THE SUN AND NEWS
VIEW Newspaper Group



FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS!

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Township PC eyes February hearing for Microsoft rezoning request

James Gemmell
Contributing Writer

A public hearing on a rezoning request that would allow Microsoft to construct a data center in Gaines Charter Township will have to wait until February.

Most of the people in an overflow crowd of about 300 packed into the township hall boardroom on Dec. 18 to learn how the Gaines Township Planning Commission would respond to the technology company's request to have 40.5 acres at 7147 Patterson Ave. rezoned from a large-scale planned unit development designation to light industrial.

The location is just south of the Amazon Fulfillment Center.

Township attorney Cliff Bloom announced at the start of the meeting the crowd exceeded the room's 250-person capacity and would not resume until some people left.

"We've got two issues about proceeding," Bloom said. "The first one is the Michigan Open Meetings Act … Everyone who wants to attend the meeting not only has to be in the room but be able to hear everything."

And, with more people than space, a planned public hearing was postponed on a unanimous voice vote.

Planning Commission members tentatively set Thursday, Feb. 12, for the resumption of the public hearing on the Microsoft request. It will likely be held in the South Christian High School auditorium to accommodate another anticipated large crowd.

A backup hearing date of Feb.10 was also tentatively set, in case the facility is not available on Feb. 12.

"We haven't nailed a date down on that yet," said Dan Wells, Community Development director. "So, that will be publicly noticed. We'll have it posted in both *The Sun and News*, and on the township website (gainestownship.org)."

The delay in holding the public hearing was a bit of déjà vu, considering the Lowell Charter Township Board of Trustees postponed a public hearing related to a potential data center just 10 days earlier – on

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Father saves daughter from Middleville house fire

Karen Turko-Ebright
Staff Writer

Fire crews arrived on the scene of a house fire at 128 Ellis St. in the Village of Middleville on Sunday morning, Dec. 21, for a fight that would last several hours. During the blaze, a father saved his young daughter, carrying her out of the house.

Fire Chief Bill Richardson from Thornapple Township Emergency Services said the call from central dispatch came in for his crew at 8:36 a.m.

"We had 10 firefighters on scene within 10 minutes. I think initial units were on scene in three minutes," Richardson said. "No fatalities, the house was a total loss. We were able to save the attached garage with two cars in it and the cat."

Richardson added that two ambulances from his department transferred the only two occupants in the house to a nearby hospital.

"The father grabbed his five-year-old daughter and pulled her out of the house," Richardson said. "They both came out. He carried her out."

Eleven family members, including grandparents, parents and grandkids lived in the house. But only two were inside the house at the time of the fire.

Because of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), Richardson could not give the names or health conditions of family members.



Fire crews battled a blaze for seven hours on Ellis Street in Middleville on Sunday, Dec. 21. The two occupants of the home were transported to a nearby hospital, where they are now recovering. The house was a total loss. **Courtesy photo**

He said that the cause of the fire will remain undetermined.

"The house was not safe for our firefighters to go in and do inside firefighting," Richardson said. "We had

See **FIRE** on 3

View Newspaper Group Hastings office relocating

View Newspaper Group, publishers of *The Hastings Banner*, *The Reminder* and *The Sun and News*, will start the new year with a new office location in Hastings. View Newspaper Group is moving to 1510 N. Broadway in Hastings, a building shared with Broadway Dental. The new office location, approximately a half mile south of the current location at 1351 N. M-43 Hwy., will be open for business starting at 9 a.m. Friday, Jan. 2, 2026. The phone number will remain the same: 269-945-9554.

View Newspaper Group publishes 22 community newspapers in Michigan, reaching more than 350,000 households by U.S. Mail each week. In addition to *The Banner*, *Reminder*, and *Sun and News* in West Michigan, View also publishes *The Lowell Ledger*, *Buyer's Guide and News*, *Battle Creek Shopper News*, *Ad-Visor and Chronicle* in Marshall and *Daily News* based in Greenville. For more information, visit mihomepaper.com or contact View Newspaper Group Brand Manager Emily Caswell at ecaswell@mihomepaper.com or 810-513-8501. — *MM*

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Santa delivers AEDs to area high schools



Santa made early stops to Hastings High School and Thornapple Kellogg High School last week as he prepared for the big day Thursday, Dec. 25. Jordan Mulder, owner of J Mulder Agency in Middleville, donned his Santa suit to deliver automated external defibrillators (AEDs) and "Stop the Bleed" kits to the two high schools. Mulder said he was inspired to donate the AEDs and kits through his agency after losing a high school teammate on the court. **Courtesy photo**

REZONING

Continued from Page 1

Dec. 8 – due to overcapacity.

Wells said officials were aware that there might be a space issue at the township hall, but had to start the Dec. 18 hearing due to stipulations in Michigan's OMA, with the meeting having already been publicly posted.

Officials said the February hearing will mark just the second time in township history that a public hearing will not be held at the township hall. The other was on Oct. 11, 2021, when a crowd of about 70 people met in the high school auditorium to discuss a special assessment levy for public safety services.

After the Dec. 18 public hearing was postponed, a 10-minute recess was held while most of the crowd filed out.

Last year, Microsoft purchased 316 acres in Gaines Township at 76th Street and Patterson Avenue from Steelcase for $45.3 million.

However, the property Microsoft is seeking to be rezoned is a separate 40.5-acre parcel just north of that location and immediately south of the Amazon site. It was purchased last year from Republic National Distributing Co. for $9.7 million. Steelcase had sold that property to Republic in 2022.

Microsoft also purchased a 274-acre parcel last year in Allegan County's Dorr Township that is a potential site for data center development.

"Technically, they could submit a site plan tomorrow for development of that acreage (in Gaines Township)," Wells said. "They really just wanted to rezone this part of it from PUD to light industrial so that all of their zoning was the same across all of their parcels."

Microsoft officials have not announced if the company will submit a site plan in 2026.

"We're not sure exactly when they'll do that," Wells said. "They're saying their timelines are still unknown.

"They really need to get the zoning squared away and get all those things figured out," he added. "And then, they'll start working on this."

Microsoft representatives were in attendance at the Planning Commission meeting but left when the hearing was postponed.

"The public comment (period) for this meeting was not actually required under the Open Meetings Act," Wells said. "But Microsoft did feel it was important, because there had been such a lapse from their last public hearing, to have another public hearing to allow people to come in and voice.

"They've been very transparent about their process and what they're doing so far. So, I think that's been a problem in other (municipalities) where the alternate users were not known. But they're trying to be very forthright about what they're doing," he added.

A total of nine data centers, which house IT infrastructure and networking equipment, have been proposed in Kent County. Microsoft officials have said its new data centers are being designed to use closed-loop cooling systems, which will reduce water consumption by recirculating water instead of allowing it to evaporate.

