the trail inside Prairie Wolf Park.

GAINES

Continued from Page 5

by electricity along the way.

"And I also got two candy canes that light up back in there along the trail, as well as all these luminaries," Dave Nauta said.

The Gaines Chamber hosted the luminary walk, but it had plenty of help in making the two-hour event a festive one. DeHaan Tile & Floor Covering co-sponsored it. The chamber's executive director, Barb Nauta, said the Family Fare store, at 6127 Kalamazoo Avenue, donated 350 cookies. She thanked the Bob Evans restaurant for providing apple pie slices for volunteers and the South Christian High School Choir, which sang holiday carols.

"The performances by the SCHS Choir, led by Holly Baar and Julie, were absolutely awesome," Nauta said. "And we received so many wonderful comments about the event."

On a night with temperatures near the freezing mark, a Byron Center family said it was warming up with hot chocolate. And also enjoying cookies and candy canes.

The mother, Marta, enjoyed the candles and lights.

"Very pretty," she said. "And very festive."

Nauta gave kudos to CarbonSix Construction, Brent Springvloed and his wife from the local Farm Bureau Insurance office, Margo Peric from RE/MAX Grand Rapids, and Lori Gaier and her daughter for helping with the setup and for taking photos and videos. Byron Center TV (BCTV) also took video for later playback.

"Thank you to Gaines Charter Township for making sure the beautiful park was plowed and salted," Nauta said. "And thank you to our wonderful community families for coming out to enjoy this fun event. We are so blessed."

PLAYGROUND

Continued from Page 1

decades, and these improvements honor that legacy while ensuring the park remains safe and exciting for the next generation," Stolsonburg said. "We are especially grateful to Craig and Debbie Mulligan for their meaningful contribution in honor of Rita, whose life's work focused on supporting children."

The new playground is now open to the public, offering an inviting and refreshed space for families to enjoy outdoor recreation. —*KTE*

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INCREASE:
A ROAD MAP TO FINANCIAL HEALTH

UNDERSTANDING DEBT: The good and the bad


Zach Santmier

As I broach this emotional topic, I want to begin by being clear. I am neither for nor against debt. Debt is amoral, meaning it is not in and of itself, categorically moral. Debt can be a destructive evil. It has torn people down and has caused heartache, divorce and all sorts of strife. Debt has also built churches, businesses and hospitals that have been used for incredible good. Debt is neither right nor wrong categorically.

To understand different sorts of debt, we must first understand assets. Here's where we start increasing our Financial IQ so that we can move forward in confidence and not fear when it comes to navigating the murky waters of debt.

Imagine for a moment you are in your backyard and you have a shovel. You decide that you're going to dig a hole big enough for a pool. You begin digging this hole, and beside the hole, you make a pile of the dirt that you're removing. As you get about halfway through, you realize that you're no longer going to be able to afford the pool, so you fill the hole back in and before long, your backyard looks just like it used to. No hole and everything is back to normal. No harm, no foul, right?

Now imagine the same scenario, but this time, instead of putting the dirt beside the hole, you had a dump truck take the dirt away as you filled it. Again, halfway through digging the hole, you realized you weren't going to be able to afford the pool. But this time, the dirt is gone. You have a massive hole in your backyard and you don't have any dirt to fill it in. You're stuck. In this scenario, it's not no harm, no foul. You have a massive hole that is not only an eyesore, but it's a liability. Someone could fall in and hurt themselves. What started as a harmless project has become a massive problem.

I give you this visual picture because this shows the difference between asset-backed debt and unsecured debt.

In the first scenario, the hole you are digging is your mortgage. You are taking a loan out on your home and now have a proverbial hole. But beside the hole is the dirt to fill it in, or the asset that caused the hole in the first place. If, for some reason, you were no longer able to afford that mortgage, you could most often sell the house, your asset, and the hole would be filled in. If the dirt is beside the hole, it's a lot less risky. In other words, if your asset, in this case your home, is greater than your mortgage, you'll have no problem filling in the hole or paying off the loan if needed. You'll be able to sell your asset, pay off your mortgage, and be left with a flat backyard. This is asset-backed debt, or secured debt.

In the second scenario, I am talking about unsecured debt. This sort of debt isn't secured by an asset. In other words, there's no dirt to fill back in the hole if need be. This is the person who digs a hole with a credit card. They spend money on that fancy vacation or that nice dinner out. Maybe on those extra Christmas presents that someone just "had to buy." By swiping the card, they are digging a hole. But the dirt is vanishing into thin air. As they look at their credit card balance, they realize that they have a substantial hole in their backyard, but there is no dirt beside the hole to fill it in. This person can't sell their vacation they already went on or return the meal they already ate. The dirt is gone, and they're left with a hole that is a liability and a burden. It isn't going to fill itself, so over the next several years, this person must work to earn more dirt to fill the hole back. This is unsecured debt.

Now that we have a better understanding of asset-backed debt versus unsecured debt, I am going to begin walking you through standards around mortgages, cars, credit cards and personal loans next week. These standards will all stem from the principle of the dirt and the hole, so make sure you join us next week as we build off of your increased Financial IQ.

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.

TAPRC

Continued from Page 2

the Village of Middleville and TKS so that they are eligible to apply for those grants.

However, Getty said she is asked why goals are not accomplished in the five-year plan.

"It's what the state calls it (a five-year plan) but could be a misconception that it's something we're supposed to accomplish in five years," Getty said. "I don't know many communities, if any, around the state that have the kind of resources to accomplish a five-year rec plan.

"Because you put everything in there not knowing exactly what opportunities you have, but it becomes sort of a guiding light for units of government to strive for," she added. "If there's a grant cycle that opens up and aligns well or you score well for a project then it becomes something that the community will go after.

According to Getty, grant cycles can change depending on the priorities of the Michigan Department of Natural Resource. Currently, she said there is a "high priority" for trail connections.

"So trail connection grant submittals score really high," she said. "They get extra points, but that does not mean they do not fund things outside of trail connections."

In a roll call vote, school board members unanimously approved the TAPRC resolution. Though, there's still one more step before the plan is submitted to the state – TAPRC also has to give its final approval.

In other board action, five sealed bids from contractors for electrical work on the new agriculture storage barn were publicly read aloud.

