Michigan lawmakers look to repeal motorcycle law

Bills would allow motorcycle riders to ride without helmets

By William Axford
Axford@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Motorcycle riders may soon feel the wind whipping through their hair again. A bill in Lansing is seeking to repeal parts of Michigan’s motorcycle helmet laws, allowing riders to travel helmet free.

See MOTORCYCLE LAW on 8

Grand Blanc Township man dies in motorcycle crash

Accident occurred on Old U.S. 23 in Tyrone Township

By Sharon Stone
sstone@tctimes.com; 810-433-6786

Daniel Coates, 57, of Grand Blanc Township died in a motorcycle crash in Tyrone Township Saturday night.

Just before 10 p.m., on June 11, deputies with the Livingston County Sheriff’s Department responded to Old U.S. 23, south of

See CRASH on 5

Police continue to track leads in attempted abduction

Parents reminded to keep close eye on kids

By Sharon Stone
sstone@tctimes.com; 810-433-6786

Linden Police Chief Scott Sutter said there are rumors spreading through Linden that an arrest has been made in connection with recent suspicious incidents. This is not the case. The police are continuing to investigate a report of an attempted abduction, which occurred during the

See ABDUCTION on 9

No more teachers, no more books...

Austin Parks, 13, hugs a friend after students were released for summer vacation, marking the end of the school year, and the closing of Sherman Middle School in Holly. The Holly Area Schools Board of Education voted to close the building in the spring. Three teachers from the building will lose their jobs, and the remaining staff will move to the Karl Richter Campus on Baird Street.

(See more photos and full story on Sunday)
Township grapples with $32,635 less in revenues

**Officials to vote on proposed balanced budget**

**By Tim Jagielo**

**tjagielo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795**

**Rose Twp. — Rose Township Supervisor Alison Kalceck presented a balanced budget to the 2011-12 budget hearing at the regular meeting on Wednesday.**

The budget, with revenues and expenditures of $739,342 has a budgeted ending fund balance of $9,855. Records also show a beginning fund balance of $919,111 and an estimated ending fund balance of $926,966.

Rose Township posted $32,635 less in revenues for 2011-12, mostly because of reduced tax collections, as well as miscellaneous items, such as pest control and planning commission fees.

“You can see the decline in taxable values in the township, which results in a decline in the tax revenues the township receives,” said Kalceck. She budgeted, expecting less in statutory revenue sharing, although she has been able to expect a 2.8 percent increase in revenue sharing with the state of Michigan. “Much depends on the final state budget and sales tax over the next 12 months,” she said.

Appropriations in the new budget include installing energy efficient windows in the upper level of the township office, continuing wage reductions for most township employees, and fully funding half of the costs of providing fire, rescue and EMS ambulance services through the North Oakland County Fire Authority (NOCFA).

The budget also reflects the costs of elections held by the township through out the year. One resident asked why Rose Township budgeted $30,000 for elections, while Holly Township budgeted $6,000.

“I didn’t know how many elections we were going to have this year, I wanted to make sure I had sufficient funds budgeted,” said Clerk Debbie Miller, who also said the unused funds would go back to the general fund.

During the budget hearing, residents also asked questions about the role of the trustees, the building inspector, and other specific line items on the budget which Kalceck answered and clarified.

The date to adopt the 2011-12 budget and make any amendments is set for June 29. The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m.
**The good, the bad and the fluffy**

A day in the life of a dog groomer

By Tim Jagielo

Riley, a caramel, salt and pepper cocker spaniel was doing just fine on Becky Pitonyak’s grooming table at Barking Babe’s Pet Boutique in Fenton, until Pitonyak started clipping his nails. Then the wriggling and squealing ensued.

Most dogs do not enjoy getting their nails clipped, said Pitonyak, of Holly. "If they’ve had one cut short, they don’t forget,” she said.

After Riley is groomed, a plastic grocery bag worth of hair is left, and a rather sharp looking cocker is placed in his own crate to be picked up by his family. Most dogs take about an hour to groom, and Pitonyak sees on average eight per day. Last week, when temperatures rose to 95 degrees, she saw 11 per day.

Riley was cooperative, but some larger dogs have to be wrangled in and out of the bath tub, and up and down the grooming table. “I go home very tired,” said Pitonyak.

See DOG GROOMER on 11

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**So, you want to buy a boat**

Something for everyone at numerous area boat dealers

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Whether you want to spend $5,000 on a fishing boat package or $65,000 on a pontoon with custom features, there’s a boat to fit your lifestyle and budget on the water this summer.

People are back to buying boats this year, and local marine suppliers are noticing that buyers are willing to shell out more money this summer after a lull in boat sales the last few years. “We made a strong comeback last year, and this year, we’re selling boats as fast as we get them in.”

See BOAT on 10
Weiner affair is sad

“Al member ... officer or employee of the House shall conduct himself at all times in a manner that shall reflect creditably on the House.”

-- Code of Official Conduct, Rule XXIII, Clause 1

One might expect a conservative like me to pile on Rep. Anthony Weiner (D-NY), joining many of my fellow conservatives on the heap. I’ve heard the jokes and read the double entendre headlines in the New York Post and other publications. After the high and mighty promise of Rep. Nancy Pelosi to ‘drain the swamp’ of Republican corruption following recent GOP sex scandals, some conservatives might see this as payback. They shouldn’t, both they and our institutions of government could benefit from a little soul searching.

There are at least two truths emerging from this tawdry episode of tweeting half, and apparently fully naked pictures of the congressman to women. They do not know if they are looking at pictures of the congressman to women. One might expect a conservative like me to pile on Rep. Anthony Weiner (D-NY), joining many of my fellow conservatives on the heap. I’ve heard the jokes and read the double entendre headlines in the New York Post and other publications. After the high and mighty promise of Rep. Nancy Pelosi to ‘drain the swamp’ of Republican corruption following recent GOP sex scandals, some conservatives might see this as payback. They shouldn’t, both they and our institutions of government could benefit from a little soul searching.