But several residents at various community meetings in Kent County in recent weeks have expressed concerns about the potential of more than 8 million gallons of water being used annually by each data center.

In a 2024 sustainability report, Microsoft noted that data centers consumed more than 125 million liters of water per year. New technology, however, will use chip-level cooling systems to deliver precise temperature control without water evaporation.

A ground-mounted water tank may supply some water to the data center in the future. In November, Gaines Township trustees awarded a contract for construction of a $4.6 million water tank near the Microsoft site on Patterson Avenue. Kentucky-based Preload was awarded the contract, the cost of which will be evenly split between Byron and Gaines townships.

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

Weersing recently said it is uncertain when Preload will begin building the 40-foot-wide water tank, which will hold two million gallons. It is scheduled to be completed by Oct. 31, 2027.

"That water tank will help with capacity and also keep water circulating through the system in that area," Wells said. "Sometimes, it's better to have water flowing through it so that it doesn't become stagnant. So, that will certainly help."

Switch Inc. has said it operates the largest data center east of the Mississippi River on Paris Avenue in Gaines Township, 2.4 miles from the proposed Microsoft data center.

During the public comment portion of the Planning Commission meeting, Lowell Township resident Nicole Ronda said a data center had been proposed by an undisclosed developer in that township, before the discussion was temporarily suspended.

"What is being discussed is going to affect the future for all of us," she said. "Let Big Tech go someplace else and not take our precious natural resources from our grandchildren."

Wells said the proposed Microsoft data center site is already connected to public utilities, so it would not be pulling groundwater from aquifers for its cooling system.

Another non-Gaines Township resident, Andrew Zonca, expressed his concerns to the Planning Commission.

"I fear that you believe that you can control Microsoft, and they will tell you everything that you want to hear about the utilities, the electricity, how they're going to be the best thing for this township," he said. "This is a multi-trillion-dollar corporation that is owned by billionaire shareholders who are hungry for one thing, and one thing only – profit.

"They will walk you like dogs across the park and get whatever (they) want, and we're going to be hopeless to stop them."

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MIDDLEVILLE TOPS 546

The Dec. 22 meeting opened with roll call and the secretary's report. There are now two fish in the Fishbowl.

Virginia's program was from Jan/Feb TOPS magazine titled "Understanding Cortisol." Cortisol is often called the stress hormone and is produced by the adrenal glands. It helps to cope with stress, regulate metabolism, blood sugar, blood pressure, immune function, and the way our body responds illness, emotional strain, and other stressors. Cortisol is controlled by a three-part communication system between the brain and the adrenal glands. The hypothalamus senses when cortisol is needed and sends a hormone signal to the pituitary gland that then goes to the adrenal glands. Cortisol levels rise and fall throughout the day as needed. Problems occur if the levels are too high or too low. Too high can occur from long-term use of steroid medicines or a problem with the pituitary gland. Too little will cause adrenal insufficiency. This is because the gland isn't producing enough because it is damaged or the brain doesn't send a message properly.

Maryellen lost the Ha-Ha Box.

The meeting ended with marching in place as the group recited the TOPS pledge.

TOPS, a weight-loss support group, meets every Monday at Lincoln Meadows in Middleville. Weigh-in is from 3:30 p.m. to 3:45 p.m., followed immediately by the meeting. Press the white buzzer for entry.

The chapter is looking for anyone interested in a group that supports weight-loss journeys without shame.

Anyone with questions may call Virginia, 269-908-8036, or Maryellen, 616-318-3545. The first meeting is free.

FIRE

Continued from Page 1

to pull it apart with an excavator. We were there for seven hours."

Richardson said the house appeared to be built in the 1900s and added that, when his crew arrived on the scene, the house was not fully engulfed in flames, but, "We had pretty heavy fire conditions on the first floor in the kitchen area.

"Our crews were having an incredible time trying to breach the walls to find the fire that was inside the walls," he said,

Several layers of siding and beadboard inside the home added to firefighters' difficulty in accessing the home.

"All the walls are shiplap; that's how all the houses were built back then," noted Richardson. "It's basically a 1-by-8-foot board nailed onto the wall and they put lath (little wood furring strips that help hold the plaster in place) on top of that and then they put plaster on top of that.

"That was the problem. We could not get to where the fire was because of how much material between us and the fire."

The home had no fire stops in it, allowing the fire to spread quickly, Richardson said.

According to Richardson, neighboring homes experienced no damage from the blaze.

Anyone who wants to donate to the family that lost their home can contact Barry County United Way, he said.

All Thornapple Township Credit Union locations have an account set up for anyone who wants to donate to the family. Cash donations and gift cards are acceptable.

Anyone with questions on donating to the family can call the United Way at 269-945-4010.

Several area fire crews assisted Thornapple Township Emergency Services in fighting the blaze. They included both Wayland and Hastings city fire departments, plus Leighton, Yankee Springs and Caledonia township fire departments.

"Fifty-eight firefighters were on the scene. We normally have 16 to 20 from our department," Richardson said.

"Usually, the other departments only bring three or four, but I think it just happened to be a Sunday and a lot of people were able to be available.

"Leighton was the one who brought the most. They brought 19."

Richardson said he was happy with his crews' work.

"Crews did an amazing job for the conditions that we had, and it was just a very old house with a lot of significant challenges," Richardson said.

Caledonia superintendent receives high marks on evaluation

Karen Turko-Ebright
Staff Writer

Members of the Caledonia Community Schools Board of Education recently gave Superintendent Dirk Weeldreyer high marks for his efforts in leading the school district as its top administrator.

The board reportedly followed methods outlined by the Michigan Association of School Boards in evaluating Weeldreyer.

During his formal evaluation in a closed session at the Dec. 15 board meeting, Weeldreyer was rated "effective" by the board, the highest MASB rating.

After approving Weeldreyer's evaluation, Board Secretary Brittany Barber Garcia sang the superintendent's praises.

"I would provide a slight editorial that I think our board considers our superintendent to be highly effective in his role and appreciates his service for the past year," Garcia said. "Thank you so much for all you do to shepherd this district with a lot of wisdom, a lot of thought and a lot of intention. We are grateful."

Board president Tim Morris also cited the superintendent's demonstration of strong governance, effective communication, and solid financial and instructional leadership.

"Clear long-term planning and goal alignment would further strengthen the district's operation and direction," Morris stated. "We are pleased with the direction of the district and look forward to continuing to build on the district's strengths and record of excellence."

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Obituaries

Sharon Lou Milanowski

Sharon Lou Milanowski, age 83, of Caledonia, MI passed away peacefully in her sleep at her home on the morning of Friday, Sept. 19, 2025, after courageously fighting an 18-year battle due to complications of Parkinson's.

Sharon was born on December 17, 1941, ten days after Pearl Harbor, to Edwin and Fern (Packard) Grate. Sharon graduated from High School in Huntington Beach, CA and went on to attend California State University Long Beach. She worked at Long Beach Police Department, was an airline stewardess for United Airlines based out of O'Hare in Chicago, a hygienist, tutor, and a private secretary at Bissell in Grand Rapids.