The board then voted unanimously to proceed with issuing a "Notice of Intent" to award Kleyn Electric for the Agriculture Storage Barn electrical bid in the amount of $35,650.

Another approved action item focused on playground enhancements at the district's Early Childhood Center at a cost of $32,163. The project will be funded using GSRP Start-Up funds.

Recordings of the TKS board meetings are available online at tkschools.org/.



VIEW Group
SPECIAL SECTION

Holiday Gift Guide





Let charitable gifts spread joy and benefit more than just recipients

Charitable giving increases significantly in the months surrounding the holidays. Approximately one-third of annual giving happens in December, and 10 percent of all giving occurs in the last three days of the year, according to Charities Aid Foundation America. The surge in donations typically occurs with people's desire to spread holiday cheer, enjoy tax advantages and help people in the community, says Nonprofit Source. Some people are compelled to donate in the name of another person. Here are some ideas for charitable holiday gifts that benefit many.

DONATE IN SOMEONE'S NAME

To honor a loved one who may be living or deceased, or who fought an illness and won, you can donate to a nonprofit in the name of that loved one. Many charities offer printable or physical cards to let the recipient know a donation has been made in his or her name.

GIVING BACK THROUGH GIFTS

Certain products purchased feature proceeds that go toward a charitable cause. For example, every purchase of TOMS® shoes helps fund mental health access and community development, while the body care products from Thistle Farms are made by women survivors of trafficking, prostitution and addiction. Other products may help feed the hungry or support cancer patients.

SUPPORTING ANIMALS

A symbolic animal adoption can support conservation efforts around the world. Making a donation to the World Wildlife Fund in someone's name, for example, enables you to get a plushie, certificate and information on the animal the contribution will be helping.

FAIR TRADE GIFTS

Making a purchase of fair trade items means you're often buying handmade and ethically sourced goods. These gifts support artisans in developing countries and help fund community projects. Gift recipients can feel pride in ownership of an item that was designed and purchased with the greater good in mind.

CHARITY GIFT CARDS

Charitable gift cards, like those available from TisBest Charity and CharityChoice, let the gift recipient choose which nonprofit will receive the funds.

SUPPORT SPECIAL BUSINESSES

Offer gift cards or take people to dine or shop at businesses that support those with special needs. For example, No Limits Cafe in New Jersey is a full-service restaurant that trains and employs adults with intellectual disabilities. Dining there will help to continue to support these important efforts to give every employee a sense of pride and purpose.

Charitable gifts make a recipient feel special and can make many additional people feel good as well.

— Source: Metro Creative Connection




GUN LAKE COMMUNITY CHURCH
Christmas Services
December 21 9:00am & 10:30 am
December 24 Candlelight 7:00 pm
12200 W. M-179 Hwy., Wayland, MI 49348
GunLakeChurch.org

Sporting News

Trojans win handily over Hawks in girls' hoops opener

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

A young Forest Hills Eastern team was not prepared for what the Thornapple Kellogg varsity girls' basketball team had to throw at it in the season opener Tuesday in Middleville.

The Trojans took a 62-35 win over the visiting Hawks.

The TK defense threw so much pressure at the Hawks that even TK head coach Brandi James thought her girls were going a little too hard. But that was really her only complaint.

"Everybody played a decent amount, which shows the depth of our bench. We didn't have a lag when we went to our bench depth. They were staying right with the starters I think," James said. "I would love to have a better full-court man. I wasn't happy with how messy that looked. We just have some cleaning up to do.

"They're a very solid team and they are hungry to play a full-court man. With our depth I want to give that to them … we need to emphasize getting the steal off the pass rather than off the dribble. We're hungry to pick a pocket when we need to just make her pick up her dribble and then get the pass for the steal. That is just lessons to be learned. Film will help teach them that."

For the most part, the TK did everything it wants to do this season other than a few early fouls from that eagerness on defense.

The Trojans took advantage of their athleticism both defensively and offensively. They created turnovers and found players for open lay-ups ahead in transition. They got the ball to junior Reece Ritsema and senior McKenna Hoebeke in the paint. There were flashes of brilliance from freshman guard Kathleen Kaboos. Junior point guard Addy Henry handled that spot well enough against the Hawks to give sophomore Taylor Lloyd the opportunity to be the scorer she can be. Henry is coming back from an ACL injury and coach James is looking forward to having her as a true point guard once she's got her basketball rhythm back.



Thornapple Kellogg junior forward Reece Ritsema goes in for a lay-up as Forest Hills Eastern's Maddie Brown gives chase during the first half of their season opener in Middleville Tuesday. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

Lloyd led all scorers with 18 points. Ritsema finished with 14 points. Kaboos closed the ballgame with nine points and junior Ellie Harmon had eight.

Ritsema was her usual dominant self on the glass, and sophomore guard Amya Gater had a great game rebounding the basketball for TK too as well as being a terror at the top of the Trojan press.

TK went on a 17-0 run after the teams traded buckets to start, and the Trojans led 17-4 after one quarter. The lead was double figures for the rest of the night. TK led 32-18 at the half.

Even with that start, coach James was much more pleased with her team's performance in the second half. She thought she saw her team starting to gel a little and make the extra pass offensively.

Forest Hills Eastern has a roster without a senior, five juniors, three sophomores and three freshmen.

Junior Raena Scully led the Hawks with ten points. Freshman Maddie Brown had seven and sophomore Kylie Konwinski finished with six points.

Thornapple Kellogg was slated to visit Forest Hills Central Friday, Dec. 12.

The OK Gold Conference season starts for the Trojans Dec. 16 at home against Wyoming. The Wolves took two from TK last season as both teams were battling for spots in the middle of the conference standings. It's a match-up the Trojans are really looking forward to being successful in.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CALEDONIA
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Meeting Minutes

The minutes for the November 19, 2025 Township Board of Trustees Meeting that were approved on December 3, 2025, are posted at the Township Offices at 8196 Broadmoor Ave., and on the website at www.caledoniatownship.org.

