Legislators vote to eliminate their own health care benefits

► Bill goes to governor for consideration

Michigan lawmakers voted in favor of legislation to save taxpayer dollars by eliminating Michigan legislator retirement health care benefits.

The bill would amend the Legislative Retirement System Act to eliminate retiree health care benefits for legislators who have not completed at least six years of legislator service before Jan. 1, 2013.

Currently, the Act requires the state to contribute 90 percent of the retiree health care benefits. 

See LEGISLATORS on 9

“Lawmakers cannot be spared from sharing in the sacrifices required to put Michigan back on its feet.” 

Rep. Paul Scott
51st District

Take the Base Camp challenge

John Sage, of Fenton, works assembly for General Motors, on the 1.4 liter engine that goes into the Chevy Volt and Cruz. Recently, he and a group of co-workers took part in team-building exercises at the Base Camp Challenge Center. He crossed ropes 20 feet in the air, and climbed a rock wall. 

See story on Page 12

Dominick’s Law to increase punishment for child abusers

► Calhoun family inspires historic child abuse bill

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

At 1 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 13, family of Dominick Calhoun and supporters of Dominick’s Law are inviting others to join them for a rally in Lansing as a way of advocating for the bill. 

See CALHOUN on 12

Visit www.tctimes.com to read a letter from Dominick Calhoun’s family

Holly loses 130 students

► School will conduct survey to find out why they are leaving

By Tim Jagielo
tjagielo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

Holly — Things are looking worse, not better, after the official student count at Holly Area Schools (HAS) last week. The district is losing 130 more students than projected, and budgeted, in the 2011-12 school year, with a total of 3,520

Drug deal lands Argentine man in jail

► Dirt bikes traded for crack cocaine

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

The Argentine Township Police Department is pursuing criminal charges against an Argentine Township man for assault with a dangerous weapon and a parole violation. 

Police Chief Daniel Allen said police were dispatched at 3:22 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 7 to the 9000 block of Silver Lake Road to investigate an armed robbery complaint.

The victim, an 18-year-old male from Flint, told police that he had been picked up by a white male and was driven to the parking lot on Silver Lake and Seymour roads. The victim described the suspect as
Holly schools rank as most improved in Oakland County

By Tim Jagielo

tjagielo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

Despite dire budget and student count woes, Holly Area Schools (HAS) has something to celebrate. HAS is the most improved school system in Oakland County since 2007, when the ACT exam became required for high school juniors, said Holly High School (HHS) principal David Nuss.

HAS improved with both ACT and Michigan Merit Exam (MME) scores. “We have terrific kids, supportive families and wonderful teachers,” said Nuss. He also credits a common vision throughout the school system.

According to Nuss, the only other school systems in Oakland County to improve consistently since 2007 are Novi and Lake Orion public schools.

HAS also improved in all main academic areas, including math, science, English and reading. “More kids are doing well and achieving on tests,” said Nuss, who pointed out that HAS is doing better than the state and county average on tests, and even compared favorably in some calculations to Holly Academy.

HAS is now in the upper 75 percent in the county, nipping at the heels of systems including South Lyon and West Bloomfield. Bloomfield Hills has ranked first place for the past four years.

DRUG DEAL
Continued from Front Page

A white male, tall, with light colored hair and mustache.

The victim told police that the suspect was supposed to show him two dirt bikes that he was going to trade in for crack cocaine. When they arrived at the parking lot, the suspect exited the green 1996 Chevrolet Blazer and walked to a home on Seymour Road.

The victim said the suspect returned to the Blazer with a large knife and held it to the victim’s neck, demanding that he give him the crack cocaine. The victim grabbed and shoved the knife away from his neck and fled from the vehicle.

The suspect was seen driving away in an unknown direction. Police went to the home on Seymour Road and located the registered owner of the Blazer, who said it was missing. The suspect, who the Blazer owner knew, returned later to the Seymour Road home, at which time Argentine Township and Linden police officers arrested him, without incident.

The 29-year-old suspect was transported and lodged in the Genesee County Jail for the assault, as well as a parole violation.

Additional charges are pending the completion of the investigation.

The suspect has served time in state prison for unarmed robbery, for an off-fense in 2006 and he was on probation from a 2010 case involving larceny from a building.

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**The stock market — get in or get out?**

> Teenagers, young adults encouraged to invest — now

By William Axford
axford@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Sky rocketing, record low, booming, volatile are just a few words that describe the stock market. The rigorous rises and sharp declines resemble a frightening rollercoaster ride rather than a sound investment. Economists are fearful of a double dip recession, leaving investors shaky. On all fronts, the stock market seems to be the last place anyone should place their money.

It is surprising to hear local experts encouraging people to invest now — especially teenagers and those in their early 20s.

“It’s a great idea for young people to invest in the stock market,” said Fenton High School teacher Bruce Burwitz. “Time is on their side. The sooner they start investing, the sooner their money goes to work for them.”

Burwitz teaches a finance class where students “buy and sell” stocks on a website that simulates the stock market. Given the unknown future of social security, Burwitz encourages his students to invest as early as possible.

“If you take an 18 year-old who invests over their working life of 40 years, they’ll see huge gains,” Burwitz said.

Younger people who invest early have the advantage of time, accumulating more compound interest than people who invest later in life. Dividends, or profit paid from a company to a stockholder, can be reinvested.

**A day in the life of a DPW worker**

> 54 miles of road, 2,000 tons of salt

By Tim Jagielo
tjagielo@tctimes.com

Fenton — On Friday, a crew wearing yellow hard hats attempted to break through an old section of Main Street, using a tractor/backhoe that struck the concrete every second or so, shaking the ground. Workers of the city of Fenton’s Department of Public Works (DPW) were trying to find the source of a leak underneath the street, and it was proving to be more difficult than expected.

DPW Director Dan Czarnecki shook his head as he watched the water leaking from under the street become a small stream heading from Main Street and Silver Lake Road, toward Walnut Street. “That’s the bad thing about concrete,” he said. It was very difficult to break through, and the crew had already been working on it for an hour.

The DPW has a hefty responsibility to the city or village they maintain, and are relied upon by taxpayers and municipal government for a variety of tasks, such as snow removal, sewer lines, street maintenance and emergency projects.