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Fenton teen succumbs to cancer

“She was such a fighter”
By Tim Jagielo
tjagielo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

Katie Wyatt, 14, of Fenton, and a student at Andrew G. Schmidt Middle School, succumbed to renal cell carcinoma Tuesday morning, said Lisa Moryc, girlfriend of Katie’s father, Doug, who is helping handle Katie’s arrangements.

“It’s a time of grieving right now,” said Moryc. “We’ve been leaning on each other.”

Katie had been fighting a form of liver cancer more commonly found in adult men since she was 11. She stopped attending school in November of last year, when Katie and her family were told that she would not make it to Christmas.

“She was such a fighter,” said Moryc. “Never once did she complain about having this disease, never.”

Funeral arrangements

The viewing for Katie will be held at Sharp Funeral Home in Fenton, on Thursday, June 16, and Friday June 17 from 12 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 9 p.m.

The service will be held Saturday, June 18 at the Cornerstone Church at 4995 North Hickory Ridge Rd. in Highland at 11 a.m. with guests arriving at 10 a.m. The reception and burial will follow.

Donations

The family has selected two charities that can receive donations, through Sharp Funeral Home in Fenton: The University of Michigan CanCure Center, and The Rainbow Connection.

If You are African American and Suffered Farm Loan Discrimination by the USDA between 1981 and 1996,

You may be eligible for money from a $1.25 billion class action Settlement Fund

(Heirs/Kin may be included)

There is a proposed class action Settlement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) involving racial discrimination against African American farmers between 1981 and 1996. This Settlement is only for certain people who tried to file a late claim in the original Pigford case, or their heirs (kin) and legal representatives. The current Settlement (sometimes called Pigford II) provides benefits to some of those late filers.

Am I included?

You may be included if you:
• Between 1981 and 1996, were discouraged or prevented from applying for or were denied a USDA farm loan or other benefit, or you were given a loan with unfair terms because of racial discrimination,
• Were eligible for a payment in the original Pigford case, and
• Submitted a late-filing request that was denied or never considered because it was late.

If you are the heir or kin of someone who died who fits this description, you may file a claim for a payment that would become part of the deceased person’s estate. If you are not sure if you (or someone for whom you are the legal representative) are included, please call 1-877-810-8110.

You are not included if you received a payment in the original Pigford case.

What does the Settlement provide?

You may be eligible for a substantial cash payment and USDA loan forgiveness from the Settlement. You will need to file a claim to be eligible for these benefits. The claims deadline may be as early as February 28, 2012. The Court has appointed lawyers to help you file a claim under the Settlement. You do not have to pay them or anyone else to help you with the claims process.

What else should I know?

You will be notified about the Settlement by mail.

For more information or to begin the claims filing process:
City hires new architect for community center

By Sharon Stone
sstone@tctimes.com; 810-433-6786

Fenton — The Fenton City Council has selected a new firm to complete architectural services for the Fenton Community & Cultural Center. In a 6-1 vote, the council agreed to hire Lindhout Associates, of Brighton. The Fenton Downtown Development Authority (DDA) will pay the firm a fee not to exceed $43,360. Lindhout will replace John Dziurman Architects, of Rochester, which did not meet the expectations of city officials.

Councilman Tim Faricy voted against the motion, saying a vote on architectural services at this time was premature. He believes more understanding of the community center’s sustainability is needed before the city commits $600,000 for the project.

Michael Burns, assistant city manager and director of the DDA, said the DDA and Fenton Community Center Board of Governors received the formal feasibility study for the community center from Dziurman nine months after it was commissioned, and three months after the contract expired.

Despite this delay, the Community Center Restoration Committee has been developing a plan for the building, said Burns. The first phase of the project is to develop the service core that provides both a gateway to the building and handicapped accessibility. This service core will also provide additional storage, which can assist toward the restoration of the current building.

The city has received $62,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding for an elevator in the service core expansion. Because of the time-sensitive grant, this portion of the project needs to be completed by April 30, 2012. Lindhout was one of five architectural firms that were interviewed last June for the feasibility study. Lindhout was the second highest-ranking firm interviewed.

Piet Lindhout attended the meeting on Monday. He assured city council his firm could perform the necessary work and said he was excited to work with the city. Lindhout’s firm will be putting together a proposal for a building for $600,000, which includes $320,000 for the service core and an additional $280,000 for the desired expansion and professional fees.

Lindhout provided an initial proposal with a price tag of $45,900 (8.5 percent of the total project). After the Board of Governors asked him to lower the cost, Lindhout lowered the fee to 8 percent for a cost not to exceed $43,360. The core area includes the bathroom area, stairs, elevator, mechanical space, lobby and welcome center.

The committee also recommended that if Lindhout completes the phases of this project in a timely manner, it would strongly consider having the firm be the architect for the entire project, including the restoration.

Councilwoman Cheryl King said the installation of an elevator has to be done. “We have to fix that,” she said. She urged Lindhout to not take as long as the last architect.

Mayor Pro-Tem John Rauch agreed that the community center is not handicap accessible. “We have to do that or just close the doors,” he said. “It’s not the way it should be.”

City Manager Lynn Markland said while architectural drawings are being completed for the new elevator area, it would be the appropriate time for the city to look closely at how the money is being spent.

Leading by example

This past Sunday I had the opportunity to play golf at a local course. My friend and I were a twosome for nine holes, and at the turn, we were asked if it would be all right if we were paired up with another twosome who happened to be a father and his son. We said that this was fine with us, and so as a foursome, we played the back nine together.

We were all walking and for those golfers out there I’m sure you’ll agree that when one is walking a golf course there is usually a lot of conversation.

I started out talking to the son and was truly impressed by how friendly and polite he was and learned he was still in high school and of his plans for the future. I then talked to the dad and was equally impressed by how friendly and polite he too was and learned some things about him as well.

At the end of the round, we said goodbye and wished everyone well.

Afterwards in reflecting on my round I didn’t dwell on my bad score, but rather how it was clear to me that this father had instilled by his own example a value system in his son that he will be able to use for the rest of his life and how the father had taken his parental duties seriously.

