

Bonus!
Section



ON PAGE 3A
Do Robo-Vacs
really suck?



INSIDE LIFESTYLE
Concerts for
all ages this
summer



FEATURED INSERT:
Southern Lakes
Parks & Rec
summer programs



INSIDE THE
SPLASH SECTION:
SAFE,
EFFECTIVE
WATER
WORKOUTS



Weekend Times

SUNDAY EDITION

\$1.00

VOL. 21 NO. XX

SUNDAY, MAY 18, 2014

2012 & 2013 NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

“” tctimes.com ONLINE COMMENTS

“Has anyone else noticed that the soundtrack on Charter is always off by a full second on all movies and programming now? Pay more, get less. That should be Charter's slogan.”



“Hey, city of Fenton, here's a novel idea. Why don't you pick up all the branches and trash on the main streets, like LeRoy Street on the south end, instead of all the side streets that visitors don't ever see. Seems pretty logical to me.”



“Well, it happened again. Went to a funeral service and despite the pastor asking for all phones to be turned off, some idiot woman's phone started playing a catchy tune during the most solemn moment of the service. She actually answered it and whispered, 'I'll call you back. I'm at a funeral.'”



“I saw a government billboard, paid for by our tax dollars, urging us to brush our teeth two times a day, for two minutes. Who thinks up Orwellian crap like this?”

“” HOT LINE OF THE WEEK

“Today's drivers have a new red light agenda. Text on your phone until the people behind you have to honk to make you aware that the light is green. OMG and LOL now supercede common sense and common manners.”

810-771-TEXT
(8398)
**TEXT
YOUR
HOT LINE**



Extreme rain and lack of heat delaying farmers' season

Corn, beans and other produce could come late in the summer

By William Axford

axford@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Michigan weather has not been kind to Genesee County farmers so far this year. Dwight Eichelberg of Eichelberg Farms in Fenton Township said this month has been the worst start for field crops he's had in his 30-plus years of farming.

“It's going to be no farming for a week and a half. The rain sets me back about two weeks,” said Eichelberg, who tends

to corn, green beans, strawberries and tomatoes during the summer months. “I have to wait it out, there's nothing I can do. I have a friend in Saginaw who didn't get hurt at all. His corn is already 7 inches tall.”

As of Thursday, Weather Underground reports Michigan has received more than 3.5 inches of rain, with more expected to follow this weekend. For

See FARMERS on 7A



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | WILLIAM AXFORD

Dwight Eichelberg, a Fenton Township farmer, stands before his field, which is currently flooded.

Argentine man dies in motorcycle accident

► Crash remains under investigation

By Sharon Stone

sstone@tctimes.com; 810-433-6786

Richard Homent, 73, of Argentine Township died from injuries he sustained in a motorcycle crash Tuesday afternoon in Argentine Township.



Richard Homent

Just after 2 p.m. on May 13, Argentine Township police and fire departments responded to a personal injury crash involving a motorcycle and utility truck near the intersection of Lobdell Road and Hilltop Drive in Argentine Township.

An unconscious Homent sustained multiple injuries and was transported via Mobile Medical Response to Hurley

See CRASH on 5A

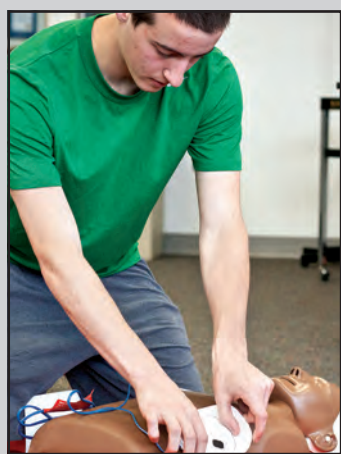
Ya gotta have (new) art!



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Ken Thompson and son, Ian Thompson of Michigan Sculpture Initiatives install “Stainless Steel Butterfly” near the Shiawassee River downtown on Wednesday. This is the second year of the downtown sculpture exhibit, funded by the Fenton DDA. There will be seven sculptures displayed this year.

See story on Page 10A



Now is the time to learn ‘new’ CPR

FILE PHOTO

The American Red Cross and the American Heart Association offer certified, reputable courses for CPR. The local North Oakland County Fire Authority (NOCFA) will host a class on June 7.

► With summer coming, life-saving skills more important than ever

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

What would you do if your young grandson started to choke while under your care, or your husband had a heart attack and wasn't breathing?

Classes that offer Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) training teach lifesaving skills that can be performed on patients

See CPR on 15A

What you are most likely to die from

► Deaths by age, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

By William Axford

axford@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Heart attacks. Car accidents. Fiery explosion. Or passing peacefully in your bed. There's a million ways to die and like it or not, death will come for you at some point. Here's how most deaths occur by age brackets.