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CALEDONIA
COUNTY OF KENT, MICHIGAN

NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE AMENDMENT AND SUMMARY OF THE REGULATORY EFFECT THEREOF

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on December 3, 2025, the Township Board of the Charter Township of Caledonia adopted Ordinance No. 25-03 (the "Ordinance"), which amends the Township's Water Connection, Use and Rate Ordinance, as amended (the "Water Ordinance"). A summary of the provisions of the Ordinance is set forth below:

Section 1 of the Ordinance amends the Water Ordinance by including additional lands in the Caledonia Water Supply District, which are commonly and legally described as follows:

7384 Patterson Avenue SE (Parcel No. 41-23-07-300-038):
PART OF SWFRL 1/4 COM 35.44 FT N 0D 42M 09S E ALONG W SEC LINE & 941.03 FT N 0D 53M 0lS E ALONG W SEC LINE FROM SW COR OF SEC TH N 0D 53M 0lS E ALONG W SEC LINE 280.10 FT TH S 89D 00M 34S E 335.0 FT TH S OD 53M 0lS W 280.10 FT TH N 89D 00M 34S W 335.0 FT TO BEG* SEC 7 T5N R10W2.15 A. SPLIT/COMBINED ON 11/28/2017 FROM 41-23-07-300-035, 41-23-07-300-034, 41-23-07-300-036.

7360 Patterson Avenue SE (Parcel No. 41-23-07-300-01):
N 200 FT OF S 400 FT OF W 250 FT OF N 1/2 SWFRL 1/4 * SEC 7 T5N RI0W 1.15 A.

7380 Patterson Avenue SE (Parcel No. 41-23-07-300-033):
PART OF SW 1/4 COM 35.44 FT NOD 42M 09S E ALONG W SEC LINE & 1221.13 FT NOD 53M 0lS E ALONG W SEC LINE FROM SW COR OF SEC TH N 0D 53M 01S E ALONG W SEC LINE 260.10 FT TON LINE OF S 200 FT OF N 1/2 SW 1/4 TH S 89D 00M 34S E ALONG SD N LINE 335.0 FT TH S OD 53M 0lS W 260.10 FT TH N 89D 00M 34S W 335.0 FT TO BEG* SEC 7 T5N RIOW 2.00 A. SPLIT ON 2/25/2004 FROM 41-23-07-300-019; SPLIT ON 09/24/2008 FROM 41-23-07-300-026.

7528 Patterson Avenue (Parcel No. 41-23-07-300-044):
PART OF SWFRL 1/4 COM AT SW COR OF SEC TH N 0D 42M 09S E ALONG W SEC LINE 35.44 FT TH N 0D 53M 0lS E ALONG W SEC LINE 941.03 FT TH S 89D 00M 34S E 335.0 FT TH N 0D 53M 0lS E 540.20 FT TON LINE OF S 200 FT OF N 1/2 SW 1/4 TH S 89D 00M 34S E ALONG SD N LINE 349.09 FT TH S 0D 05M 56S E 150.02 FT TH S 39D 17M 57S E 458.75 FT TH S 37D 46M 0lS W 260.66 FT TH S 0D 05M 56S E 308.88 FT TH S 71D 42M 19S E 168.61 FT TH S 35D 05M l0S E 193.85 FT TH S 84D 44M 30S E 120.0 FT TH SLY 50.60 FT ON A 403.0 FT RAD CURVE TO LT /LONG CHORD BEARS S 1 ID 22M 06S E 50.56 FT/ TH S 14D 57M 54S E 81.52 FT TH SLY 82.99 FT ON A 297.0 FT RAD CURVE TO RT /LONG CHORD BEARS S 6D 57M 36S E 82.72 FT/ TH S ID 02M 43S W 74.88 FT TO S SEC LINE TH N 88D 57M l 7S W ALONG S SEC LINE 1269.88 FT TO BEG * SEC 7 T5N RI0W 28.37 A. SPLIT/ COMBINED ON 03/15/2019 FROM 41-23-07-300-039, 41-23-07-300-040.

8730 Cherry Valley Avenue (Parcel No. 41-23-16-351-007):
PART OF SW 1/4 COM AT SW COR OF SEC TH N 0D 44M 06S W ALONG W SEC LINE 553.0 FT TH N 89D 36M 03S E 553.0 FT TH S 0D 44M 06S E 553.0 FT TO S SEC LINE TH S 89D 36M 03S W ALONG S SEC LINE 553.0 FT TO BEG* SEC 16 T5N RIOW 7.02 A.

6460 84th Street (Parcel No. 41-23-21-101-001):
N 330 FT OF W 404 FT OF NW 1/4 * SEC 21 T5N RI0W 3.06 A.

8484 Cherry Valley Avenue (Parcel No. 41-23-21-101-010):
S 330 FT OF N 660 FT OF W 333 FT OF NW 1/4 * SEC 21 T5N RI0W 2.52 A.

Section 2 of the Ordinance amends Appendix I to the Water Ordinance, the map of the Caledonia Water Supply District, to include the above-described lands. It also adopts the amended Appendix I, attached as Attachment 1 to the Ordinance, and incorporated in the Ordinance by reference.

Section 3 of the Ordinance provides for the severability of the provisions of the Ordinance in the event a portion of the Ordinance is determined to be unenforceable. The paragraph headings in the Ordinance are furnished for convenience and reference only.

Section 4 of the Ordinance provides that the Ordinance, or a summary thereof, must be published once in a newspaper of general circulation in the Township following its adoption and that the Ordinance must be recorded in the Ordinance Book of the Township.

Section 5 of the Ordinance provides that the Ordinance becomes 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 5, 2024

TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER
TOWNSHIP OF CALEDONIA

Trojans' Lloyd puts in 27 to beat Lakewood as offenses awaken

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Trojans were thrilled to get their first 'W.'

The Vikings were pleased with the effort and improvements.

Both teams were just happy to be putting the ball in the basket.