Eventually, Czarnecki had to leave the worksite, leaving it in his crew’s hands.

**At the end of the day are you having problems with restless, tired legs?**

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**Tri-County Times | Tim Jagielo**

The Fenton DPW works to break through the concrete on Main Street and the old sewer run on Friday, to discover the source of a water main leak.

“We don’t do all these things every day, but a lot of these things come up at the last minute.”

Dan Czarnecki
DPW director

**TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGELO**

The city of Fenton Department of Public Works has a variety of responsibilities, including road and public building maintenance, and sewer lines.

**Image of Smart Solutions**

1. Candle wax spilled

   Instead of scraping candle spills off your coffee table and risking a damaged finish, melt the wax with a hair dryer set on low and wipe it up with a paper towel. Then apply 1 teaspoon vinegar to a damp sponge and wipe the area. The heat softens the wax, while the vinegar’s acetic acid dissolves any remaining residue.

2. No more tears

   Before you peel or slice raw onions, light a match. The sulfur disables the compounds in onions that make you cry.

**TRI-COUNTY TIMES**

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**TRI-COUNTY TIMES**

PAGE 3
The Innovation Deficit

The death of one of the great innovators of our time, or any time — Steve Jobs — brings a question asked by Pete Seeger in another context. To paraphrase: Where have all the (creative) people gone? Long time passing. Jobs and fellow computer innovator Bill Gates represent if not a vanishing breed, then at least one that might be classified, were it an exotic animal, as endangered.

In a country that used to encourage, promote, honor and reward innovation, why does there now seem to be far fewer innovators?

Once we applauded innovation. Now, politicians like President Obama, denounce the successful, maliciously labeling them ‘millionaires and billionaires,’ as if success were a flu virus that we needed an inoculation to protect ourselves from. If we penalize and marginalize success, we are likely to get less of it. If we promote and encourage the principles that can lead to success, we are certain to get more successful people and the entire world will benefit as a result.

Instead of admiring the principles that propelled people to become successful and encourages others to follow the example of a Steve Jobs, President Obama and so many in the liberal political establishment treat them like shoplifters who have stolen what rightfully belonged to others. For one of many examples, look at the ‘Wall Street occupiers’ who are clogging streets and buildings far from Wall Street.

Benjamin Franklin noted, ‘He that is good for making excuses is seldom good at anything else.’ We make excuses for failure and mediocrity and get more of both.

Thomas Edison, another great innovator, observed, ‘Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.’ Why work when you can get a government check for doing nothing? Why be motivated to achieve when blaming someone else for your lack of achievement makes you feel better?

Steve Jobs was an innovator and pioneer in the grandest American tradition. He was a descendant of forward-looking people more common in America’s past, but in shorter supply today.

I’M SADDENED to see people attack teachers. I want well-educated, intelligent, respectful, and kind folks working at the school my children attend. Since I have high expectations for them, I am willing to pay teachers well. Teachers, most of us applaud your efforts.

I’D LIKE to say thank you to our veterans. They put on a Friday night fish fry at the Fenton VFW. It’s the best fish in town, in my opinion. Great job, guys.

IN 1944, NORMAN Thomas said, ‘The American people will never knowingly adopt socialism. But, under the name of liberalism, they will adopt every fragment of the socialist program, until one day America will be a socialist nation, without knowing how it happened. If you aren’t scared, you’re not listening.

I THINK THAT Tyrone Townsend and the Livingston County Road Commission should consider putting at the intersection of Linden and Bennett Lake Roads a flashing light or a four-way stop, if not both. That intersection is dangerous.

ROSE TOWNSHIP and the Oakland County Road Commission should look into making the intersection of Milford and Milford Rose Center roads into a roundabout.

I WILL NEVER visit that bar in Holly again, as they think they are above the law and will allow people to smoke inside.

THE WOMAN and her kids who were put out on the street is illegal for a landlord to force a tenant out through any means other than a court-ordered eviction. Find an attorney. You may be eligible for reimbursement for any damages and repossession of the property.

YOU KNOW, I believe Cheryl King has been in government too long, when she believes she actually knows what people are thinking, simply because they haven’t made a complaint. Do you think it’s possible that people haven’t complained about the chickens before, because they don’t mind them being there?

I WOULD JUST like to say a big thank you to the Fenton Fire Department for hosting the Fire Prevention seminar at the fire station this Saturday. It was such a wonderful event for our family, and we really enjoyed it. I thought it was very well put together and we can’t wait to come next year.

ONCE AGAIN, I have to close all my windows and use expensive air conditioning, because my neighbors have decided to fill the air with smoke from a wood burning stove.

DOES ANYONE KNOW if they are ever going to paint a center line on the new pavement on Owen Road? I have barely avoided multiple crashes because the road isn’t marked.

PAUL SCOTT must be feeling awful guilty if he’s doing everything possible to stop this recall effort. And I’m not a member of the union or MEA. Paul Scott needs to be recalled.

See HOT LINE throughout Times.
Argentine man’s giant vegetables earn him 13 awards in Canada

By Sharon Stone
sstone@tctimes.com; 810-433-6768

For Marvin Mitchell, it’s all about growing giant vegetables. For years, he and his wife, Friend Elye, have spent much of their time in the summer growing giant vegetables. When Thornton passed away, Mitchell’s brother-in-law Bob Henry stepped in to help with the weeding, watering and such. Last weekend, Mitchell and Henry drove to Port Elgin, Canada for the annual Port Elgin’s Award-Winning Pumpkinfest. There, the giant vegetable growing partners won six first-place awards, four second-place awards and three third-place awards during the two-day event, attended by about 75,000 people.

Mitchell’s homegrown sunflower broke a Michigan record of 17 feet and also set a new record in Canada. His sunflower grew to a staggering 22-feet, 2½ inches tall. A bit of ingenuity was needed to transport the record-tall flower. Mitchell slid the stem through a long piece of PVC piping and strapped it to his truck for the trip to Canada.