At the age of 50, after attending Aquinas College and Grand Rapids Community College, Sharon received her nursing degree. Later she became the Directory of Nursing at Villa Elizabeth in Grand Rapids, and at the Amethyst in Peoria, AZ.

Sharon had a Californian magnetic personality, gracious and beautiful in many ways. She was an avid reader and hiker. Some of her hobbies included gardening, painting, jewelry design and antique and art shopping at the market days in AZ.



She designed her home in a nature park-like setting with nature's beauty of wild animals and birds with song she loved so much. Sharon enjoyed playing her button accordion and dancing. She was an elegant dancer and enjoyed many music and dancing venues and was delighted to dine and dance at the Lawrence Welk Resort in CA, as well as jamming with so many talented people. A couple of her favorite dances were the West Coast Swing and the Waltz that she enjoyed with her husband, Stanley

Sharon promoted many Polka events and charity events. Once a year, she and her chefs would have a charity gourmet soup party at her resort in AZ, where all the proceeds would go to battered women and their children. This event continued for many years with success.

Sharon was preceded in death by her parents, Edwin and Fern Grate of Huntington Beach, CA; sister, Patricia May Gallaway of OR; brother-in-law, Darwin Billings of CA; stepson, Michael K. Milanowski.

Sharon will always be loved and missed by her best friend and husband, Stanley E. Milanowski; her dearest and loving son, Gregor Jennings; grandson, Parker Jennings (Amy); granddaughter, Haley Jennings all of GA; sister, Sylvia Billings of CA; step-daughter, Michaele Dallmann; step-son, Mitchell Milanowski of Cascade; sister-in-law, Stella Hilaski of VA; as well as her adopted furry loving cats.

Sharon is and was greatly loved and will be forever missed by all those who knew her and loved her. She was a positive influence on others.

The family wishes to thank Sandi for her compassionate care given to Sharon on her final journey, and to Faith Hospice and their team for the love, care and compassion shown to Sharon till the final curtain closed. Cremation has taken place.

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INCREASE:
A ROAD MAP TO FINANCIAL HEALTH

Looking to the future


Zach Santmier

Merry Christmas! This week, we celebrate the birth of Christ, and I pray that you and your family experience his peace and generosity as you exchange gifts and spend time eating delicious food. If you're anything like me, you live for the holiday desserts, so before everyone starts talking about New Year's resolutions, enjoy that cookie or two!

Today, we're going to continue our conversation on laying a healthy financial foundation as we discuss step 6 out of 8 on our fuel gauge. If you're just joining us and are looking for financial inspiration, visit trumbleagency.com/increase to catch up and begin your Increase journey.

Step 6 is putting away 15% of our income for retirement. This money is not to be used for creating another stream of income for you right now. This money is not to be dipped into when you need a little extra for that special vacation. This money is not your savings account for a rainy day. This money, this 15% of your take home pay, is for your retirement, the years when you are no longer earning an income, or at least not much of one.

Here's the main goal, and I want you to hear this clearly:

If you put 15% of your income away for 25 years, and earn a conservative average return of 8%, you will have enough money in retirement to live off the interest alone—without ever touching the principal.

That's the goal. That's the win.

Now, if you're listening and you're 50 years old and you haven't started saving yet, that "25 years" might have just made your stomach sink a little. And I get that. If you don't want to work until you're 75, then yes—you're going to need to increase your contributions. But—and this matters—you only do that after you've filled up your financial tank and completed all eight marks on the Fuel Gauge.

At that point, you sit down with a financial advisor, or you run the numbers yourself, and you figure out how much extra needs to go into your retirement account to get you back on track. The key is this: don't panic, and don't skip steps. A rushed plan built on a shaky foundation usually collapses.

Now, if you have 25 years or more, this principle is incredibly solid. Put away 15% of your take-home pay into a Roth 401(k), stay consistent, and you'll be amazed at where you land in 25 years.

One thing that trips a lot of people up is confusion between the type of retirement account and the investments inside the account. When I say "retirement account," that does not mean your money has to be locked into some risky mutual fund—or stuck in ultra-conservative bonds either.

The type of account we recommend is a Roth 401(k). But inside that account, you get to choose how those funds are invested. Your 401(k) administrator can show you the full range of options available, and I strongly recommend discussing your risk tolerance with them.

Remember—this is not about hitting home runs. We're not trying to pick the next winning stock. Those strategies often come with big downside risk. What we're after is steady, consistent returns over time.

In 2008, Warren Buffett proved this point in a famous bet. He wagered one million dollars that simply investing in the S&P 500 would outperform hedge fund managers who could invest creatively however they wanted. And guess what? Buffett won.

The S&P 500 is just the average performance of the top 500 companies in the United States. When people talk about "how the market is doing," most of the time, they're talking about the S&P 500. History has shown that for long-term investors with time on their side, this simple approach works remarkably well.

But as always—talk to your advisor or your 401(k) administrator before making changes.

Here's what matters most:

Once your consumer debt is gone, it's time to start building your future. 15% of your income. 25 years. Consistency.

Do that—and you'll retire comfortably, confidently, and on your own terms.

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.

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Middleville Holiday Lighting Contest winners announced

Molly Macleod
Editor

Winners have been announced for the 2025 Middleville Holiday Lighting Contest. The holiday tradition, which has been taking place in Middleville for more than a decade, allows for families to decorate and light up their homes for the season while also taking part in the holiday lighting contest.

Of the 13 homes that entered this year, three winners were chosen. Locals cast their votes on Facebook.

The first-place winner for this year's contest is the Jackson home at 450 Oak View Drive in Middleville. The Kruisenga home at 613 Misty Ridge Drive took second place for its decorations and the Watkins home at 959 View Pointe Drive took third place.

Vickie Rick has organized the contest since the beginning.

"This is about the old-fashioned fun of driving around seeing lights. It's fun," Rick said in a past interview with the *Sun and News*.

Votes were tabulated on the Middleville Lighting Contest Facebook page. Voters "liked" or "loved" their favorite home. Those "likes" and "loves" were counted as votes for the contest, but any comments that were left were not counted as votes. A map that shows the addresses of all 13 homes was also available on the Facebook page. Prizes from local businesses are awarded to the first, second and third-place vote receivers.

This year, Pixel Perfect Video Games, The Nook, Lox Hair Salon and My Sister's Closet helped sponsor prizes for the winners.

"Thank you, everyone who took part and who voted," Rick wrote in a social media post. "You made your community special."



The house at 613 Misty Ridge Drive in Middleville took second place in this year's lighting contest.

This home at 450 Oak View Drive is this year's Middleville Holiday Lighting Contest winner. **Courtesy photos**.