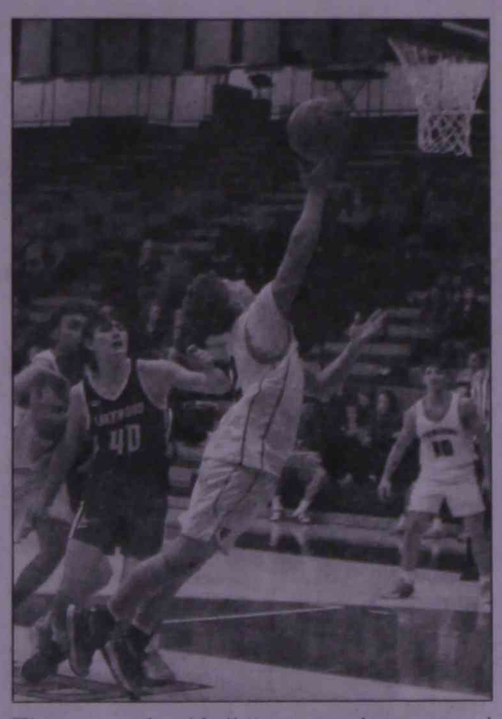
The Thornapple Kellogg varsity boys' basketball team got its first victory of the 2025-26 season outscoring visiting Lakewood 67-64 in Middleville Thursday.

TK trailed by as many as nine points in the first half, but rallied to get within 34-33 by the half. That was already one more point than the Trojans scored in their season opener against Plainwell two nights earlier. Lakewood head coach Jason Solgat was pleased with the point total after his team scored 42 in its season-opener at Belding and averaged between 35 and 40 points per game last season.

Thornapple Kellogg senior guard Ben Lloyd attacked the basket and scooped a shot up for a bucket that put TK in front 56-54 45 seconds into the fourth quarter, and the Trojans held a slim lead the rest of the night.



Thornapple Kellogg junior center Sam Teachout reaches over to disrupt a shot attempt by Lakewood senior guard Bradyn Johnson (3) as he's boxed out by the Viking sophomore forward Bryer Poll (front) during their contest Thursday, Dec. 4, in Middleville.



Thornapple Kellogg senior guard Ben Lloyd flips up a shot for two of his game-high 27 points in the Trojans' home victory over Lakewood Thursday, Dec. 4. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

Lloyd made a habit of getting to the rim and led all scorers with 27 points even after picking up three quick fouls in the first five and a half minutes of the game. Being conscious of that foul trouble throughout the night didn't slow Lloyd down any on the offensive end.

"I'd come off screens and it just felt like taking it was the right idea," Lloyd said. "And all the foul calls, I just knew that if I took it I'm either getting a foul or making the bucket."

He said his team had a great practice Wednesday and played with more confidence and had better ball-movement Thursday.

"We have to do a little better job of either helping off of it or cutting him off," Lakewood assistant coach Chad Pleiness said. "We already talked about

See **TROJANS** on 12

Returnees and talented frosh working to get TK back on top

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Trojans want to get back to the state finals this winter.

Those competitions to get there don't come until February.

Thornapple Kellogg varsity competitive cheer coach Madelynn Lula said her girls are doing everything they can to be ready by then. Her varsity team has 22 girls this winter with 16 of those cheerleaders returning from the varsity squad last winter that won the OK Gold Conference Championship, but came up short of its goal of getting to the MHSAA Competitive Cheer Finals. The team lost just one key senior to graduation last spring.

The group of 22 includes five freshmen and a foreign exchange student, and a couple of the top varsity returnees are shuffling spots to make the team as strong as it can be.

Lula said she had the good problem of having seven or eight capable varsity flyers coming into the season.

"I don't need seven. I need four. So, it kind of required some different people to take some different roles, like Peyton Gater. She typically has been a back spot for me, and she is basing this year because I didn't need a back spot. Kaylee [Clarke] came out of the air and she is basing. I would say for the most part, everybody else is rocking in a fairly similar spot or is someone who is brand new to the varsity team.

"[Senior] Sienna Schalk is also a back spot too, and she is typically a base and that happened accidentally," Lula added. "She walked into practice one day, and I needed a back spot, this was over the summer. She said I've never tried before, but I'm willing to try. She became the best back spot on our team by a far cray, which is amazing."

The senior crew with Clarke, Gater and Schalk also includes flyers Mia Hilton and Claira Kovich as well as Kella LeClaire and Keiryn Merrill. Sophomore Tobey DeGroot is a big returning piece for TK too

Hilton and Kovich will remain as flyers and will be joined high above the mat in round three by two freshmen flyers including Mia's sister, freshman Caitryn Hilton. She'll be a force to be reckoned with according to her coach, and will be a three-round cheerleader.

Freshman Izzy Slagel will fill the other flyer spot in round three, with Clarke working as a base in her stunt group. Lula said Slagel has improved leaps and bounds over the past six months to earn that spot.



Thornapple Kellogg's Kaylee Clarke (front) and Mia Hilton above their stunt groups during a 2025-26 competition. Now seniors, the two are part of a group of 16 returnees looking to get the Trojan program back to the state finals after coming up just short last season. **File photo by Brett Bremer**

"I think this year the fire in their belly is so hot that they don't care," Lula said, "if it means learning a new spot, whether it's in basing or stunting in general, or a new spot in a round. They come back the next day and they know it, because they know that's what it is going to take to get to the next level this year as opposed to being stopped just short of their goals. They have been receptive to any sort of change whether that be stunting or position or choreography. It has been refreshing this year to have a team that is kind of all on the same page."

TK placed sixth at its MHSAA Division 2 Regional in February, finishing 3.6 points behind the last of the four state qualifying teams from the regional. There will be tough competition in chasing a district championship and a state qualifying spot again this winter. A powerhouse Plainwell team that won regional last year will once again be a part of the Trojans' district in 2026 as well as a Zeeland West team that went to the state finals last year.

"We say in our rounds that last season's loss set this year's tone. That's the definition of the season for us, literally. Falling just short of going to the state finals. They hadn't gotten third in our district in many years, and then to not even finish top four at regionals and reach the state finals, break the streak, all of those things were at the time so defeating for these kids who were so capable, just the chemistry last year was off/ It happens during rebuilding years. The chemistry was off. It's kind of what you do with that moving forward that sets the tone for this year."

The TK team went to the state finals in Division 2 in 2023 and 2024.

Being stellar in round two could go a long way to TK getting back to the finals.

"This is the best round two I have coached since I have been at TK. This is not just because of talent. I have had the talent before, but the hunger and the fight for every detail. Really, that is what round two is – a race to the details. Who is going to fix those .2's faster than the other team. I think they all get it. They're all on board and ready to go. That is the difference between talent and technique. Technique wins championships, not talent."