Mitchell credits his late partner for the unexpected height of the sunflower, believing that Thornton kept pulling on the flower from heaven. His watermelon, weighing 220 pounds, took first place at the pumpkinfest, and another one weighed 213 ½ pounds. Not only does Mitchell grow giant vegetables, he grows unusually shaped vegetables, including this year’s square tomato. He had that, along with a carrot with 14 carrots attached to it on display at the NorthShore Market in Argentine Township. He got the idea for the square tomato, grown in a box, from the Chinese, who grew square watermelons using the same method.

Mitchell said he worked on his 4-acre garden from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. in July and then cut back the hours in August. He used thousands of gallons of water, including about 100 gallons a day for the watermelons.

Marvin Mitchell poses with the 220-pound watermelon he grew in his Argentine Township garden. It took first place recently at a contest in Canada.
MARKET
Continued from Page 3 and earn interest. The longer interest remains untouched, the more compound interest is accumulated. Essentially, money left untouched in the stock market multiplies into profits.

University of Michigan Flint economics professor Chris Douglas said the worst thing an investor could do is to overreact to stock market swings. People who follow trends in the stock market tend to sell low and buy high.

“If you take an 18-year-old who invests over their working life of 40 years, they’ll see huge gains,” said Bruce Burwitz, Fenton High School finance teacher.

If young people are thinking of jumping into stocks, they should view it as a bank account that has a higher return yield, not a get-rich-quick scheme.

“There’s a misconception that you could strike it rich easily after buying one or two stocks. It doesn’t really work that way,” Douglas said. “The most important thing is to put your money in there and leave it.”

The fluctuating numbers and constant speculation is enough to make anyone dizzy, especially teenagers just beginning to earn a paycheck. The easiest and soundest way to earn money in the stock market is through a mutual fund. Mutual funds diversify into different stocks, so even if one stock goes bust, money can be earned from other profitable stocks. Both IRAs and 401ks are other retirement opportunities involved with the stock market.

The biggest problem that most financial advisors face with investors is the lack of planning and contribution. Investors may get married, purchase a house or start saving for a child’s college tuition. Life demands funding and stock market investments are pushed to the backburner.

Denis Leyder, president of wealth management at The State Bank, recommends contributing as much as possible to an investment, even if it is a low amount. “People with a 401k are reluctant to put money into it. They prefer a straight cash account, but they won’t make money at that,” Leyder said. “By all means, people need to reinvest whether the market is up, down or sideways. Too many people are scared off by the stock market.”

Leyder said that anyone investing in the stock market should have a long-term goal with his or her investments. Most banks have a financial department that manages trusts, retirement funds and financial planning.

Anyone interested in the stock market should seek advice from friends and family who are involved with investments. From there, meeting with a financial planner should be the next step. In addition, you’re young, don’t put it off, do it tomorrow.

“Even if you don’t make the wisest stock decisions, it equalizes over time,” said Burwitz. “Even if you don’t buy high stock every time, you’re still making money.”

Stock market lingo

Stock — The smallest measurable unit of ownership in a company. Companies offer shares of stock to raise capital without borrowing.

Dividend — A portion of a company’s profit that is given back to an investor. Payments are made either annually or quarterly.

Bear — A market in which stocks are falling, encouraging selling.

Yield — The percentage of a dividend payable on the stock price. If a $5 dividend is paid on $50 per share stock, the yield is 10 percent.

Ask — The lowest price a seller will accept when selling a stock.

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Verizon Wireless only offers Lifeline/Link Up assistance in areas where the company has been designated as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier.
**Salon Broken Into**

On Thursday, Oct. 6, Fenton police were sent to the 1000 block of Silver Lake Road to investigate a break-in. Lt. Jason Slater said employees discovered the business had been broken into. Cabinet doors were open and the place had been ransacked. A hammer was inside the salon, which was possibly used to pry open employees’ personal lockers and a vending machine had paper currency stolen. Police believe the suspect(s) entered the business through the rear door; however, there were no signs of forced entry. The hammer will be sent to the crime lab to lift any latent prints. Detectives are following up on this case.

**Steel Stolen**

On Oct. 5, Fenton police were sent to a business in the 3100 block of Copper Avenue to investigate a larceny complaint. Lt. Jason Slater said employees said something between Oct. 3 and 4 someone stole machinery steel from the property. The steel weighed 425 pounds. Police are checking scrap shops to see if the steel was sold.

**Firefighter Feeds Drunk Teen at Park**

On Tuesday, Oct. 4, Fenton police were sent to the millpond park near the police station to check on a caller reporting intoxicated male laying unconcious on the ground. Responding police located a 17-year-old Fenton male near the swing set. Police were able to talk to the teen, who admitted to drinking half a fifth of vodka. He blew a .13 on the preliminary breath test. He said his friends dropped him off at the park and left him there. The teen was transported to Genesys HealthCare in Grand Blanc Township for treatment. He was given a court appearance ticket for Under 21 Consumption.

**Woman Assaulted by Husband**

On Monday, Oct. 10, a Linden police officer was sent to an apartment in the 800 block of South Bridge Street to investigate a domestic assault complaint. A 21-year-old woman said she and her husband had argued earlier and he had pushed her into a wall and punched her in the stomach. Her husband left prior to police arrival. The woman’s 21-year-old husband was located and arrested by Linden police. He was lodged at the Genesee County Jail for domestic assault.

**Driver Who Struck Bicyclist**

At 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 1, Linden police were dispatched to the 800 block of West Broad Street to investigate a crash involving a bicyclist and SUV. Linden Police Chief Scott Sutter said a male juvenile was riding a bicycle and a 51-year-old Saginaw male, and his vehicle in a gas station parking lot. Lt. Jason Slater said responding officers noted that the man was highly intoxicated. A preliminary breath test revealed a blood alcohol level of .12 percent. He was arrested for OWI and lodged at the police station until he was sober.

**INTOXICATED DRIVER**

On Sunday, Oct. 9, Fenton police were sent to a business on southbound M-23, just north of the North Road exit ramp. Lt. Jason Slater said responding officers saw the Monte Carlo exit the parking lot. The driver of the car, a 23-year-old Flint man, lost control, drove off the roadway, struck a tree, went through a fence and then struck a second tree. The driver attempted to drive out of the ditch, but was unsuccessful. Suspecting the driver of drinking, field sobriety tests were done and a preliminary breath test revealed a blood alcohol level of .12 percent. He was arrested for OWI and lodged at the police station until he was sober.