This home at 959 View Pointe Drive was the third-place winner in Middleville's Holiday Lighting Contest.

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Nationally ranked NMU will be Hayden's next wrestling stop

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The last time she had her arm raised in the Fighting Scots' championship tartan singlet, Caledonia's Maddie Hayden held three fingers in the air to celebrate her third consecutive MHSAA Individual State Championship.

There won't be a fourth, but there will be plenty of wrestling ahead for the Caledonia senior. Hayden signed her National Letter of Intent Nov. 12 to join the Northern Michigan University (NMU) Women's Wrestling program next season. She's working to be at full strength by the time she's competing in the Wildcats' green and gold.

Hayden had surgery to repair the labrum in her left shoulder after getting in a few last big bouts in September, and she had plans for similar repairs to her right shoulder slated for early December.

"Both of them happened kind of a while ago. I tore my right one in December (2024) and then my left one in April (2025), but they were really bothering me," Maddie said, "so, I knew that I needed to get them done especially before college. But, I really wanted to go to Fargo this summer and compete in Greece and stuff during the summer."

Last spring it was either hurry to the operating table to get the shoulders fixed for a senior high school season or tough it out through Nationals in Fargo and an opportunity to wrestle overseas. She missed some opportunities to compete on a bigger stage in the summer of 2024 due to a concussion, and chose to hold off on surgeries.

Hayden won the silver medal in the 75 kg weight class at the 2025 U17 Beach World Championships in Katerini, Greece, in September.

"I didn't know that was a thing until recently," Hayden said of beach wrestling.

"It was really cool. I went to Italy earlier this summer too. That was kind of for a camp and a small tournament, and then Greece and Austria. Going overseas, especially this summer, was really cool to see all the other wrestlers around the world."

Hayden placed seventh in the Junior Girls 170-pound weight class in July at the 2025 U.S. Marine Corps Junior Nationals in Fargo, ND. She wrestled into the championship quarterfinals - not as successful as her previous runner-up finish in Fargo, but still a result to be pleased with especially while battling through injuries.



Caledonia senior Maddie Hayden signs her National Letter of Intent to join the Northern Michigan University Women's Wrestling program next season at Caledonia High School Nov. 12, joined by her mother Kelly Hayden (right) and grandfather Bill Fitzpatrick. The NMU Wildcat women are currently ranked tenth in the nation. **Photo provided**

First-year NMU Women's Wrestling Head Coach Adam Wilson was very persistent in pursuing Hayden to be a part of his program, which is opening its fifth season in Marquette this winter. Wilson was previously the director of wrestling and head women's coach at Albion College and the head assistant wrestling coach at Olivet University. He is also a member of the Michigan USA Wrestling Executive Board, and oversees the state's top youth national teams. So, he was very familiar with Hayden.

"He was outstanding compared to all the other coaches that were trying to recruit me, I feel like," Hayden said. "He put a lot of extra effort in trying to get me on the team. Northern is about seven hours north, and he drove all the way down here to do a home visit. He gave me a really, really good offer. He checked in a lot. He gave me a lot of opportunities to come to Marquette a few times. He was very thorough and passionate about getting me on the team."

"I am actually really excited," Hayden added of the move to the upper peninsula. "I really like the area. I am definitely an outdoorsy type of person. I would rather go do stuff outside in more rural areas than in cities and stuff. I am really excited for the overall area of Marquette, but also Northern Michigan itself. The campus has a really good vibe to it and the team has a really good atmosphere. I am pretty confident I'll be pretty set in wrestling and also living there in just my daily life."

She has plans to pursue a degree in nursing, and currently has her sights set on becoming a CRNA (Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist).

"I think that [Wilson] identified a few of the Team Michigan girls who he really thought would be great assets in helping to build the team," said Maddie's mother, Kelly Hayden.

"He is very invested in getting Northern's team name out there better and to really build a great program," she added. "The whole school is really investing a lot of money and a lot of effort into making their program a top five or top ten program. He has a great vision and he wanted Maddie to be a part of it, and she is going to bring a lot to the team. Not just being a good wrestler, but he is looking for girls with the whole package."

The NMU women are currently ranked tenth in the country in the National Wrestling Coaches Association coaches poll with four women ranked among the top ten individually at their weight class in the NCAA.

NMU has quite a wrestling heritage. NMU is also home to the NMU-National Training Site for Olympic training.

"A couple of our women's Olympic medalists stayed here when they were in high school and they trained," Maddie said, "like Helen Maroulis. She has won Olympic Gold (2016) and Bronze (2020 and 2024). There is Adeline Gray. She won Olympic Silver (2020). That is an Olympic training center site for wrestling, powerlifting and boxing."

Maroulis was the first U.S. woman to win Olympic Gold in freestyle wrestling.

The NMU men are a bit different from wrestlers across the country. They compete in Greco-Roman wrestling rather than the traditional folkstyle competed across the NCAA. The NMU women compete in freestyle wrestling. The folkstyle wrestling that is contested in MHSAA events is not Hayden's favorite style. She much prefers freestyle competition.

"The United States is actually the only country that does folkstyle. It is kind of like a wrestling version of American football. We just do it, for some reason," Hayden said. "I don't really know. Freestyle and Greco-Roman are where you're going to see all the big throws. In folkstyle, we can't slam each other. We can't throw each other over our heads

See **WRESTLING** on 12

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TK ladies down previously unbeaten Caledonia squad

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

A 13-2 run in the fourth quarter powered the Thornapple Kellogg varsity girls' basketball team to a 54-51 win over a previously undefeated Caledonia team Thursday in Middleville.

The Fighting Scots started the fourth quarter with a seven-point lead thanks to some full-court pressure that gave the Trojans fits throughout much of the second half.

The Trojan surge in the fourth quarter included three 3-pointers. Sophomore guard Taylor Lloyd hit two and assisted on the other. She fired a pass into the left corner, in front of the Christmas-themed TK student section, for an assist on a three by junior point guard Addy Henry that got their team within one with just over five minutes to play.

The next three was the one that was a bugaboo to Caledonia head coach Todd Bloemers. His team was really good with its transition defense for much of the game and did a good job of keeping a close eye on Lloyd. This time the Caledonia defense lost Lloyd in transition and left her alone at the top of the key for an open three that put TK into the lead at 49-47.

A minute later, the Scots lost the Trojans' All-OK Gold junior forward Reece Ritsema in the paint and sophomore guard Amya Gater found her for a bucket prompting a Caledonia timeout. A putback by Ritsema moments later had TK's lead to six points.

Caledonia freshman guard Reese Abbott scored four points down the stretch to get her team within two, but the Scots' last best chance down the stretch was a three-point try from the right wing by sophomore guard Brooklyn McLeod that was heavily contested by Henry and missed its mark.