I also thought about how most parents aren’t actually aware of what their legal parental duties are but somehow seem to fulfill them. These duties include giving their children support, education as required by law, medical, surgical and other care necessary for the child’s health, morals or well being, the right to proper custody, and a right to live in a suitable place free from neglect, cruelty, drunkenness, criminality or depravity.

I believe that most parents instinctively know these things and don’t have to be told what our law requires — they simply follow what they believe in and do the best job they can in raising their children. When there is a deviation, the law can step in and try to make it right using a wide variety of remedies.

The point here is that the example set by the father I met last weekend was wonderful to see and I know that there are countless other examples of fathers who have role models for their sons and daughters.

Since Sunday is Father’s Day, I thought this would be a good time to underscore this positive aspect of our world. I wish all of you fathers, a very happy Father’s Day.
Senior center loses its compassionate leader

By Sharon Stone

Marjorie Hodges loses battle with cancer

The Loose Senior Citizen Center in Linden has announced that its executive director, Marjorie Hodges, 56, of Holly, passed away on Saturday after a private battle with cancer.

With immense sadness, Carl Gabrielson, president of the board of directors announced the news of Hodges’ passing this week. “She gave the center her whole life,” he said. “The center is a tribute to her.”

As the board, staff and members cope with the news, Gabrielson said it has become evident how important Hodges was to the senior center. “It’s the nicest senior center in Michigan,” he said. “It’s a nice people place and Margie was a large part of that,” he said.

After Hodges became ill, Gabrielson said she continued to work from home as long as she could. Instead of a funeral, a memorial service is being planned, for July 21 at Linden High School, pending the availability of the auditorium.

“It’s sad here,” said Gabrielson. “People loved her. We’ve lost a member of the family.”

In an effort to carry on Hodges’ passion for helping senior citizens, the Marjorie Hodges Scholarship Fund has been established. Scholarships available to seniors who cannot afford to pay for activities or programs. “It’s a nice tribute for her and her family,” Gabrielson said.

Those who wish to donate to this fund can do so by sending a check, made payable to Loose Senior Citizen Center, in care of the Marjorie Hodges Scholarship Fund, 707 North Bridge St., Linden, MI 48451.

Bill Birch, a consultant for the center said in lieu of flowers, Hodges family has requested that money be donated to this scholarship in her name.

BICYCLE STOLEN

On Saturday, June 11, Fenton police responded to an apartment on Trealout Drive to investigate a report of a stolen Huffy bicycle. A 17-year-old Fenton Township male said he had parked his bike behind the building that afternoon and when he returned to it, the $100 bike was missing.

COPPER PIPING STOLEN

On Monday, June 13, Fenton police responded to a business in the 300 block of North Alloy Drive to investigate a report of copper piping theft.

Summary

Marjorie Hodges, the executive director of the Loose Senior Citizen Center in Linden, passed away on Saturday.

Linden Community Schools

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2011-2012 BUDGET

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on June 29, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. at the Linden High School Media Center, 7201 W. Silver Lake Road, Linden, Michigan, the Board of Education of Linden Community Schools will hold a public hearing to consider the District’s proposed 2011-2012 budget.

The Board may not adopt its proposed 2011-2012 budget until after the public hearing. A copy of the proposed 2011-2012 budget including the proposed property tax millage rate is available for public inspection during normal business hours at the Linden Community Schools Administration Building, 7205 W. Silver Lake Road, Linden, Michigan.

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be subject of this hearing.

This notice is given by order of the Board of Education.

Steve M. Murphy, Secretary

Board approves budget with $2.8 million in cuts

By Tim Jagielo

Holly — The Holly Area Schools (HAS) Board of Education has taken the final step in approving the 2011-12 budget before the July 1 deadline that marks the beginning of the district’s fiscal year.

HAS is in the red by $987,036 over the $2.8 million in reductions proposed by Superintendent Kent Barnes, who was appointed by the board in May. This difference between revenue and expenditures will be made up by the district’s fund balance, which serves as an emergency savings account for the district and totals $3.1 million.

HAS expects to lose more than $3 million in federal, state, and transaction/transfer income because of declining enrollment and a $470 reduction in per-pupil funding.

The $34,244,367 general fund budget was approved unanimously at the regular HAS Board of Education meeting on Monday, after the entire budget was presented officially by Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services.

“It seems like it’s been more (revenue loss) than in the past 13 years.”

By Sharon Stone

Loose Senior Citizen Center

The Loose Senior Citizen Center is a tribute to Marjorie Hodges, the center’s executive director who died recently from cancer.

“People loved her. We’ve lost a member of the family,” said Carl Gabrielson, president of the board of directors.

The Loose Senior Citizen Center in Linden has announced that its executive director, Marjorie Hodges, passed away on Saturday.

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endorsement for at least two years and pass a motorcycle safety course in order to ride without a helmet. Although Senate Bill 291 was introduced on March 24, debate about wearing helmets has been an issue since 1969 when the law was passed.

According to the Michigan Secretary of State, a rider must have a motorcycle endorsement on his or her driver’s license. Riding without an endorsement can cost up to a $300 responsibility fee and court fines.

Senators Phil Pavlov (R-St. Clair) and Tupac Hunter, (D-Detroit) support the bill and cite personal freedom and choice as reasons to repeal the helmet law.

But not everyone agrees that the issue is simply a matter of choice or freedom.

“The Insurance Institute of Michigan is opposed to any repeals to motorcycle helmet laws,” said Lori Conarton, communications director of the organization. “Motorcyclists say that wearing a helmet is a personal choice, but that isn’t accurate. Michigan is a no-fault state and this would affect everyone’s pocketbook.”

The facts are staggering when it comes to helmet safety. The National Highway Safety Administration (NHSA) estimates that 1,829 motorcyclists were saved because of their helmets in 2008. And, 823 more riders would still be alive if they had worn their helmets. The NHSA also estimates that motorcycle riders are about 37 times more likely to die in a traffic accident than riders in a car.

According to Michigan Traffic Safety Information Council, hospital stays are longer for unhelmeted riders and cost taxpayers more, since some motorcyclists are uninsured. Helmets also prevent eye injuries and protect riders against dust and other debris.