**INTOXICATED DRIVER HAS ARREST WARRANTS**

On Saturday, Oct. 9, Fenton police were alerted to a possibly intoxicated male attempting to get into a vehicle, parked in the 18000 block of Silver Brook. Police located the man, identified as a 51-year-old Saginaw male, and his vehicle in a gas station parking lot. Lt. Jason Slater said responding officers noted that the man was highly intoxicated. A preliminary breath test revealed a blood alcohol level of .30. He was operating a vehicle while intoxicated and ticketed for having an open can of beer in the car. A computer check of the man revealed he had three third-offense drunk driving arrests against him. He was arrested by the Saginaw County Sheriff’s Office and was transported to the Saginaw County Jail. He was released and later picked up by Linden Township. He was transported to the police station and later turned over to Townsend Township police.

**Police Assist**

On Friday, Oct. 7, Fenton police were called to assist the Genesee County Sheriff’s Department on a report of a fight at a business parking lot in the 14000 block of Fenton Road. Police observed three white males standing near the site of the suspected fight. When the males spotted arriving police, they ran away and entered a parked vehicle. Police made contact with the three males, who were then sitting in a car with an open beer on the roof. The males said they were only watching a fight. The driver, an 18-year-old Tyrona Township male, blew a .083 on the preliminary breath test. A 19-year-old male passenger from Fenton blew .000. The beer found in the trunk was poured out and the driver was cited for Under 21 Consumption.

**Reckless Driver Has Suspended License**

On Sunday, Oct. 8, Fenton police were alerted to a reckless gray Chevrolet Monte Carlo on South LeRoy Street near Silver Lake Road. Police spotted a suspect vehicle parked in a parking lot. A traffic stop was initiated as the Monte Carlo exited the parking lot. Contact was made with the driver, a 52-year-old Fenton woman. The driver told the officer that her license was suspended, but denied running any red lights. She was arrested for driving with a suspended license. During an inventory search of her car, police found two open beers in the passenger seat. She admitted to drinking earlier in the day and blew a .016 on the preliminary breath test. She was lodged and later released with a Nov. 7 court date.

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Wednesday, October 12, 2011

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‘Attitude is everything’ for 108-year-old Linden woman

By Sally Rummel
news@tctimes.com; 810-628-8282

A sense of humor and a daily dose of her favorite snack—beer and peanuts—has kept a youthful smile on the face of local resident May Harris. She celebrated her 108th birthday on Sept. 17.

Summary

May Harris is Caretul Inns of Linden’s oldest resident, celebrating her 108th birthday on Sept. 17.

Although Harris has outlived most of her relatives, including her husband and a son, her grandniece Barb Toonder and husband Roger are frequent visitors, making sure she has plenty of crossword puzzles and other “extras” to help fill her days. She’s a favorite among staff and other residents of Caretel, who often say, “Isn’t she something?” when referring to Harris’ youthful spirit, contagious smile and positive attitude.

Harris enjoys visits, playing bingo, attending movies, and participating in social activities at Caretel. She prefers her own company for breakfast, after spending many nighttime hours pondering her long and storied life. “I go to bed to think, not to sleep,” said Harris, in a more pensive moment. Her ability to remember the details of her life is nothing short of amazing. She has lost most of her hearing from scarlet fever many years ago. Hearing with the help of a hearing aid, she’s able to carry on an upbeat conversation with just about anyone who wants to sit down and listen.

Harris was born Sept. 17, 1903 in Cape Town, South Africa. She spent her growing-up years in Edinburgh, Scotland.

“I remember my mother saying that we just escaped the war (World War I).”

May Harris
108-year-old Linden resident

"I remember my mother saying that we just escaped the war (World War I)." said Harris. Harris went to work at an early age, recalling her mom’s words to her when she was 13 that it was time for her to find a job. She had lost her father in a tragic accident when she was just a young girl.

Quitting school after the eighth grade, Harris became a messenger girl for Parke-Davis Pharmaceuticals, working her way up to cost clerk. She lived in the Detroit area until 1988, when she moved to Royal Oak, living on her own until she was 104. “She’d walk four blocks to the VFW Hall for a fish fry dinner, then carry it all the way home, up four flights of steps,” said Roger. “Then, we moved her to Lockwood Assisted Living in Fenton to be closer to us. When her health became more of an issue, she moved to Caretel.”

“She has lived a hard, but healthy life,” said the Toonders.

LEGISLATORS

Continued from Front Page

insurance premium payments for legislative pensions is re-elected after March 31, 1997, who qualify for retirement with benefits. A legislator must have served at least six years, and must be at least age 55, in order to begin receiving health care provided by the state’s plan.

The bill would eliminate these health care benefits for legislators who have not served at least six years before Jan. 1, 2013.

Rep. Paul Scott (R-Grand Blanc), who sponsored the bill, said: “Lawmakers cannot be spared from sharing in the sacrifices required to put Michigan back on its feet.”

“The elimination of this lavish perk is long overdue. I applaud both Democrats and Republicans for leading by example with their vote to do away with retirement health care benefits for legislators.”

This bill will affect any lawmaker not already vested in the program by Jan. 1, 2013. They will receive no retirement health-care benefits from the state.

According to fiscal analyst Kathryn Summers, the fiscal impact on the state would result in long-term health care savings due to the elimination of subsidies. For any legislator or lieutenant governor taking office on or after Jan. 1, the state would save the entire cost of that person’s retirement health care subsidy.

Summers said that at the present time, the average yearly single-person health care coverage under the Legislative Retirement System is roughly $8,000, with the state subsidy totaling $7,200. For a two-person plan, the average yearly cost is $15,400, with the state subsidy totaling $14,000. These costs, which totaled roughly $5.3 million in fiscal year 2009-10, would be reduced over time, and eventually eliminated, as the number of members in the closed system declined and no new members were added.

HB 4087 already was passed by the senate and now goes to the governor for consideration.

DPW

Continued from Page 3

capets, (Reps. for roads in city. The roads are responsible for roads inside the city, adding up to about 34 miles they need to patch and repair. Heavy construction and repairs are usually contracted out.