"In film, we watched the back side of their press be wide open, so our plan was to pass forward," James said, "but we ended up having to go to a back pass to get the reversal. In the second half, they took that back pass away a lot better and they tightened up that trap a lot better. Then, when we're throwing those passes into high hands it didn't really work. Luckily, we had Addy and Amya [Gater] who were willing to, as the trap was forming, dribble into it to cut through it. That made a huge difference. That was what we needed to break it.


Thornapple Kellogg junior Ellie Harmon (left) is greeted by senior teammate Tealy Cross as she is introduced before her team's nonconference win over Caledonia in Middleville Thursday, Dec. 18. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

"They get caught up when I say, 'don't dribble through a press break,' to mean don't dribble at all. It is shortened passes with two dribbles, instead of doing it yourself."

Thornapple Kellogg led the ballgame by as many as seven points in the first quarter, but the Scots nudged in front 25-24 at the half and then it was their turn to hold a slim lead for a while. Caledonia extended its advantage to 45-38 by the end of the third quarter.

"Both teams kind of played that emotional rollercoaster where each went on runs, and then they responded, and then unfortunately TK was the team to make the last run," Caledonia head coach Todd Bloemers said. "They caught us in transition three different times, I think that was an 8-0 run with a couple of threes from Lloyd. We had done such an excellent job of executing our game plan defensively, she is a really nice player and our girls are familiar with her, so to kind of have that breakdown late in the game where we just fell away from our game plan for a two minute stretch that one hurt."

Abbott finished with a team-high 19 points, mostly by attacking the basket. McLeod buried a couple threes and finished with ten points for the Scots. Sophomore guard Myla Gortmaker had seven points.

Ritsema had a game-high 20 points. Lloyd finished with 14 and freshman Kathleen Kaboos had five points.

"We weren't able to use our speed. They're long and fast," James said of the Scots. "So, we weren't able to beat them in transition. When we were actually getting our offense running, we were getting lay-ups and getting good looks at it. I think Reece could have had a way better game if we were able to feed her the ball in the post, but our spacing wasn't always allowing that to happen."

She did like the way freshman Kaboos

See next page

IRVING TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING SYNOPSIS
December 16, 2025

Meeting called to order at 6:30pm at 3425 Wing Rd. Hastings, Michigan 49058 Present: Lydy, Stout, Brummel, Nagel, and Buehler
Agenda approved with addition of Freeport Fire Grant
Approved November 18, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes, as presented
Fire Reports and Commissioner Report presented
Approved Treasurer's Report
Approved to pay bills in the amount of $4,039.05
Engle Rd, Natural Beauty Designation removed
Skyway Towers tabled until attorney reviews contract
Wolverine Power Cooperative Ordinance – tabled until January 2026 Board Meeting Freeport DNA Grant check to township to be signed over to Freeport
Upcoming Dates: January 20, 2026, Township Board Meeting at 6:30pm
Adjourn 6:50pm

Full minutes are available at Irvingtownship.org or at 3425 Wing Rd, Hastings, MI 49058. Prepared by Irving Township Clerk, Tessa Stout. Attested to by Supervisor, Dan Lydy.

HAY & FIREWOOD AUCTION
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517-983-0845

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CALEDONIA BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Meeting Minutes

The minutes for the December 3, 2025 Township Board of Trustees Meeting that were approved on December 17, 2025 are posted at the Township offices at 8196 Broadmoor Ave, and on the website at www.caledoniatownship.org .



Caledonia sophomore guard Brooklyn McLeod flips up a shot in the paint during her team's nonconference contest at Thornapple Kellogg High School in Middleville Thursday, Dec. 18

Continued from previous page

performed in the post and noted that Ritsema once again "rebounded like an animal." The TK coach also said she was pleased with the composure of sophomore guard Taylor Lloyd who was rightfully a focus of the Caledonia defense.

"To be down seven with six and a half down in the fourth, we don't typically battle back from that very easily. That's a mental barrier," James said. "Once you get over five with five or so minutes left, it takes a lot of mental resilience to be able to fight back. Taylor hit those two huge shots and gave us momentum."

TK is now 2-2 overall this season.

"We have a young team," Bloemers said. "These girls have just been an absolute joy to coach. They are very connected and it makes our job so much fun. One of the things we're also, with a really young team, learning about, is groupings that really gel and play together and what offensive styles suit them the best. We have had a lot of time together, but we're still a little inconsistent in what we're doing."

He was thankful his girls were going to get the opportunity to put the game behind them in a hurry.

The Fighting Scots are now 5-1. They bounced back with a 39-27 win over Lansing Waverly at the West Michigan Hoop Summit hosted by Aquinas College Saturday and then knocked off East Grand Rapids 50-28 Monday on the road. The Scots are back at it Saturday, Dec. 27, taking on Grandville at 1 p.m. at Van Andel Arena in Grand Rapids.

TK was scheduled to return to action at the Cornerstone University Holiday Classic starts Dec. 26, against Lowell. The Trojans will be back at Cornerstone Dec. 29 to face Kenowa Hills at 1:30 p.m.

Fighting Scots figure out how to score first in slog with visiting TK

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Caledonia finally found ways to turn defense into offense and get some easy looks at the basket in the second half against visiting Thornapple Kellogg Thursday, Dec. 18.

The Fighting Scots upped their record to 4-2 overall this season, and sent the TK varsity boys' basketball team into the holidays on a four-game losing streak, with a 41-31 win.

The ballgame was tied 14-14 at the half. Caledonia head coach Nathan Burns said it was an ugly game.

"They played zone and we struggled to function in the first half," Burns said. "We had opportunities but just couldn't capitalize,"

He said his team settled in for the second half and made some plays, "got some run outs for some easy baskets and finally capitalized on what was available."

A lot of what was available was space right around the hoop for junior Bryce Backus who closed the ballgame with 17 points and 13 rebounds as well as four assists, three blocked shots and two steals.

"Bryce was able to get looks in the middle," Burns said. "He was wide open all game and he took advantage of it. Most of his points came right in front of the rim off of ball movement."

Caledonia also got seven points from freshman guard Luca Galardi who had three assists too. Junior guard Aaron Collins chipped in five points, five rebounds and five steals.

Caledonia will be back in action today, Dec. 27, taking on Grandville at the Van Andel Arena Showcase in Grand Rapids. Game time is set for 3 p.m.

TK is now 2-5 overall this season. The Trojans head to the Cornerstone University Holiday Showcase Jan. 3 to take on Holt.