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CALEDONIA,
COUNTY OF KENT, MICIDGAN

NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF TOWNSHIP ORDINANCE AND SUMMARY OF THE REGULATORY EFFECT THEREOF

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on December 3, 2025, the Township Board of the Charter Township of Caledonia adopted Ordinance No. 25-02 (the "Ordinance") to amend the Township's Fire Department; Public Safety Advisory Committee Ordinance (the "Fire Department Ordinance"). The following is a summary of the principal terms of the ordinance:

Section 1 of Ordinance amends Section 4(c) of the Fire Department Ordinance to provide that three members of the Public Safety Advisory Committee shall be Township Board members, including the Township Supervisor, and the remainder of the members shall be other qualified individuals.

Section 2 of Ordinance provides that the Ordinance shall become effective on the day immediately following 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 5, 2025

TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CALEDONIA

GAINES CHARTER TOWNSHIP
Gain More

NOTICE OF POSTING
Zoning Text Amendment

At a regular meeting of the Gaines Charter Township Board of Trustees, held Monday, December 8, 2025, at 88555 Kalamazoo Ave., SE, Caledonia, MI 49316, the Board adopted an ordinance to amend the Zoning Ordinance of Gaines Charter Township to limit the allowable hours of electronic changeable message (ECM) signs in Residential zoning districts and to allow ECM signs as special land uses for non-residential uses in Residential zoning districts.

The ordinance makes modifications to Chapter 24 Section 24.40 D.4 of the Gaines Charter Township Zoning Ordinance: changing "4. Hours. In residential zoning districts. ECM signs shall be shut off between 11pm and 6am." To "4. Hours. In residential zoning districts, ECM signs shall be shut off between 10pm and 7am." Additional changes are proposed for Chapter 24, Section 24.80, Table 24.80, to allow electronic changeable message (ECM) signs as special land uses for non-residential uses in residential zoning districts, and for Table 24.80 to read in its entirety as follows:

TYPE	REQUIREMENTS	
Freestanding Sogn: Ground Sign for Non-Residential Uses or Bed and Breakfasts	Zoning District	All residential districts
	Maximum Number	1 per lot
	Maximum Size	16 s.f. for bed and breakfasts 32 s.f. for all other uses
	Maximum Height	6 ft.
	Maximum Setbacks	10 feet from street right-of-way or easement 20 feet from all other property lines
	Illumination	External – for bed and breakfasts Internal and external (permitted) and ECM (special land use) – all other non-residential
Freestanding Sign: Ground Sign for Residential Development Entry Point	Zoning District	All residential districts
	Maximum Number	1 per entry
	Maximum Size	48 s.f.
	Maximum Height	6
	Minimum Setbacks	10 ft. from all property lines
	Illumination	External
Wall Sign: for Non-residential Uses, Bed and Breakfasts, or Major Home Occupations	Zoning District	All residential districts
	Maximum Number	1 per building
	Maximum Size	8 s.f. for bed and breakfasts and major home occupations 32 s.f. for all other non-residential uses
	Illumination	External

A true and complete copy of the proposed ordinance is available in the Office of the Clerk at the Gaines Charter Township Hall, located at 8555 Kalamazoo Ave., SE, Caledonia, MI 49316.

Michael A. Brew, Clerk
Gaines Charter Township

TROJANS

Continued from Page 10

that a little after Tuesday, and now it is just a little bit better. We'll get there. We haven't played a lot of man either. We've been a zone team for many years and now we have the athletes, we have the depth and hopefully a little more basketball I.Q. and we're able to execute that a little bit better. As we get into it, we'll be much better at it."

With Lloyd off the court for a bit between the end of the first quarter and the start of the second, Lakewood grew a lead as large as 27-18. A few points from senior forward Trey Hilton and a three from Lloyd were part of a quick 10-0 run that got the Trojans back in the ballgame.

Lakewood was inhibited a bit by foul trouble too both amongst its array of bigs and senior guard Ethan Matthews and Braydn Johnson. Senior center Hollis Poll fouled out eventually and junior center Jameson Tichvon finished the night with four fouls.

"Lakewood is a lot bigger than we have been in the past," Solgat said. "Coming into this game we really wanted to pick apart the middle of that lane there. We knew we could, and we started to right away. We would just hit the seams and pick them apart in the middle. You start losing your big presence in that middle there and your game plan changes completely.

"Defensively, because of foul trouble we had to jump out of the press. The press was doing great damage there. Your game plan completely changes on the fly and you're calling audibles. The kids grinded through it. We asked them to show up better than what they did against Belding the other night, and they did what we want. You never want to lose, but you're happy to see what we just saw."

Lakewood had three guys in double figures. Johnson, a newcomer to the Viking program in his first varsity action, led his team with 12 points. Junior guard Remington Horstman and sophomore center Bryer Poll had 10 points apiece.

TK had a lead of as many as nine points in the third quarter, but the Vikings surged to get within 52-50 heading into the fourth quarter. Sophomore guard Skyler Oberlin hit a three-pointer to get Lakewood within 65-64 with 53 seconds left. Lloyd hit a couple free throws a few seconds later to bump the TK lead to 67-64, and then the Vikings stayed alive with TK missing four consecutive free throws.



Trojan senior guard Zay Boafo gets by Lakewood guard Remington Horstman to put a shot up during the first half of their nonconference match-up in Middleville Thursday, Dec. 4.

Lakewood inbounded the ball with the length of the court to go with 5.6 seconds left. Oberlin got the ball ahead to Matthews in the offensive end, but Matthews slipped down to the floor approaching the three-point line but managed to recover to get a decent shot off that came up just short.

"He is frustrated, and I said, 'hey the fact that you got off the ground and put up that shot told me you have a lot of grit, because a lot of kids would just fall on the ground and bury their head in the hardwood. The kid got up and fired it."

Senior guard Zay Boafo added 10 points for TK, junior guard Andrew Johnson had 9 and senior forward Trey Hilton finished with 8.