Potholes are a common complaint in any municipality. “I could have 32 people patching potholes everyday,” said Czarnecki.

The DPW is also responsible for maintaining city parks. The workers empty trash cans and also maintain the gravel roads. “Anything falls apart in any park, we’re the ones to put those things back together,” said Czarnecki.

If a wayward animal is struck by traffic, it’s the responsibility of the DPW to clean it up.

Czarnecki supervises a crew of five workers, who handle all of the main responsibilities. There are six workers at the water plant.

Public events ensure that the DPW will be busy and anytime the governor orders flags lowered to half mast, his crew will spend hours lowering and raising American flags.

Sewer backups are a priority for the DPW workers “Water leaks are also priority,” Czarnecki said.

Because sewer lines run on gravity, there are several mechanical lift stations DPW workers must maintain. They also repair pieces of sewer lines and manholes. “We don’t do all these things every day, but a lot of these things come up at the last minute,” said Czarnecki.

Fenton DPW worker Kelly Fletcher is responsible for variety of tasks along with the rest of his crew.

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TIMES MIDWEEK
Wednesday, October 12, 2011
Lake Fenton High School crowned seniors Samuel Wilson and Rachael Mundy as this year’s homecoming king and queen.

Lake Fenton celebrates homecoming week

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

Lake Fenton — It was a fun-filled week of homecoming activities for students of Lake Fenton Community Schools.

Unlike the previous weekend, where students of Fenton and Holly schools braved whipping winds, rain and autumn-like temperatures, Lake Fenton students enjoyed what might be the last warm and sunny weekend of the year.

Aside from students taking part in themed days during the week, evening activities were also popular. On Wednesday, girls ruled the football field. The senior girls defeated the junior girls by a score of 35 to 14 in the annual powder puff game.

On Friday, as the varsity football team prepared for its game against North Branch High School, the homecoming parade, from the middle school to the elementary school, had many entrants and it was well received by onlookers.

During the half-time show of the football game, Rachael Mundy was crowned queen and Samuel Wilson was crowned king. The juniors won the float competition. Lake Fenton went on to defeat North Branch by a score of 60 to 14.

Lake Fenton Homecoming court

Seniors
Kathryn Handley
Katelyn Brophy
Laura Bellinger
Rachael Mundy
Wayne Simons
Kyle Felix
Tyler Davidek
Samuel Wilson

Freshmen representatives
Kaley Conover • Chloe Frey
Joshua Brophy • Zachary Webb

Sophomore representatives
Alyssa Krueger • Analisa Reed
Merrick George • Stephan Wilson

Junior representatives
Hannah Meier
Anna Winkowski
Nicholas Forbush
Tyler Begley

(Above right) Rachael Mundy receives a hug after being crowned as this year’s queen. Beautiful summer-like weather was a welcome treat for the Lake Fenton homecoming parade on Friday.
THE TREE OF LIFE

This impressionistic story of a Midwest-
ern family in the 1950s follows the life
journey of the eldest
son, Jack, through the
innocence of childhood
to his disillusioned adult
years as he tries to
reconcile a complicated
relationship with his
father (Brad Pitt). Jack
(played as an adult by
Sean Penn) finds himself
a lost soul in the modern world, seeking
answers to the origins and meaning of
life while questioning the existence of
faith.

GREEN LANTERN

In a universe as vast as it is mysterious,
an elite, powerful force has existed for
centuries. Protectors of
peace and justice, they
are called the Green
Lantern Corps. Warriors
sworn to keep interga-
lactic order, each Green
Lantern wears a ring that
grants him the ability to
create anything his mind
can imagine. But when
a new enemy called Parallax threatens
to destroy the balance of power in the
Universe, their fate and the fate of Earth
lie in the hands of their newest recruit,
first human ever selected: Hal Jordan
(Ryan Reynolds). If Hal can quickly mas-
ter his new powers and find the courage
to overcome his fears, he may prove to
be not only the key to defeating Paral-
lax — he will save the Earth and all of
humankind from certain destruction.

JUDY MOODY AND THE
NOT BUMMER SUMMER

Feisty, fearless Judy Moody (Jordana
Beatty) is looking forward to the most
super-duper, double-
rare summer vacation
ever. The trouble is, her
parents are called out of
town and her BFFs are
going away with their
own families. That leaves
Judy trapped at home
with her pesky brother
Stink (Parris Mosteller)
under the watchful eye of Aunt Opal
(Heather Graham). But with a little play-
ful planning — and a lot of imagination
— Judy turns a “snoresville” summer
into the way-not-boring adventure of a
time.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE:

What can you tell me about glossopharyngeal? My doctor
says I have it. He has me on medicine
for it. — K.L.

ANSWER:
The glossopharyngeal (GLOS-
oh-fair-IN-gee-ul) nerve is one of the 12 cra-
nial nerves, nerves that come directly from
the brain. They are the nobility of the nerve
kingdom. The glossopharyngeal nerve is the
nerve of taste and the nerve that activates
some throat muscles.

Glossopharyngeal neuralgia consists of
episodic of knife-like pain in the throat and
back of the tongue. Swallowing, chewing
and even talking can provoke an attack.
Carbamazepine, gabapentin, phenytoin and
valproic acid are some of the drugs used to
curtail such attacks. Surgically freeing the
nerve from an encircling and pulsating artery
is another treatment for this condition.

Dr. Donohue regrets that he is unable to answer indi-
vidual letters, but he will incorporate them in his column
whenever possible. Readers may write him or request
an order form of available health newsletters at P.O. Box
536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

Wednesday Sudoku

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way
that each row across, each column down and
each small 9-box square contains all of
the numbers from one to nine.

Wednesday Jumble

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter in each square,
to form four ordinary words.

STRY, ESING, LUBOSE, REATUM

JUDY MOODY AND THE
NOT BUMMER SUMMER

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time.

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CALHOUN
Continued from Front Page

A new bill is about to be introduced to the Michigan House of Representatives.

**Summary**

- Supporters of Dominick’s Law are heading to Lansing on Thursday for a rally just as legislators are introducing a bill in memory of the bill’s namesake, Dominick Calhoun.