Yankee Springs Township
284 N. BRIGGS ROAD- MIDDLEVILLE, MICHIGAN 49333
269-795-9091 / FAX 269-795-2388

YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

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

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing will be held on January 15, 2026, commencing at 7:00 p.m. at the Yankee Springs Township Hall, 284 N. Briggs Rd., Middleville MI, within the Township, as required under the provisions of the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act and the Zoning Ordinance for the Township.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE In addition to participation during a public hearing, members of the public may also provide comments for the Planning Commission's consideration by emailing or mailing those comments to the Planning Commission for receipt prior to the meeting, in care of the Township Zoning Administrator, Joe Shea (joeshea@yankeespringstwp.org). Letters and emails are due one week before the hearing date; or by leaving a phone message prior to the meeting with the Township Zoning Administrator, Joe Shea at 269-795-9091.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the item(s) to be considered at said public hearing include, in brief, the following:

1. **SEU 25-12-10; Parcel ID: 16-160-003-00, 2236 Parker Drive, Wayland, MI 49348. The property owner Bret Burgess is requesting a separation of his back lot from his lakefront lot that would result in the back lot (zoned RSF) having an outbuilding without a dwelling, which requires a special use permit pursuant to section 12.7 of the zoning ordinance.**
2. **Such other business as may properly come before the Planning Commission.**

Anyone interested in reviewing the application material may do so at the township hall. All interested persons are invited to be present at the aforesaid time and place, or, if an electronic meeting is held, to participate via the electronic meeting.

Yankee Springs Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, to individuals with disabilities at the hearing upon four (7) days' prior notice to the Township Clerk. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Township Clerk at the address or telephone number listed below.

YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
By: Shana Bush, Chairperson
Yankee Springs Township Hall
284 N. Briggs Rd.
Middleville, Michigan 49333
(269) 795-9091

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING VILLAGE OF CALEDONIA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of the Village of Caledonia (the "Village") will hold a public hearing on Thursday, January 22, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the Caledonia Village Hall, 250 S. Maple Street, Caledonia, Michigan 49316, on the application of the Wheeler Development Group, on behalf of Caledonia TH, LLC and Caledonia TH II, LLC, to amend the approved Cusp Group, LLC Planned Unit Development (the "PUD") (also known as Hanover Townhomes) to amend the Final Development Plan for the PUD and to include additional lands in the PUD. The Final Development Plan for the PUD is proposed to be amended to permit the construction of Phase II of the PUD, including the construction of sixty six (66) dwellings, located in nine (9) two-unit buildings and twelve (12) four-unit buildings, together with private streets, public water and sewer, open space and various other amenities designated on the revised plan submitted for the PUD. The applicant is also proposing to amend the Final Development Plan to permit the construction of a clubhouse building for the PUD within the lands included in Phase I of the PUD. The proposed amendment would rezone a parcel of land commonly known as 161 Kinsey Street SE, Caledonia, MI 49316 to the Planned Unit Development District. The lands that would be rezoned to the Planned Unit Development District are owned by Caledonia TH II, LLC and located generally at 161 Kinsey Street SE, and are legally described as follows:

Parcel No. 41-23-29-405-013

Part of the Southeast one-quarter of Section 29, Town 5 North, Range 10 West, Caledonia Township, Kent County, Michigan, described as: **COMMENCING** at the South one-quarter corner of said Section 29; thence North 00°16'51" East along the North-South one-quarter line of said section 1637.13 feet (measured as North 00°03'09" East 1637.13 feet); thence North 89°40'20" East 301.0 feet (measured as North 89°26'38" East 301.0 feet) along a line which is 295.72 feet South from (measured perpendicular to and parallel with) the South line of Kinsey's Plat of the Village of Caledonia Station to the **PLACE OF BEGINNING** of this description; thence North 00°19'40" West 83.22 feet (measured as North 00°33'22" West 83.13 feet); thence North 89°40'20" East 179.75 feet (measured as North 89°26'38" East 180.25 feet) to a point 463.0 feet South 41°27'20" East (measured as South 41°41'02" East) along the Southwesterly line of Kinsey Street (66 feet wide) from the South line of Johnson Street (66 feet wide); thence South 41°27'20" East along said Westerly line of said street 110.48 feet (measured as South 41°41'02" East 110.48 feet) to a line bearing North 89°40'20" East (measured as North 89°26'38" East) from the place of beginning; thence South 89°40'20" West 252.42 feet (measured as South 89°26'38" West 252.42 feet) to the place of beginning.

The lands currently included in the PUD are legally described as follows:

Parcel No. 41-23-29-451-011

Part of the South one-half of Section 29, Town 5 North, Range 10 West, Village of Caledonia, Kent County, Michigan, described as: **COMMENCING** at the South one-quarter corner of said Section 29; thence North 90°00'00" East 18.85 feet along the South line of the Southeast one-quarter of said Section 29 to the **PLACE OF BEGINNING**; thence North 90°00'00" East 406.15 feet along said South line; thence North 00°16'52" East 713.00 feet to the North line of the South 713 feet of the Southeast one-quarter of said Section 29; thence North 90°00'00" East 813.61 feet along said North line to a point 100 feet Southwesterly from (measured perpendicular to) the West line of Kinsey Street (60 feet wide); thence North 40°48'40" West 37.56 feet parallel with the Westerly line of said Street; thence North 49°11'20" East 100.00 feet to the Westerly line of Kinsey Street; thence North 40°48'40" West 290.44 feet along said Westerly line; thence North 89°58'10" West 132.00 feet; thence North 40°48'40" West 65.57 feet parallel with the Westerly line of said Street; thence North 89°43'30" West 26.53 feet; thence South 40°48'40" East 21.23 feet parallel with the Westerly line of said Street; thence North 89°43'30" West 368.07 feet; thence South 46°40'57" West 179.69 feet; thence South 00°01'48" West 108.56 feet; thence South 89°52'43" West 244.19 feet; thence North 00°02'48" East 127.16 feet; thence North 89°59'30" West 349.07 feet; thence South 00°18'07" West 657.00 feet to the North line of the South 300 feet of the South one-half of said Section 29; thence South 89°59'30" East 200.00 feet along said North line to the East line of the West 18.85 feet of the Southeast one-quarter of said Section 29; thence South 00°18'07" West 300.00 feet along said East line to the place of beginning.