The bill is also requiring moped riders younger than 19 to wear a helmet. The Michigan State Police will set all regulations pertaining to helmets.

Gov. Rick Snyder designated May as Motorcycle Safety Month, but has not publicly commented on whether or not he opposes the motorcycle helmet laws. Neither bill has passed through the Senate or the House of Representatives as of press time.
Mobile food pantry coming to Fenton
By Sharon Stone
stonestore@ctimes.com 810-433-6786
St. Jude’s Episcopal Church and the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan are sponsoring a mobile food pantry on Saturday, June 18. They will be giving away a truckload of food in the church’s parking lot from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The church is located at Oak and Elizabeth streets downtown Fenton.

According to the food bank, there is enough food for 300 families to each receive a paper grocery bag full of food. Each family is asked to bring their own grocery bags.

The church raised $500 to pay for the food and members will be on hand to pass it out. This is the first time the mobile food pantry has been in Fenton.

Rev. Josh Hoover is not sure what the turnout will be. They have contacted several agencies in the Fenton, Auburn, Clifton and Holly areas and Fred Sieradzki at St. John Catholic Church has been helping.

“Our biggest fear is leftover food, so we really want to get people here,” Hoover said. Food will be given out on a first come, first served basis.

Fenton has suffered with the rest of Michigan in terms of joblessness and cutbacks. However, because it does not have many obviously homeless people in Fenton, the community does not notice just how bad the poverty has become right in their own city, said Hoover.

Hoover said St. John’s Outreach ran out of money to help people this spring. Fenton was not able to help nearly as many as it would have in the past, and all of the churches are regularly fielding calls from residents asking for help.

“St. Jude’s has helped with rent, utilities, phone, gas and food on a regular basis, but there is never enough to help the people I would like to help, and it feels like things are getting worse, not better,” said Hoover.

Hoover and the other volunteers believe that food, especially for the elderly and children, is incredibly important as a way to help people stay healthy in trying times.

SIDEWALKS
Continued from Front Page
Since last fall, the city has been working out the details of its sidewalk replacement program. The program has been designed to address tripping hazards, to prevent someone from becoming injured and the subsequent liability.

With the city and property owners of faulty sidewalks splitting the cost 50/50, city officials believe residents would be compelled to have their cracked and dangerous sidewalks replaced. A tripping hazard can be as little as a 2-inch offset.

Daniel Czarnecki, the Department of Public Works (DPW) director, said he will begin inspecting sidewalks and inform property owners if their sidewalks need replacing. He believes homeowners will want to take advantage of this 50/50 program to save them money.

The city has budgeted $100,000 for this project. Czarnecki is dividing the city into five sections with the intention of working within an area for logistical purposes. Although $100,000 sounds like a lot of money, the cost to replace sidewalk is about $4 to $5 per square foot. This would make a typical 5- by 5-foot square cost between $100 and $125 to replace.

New sidewalks will be 5-feet wide; however, Czarnecki said the city will match existing sidewalks.

Homeowners will have the choice of repairing their sidewalk themselves or to let the city handle the work. “I plan to follow the same criteria our building department follows when they are out inspecting sidewalks,” said Czarnecki.

Fenton homeowners who disagree on the need for replacement could appeal to the city manager or city council.

Payment for the work can be done all at once; an assessment roll could be created for those who wish to pay over time as a special assessment. City council would need to set the term limits and interest rate on this.

ABDUCTION
Continued from Front Page
morning of Thursday, June 9. They are also investigating a report of a man, watching young students at bus stops, near Saddlebrook Lane and Silver Lake Road.

Police have received several tips, but none has led to anything solid, said Satterfield, speaking of the nature of the incidents, individuals on the sex offender registry are being looked at, said the chief. Those questioned had alibis.

Police officers are patrolling more often through the neighborhoods.

Residents are urged to report any suspicious activity to 911 or Linden police at (810) 735-5454.

In Linden, an 8-year-old boy, playing outdoors behind a fence near his home on Murph and Oak streets, was approached by an unknown man. The unknown man had exited a SUV, walked over and grabbed the boy’s waist from behind. However, the boy broke loose, screamed, ran into his home, and told his mother. The mother and son immediately reported the incident to Linden police.

The unknown man was described as being between 19 and 30 years old, about 6-feet tall, slim build and having dark hair. The man drove away in a late model tan or brownish Suburban or Yukon-on-Sunday and then Thursday.

Linden police are also investigating reports of a suspicious male, who was observed watching children at bus stops near Saddlebrook Lane and Silver Lake Road area. A Linden schools’ bus driver reported these incidents on Tuesday, June 7. This unknown man was described as being in his 50’s with grey hair.

Homeowners can help the people I would like to help, and it feels like things are getting worse, not better,” said Hoover.

The intent of the male suspects has not yet been determined.

After the girls fled, the males turned around head to back to their vehicle and grabbed the scooter. The men ended up dropping the scooter and driving away in the Suburban.

Descriptions of the men were given to the police and the school’s surveillance video captured images of the Suburban.

Lt. Jason Slater, of the Fenton Police Department, said a couple of calls have been made to city council.

With the city and property owners if their sidewalks need replacing. He believes homeowners will want to take advantage of this 50/50 program to save them money.

The city has budgeted $100,000 for this project. Czarnecki is dividing the city into five sections with the intention of working within an area for logistical purposes. Although $100,000 sounds like a lot of money, the cost to replace sidewalk is about $4 to $5 per square foot. This would make a typical 5- by 5-foot square cost between $100 and $125 to replace.

New sidewalks will be 5-feet wide; however, Czarnecki said the city will match existing sidewalks.

Homeowners will have the choice of repairing their sidewalk themselves or to let the city handle the work. “I plan to follow the same criteria our building department follows when they are out inspecting sidewalks,” said Czarnecki.

Fenton homeowners who disagree on the need for replacement could appeal to the city manager or city council.

Payment for the work can be done all at once; an assessment roll could be created for those who wish to pay over time as a special assessment. City council would need to set the term limits and interest rate on this.

The girls, who live near the school, were playing with an electric scooter at the school driver of the SUV. The driver reported these incidents on Tuesday, June 7. This unknown man was described as being in his 50’s with grey hair.