26-year-old mother of two, pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and second-degree child abuse for her involvement with his death. Baker’s 25-year-old boyfriend, Brandon Hayes, is currently awaiting trial for murder. Hayes stands accused of beating the 4-year-old boy to death over several days after the boy accidentally wet himself while sitting on a sofa.

Supporters will be gathering on the front steps of the east entrance at the capitol building.

If approved by legislators, Dominick’s Law would increase punishment for child abusers to unprecedented levels.

Family of Dominick and supporters of Dominick’s Law would like to see stiffer penalties to those convicted of child abuse.

James Lower, policy director for Rep. Paul Scott’s office, said they have been working very closely with Dominick’s family to put this bill together. He does expect quite a few supporters to be at the capitol on Thursday when the bill is introduced.

Although a “Good Samaritan” law is not included with Dominick’s Law, Lower said sentencing guidelines are included for convicted child abusers who commit the abuse in front of another child. Early on, supporters indicated they wanted reporting of child abuse to be a law, which would hold anyone accountable to reporting suspected abuse.

Rick Calhoun, Dominick’s grandfather, said he is traveling to Lansing with a group of people who have been supporting this endeavor. He expects the group to make their presence known to the lawmakers.

Calhoun said Scott has been instrumental in drafting this bill and he is supposed to come out and speak to the

**Tri-County Times | Submitted Photo**

A bill is being introduced in memory of Dominick Calhoun, of Argentine Township, who was beaten to death in April 2010.

supporters. “He’s (Scott) doing what he needs to do to get this done,” he said.

“We want to get this done — nothing more than that.”

Following the rally and introduction of the bill on Thursday, Calhoun and supporters of Dominick’s Law are starting a campaign to get the word out for citizens to call their local representatives to support this bill.

**Dominick’s Law**

(excepts of the draft)

A draft of the bill being introduced this week amends an existing law pertaining to child abuse.

- **Rather than a prison sentence of no more than 15 years, one convicted of first-degree child abuse faces life or any term of years, but not less than five years.** For a second or subsequent offense, a sentence of life would be any term of years, but not less than 10 years.

- **A person who commits child abuse in the presence of a child other than the child who is the victim of the violation is guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment for life or any term of years, but not less than five years.** If one is convicted a second or subsequent time, the sentence would be imprisonment for life or any term of years, but not less than 10 years.

**Take the Base Camp challenge**

- **Unique center helps groups build teamwork**

By Tim Jagielo

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**Summary**

- **The Base Camp Challenge Center at Genesee Area Skill Center features a rock wall, high-rope and ground activities for team building for local students as well as corporate groups.**

The Base Camp Challenge Center is part of the Genesee Area Skill Center. Any school in Genesee County has access to it. Private companies can pay to do teambuilding activities tailored to their needs.

**The Base Camp Challenge Center**

- **Unique center helps groups build teamwork**

By Tim Jagielo

tjagielo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

Recently, a group of engineers who normally build motors for the Chevy Volt were learning teamwork, 30 feet in the air, on an apparatus inside the Genesee Area Skill Center (GASC) Base Camp Challenge Center.

The engineers worked their way through the course, offering help and support to each other, wearing helmets and traversing quivering ropes, 20 feet above the stone floor. In the background, music plays and an indoor waterfall lends a soothing countertop to the strenuous and challenging activity.

Base Camp Challenge Center is associated with Flint Public Schools, but because it is also part of GASC, Genesee County taxes pay for the facility. Any school in Genesee County, including Fenton, and Lake Fenton schools, has access to GASC and Base Camp.

From the outside, the building looks like a four-story, steel-sided warehouse. But inside is a 12,800-square-foot training and team-building center, with a two-level high ropes course, ground activity course and a 30-foot rock wall. The rock wall contains multiple tracks for the beginner to advanced climber.

Base Camp was Director Jim Gardiner’s “brainchild.” He watched his idea grow from a sketch on paper — to a premier facility in the Midwest.

Base Camp is always in use, and that is how Gardiner envisioned it. “One of our goals is to keep the building in use as much as we can,” he said.

Private companies can pay to do teambuilding activities tailored to their needs, and the public can use the rock wall on Tuesday and Thursday nights, according to Gardiner. Mott Community College has a climbing course that utilizes the Base Camp rock wall. Students at GASC get the most use out of the facilities, with nine opportunities per year. “Certainly the day we’re always busy with the students,” said Gardiner.

Base Camp is primarily an education facility, focusing on healthy choices, class improvement, trust activities and problem solving, “All those things people need in real life in addition to technical skills,” Gardiner said.

Every year, students have three opportunities to climb the rock wall and the high ropes course. Students also use the outside activity course. Gardiner’s staff handles three high school classes at once. Students come out and learn various aspects of problem solving and healthy risk taking.

Gardiner calls it “Challenge by Choice.”

“Take the Base Camp Challenge Center”

- **Base Camp Challenge Center at Genesee Area Skill Center features a rock wall, high-rope and ground activities for team building for local students as well as corporate groups.**

The Base Camp Challenge Center is part of the Genesee Area Skill Center. Any school in Genesee County has access to it. Private companies can pay to do teambuilding activities tailored to their needs.

*Return to top*
Lake Fenton graduate Jaime Tomaszewski was recently named NAIA Player of the Week.

By Cole Holloway
dhoppers@timesnews.com, 810-433-6789

Jaime Tomaszewski has enjoyed a soccer career that has been full of monumental achievements and high accolades.

Tomaszewski, a Lake Fenton graduate, is enjoying yet another solid year on the soccer field during her senior season at Aquinas College.

“There are definitely some differences when transitioning from the high school game to the college game,” Tomaszewski stated. “I have had to spend a lot of time outside of training sessions with the team during my college career working on my skills individually in order to get better.”

Tomaszewski started her college career at Central Michigan University, starting 17 of 20 contests for the Chippewas, earning both a point and an assist during the season.

After Tomaszewski’s freshman year, she transferred to Aquinas College, where she has put up impressive numbers in three seasons as a starting forward. “I really love it here at Aquinas,” Tomaszewski said. “I’ve had a great time getting to know all of the girls and have definitely made lifelong friends.”

During the 2009 and 2010 seasons, Tomaszewski was able to score 17 goals and also added 16 assists. She led the team during her junior season, earning 19 points while on the field.