Contains 17.14 acres

Parcel No. 41-23-29-451-010

Part of the South one-half of Section 29, Town 5 North, Range 10 West, Village of Caledonia, Kent County, Michigan, described as: **COMMENCING** at the South one-quarter corner of said Section 29; thence North 90°00'00" East 18.85 feet along the South line of the Southeast one-quarter of said Section 29 to the East line of the West 18.85 feet of the Southeast one-quarter of said Section 29; thence North 00°18'07" East 300.00 feet along said East line to the North line of the South 300 feet of the South one-half of said Section 29; thence North 89°59'30" West 200.00 feet along said North line; thence North 00°18'07" East 657.00 feet to the **PLACE OF BEGINNING**; thence North 89°59'30" West 722.94 feet along a line which is 957 feet North of and parallel with the South line of the Southwest one-quarter of said Section 29 to a point 363 feet East from the East line of Duncan Lake Avenue (66 feet wide); thence North 00°14'30" East 363.00 feet parallel with said East line to a point 1320 feet North from the South line of said Section 29; thence South 89°59'30" East 337.98 feet parallel with the South line of the Southwest one-quarter of said Section 29 to the extended East line of Terrace Street (66 feet wide); thence North 00°16'30" West 312.50 feet along said East line; thence North 89°40'20" East 148.50 feet parallel with the South line of Lot 9 of Kennedy's Addition; thence North 00°16'30" West 1.32 feet to the Southwest corner of Lot 10 of Kennedy's Addition; thence North 89°40'20" East 983.90 feet to the Westerly line of Kinsey Street at a point 295.7 feet South from the South line of South Street (66 feet wide); thence South 43°01'27" East 66.05 feet along the Westerly line of said Street; thence South 49°13'56" West 260.79 feet; thence South 40°48'40" East 270.84 feet parallel with the Westerly line of said Street; thence South 00°26'22" West 154.87 feet; thence North 89°43'30" West 46.87 feet; thence South 46°40'57" West 179.69 feet; thence South 00°01'48" West 108.56 feet; thence South 89°52'43" West 244.19 feet; thence North 00°02'48" East 127.16 feet; thence North 89°59'30" West 349.07 feet to the place of beginning.

Contains 20.60 acres

All interested persons may attend the public hearing and be heard with regard to the proposed amending ordinance. Written comments may be submitted to the Village office, at the above-stated address, up to and during the time of the public hearing.

Dated: December 23, 2025 PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE VILLAGE OF CALEDONIA

Scots beat Brighton, battle for draw with Catholic Central in conference

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Harmon Esch scored two goals to dig the Fighting Scots out of a two-goal-hole against Grand Rapids Catholic Central Monday at Patterson Ice Center in OK Conference Rue Division play.

The Caledonia varsity hockey team salvaged a 2-2 draw to extend its unbeaten streak to six games.

The Scots had won their previous six including a 4-2 win over Brighton at Munn Ice Arena on the campus of Michigan State University in East Lansing Saturday, Dec. 20.

Caledonia had a 2-0 first period lead get away in that one as Brighton scored twice in the second to tie the game at 2-2. Caledonia responded in the third period with goals by Esch and Ty Lewandowski to secure the win. Esch notched the go-ahead goal 26 seconds into the third period with assists from Camden Quigley and William Maelum-Micheelsen. Landon Moore and Quigley assisted on Lewandowski's goal that gave the Scots some breathing room with 5:44 to play.

Bryce Mitchell and Lewandowski scored the two first period goals for the Scots against Brighton. Rylan Bultema and Drew Nichols assisted on Mitchell's goal 52 seconds into the game. Moore assisted on Lewandowski's goal in the first.

Sam Hoag got the victory in net for the Scots.

Brighton entered the contest ranked fourth in the state in Division 1 while the Fighting Scots checked in at ninth in the Division 2 rankings.

Caledonia grapplers take down four of five foes at Northview tourney

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

It was a 4-1 day for the Fighting Scots at the Northview Team Tournament Saturday, Dec. 20.

The Caledonia varsity wrestling team defeated Allendale 51-23, Northview 56-22, Muskegon 42-38 and East Kentwood 54-21.

Howell was the only team to down the Fighting Scots, scoring a 47-25 win in the first dual of the day. Caledonia head coach Shawn Veitch said he wasn't surprised his Scots weren't at their best in that opener. They hadn't wrestled in a while after having a Wednesday evening competition canceled due to scheduling issues.

"Your rhythm gets thrown off," Veitch said. "And don't get me wrong - that's a good Howell team. But my captains called the team out for their effort and I thought the team really responded well. We kept wrestling better as the day went on and wrestled very tough against Allendale to end the day. Again, my captains did a great job keeping the team into every match and fully engaged. "It's been a strong start to the season with the best yet to come. We haven't been full strength yet, but we are getting really close to being healthy with everyone at their weights."

Caledonia had 18 different guys credited with at least one victory throughout the day, whether it was out on the mat or a forfeit win. Cayden Nostrant at 175 pounds, Max Schnurstein at 126 and Xavier Stewart at 215 were all 5-0.

Caleb VanLaan had four wins and Koleson Reeder, Robert Restau and Ben Moss had three victories apiece.

Howell was a perfect 5-0 as a team and the dual with Caledonia was its closest one of the tournament.

Howell clinched the win with a technical fall from Thomas Preston in the 190-pound bout, 12 matches into the dual. VanLaan at 106 pounds and Schnurstein at 126 had the Fighting Scots off to an okay start leading 12-11 after four flights, but back-to-back pins by Howell at 132 pounds and 138 put the Highlanders in front.

In the tightest match of the dual, Moss pulled out a 4-3 win over Howell's Silas Zack at 144 pounds.

The other Caledonia victories in that one were a 13-2 major decision from Nostrant over Lucas McMillin at 175 pounds and a pin by Stewart at 215.

The Caledonia team is off now until a trip to Hastings' annual LH Lamb Tournament Jan. 3. The OK Green Conference season gets fired up with a visit from Reeths-Puffer Jan. 7.

Alberts leads TK ladies at Plainwell tourney with runner-up finish

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Plainwell freshman Evangeline Coutu has been Thornapple Kellogg junior Rylee Alberts kryptonite so far.

Alberts ran her record for the season to 11-2 with a runner-up finish in the 135-pound weight class Sunday at Plainwell's Meer Memorial Girls Tourney. The two losses have come against Coutu, and this time went a little better than the last.

Coutu took a 9-2 win in their 135-pound championship match, after having pinned Alberts in the third period of their first meeting this month.

Alberts pinned her first two foes on the day, Mason County Central's Raelyn Wilson in the quarterfinals and Ana Sofia Vega from Plainwell in the championship round. It was the first loss of the season for Vega in one of the tournament's toughest weight classes. Coutu moved to 10-1 with her championship.

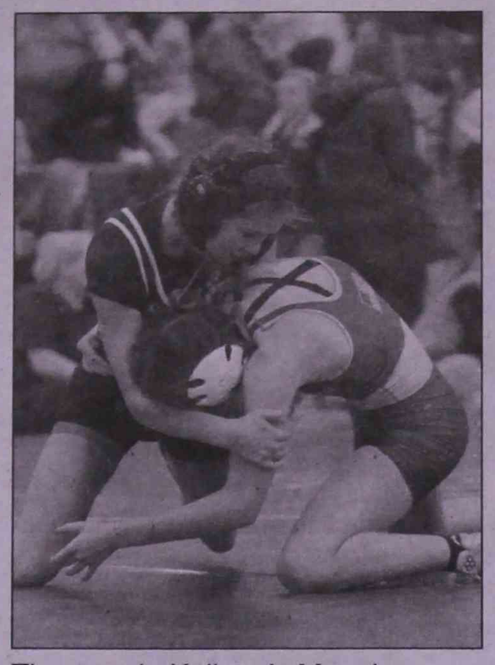
The Thornapple Kellogg girls were sixth in the day's final team standings. Constantine won the championship with 155 points ahead of Otsego 143, Plainwell 140, Harper Creek 100, Hamilton 98, Thornapple Kellogg 86, Three Rivers 77, Gull Lake 69.5, Mattawan 52 and Paw Paw 52 in the top ten.