Thornapple Kellogg went to Forest Hills Eastern (1-2) and scored a 61-31 win Tuesday evening and the Trojans are now 2-1. The Trojans were scheduled to host Forest Hills Central Thursday, Dec. 11, and head to Whitehall Friday, Dec. 12.

In the week ahead, TK plays host to Wyoming to start the OK Gold Conference season Tuesday, Dec. 16. The Trojans travel to visit Caledonia Dec. 18.

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CHS girls looking to continue last season's success on lanes

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Caledonia varsity girls' bowling team is looking for more big things this winter, and the Caledonia boys are looking to take a step up during the 2025-26 season.

A trio of underclassmen were the top players for the Fighting Scots in the MHSAA Division 1 Regional Singles competition last winter after the team had already won conference and regional team championships.

The CHS girls were 13th at the MHSAA Division 1 Girls' Bowling Team Finals and the team's one state singles qualifier, Addison Luxford rolled to 36th in the qualifying rounds.

Luxford is back for her senior season to lead the Caledonia girls along with junior Riley Kalacanic and sophomore Katelyn Light. Those two just missed earning spots in the state singles finals finishing ninth and tenth respectively at regionals. The top seven regional scorers qualified for the finals.

Light, Kalacanic and Luxford finished 1-2-3 in the OK Green Conference Championship.

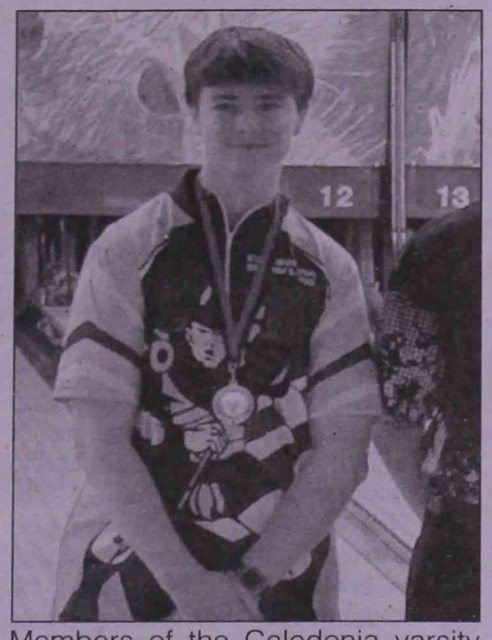
The Fighting Scots will once again be led this winter by head coach Prescott Holbrook and assistant coach Brandon Luxford.

The girls were 9-1 in the OK Green Conference duals a year ago and the boys finished 2-8.

The top returnee for the Caledonia boys' team is senior Brady Humbarger who was an all-conference bowler and rolled to seventh at regionals to qualify for the D1 Singles Finals along with Luxford.

Holbrook said there is a trio of seniors to lead the way for the CHS boys this winter, and some newer bowlers that look promising.

"I think they will finish the season strong," he said. "The girls team has three returning players with outstanding averages for the area and an incoming freshman that is already posting senior level numbers. In practice the team as a whole is proving to be a powerhouse in the region."



Members of the Caledonia varsity girls' bowling team celebrate a good day at Sherman Lanes following the OK Green Conference Preseason Tournament. The Fighting Scots shared last year's conference championship with the Reeths-Puffer girls. **Photo provided**



Members of the Caledonia varsity girls' bowling team celebrate a good day at Sherman Lanes following the OK Green Conference Preseason Tournament. The Fighting Scots shared last year's conference championship with the Reeths-Puffer girls. **Photo provided**

If there is anything the Scots are especially working on in the preseason it is their performance in Baker Games, the portion of high school bowling where all five bowlers take turns rolling a frame twice to make up a ten-frame team score. Holbrook said getting better in the Bakers is a priority. Each dual includes two Baker games and two regular games, and regional team competitions consist of eight Baker games as well as two regular games.

The Caledonia teams opened the season at the OK Green Preseason tournament Dec. 5 at Sherman Lanes in Muskegon. Senior Wade Cawson was the top scoring boy in the conference to lead the CHS guys and the Caledonia girls had Kalacanic first and Light third.

The CHS girls are also looking forward to taking on the defending Division 1 state champions from Grandville in a dual Dec. 17 at Spectrum Lanes. The OK Green Conference season of duals starts when the Scots host Byron Center Jan. 5.









CHS hockey overwhelms Salem, rallies against Big Rapids at showcase

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Caledonia varsity hockey team took back-to-back wins on its home ice during the Grand Rapids Showcase at Patterson Ice Center last weekend.

The Fighting Scots knocked off Salem 6-1 Friday evening and then took a 5-3 win over Big Rapids Saturday.

Caledonia scored the first four goals of the game in the contest with Salem. Harmen Esch scored two of those, including a power play goal five and a half minutes into the second period with assists from Bryce Mitchell and Rylan Bultema that had the Scots up 3-0.

Esch and Gabe Supuk scored the two first period goals for Caledonia against the Salem Rocks. William Maelum-Micheelsen assisted on Esch's goal.

That 3-0 lead held into the third period. Drew Nichols scored with assists from Mitchell and Ty Lewandowski a minute and a half into the third to make it 4-0 in favor of the Scots.

Salem scored midway through the third period.

Caledonia answered after about 90 seconds with a goal by Osborn, off assists from Lewandowski and Camden Quigley. Maelum-Micheelsen scored the Scots' final goal on a power play with 36 seconds remaining. Ethan Sova and Supuk assisted on that final goal.

Big Rapids had a 3-1 lead on the Scots in the first period Saturday, Dec. 6, but Caledonia rallied for the win shutting out the Cardinals over the final 42 and a half minutes.

Maelum-Micheelsen evened the game at 3-3 with a goal off an assist from Esch four and a half minutes into the second period and then had the go-ahead goal on the power play six minutes into the third. Lewandowski and Quigley assisted on that game-winning goal.

Rylan Bultema tacked on another power play goal with 9:09 to go in the game with assists from Evan Moore and Nichols.

Lewandowski and Sova scored first period goals for the Scots with assists from Maelum-Micheelsen, Sova and Brady Saunders in that opening period.

Scots have a better time in Greenville than they did last winter

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Caledonia varsity wrestling team went 3-2 in five matches and placed third Saturday at the Greenville Duals.