For the last two seasons, during her senior year at the Eagles, Tomaszewski was leading the stat sheet, scoring 14 goals in just 11 games and distributing the ball, gaining four assists during the season. She has taken 53 shots, with 33 being on goal. Of her goals, four have been game-winning tallies. No one else has

PREP FOOTBALL WEEK #8 QUICK PREVIEWS

What a crazy football season. We’re to Week #8, and there’s a reasonable chance all four tri-county teams not only could make the playoffs, but also all four could earn a co-league title in their conference.

Week #7’s results really improved three teams’ chances of either making the playoffs, earning at least a co-conference title or both. Even Linden’s loss wasn’t a death sentence. While losing to Country Day forced them into a must-win situation to lock up six wins, it didn’t change their Metro hopes at all. Simply stated, if Holly, Linden and Fenton all win their final Metro League contests, they are at least co-champions.

If Lake Fenton upsets Montrose at Montrose on Friday, they are co-Genesee Area Conference champions. If all that stuff happens, there will be a lot of Gatorade dumping on coaches during the final two weeks. We’ll see what happens soon enough.

Brandon (4-2, 5-2) at Linden (4-2, 4-3): Both teams have tough roads to the playoffs, but Brandon has the luxury of having to win just one of their last two games. It seems every year the Blackhawk are one of those teams people say to watch out for, and then falter. To a point, they haven’t done that this year. However, they also have the defending Metro champions and Lapeer East left on their schedule as well, meaning even one win won’t come easy over the final two weeks.

Both teams have played pretty strong defensive ball this year, as they rank 1-2 in scoring defense in the Metro for league games as well as overall. So the key should be what team’s offense has more success against a pretty strong defense.

Lake Fenton (4-1, 5-2) at Montrose (5-0, 7-0): A win puts Lake Fenton in the playoffs and GAC Red co-champions. However, that won’t be an easy win to get. The Blue Devils are, easily, the underdogs in this contest.

See WEEK #8 on 15
Fenton’s Jeff Setzke was named Lions Coach of the Week, recently.

By David Troppens
droppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

Since coming to Fenton, Jeff Setzke has taken the Fenton varsity football program and elevated the squad’s status from second-division team to a winner and a constant playoff participant.

And now, his efforts are being recognized by the Michigan Army National Guard and the Detroit Lions.

Setzke was named the Lions Coach of the Week last week. The Tigers (5-2) were 4-2 at the time he was named the weekly winner. He inherited a program that won only 11 games in the five seasons prior to him taking over. In his six seasons since then, the Tigers have gone as far as last season’s regional championship game in the playoffs.

“I was pretty shocked to say the least,” Setzke said. “That was not something I expected to get a call about on Wednesday for sure. It sounds like they have a pretty neat day planned.”

Setzke will join the other eight weekly winners at Ford Field during the Dec. 11 contest against the Minnesota Vikings. During that ceremony, the Coach of the Year will be honored and receive a $4,000 donation to his team’s football program. Just by being a weekly winner, Setzke has already earned the program the $2,000.

In addition to the monetary award, he’ll receive a framed certificate signed by the Lions’ head coach Jim Schwartz and National Football League Commissioner Roger Goodell.

“It’s quite an honor,” Setzke said. “I’m just going to go down there, enjoy it and see what they have planned.”

Fenton swimmers dominate Creek, ready for MISCA

By David Troppens
droppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

The Metro League season has begun for the Fenton varsity girls swim team.

The girls are already showing why when it comes to Metro girls swimming, they are on top and no one else comes a close second.

The Tigers crushed Swartz Creek 123-54, sweeping the top three spots in seven of the events.

“We have great swimmers from our new kids that haven’t swam in the varsity lineup yet,” Fenton coach Brad Jones said. “We knew we would win every event, but to sweep 1-2-3 in seven events was a surprise.”

The Tigers gave other swimmers a chance to win some events, and they did just that. Freshman Megan Cassner won the 200 freestyle (2:22.90), her first time ever swimming the 200. Others like Julie Seifker, 1:01.16 in the 100 freestyle; Lauren Davis, 1:16.80 in the 100 butterfly and 28.0 in the 50 freestyle; also had strong showings.

The Tigers also had some more state cuts from Haley Shaw in the 50 freestyle (25.87), Sara Wujciak in the 500 freestyle (5:28.28) and Gabrielle Haaraoa in the 100 backstroke (1:03.65), Mackenzie Depuy also won the diving competition.

And now the Tigers prepare for the Michigan Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association (MISCA) meet on Friday and Saturday. For the first time ever, the Tigers will have qualifiers in every event at MISCA. The list of swimmers going include Haaraoa, Wujciak, Shaw, Kelsey Kidd, Kali Finger, Cassner, Carli Finger, Megan Rumbles and Lauren Davis.

“We are looking forward to MISCA for a couple of reasons,” Jones said. “It will give us an idea what our best state meet lineup will be, and it gives our swimmers an opportunity to swim against the best competition in the state. We are expecting to post some fast times, and possibly come home with a few school records, if things go well.”

Lake Fenton’s Brad Holder, 9, had two hole-in-ones in a span of less than a month.

“After that, I want to get into coaching and try to give back to the game as much as I can.”

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Tomaszewski
Continued from Page 13

She was Lake Fenton High School’s Most Valuable Player during the 2006 and 2007 seasons, and also was named to the Division 4 All-State Soccer team for three straight seasons, starting with 2005.

She was able to score 32 goals as a sophomore, setting a Lake Fenton school record. She also earned Tri-County Female Soccer Player of the Year honors once during her prep career.

As for the future, Tomaszewski still has a few goals she hopes to accomplish.

“I am really hoping to play on the professional level this summer,” Tomaszewski stated.

“After that, I want to get into coaching and try to give back to the game as much as I can.”
Beats North Branch on Friday, 60-14

By David Troppens
droppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

Looking at Lake Fenton’s football schedule entering Friday night, it looked like that contest against North Branch had to be a must-win if the Blue Devils were going to make the playoffs this year.

The Blue Devils did just that, defeating North Branch 60-14 during homecoming on Friday.