Thornapple Kellogg had four girls finish among the top six at their weight class and a total of nine girls scored at least one victory on the day. Briella Dykstra was fourth at 115 pounds improving her record to 10-3 on the season. Maggie McKeown was fifth at 105 pounds for TK and Kayla Price sixth at 130 pounds.

Dykstra was 4-2 for the day with both of her losses coming against Taylor's Hope Norris, first in the quarterfinals and then again in the consolation final for third place. In between those two bouts, Dykstra won two matches by pin and took a forfeit victory.

TK's Price and McKeown both wrestled their way into the championship semifinals at their flight before falling and then battling back through consolation matches for their top six finishes.

McKeown pinned Lawton's Amorymen Ptak in the third period of their match for fifth place. She was 2-2 for the day.



Thornapple Kellogg's Maggie McKeown (left) tries to escape the grasp of South Haven's Maddie Moore in their 105-pound semifinal Sunday at the Meert Memorial Girls Tourney hosted by Plainwell High School.

Price placed sixth with a 3-3 performance. She won two matches by pin and then beat out Portage Central's Eliana Janik 9-7 to get into the semifinals where she was bested 8-1 by Hamilton's Anastasia Ruggles. She fell to Tessa Bienz from Constantine in her first consolation match and then was pinned by Delton Kellogg's Olivia Post in the match for fifth.

The TK girls' team will be a part of Montague's Lady Mat Cat Invitational Sunday, Dec. 28, and then head to Constantine Jan. 6.



Thornapple Kellogg 115-pounder Briella Dykstra looks up to her corner as she works to turn Potterville's Domenica Guzman Payaguaje at Plainwell's Meert Memorial Girls Tourney Sunday, Dec. 21. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

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VILLAGE OF MIDDLEVILLE
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NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE AND SUMMARY OF THE REGULATORY EFFECTS THEREOF

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Village Council of the Village of Middleville (the "Village") has adopted Village Ordinance No. 2144 (the "Ordinance"), which adopts Amendment No. 2 to the Amended and Restated Tax Increment Financing and Development Plan (the "Amended Plan") for the Village of Middleville Downtown Development Authority (the "Authority"). The principal provisions of the Ordinance are summarized as follows:

Section 1 of the Ordinance adopts Amendment No. 2 to the Amended Plan in accordance with Act 57 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 2018, as amended ("Act 57") and finds that Amendment No. 2 to the Amended Plan constitutes a public purpose and will be a benefit to the Village and its residents.

In accordance with Act 57, Section 2 of the Ordinance makes certain findings with respect to Amendment No. 2 to the Amended Plan including, but not limited to, that Amendment No. 2 to the Amended Plan meets the requirements set forth in Section 217(2) of Act 57; the proposed method of financing the activities, projects and improvements proposed in the Amended Plan is feasible, and the Authority has the ability to arrange the financing; public services will be adequate to service the development area included in Amendment No. 2 to the Amended Plan; and the activities, projects and improvements proposed in Amendment No. 2 to the Amended Plan are reasonable and necessary to carry out the purposes of Act 57.

Section 3 of the Ordinance authorizes and directs the Village Clerk to provide to the County Treasurer copies of all information necessary to enable the Village, Township and County Treasurers to transmit tax increment revenues to the Authority in accordance with Section 215 of Act 57.

Section 4 of the Ordinance provides for the severability of the Ordinance in the event a portion of the Ordinance is determined to be unenforceable.

Section 5 of the Ordinance provides for the publication and effective date of the Ordinance. Village Ordinance No. 2144 will become effective upon its publication or upon the publication of a summary of its provisions in a local newspaper of general circulation in the Village.

A copy of the foregoing Ordinance, Ordinance No. 2144 (and the Amended Plan), may be examined or purchased at the Village offices, 100 East Main Street, within the Village, during Village office hours.

Dated: December 16, 2025

VILLAGE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF MIDDLEVILLE

WRESTLING

Continued from Page 7

and stuff. It is rewarded in freestyle. You actually get more points for throwing each other on each other's backs and over our heads and stuff. Suplexes, you'll see that in freestyle a lot.

"We get push-out points. So, if one of the wrestlers pushes the other out of that big circle, you get a point for that. There is not as much top and bottom wrestling in freestyle that you see in folkstyle."

There are a lot of other small details that are different, but Hayden said the biggest difference is how much fun she can have performing the throws in freestyle.

Fowlerville senior Margaret Buurma became the first girl to win four MHSAA Individual Finals championships last March at Ford Field in Detroit. Maddie won't get the chance to match that, but she is still a part of the Caledonia High School wrestling program this winter and she was chosen as a team captain. She was on the sideline snapping photos during the Fighting Scots' first quad of the season with Grand Ledge and Thornapple Kellogg earlier this month, and working with her teammates as part of the clean-up crew after the spotlight turned off and the gym lights came back on.

"It breaks my heart, but I completely understand and support what she is doing," Caledonia varsity wrestling coach Shawn Veitch said in the lead-up to the season. "Honestly, what more does she have to prove? She is already a three-time state champ … When is the best time for her to have the surgery? It's now, then in the spring she can get back to that freestyle and go out to Fargo. I know she really wants to be a Fargo All-American out there again, and that will take her right into that college season.



Caledonia wrestler Maddie Hayden is interviewed on the turf at Ford Field in Detroit following her third MHSAA Individual Finals Championship at the end of her junior season in March, 2025. **File photo by Brett Bremer**

"Selfishly, it hurts me," he added with a little bit of a chuckle. "Selfishly, it hurts our program. But it's never about me. It's about the kids. She is making the right choice for Maddie, and I am so proud of that girl and I just wish her nothing but the best."

Maddie said she is having a hard time not being able to go out and lead by example on the mat for the Scots, but her Caledonia teammates can definitely take a cue from her efforts in the weight room. She got her left arm out of its sling in mid-November and got to do her first upper body lifting in early December. Prior to that, she started to get a little bored just doing free weights with her right arm and some lower body work – which she started about a week after her first surgery in the fall.

"Even just being able to get back in the gym is the only thing that is keeping me sane right now," Maddie said the week before her second surgery.

"I am lifting as much as possible and doing a ton of physical therapy, and just cardio here and there. I don't like cardio, so don't do it as much as I probably should be right now. My training is definitely going to be more intense again after this next surgery. With my first surgery I was just kind of training and eating to get to my next surgery, but with this (second) one I'm going to be training and doing physical therapy to be able to get back on the mat and get that going. It is definitely going to pick up after this surgery."

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