Caledonia knocked off Belding 45-24, beat Petsokey 43-30, fell to Greenville 37-29, beat Hamilton 66-15, and fell to Hastings 42-32.

The two losses came down to the final weight class, and Fighting Scot head coach Shawn Veitch was pretty pleased to see his team's improvement from a year ago when they were 0-5 as a team at the same tournament. The dual with Greenville that came down to the match was a big turnaround from a 72-6 loss to the Yellow Jackets a year ago.

He said he has his team focusing on physical and mental toughness this season, and he was impressed with both from his guys Saturday. They didn't let opponents' physicality get to them mentally, and were always ready to battle back when the whistle blew.

"Gotta keep that rocking and rolling," Veitch said.

Fighting Scot 126-pounder Max Schnurstein was 5-0 for the day. Ky Spencer at 285 pounds, Caden Nostrant at 175 and Robert Restau at 144 were all 4-0. Escher Reeder, Xavier Stewart and

Escher Reeder. Xavier Stewart and Shawn Restau wrestled through the day only falling once for the Scots.

Coach Veitch said he brought eight more guys than the team needed for the invitational. He wanted to see a couple young guys tested in varsity matches and also wanted to have a few other newcomers just experience a big varsity tournament.

"I thought the team really bonded well and stood together," Veitch said.

The only disappointment he really had from the day was the team seemed a bit worn down by the time it was wrestling Hastings in the final dual of the day. He said that went for himself too. He could tell he wasn't as excited and yelling as much as earlier in the day.

"I think, honestly, I was gassed by the end of the fourth dual," Veitch said.

Caledonia is set to be a part of the Kent County Classic today, Dec. 13, at East Kentwood High school. The Scots host a tough dual with Jackson Northwest Wednesday, Dec. 17. The Scots close out the pre-holiday schedule with a trip to the Northview Invitational Dec. 20.



GAINES CHARTER TOWNSHIP
Gain More

NOTICE OF POSTING
Ordinance to Amend Ordinance No. 493

At a regular meeting of the Gaines Charter Township Board of Trustees, held Monday, December 8, 2025, at 88555 Kalamazoo Ave., SE, Caledonia, MI 49316, the Board adopted an ordinance to amend Ordinance No. 493 of the Water & Sewer Ordinance.

The ordinance makes modifications to "mandatory connection" requirements for water and sewer in the Township (Sections 1003 and 1008). Owners of an existing building using or requiring Potable Water, which are located in the Township and which are currently served by a private water well or private Sewage Disposal Facility, shall not be required to connect to an available Public Water Main, or available Public Sewer, until such time the Kent County Health Department determines the existing system (water and/or sewer) has failed, and it is not possible to repair the system. No other changes are proposed.

A true and complete copy of the proposed ordinance is available in the Office of the Clerk at the Gaines Charter Township Hall, located at 8555 Kalamazoo Ave., SE, Caledonia, MI 49316.

Michael A. Brew, Clerk
Gaines Charter Township

2024 Water Quality Report for Village of Middleville

Water Supply Serial Number: 4360

This report covers the drinking water quality for the Village of Middleville for the 2024 calendar year. This information is a snapshot of the quality of the water that we provided to you in 2024. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and state standards.

Your water comes from 4 groundwater wells, each over 78ft deep. Two of which are located near the water storage tower on the west side of town. A third well is located off Irving Rd. near the Village limits. Production well # 6 on Irving Road and production well # 3 on the west side are built to a depth of 78 feet and utilize unconfined sand and gravel aquifers. Production well # 4 on the west side is built to a depth of 352 feet and utilizes the Marshall Sandstone aquifer. Well # 5 is located to the west of Bryanwood Estates Development near the Thornapple River. This well is built to a depth of 197 feet. Based on records reviewed, the susceptibility assigned to the wells at Village of Middleville is Moderate.

There are no significant sources of contamination included in our water supply. We are making efforts to protect our sources by testing all our drinking water sources and distribution system along with implementing our well head protection program.

If you would like to know more about this report, please contact: JD Pennock Village of Middleville, 100 E. Main St., Middleville, MI 49333. He can also be reached at 269-795-3385, or pennockj@villageofmiddleville.org. More information about this report can also be found at www.villageofmiddleville.org.

Contaminants and their presence in water: Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Vulnerability of sub-populations: Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune systems disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. U.S. EPA/Center for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Sources of drinking water: The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. Our water comes from wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
- **Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- **Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture and residential uses.
- **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.
- **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.



In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations that limit the levels of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Federal Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which provide the same protection for public health.

Water Quality Data

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the 2024 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1 through December 31, 2024. The State allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. All the data is representative of the water quality, but some are more than one year old.

Terms and abbreviations used below:

- Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
- Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- N/A: Not applicable
- ND: not detectable at testing limit
- ppm: parts per million or milligrams per liter
- ppb: parts per billion or micrograms per liter
- ppt: parts per trillion or nanograms per liter
- pCi/l: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
- Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

1Monitoring Data for Regulated Contaminants

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider.

1Monitoring Data for Regulated Contaminants

Regulated Contaminant	MCL, TT, or MRDL	MCLG or MRDLG	Level Detected	Range	Year Sampled	Violation Yes/No	Typical Source of Contaminant
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	4.49	0-13.3	2024	NO	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	.16	0-0.39	2024	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Sodium[1] (ppm)	N/A	N/A	29.33	5.05-28.1	2024	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
TTHM Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	80	N/A	0.0156	0.00081-0.156	2024	NO	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
HAA5 Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	60	N/A	0.00202	0-.00202	2024	NO	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine[2] (ppm)	4	4	.62	0.03-1.18	2024	NO	Water additive used to control microbes
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	15	0	.77	0-0.77	2021	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined radium (pCi/L)	5	0	1.12	.387-.735	2023	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Total Coliform	TT	N/A	N/A	N/A			Naturally present in the environment
E. coli in the distribution system (positive samples)	See E. coli note[3]	0	0	N/A	2024	NO	Human and animal fecal waste
Fecal Indicator – E. coli at the source (positive samples)	TT	N/A	0	N/A	2024	NO	Human and animal fecal waste

[1] Sodium is not a regulated contaminant.

[2] The chlorine "Level Detected" was calculated using a running annual average.