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Fire department using grant for new equipment

Council approves 5-percent matching funds

By Sharon Stone
sstone@tctimes.com; 810-433-6786

Fenton — The Fenton Fire Department was awarded a $25,000 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG), which will cover the cost of some new equipment.

The AFG is available through the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). This grant requires a 5 percent match from the city.

Fenton Fire Chief Robert Cairnduff sought quotes on the equipment the fire department needed and is now ready to make the purchases. Since one of the items had a price higher than anticipated, Cairnduff told council members that the city would need to pay an additional $445, bringing its 5-percent portion of the cost up from $1,250 to $1,695.

On Monday, Fenton City Council approved spending the $1,695 that the fire chief requested.

“I would not be able to afford this equipment if it had not been for this federal grant,” said Cairnduff. “We have been fortunate to receive grants three out of the last five years.”

GRANT IS BEING USED TO PURCHASE:
• Posi-check self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) testing machine
  Cost: $10,838
• 20 Motorola fire pagers
  Cost: $9,361
• Large bore Task Force Tips fire monitor nozzle
  Cost: $2,850
• Large bore Elkhart Brass fire monitor nozzle
  Cost: $2,395

Continued from Page 3

BOAT

Continued from Page 3

said Jeff Nichols, of Aqua Sports Marine in Fenton. “Used boats are big, too, but they’re hard to find.”

People who are looking for a boat must first figure out what kind of boating they want to do: skiing, boarding, cruising, fishing or socializing and entertaining.

“We ask our customers a lot of questions,” said Jim Adams of Freeway Sport Center in Fenton. “We want to know how they plan to use the boat.”

Financing is another issue, with many customers taking care of their own financing through their bank or lending institution. About half the boating customers at White’s Landing in Fenton pay cash for their boat purchase, while the other half go to their own banks.

Some are good financing deals right now, according to Adams at Freeway Sport Center.

Once a boat purchase has been made, customers need to think about boat insurance, too. While it’s not required for all boat owners, any buyer who has a loan will need to have insurance, according to Pam Barkel, personal line manager at Hartland Insurance. “Liability coverage is not usually covered on a homeowner’s policy, but it can be added to that policy, or you can get a separate boat owner’s policy,” she said. “For a $10,000 boat, insurance would cost about $150 per year.”

Other boating expenses that need to be considered are financing, maintenance, winterization/storage and boat slips.

Jonathan Hامل from White’s Landing said that maintenance/winterization is about $500 per year, and a boat slip will run about $1,300 for those customers who don’t live on the lake.

Our higher-end boats are the ones that are really selling well, said Joe and Dana Ceresia of Lake Ponemah Marina. “We just sold a $65,000 pontoon, the highest priced one we’ve ever sold.”

With prices of new boats ranging locally from about $16,000 and up, a pontoon costing four times more obviously has upscale “bells and whistles” — including a stainless steel refrigerator, hydraulic wine rack and electric rear loungers. Sitting on three pontoon logs, it also holds a heavier engine, allowing a pontoon to speed upwards of 50 mph, according to Ceresia. “Pontoons aren’t just for ‘putzing’ around the lake,” she added. “While they do that well, too, pontoons equipped with powerful engines can be up to 225 hp, enough power to pull a skier.”

Pontoons are big business at many local marine stores. At White’s Landing, the most popular models hover around $16,500 for a 20-foot boat with 40-50 hp.

“Our entry-level Bennington pontoons are pretty well-equipped with everything you need,” said Hamel.

The popularity of pontoons is visible just by looking at lakefront property. “If you look at just about every house on the lake, they might have a Jet Ski, they might have a ski boat, but they always have a pontoon,” said Hamel.

Most area marine stores have their own specialty in the competitive boating industry. Freeway Sport Center in Fenton is known for fishing boats, but they also carry boats in every category from pontoons to sport boats. “I’ve got everything,” said Adams. “We sell all the different product lines. Our Yamaha sport boats and ski boats have been selling well. One of our biggest sellers is pontoons.”

One of the biggest forecasters of boat sales is the weather. “We’re busy any time the sun comes out,” said Adams.

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DOG GROOMER
Continued from Page 3
A standard dog grooming includes the brush, bath and cut, nail trimming, and ear cleaning. Dog groomers can learn on the job, or take classes. Pitonyak works six days per week, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., most days. Janice Fletcher, of Club Canine in Fenton, has been grooming dogs steadily for 30 of the last 40 years, and could have groomed around 70,000 in her career. She has a passion and a true love for grooming. It was something she wanted to do since she was a child. “It’s in my blood,” she said.

Fletcher has a vision for each dog. She likes to pick a stylish cut that fits the pet’s personality, but is also easy to maintain.

Fletcher likes working with puddles, and especially enjoys grooming cats. Cats are smaller and at age 60, big dogs take a lot out of her.

For the same reason, Pitonyak also prefers smaller dogs, like Shitzus. “They’re nice little dogs,” she said. “Some people even have you put a little Mohawk on them, to be a little more artistic.”

Every day, both of the groomers use scissors, clippers, dryers and shampoos, all of which have improved over the years, according to Fletcher.

Pitonyak’s scissors cost between $150 and $200, and she has them sharpened every six weeks.

Many dogs and cats are cooperative, and many even enjoy being groomed, but groomers still have to be wary of a dog’s temperament, as they could bite out of fear, or aggression.

Pitonyak still has scars on her left wrist from a German shepherd that clamped onto her out of surprise when the dog almost slid off the table. “It wasn’t his fault, it’s one of those unfortunate accidents,” she said.

If a dog seems potentially dangerous, Fletcher will send the dog back home. “That’s when I say ‘no,'” she said. Fletcher will not work on pit bull terriers. “I have a fear, they can sense it,” she said. Because of her smaller stature, she also will hand off German shepherds to another groomer. “Most pins and shepherds that come in are really sweet,” she said, adding that most dogs are cooperative.

For Fletcher, the grooming experience goes a little deeper. “It’s not just grooming, it’s styling, it’s an art form,” she said. Fletcher does not just cut dog hair, she also dyes it. Her standard poodle, Pearl, is currently pink.