The win puts Lake Fenton at 5-2 overall, just one win away from a playoff bid. The Blue Devils travel to Montrose for what is a Genesee Area Conference Red Division championship game on Friday.

“We are excited, really excited,” Lake Fenton coach Eric Doyle said about the team’s title game against Montrose. “It’s going to be a great opportunity for the kids. Not a lot of people think we can play at this caliber, but we always did.”

Against North Branch, Rob Kesler continued his outstanding season, rushing for three touchdowns and collecting two interceptions. Kesler had 176 yards rushing, and was one of three Blue Devils to rush for at least 100 yards. The other two were Bryce Fronweller (102 yards) and Zac Zielinski (101 yards). Both also ran for TDs.

The Blue Devils dominated on offense, defense and special teams. Austin Frank had a 70-yard kickoff return for a TD, while Neil Allor had a 55-yard punt return for a TD.

The win will make the Blue Devils’ challenge of cracking the playoffs a much easier task, because it gives them two chances to get that sixth win, which virtually would assure the squad of a playoff spot. It has the makings of a Blue Devil game making up this push with a team of many new faces.

“We are kind of young,” Doyle said. “We have quite a few underclassmen. And even the seniors that played last year weren’t necessarily full-time contributors last year. But they’ve bussed their tails over the winter and spring and have really improved.”

It could be a fast game on Friday, considering both teams love running the ball, but they do it in different ways. Montrose is an option team, which means assignment football will be key for the Lake Fenton defense.

“There’s no question whoever runs the football and stops the run will win the football game,” Doyle said. “What’s interesting is we both like to run the football, but we like to do it in different ways. We have contrasting styles.”

The Blue Devils won’t be favored against the second-ranked Montrose Rams. But that doesn’t concern Doyle. No one really gave the Blue Devils a shot to contend for a GAC Red title at the start of the season anyway, so why should they be favored against Montrose?

“The kids are ready and excited for this opportunity,” Doyle said.

Lake Fenton’s Rob Kesler runs for some yards in a past game. The Blue Devils travel to Montrose for a key GAC Red game on Friday.

By David Troppens
droppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

Lake Fenton — The Lake Fenton varsity boys soccer team appears to be getting hot at the right time.

The Blue Devils (4-10-1) opened the Genesee Area Conference semifinals with a 3-2 victory against Dryden on Monday.

The win means the Blue Devils will travel to Durand for a second-round game today at 7 p.m.

The score was tied 1-all in the second half, when on a restart from about 25 yards away from the Dryden goal, Rance Hennessy chipped it over the keeper into the upper left corner for the final score.

The Blue Devils are one of two teams that finished the regular season tied 1-all, with the Blue Devils’ goal coming on a Mitch Dershem goal on a cross from Brad Oldenburg.

Oldenburg also set up the team’s second goal with 22 minutes left in the second half. He sent a thru pass to Hennessy, who scored.

The winner of Wednesday’s contest will play in the GAC tournament championship game on Friday.

Genesee Christian 2, Lake Fenton 0

Genesee Christian scored a goal in each half, resulting in the non-conference victory against the Blue Devils on Friday night.

LF soccer opens GAC tourney with 3-2 win vs. Dryden

WEEK #8 Continued from Page 13

This is no exaggeration of being the fastest game of the night, with the way these teams ran the ball. Austin Prevo and Caleb Reinhardt will team up with QB Nick Huckelkay to carry the offensive load on the ground. Second-ranked Montrose has blown out most of its foes but two — Goodrich and Beecher.

Waverly (4-3) at Holly (5-2): They started 0-2 for the first time in consecutive years in school history, but the Blue Devils better look up a playoff spot when the getting is reasonably good.

Kearsley (1-5, 1-6) at Fenton (4-2, 5-2): The Tigers need to win one more game to make the playoffs and two more to win at least a co-Metro title. The playoffs should get locked up on Friday. Minus a reasonably competitive game against hurrying East, the Hornets haven’t presented any sting against anyone of any merit this year. Week #9’s contest against Swartz Creek could be more than for a league title. It could be for a home playoff game as well, depending on how the regions are created for the playoffs. The Tigers have a great chance to conclude the regular season with some positive energy entering the playoffs.
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Obituary:

**Ellen May Mills**

**1932-2011**

Ellen May Mills - Metamora, Tuesday, October 11, 2011 at the age of 79 years. Born January 19, 1932, to Max and Florence (Mills) Salinas. She attended Fenton High School and was a veteran of WWII, having graduated in 1948. She married Alex Simon of Fenton, MI on October 3, 1953. She was a member of St. John Catholic Church, Battle Alley Antiques, and was a member of Fenton’s Jaycees Curtis-Wolverton Post #2002. She also served on the Board of Directors at the State Bank and was a member of the Fenton Jaycees Club. Surviving are: 4 sisters, 4 brothers, 2 nieces, 2 nephews, and 4 grandchildren. She preceded in death her husband Alex Simon of the Fenton Jaycees Club. She formerly owned/operated the Carry Nation Festival/Club. She was the Carry Nation Festival/Club. She was a member of St. John Catholic Church. She also served on the Board of Directors at the State Bank and was a member of the Fenton Jaycees Club. Surviving are: 4 sisters, 4 brothers, 2 nieces, 2 nephews, and 4 grandchildren. She preceded in death her husband Alex Simon of Fenton, MI on October 3, 1953. She was a member of St. John Catholic Church. She also served on the Board of Directors at the State Bank and was a member of the Fenton Jaycees Club.
FORECLOSURE NOTICE
This firm is attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used in the Military, please contact our office at (800) 968-0738. Dated: October 12, 2011

SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by: Matthew Stemm a/k/a Matthew P. H., to First Federal Savings and Loan Association, as successor by merger to Wells Fargo Bank National Association, Case Number 2011R-018105 on which mortgage there is claimed a debt of $145,666.84 including interest 5.75% per annum. Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public vendue, Circuit Court of Genesee County at 10:00AM on November 7, 2011 in accordance with MCL 600.3241 or MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a(c), whichever is later. Dated: October 12, 2011 Bank of America National Association, successor by merger to Wells Fargo Bank National Association, Suite 100 Rochester Hills, MI 48307 (248) 844-5123 Our File No: 11-48307 (248) 844-5123

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