[3] *E. coli* MCL violation occurs if: (1) routine and repeat samples are total coliform-positive and either is *E. coli*-positive, or (2) the supply fails to take all required repeat samples following *E. coli*-positive routine sample, or (3) the supply fails to analyze total coliform-positive repeat sample for *E. coli*.

Additional Monitoring

Unregulated Contaminant Name	Average Level Detected	Range	Year Sampled	Comments
Perfluorobutane sulfonic acid (PFBS)	.0044 ug/L	.0044 - .0048 ug/L	2024	Discharge and waste from industrial facilities; stain-resistant treatments
Lithium	14.1 ug/L	N/A	2023	Results of monitoring are available upon request

Unregulated contaminants are those for which the U.S. EPA has not established drinking water standards. Monitoring helps the U.S EPA determine where certain contaminants occur and whether regulation of those contaminants is needed.

Information about lead: Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. The Village of Middleville is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials in your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk.

Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for at least 5 minutes to flush water from both your home plumbing and the lead service line. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact The Village of Middleville at 269-795-3385 for available resources. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Our water supply has 72 lead service lines and no service lines of unknown material out of a total of 1299 service lines. If you would like to know more about this report, please contact: JD Pennock, The Village of Middleville, 100 E. Main St., Middleville, MI 49333. He can also be reached at 269-795-3385 or pennockj@villageofmiddleville.org. This report is also available at www.villageofmiddleville.org.

Monitoring and Reporting to the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) Requirements: The State of Michigan and the U.S. EPA require us to test our water on a regular basis to ensure its safety. We met all the monitoring and reporting requirements for 2024.

We will update this report annually and will keep you informed of any problems that may occur throughout the year, as they happen. Copies are available at the Village of Middleville main office located at 100 E. Main St., Middleville, MI 49333. This report will not be sent to you.

We invite public participation in decisions that affect drinking water quality. The Village of Middleville Council's regular meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm at Village Hall. For more information about your water, or the contents of this report, contact JD Pennock at 269-795-3385 or at www.villageofmiddleville.org. For more information about safe drinking water, visit the U.S. EPA at http://www.epa.gov/safewater.

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)							
Regulated Contaminant	MCL, TT, or MRDL	MCLG or MRDLG	Level Detected	Range	Year Sampled	Violation Yes/No	Typical Source of Contaminant
Hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acid (HFPO-DA) (ppt)	370	N/A	N/D	N/D	2024	NO	Discharge and waste from industrial facilities utilizing the Gen X chemical process
Perfluorobutane sulfonic acid (PFBS) (ppt)	420	N/A	4.1	0-4.1	2024	NO	Discharge and waste from industrial facilities; stain-resistant treatments
Perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS) (ppt)	51	N/A	N/D	N/D	2024	NO	Firefighting foam; discharge and waste from industrial facilities
Perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA) (ppt)	400,000	N/A	N/D	N/D	2024	NO	Firefighting foam; discharge and waste from industrial facilities
Perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA) (ppt)	6	N/A	N/D	N/D	2024	NO	Discharge and waste from industrial facilities; breakdown of precursor compounds
Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) (ppt)	16	N/A	N/D	N/D	2024	NO	Firefighting foam; discharge from electroplating facilities; discharge and waste from industrial facilities
Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) (ppt)	8	N/A	N/D	N/D	2024	NO	Discharge and waste from industrial facilities; stain-resistant treatments
Inorganic Contaminant Subject to Action Levels (ALs)	Action Level	MCLG	90th Percentile[4]	Range of Results	Year Sampled	Number of Samples Above AL	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb)	15	0	3	0-8	2023	0	Lead service lines, corrosion of household plumbing including fittings and fixtures; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.1	0-0.2	2023	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

[4] Ninety (90) percent of the samples collected were at or below the level reported for our water.

Turnovers make comeback tough for Scots against Kenowa Hills

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Kenowa Hills got out to a double-digit lead in the first quarter and the Fighting Scots were never able to quite claw all the way back in their home opener Friday, Dec. 5, at Caledonia High School.

The Knights scored a 63-54 win over the Caledonia varsity boys' basketball team, which is now 1-2 overall this season after falling in a tough road contest at Rockford Tuesday.

Senior Keegan Garvin finished with a team-high 16 points for the Knights. Senior Frank Arnold had 14 points and senior Brody Willick 13.

Caledonia went on a 9-0 run to get within 14-13 in the first two and a half minutes of the second quarter, but a couple of late threes by junior George Rauschenburg pushed the Knight lead back up to 28-22 at the half.

Kenowa Hills recovered just in time to wipe out every ensuing rally by the Fighting Scots the rest of the way. The Knight lead got back up to ten in the third quarter. The Scots cut it to five early in the fourth, it swung up to 14 points and then the Scots managed to battle back to within 57-54 with under a minute to play.

A couple Caledonia turnovers and a few Kenowa Hills free throws finished things off.

Turnovers were a bugaboo for the Fighting Scots throughout the contest.

"We razzled early and just didn't have the focus right away," Caledonia head coach Nate Burns said. "Defensively, we left too much space early when we knew we weren't supposed to. And uncharacteristically not strong with the ball and careless with it early and we couldn't dig out of the hole."

Freshman Luca Galardi hit two threes and led the Scots with 16 points. Junior guard Aaron Collins knocked down a couple behind the arc too and had ten points. Sophomore guard Connor Bloemers and junior forward Bryce Backus had six points each.

Burns didn't feel like his team rebounded as well as it had in a season opening win at Wyoming either.

"I was pleased with the fight. We never gave up," he said, "and fought all the way through. We've got a young back-court, an inexperienced back-court, we pick up the dribble a little too early sometimes, and didn't see where really we were wanting to go with the ball. It's the growing pains of a young group."

Rockford beat the Scots 84-59 Tuesday night.

The Scots were slated to visit Lowell Friday, Dec. 12. They will be home to face Carrollton Tuesday, Dec. 16 and then home against Thornapple Kellogg Dec. 18.



Fighting Scot junior forward Lincoln Senti attacks the basket as Kenowa Hills' Keegan Garvin (right) and Kamden Cimock close in on him during the first half Friday, Dec. 5, at Caledonia High School. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

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