Despite their experience, both Pitonyak and Fletcher continue to educate themselves. “I like to keep learning,” said Fletcher. “I don’t know it all, there’s always another person out there with another idea.”

Tips
1. Keep your pet used to the grooming process. They need to be groomed every four to six weeks.
2. Brush and comb your pet regularly. It will make grooming far more comfortable.
3. Groomers are not paid hourly. They are generally paid a commission of the fee. A 20-percent tip is considered fair, on top of the grooming fee.

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO
Becky Pitonyak, of Holly, has to be aware of which dogs may turn skittish or even bite. Most dogs are cooperative, and many enjoy being groomed.

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HOT LINE CONTINUED
ISN’T IT AMAZING that the woman gathering ‘Recall Snyder’ signatures for her petition at the corner of Lefty and Silver Lake Road is driving a foreign car, a high-priced Land Rover. She, of course, is all for our unions, you know, ‘Buy American.'

I AM A Fenton teacher. I was appalled to learn that one of our elementary schools sent a supply list home requesting each child ‘donate’ a ream of copy paper to their next year’s classroom. As an educator, I am embarrassed by this. Fenton can afford the astronomical fees required to maintain IB status, but must resort to begging for necessary supplies? Should the kids bring their own toilet paper, too? How sad.

AS A MOM of two young children, it disgusts me to see teachers picketing outside, due to budget cuts and staffing reduction. In today’s economy, we need to think outside the box and work together to come up with solutions for maintaining great schools.

There is no place for lazy or greedy educators. Let’s do what’s best for the kids and figure out better solutions for the lack of funds.

ARE YOU GOING to be happy with the Wal-Mart greeters as your child’s new teacher? If the current proposals go through, I don’t know who else in their right mind would go into teaching. All of you saying teachers should be dedicated need to get real. You can’t eat dedication, nor make mortgage or car payments. You shouldn’t be asking how you can cut from education, but what can you do to attract the best.
MILLS DAY TO REPLACE SUMMER HAPPENING
June 25 will be the Summer Happening Mills Day to replace Aug. 5: The Sorcerer’s Apprentice”; “Legends of the Guardians”; Community & Culture Center. Mov- ingly until Aug. 19 at the Fenton’s “Movies in the Park” is information.
Go to FlintGasPrices.com for more cents per gallon with the average The national average has fallen 5.1 price of gas is $3.82 per gallon. The average retail price of gas in Area gas prices decreasing and 3 p.m.

MICROBREWERY Continued from Front Page
The restaurant and micro brewery, which will be located in the old fire hall, is requesting a new Micro Brew License, Small Wine Maker License and Smaller Distiller License from the state. Local approval is necessary.
Robert Mason, who requested the licenses for the Michigan Brewing Com- pany, told council members Monday that the restaurant would be using stainless steel equipment and copper tanks. Brewing would be done about four days per week.
The restaurant will be cre- ating a local beer as its Fen- ton trademark and when it becomes popular, it will be put out to market.
Restaurant owners did not request to include entertainment with the licenses; however, Mason said they would eventually ask for an outdoor service license so that food and beverages could be served outside on a patio or deck. The restaur- ant will be open for lunch and dinner.

HOT LINE CONTINUED
LET ME STRAIGHTEN you out on Michigan retired teachers. I speak from personal experience. Contrary to what Rep. Paul Scott would have you believe, we paid into our retirement plan and pay for our health insurance plan monthly. My first Michigan teaching contract was for $8,300. I was told don’t worry; your pension will be state tax free to make up for the low pay. Now, Snyder is going to tax that. We were lied to.

I AM A retired Michigan teacher with 31 years of service. I just wanted to say you people who are negative toward the teachers don’t understand. I have 31 years of service. I just wanted to say you people who are negative toward the teachers don’t understand. I have 31 years of service. I just wanted to say you people who are negative toward the teachers don’t understand. I have 31 years of service. I just wanted to say you people who are negative toward the teachers don’t understand. I have 31 years of service. I just wanted to say you people who are negative toward the teachers don’t understand. I have 31 years of service. I just wanted to say you people who are negative toward the teachers don’t understand. I have 31 years of service. I just wanted to say you people who are negative toward the teachers don’t understand. I have 31 years of service.

TORNADOES, FLOODS, WILD fires and extreme heat have devastated the United States this year, with hurricanes likely due next. Is nature adding to the already sick economic situation, this once great coun-

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE Fenton School of Dance and Anatomy for performing a wonderful recital this weekend. The kids are all so talented. Susan Cook and her staff do a fantastic job teaching them.

IF THE OBAMA Administration is so good, why do we have high unemploy- ment and huge deficits?

REGARDING APPRECIATING the efforts of decision makers on the Fenton DDA and the council, just because someone is willing, doesn’t mean they can’t.

I LOVE THE way State Road Elementary School ends the year for the fifth-graders, a clap-out, but some schools are over the top — $30-$50 gift bags, limos picking them up, caps and gowns — really over the top. You can be proud of your kids with something simple and special. Great job, State Road, have a great summer.

TO THE PROTESTING Fenton teach- ers, the school board that you are pro- testing has no control over the per-pupil funding amounts it receives from the state. I take like liberal wieniers, blaming the wrong people for their problems.

Police Chief Rich Aro said the re- quired investigation was completed on Mason. No criminal history or other concerns were found that might pre- vent him from receiving the licenses. Mason was found to run successful similar business in other communities and his business has a good reputation with local law en- forcement.

LICENSES requested: The Michigan Brewing Company requested that Fenton City Council give a favorable recommendation to the Michigan Liquor Control Commission so that it can brew its own beer, includ- ing one special to Fenton, wine and brandy Council unanimously ap- proved the request.

Summary: The Michigan Brewing Com- pany requested that Fenton City Council give a favorable recommendation to the Michigan Liquor Control Commission so that it can brew its own beer, includ- ing one special to Fenton, wine and brandy Council unanimously ap- proved the request.

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REASONABLE RATES!
DEAR DR. DONOHUE:
I am so concerned about our grandson. He is a senior in college. He felt he couldn’t focus well enough on some of his difficult classes. He went to a doctor and was put on Adderall. I am so worried that he will become addicted. Should I be concerned? -- R.G.

ANSWER: Adderall is a drug of the amphetamine family. It does have the potential of leading to dependence. However, it’s been used for so many years for the treatment of attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder that it can be well managed and not present a danger.
TRI-COUNTY’S FINAL TOP 5 TEAMS SPRING 2011

This was a very tough top five to complete. Why? Because it seemed in every case a team either finished during the regular season or flourished during the postseason and not both. Those issues made it damn near impossible for the sports staff to create a top five that we 100 percent embrace. But, we gave it a good shot, and this is what the sports staff came up with.

Also, in the near future we’ll be displaying our top teams of the 2010-11 school year.

No. 5 Linden girls soccer — This was a tough near-late to break. Fenton soccer won the Metro, but lost in the districts. Lake Fenton won the GAC, defeating Goodrich in the process, but couldn’t get passed a strong Powers team in districts. Meanwhile, the Lind- den girls finished third in the league. How do you break that tie? The sports staff gave the nod to Linden. While the Eagles took third in the Metro, they captured wins against Fenton, Holly and Lapeer West during the state tourney series, eventually making it to the regional title game before losing. So, through the tourney, the Eagles erased one of their biggest concerns — league success. That gave them the fifth spot.

No. 4 Fenton softball — The Tigers were young but put together a strong season, capping it with the three-way tie for first place in the Metro League. The Tigers didn’t get far in districts, but none of our area teams would’ve done well against Hartland. No. 3 Holly girls tennis — All that would’ve taken for Holly to finish first is one of two things. First, dominate the Metro League this season like they have most of the last 29 seasons. Sec- ondly, getting just a couple of more points at the state meet. As it is, they will have to settle for third after winning their 29th title and an- other regional championship. Co-coach Brennan Brown always wants us to do a “pro- gram top five”, taking the program’s history into consideration. If we did that, the Bronchos may be No. 1. No. 2 Holly boys track and field — They didn’t have overwhelming success at the state meet, as they did last year, but the Bronchos were strong in regional play and dominating in Metro League play. They dominated the dual season and then crushed the field at the Metro League meet by 70 points. That domination is hard to ignore.

No. 1 Holly girls track team also didn’t have great state suc- cess, but did qualify a good group for state at regionals and maybe more the Metro League’s most dominant champion of the 2010-11 school year. The Holly girls cruised through the dual season and then beat second-place Fenton at the Metro League meet by 117.2 points. If you doubted Fenton’s second-place total, the Tigers still would’ve finished second to Holly. That domination makes the Holly girls track and field team No. 1.

**Sports Trivia**

**Q** Has an NBA team ever swept four teams in the play-offs en route to an NBA title?

**A** No, but the 2000-01 Los Angeles Lakers came close. They went 15-1, only losing to the Philadelphia 76ers in the opening game of the NBA Finals.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 2011**

**LF’s softball falls in regional semis**

**By David Troppens**

d troppens@citimes.com; 810-433-6789

Millington — Lake Fenton’s varsity softball team has made a ton of comebacks all season long, including one in the dis- trict final a week earlier, earn- ing them a spot in the regional semifinals. So making a comeback in the regional semis against Montrose was certainly a possi- bility.

But this time, the comeback didn’t happen.

Montrose scored six runs in the first inning of the semis and never trailed, earning a 9-4 vic- tory at Millington High School Saturday. The loss meant the end of the Blue Devils’ season, at 23-12 overall.

“They just hit the ball,” Lake Fenton senior Alex Wilkinson said. “We hit it. If we got it in the gaps, we could’ve scored, but we just didn’t do that today. We hit it to players and didn’t get it around them.”

The Blue Devils never had any real issues solving Mon- trose pitcher Hannah Atwell. In fact, Atwell struck out just three batters all game long. But, as Wilkinson said, most were hit to defenders that usually made the plays. And occasionally, the Lady Rams’ defense made out- standing plays, robbing the Blue Devils of hits.

“We had some runners in scoring position with two out. A couple of timely hits, we’ve lived off of that a long time.”

Lake Fenton coach Amos Rinks said. “A timely hit with two outs and runners in scoring position have been working in our favor lately. We hit the ball and they were catching it. Their leftfielder made a couple of plays and their centerfielder made a couple of plays for them.”

The Montrose bats did the damage in the first inning. Mon- Lake Fenton’s Jessica Keller (back) scores a run during the Blue Devils’ 9-4 loss to Montrose on Saturday during the regional semifinals. See LF on 15

**Powers state semi soccer team has local flavor**

**By David Troppens**

d troppens@citimes.com; 810-433-6789

While all four tri-county prep girls soccer teams have been eliminated from the state tournament, that doesn’t mean area fans are void of a local flavor during this week’s state semifinals.

If one wants to cheer a squad that has a hometown flavor, look no farther than Flint Powers Catholic High School.

Approximately two-thirds of the regular- season varsity roster for the Lady Chargers are players that have come from the tri-county area, and many are very influential play- ers. And after last week’s 1-0 victory against Frankenmuth in the regional finals, Powers (16-3-1) find themselves in state semifinal battle with Detroit Country Day (21-5) at Williamston High School at 6 p.m. If Powers wins, the Chargers will play either six-time defending state champion Unity Christian (25-1-1) or Muskegon Orchard View (17-5-1) in the state championship game on Satur- day at 3 p.m.

Powers coach Art Moody likes his team entering Wednesday’s game against Coun- try Day, a team that they lost to earlier this season, giving the Chargers reason for ven- geance. “The good news is we had an opportunity to play them at the Williamston tournament and they knocked us off 1-0 on a free kick,” Moody said. “The girls remember that game. My girls definitely want another chance against them. We are excited to play them.”

Powers already averaged one key loss in their recent history when they defeated Fran- kenmuth last week. Frankenmuth eliminated Powers in the regional semifinals a year ago from the state tourney series. However, tri- county area athlete and freshman Ally Haran made the difference in the semifinals.

**Powers to play in state title game**

**By David Troppens**

d troppens@citimes.com; 810-433-6789

Merrick George was off to a horrible start.

The Lake Fenton freshman was just three holes into his regional round at the Fortress in Frankenmuth and was five-over-par.

In short, it’s not the type of start you want if your goal is to qualify for the Division 3 Boys Golf State Meet. Yet, that’s exactly what George ended up doing.

He shot one-under-par the rest of his round and qualified for the state meet with a four- over, 18-hole score of 76 on Thursday. His score was tied for third on the course, earn- ing him an individual bid to the state meet to be held on Michigan States Forest Ak- ers West Golf Course, starting on Friday. The tournament is two days long, consisting of 36 holes.

Meanwhile, the only other individual golfer headed to a state meet is Linden senior Kurtis Jones. He shot a 79, earning his regional’s third — and final — individual quali- fier-spot Friday at the Division 2 regional held at the PohlCat.

He’ll play his state meet at Forest Akers East.

George was pleased with his comeback.

“That first few holes pretty bad, but I kept it togeth- er,” George said. “I started with a double bogey and then another double, but I kept it together most of the round.

“I just tried to stay focused and I kept getting better. I kept stringing a bunch of pars in a row, and then I added a birdie...”
**STATE Continued from Page 14**

In there.

“He’s done that a couple of times — started out bad but then put it together,” said Lake Fenton coach Dennis Lucius. “He had a bad first nine at districts. He had a 44 on the first nine and then a 34 on the back nine. He’s able to maintain his composition.”

Jones’ round didn’t start so crazy. He had a solid round and was steady throughout, earning his state bid.

“My short game was on,” Jones said. “I started out really solid, and it helped me out throughout the day. If I start well, I can finish well.”

Jones’ 76 almost was enough to get the Linden team to qualify for the state meet. The squad placed fourth with a team score of 336, three shots out of the team state-qualifying places. After Jones’ 79, Eric Guckian had an 85, while Chris Jacques carded an 86, and also had a hole-in-one on the 17th hole. Brett Benford also had an 86. Jacques used a 51-degree wedge to card his first ace in his career.

“It was a front pin location, and I meant to hit it farther than the hole,” Jacques said. “It hit the top of the hill and just ran. It rolled down the hole. It may have rolled 20 to 30 feet to the hole.”

Fenton competed at the same regional, placing 11th with a team score of 358. Jake Foguth carded an 86 to lead the Tigers, while Alex Gerber had an 87. Kevin Berry had an 88 and Tyler Frey carded a 97.

George led the Blue Devils to a seventh-place team finish. The other Lake Fenton individual scorers were Jay Boozer with an 89, Ron Ruff with a 92 and Justin McPhail with a 93.

George has played Forest Akers West twice in his life. He plans on playing it this week as well. He shot an 83 on the course during the Adams Tour last year. George doesn’t mind being a freshman.

“I think it gives me more confidence knowing that I am here as a freshman,” George said. “At the beginning of the year I was a little nervous, but once I got in a couple of matches, and I learned I can keep up with the juniors and seniors, that gave me more confidence.”

**POWERS Continued from Page 14**

scored the game’s only goal with 1:33 remaining in the first half with a shot off her right foot off a corner kick opportunity. From there, the Chargers’ strong defense and possession game took over, earning Powers the victory.

“Winning on our possession game against Frankenmuth,” Moody said. “Frankenmuth played a fast tempo, and the game plan was to settle it down. We definitely saw a different half of play (in the second half) with our possession game.”

Defense and possession have been Powers’ forte’ all season long. Led by defensive starters Haran, Emma Phillpotts, Maddie Carino and Jessica Adams, it’s been tough to get to Powers’ net all season long. And when they do, freshman keeper Heather Rolls has usually been up to the challenge. All five have tri-county ties.

“Our defense has been strong. We’ve allowed about six, seven or eight goals the whole year. That’s not a lot of goals,” Moody said. “Our defense is extremely strong and it limits shots from our opponents. And if our opponents can’t shoot, they aren’t going to be able to score.

“We also really rely on our possession game. The girls really enjoy knocking the ball around.”

But it isn’t like Powers can’t score goals. In fact, they’ve outscored their foes in the state tourney series 20-1. Eight players have scored at least one of those 20 goals and another two have contributed at least one assist. Morgan McKerchie and Khrystal Lewis have three assists each.

Morgan McKerchie has scored eight of the goals, including five in a 7-0 victory against Freeland in the regional semifinals. Brittany Tenis has added three goals as has Maddie Reynolds.

The Chargers have been ranked for most of the season, but will be considered underdogs among the final four as Unity Christian, a squad that defeated Powers in the 2009 state title game, remain the favorites.

“It’s nice to be an underdog, but it’s also nice to know you can step up and play at the level that is needed to compete,” Moody said. “And our girls are definitely playing at that level.”

Lake Fenton’s Allie Newman (left) tags out Montrose runner Jessica Gerth at third base. The Blue Devils lost to Montrose 9-4 in a regional semifinal contest against the Rams on Saturday.

**TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS**

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Audrey Jean Turner
1921-2011
Audrey Jean Turner - age 90, of Fenton, died Monday, June 13, 2011 at Genesys Health Park. Services will be held 2 PM Thursday, June 16, 2011 at Sharp Funeral Homes, Fenton Chapel, 1000 Silver Lake Rd., Fenton. Audrey was born May 3, 1921 in Detroit, the daughter of James and Mary Leith. She was married to James Eugene Turner on October 21, 1943 in Detroit. Mrs. Turner had lived in Fenton the past 20 years, coming from Farming Hills and Livonia. Surviving are: husband, James; daughters, Karen James; daughters, Karen Turner (Larry) Nelson of Livonia; Mrs. Turner had great-grandchildren, Matt and Carolyn McClelland, JoAnne (Vern) Bullers; grandchildren, Ian and Angela Hooker, Matt and Carolyn McClelland, great-grandchildren, Kenzie and Tanner Hooker. Tributes may be posted on the obituaries page of www.sharpfuneralhomes.com.
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