See DEATHS on 8A

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Police & Fire report

SCAM ALERT

A Tyrone Township resident wants to warn others of a scam. The woman said she recently received a "second notice" from Senior Benefits Dept., P.O. Box 4057, Marietta, GA claiming she might qualify for "final expenses" through a state-regulated program even though in fine print it read, "Not affiliated with or endorsed by any government agency." A simple Google search confirmed her suspicions that it was a scam. According to the Better Business Bureau, the company is not BBB-accredited and the organization gave it a D- due to complaints. Anyone receiving this notice is advised to throw it away.

ROCK BREAKS CAR WINDOW

On May 11, a 36-year-old Fenton woman reported to Fenton police that overnight, someone threw a large rock through the back window of her 2007 Buick. The damage occurred off Dauner Road. She provided the name of a possible suspect and police are following up on the lead.

TRI-COUNTY TIMES

The Tri-County Times is published semi-weekly by Rockman Communications, 256 N. Fenway Drive, Fenton, Michigan 48430. **Serving the communities of:** Fenton, Linden, Lake Fenton, Holly, Hartland, Byron, Gaines, Davisburg, Swartz Creek and Grand Blanc townships of: Fenton, Holly, Rose, Tyrone and Argentine.

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Classifieds 810-629-8194
Circulation 810-433-6797
Hot Line 810-629-9221
Fax 810-629-9227
Email news@tctimes.com
Website tctimes.com

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Should you 'make room' for Roomba?

► Robotic vacuums have come a long way in their 12-year history

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Most people would count vacuuming and dusting as two of their least favorite household chores.

That's why everyone was excited when the first robotic vacuum was invented 12 years ago, bringing TV's "The Jetsons" futuristic vision to our everyday lives. This self-propelled sleek gadget scooted automatically around the room, picking up dust balls and crumbs, while entertaining pets at the same time. It was fun to watch, and that has always been part of its charm.

iRobot's Roomba was invented in 2002, leading the sale of more than 10 million home robots sold worldwide. The first-generation version of the Roomba was more novelty

See ROOMBA on 22A

PROS & CONS

PROS

- Less noisy than traditional manual model
- Saves time
- Requires less maintenance
- Less bulky to use and store
- Can reach under low surfaces
- Easy for older person to use

CONS

- Can only do level surfaces, not stairs or hanging drapes
- High initial cost
- Not completely effort-free, as it may get stuck or may stop due to exhausting battery
- Long battery recharging time

Source: buzzle.com



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Jane Somers of Fenton Township uses her Roomba mostly for under the bed and picking up crumbs in the kitchen. It's not the quickest device, but saves her from pulling out the vacuum.

Despite low sales, Volt still charged up



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

The Fairbanks family, Kristy, Douglas, 3, and Doug exchanged their 1999 Dodge Durango for a Chevy Volt. They said the cost of a new car versus fueling the Durango is a wash, but the safety, newness and technology is worth it.

► GM's first mass-marketed EV becoming staple of American life

By Tim Jagielo

tjagielo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

Fenton Twp. — A kid today like 3-year-old Douglas Fairbanks will grow up only really knowing an electric car.

Seated inside mother Kristy's 2013 Chevy Volt, he toggles the windshield wipers, pushes buttons and locks the inside of the car, while seated on father Doug's lap.

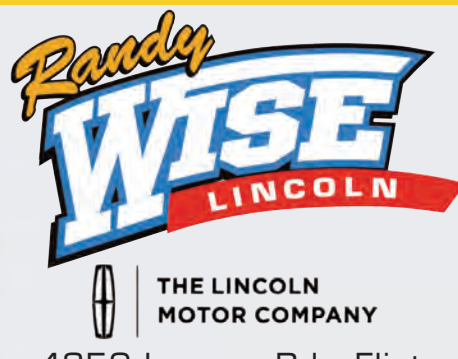
Kristy went from driving a 1999 Dodge Durango with a V-8 engine, to this state-of-the-art electric car with a gas generator, and although it's smaller, "I love it," she said.

See VOLT on 14A

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\$300 cable TV bills — thank you Mr. President

The most famous board game in the world is Monopoly. The goal, when playing Monopoly, is to seize control of a particular commodity or service in order to be able to charge whatever you want for your product or service.

Conversely, one of the primary responsibilities of any government is to protect its citizens from predatory practices by preventing monopolies.

In recent years the federal government, under the Obama regime, has enabled the monopolization of many industries — most notably cable TV, high speed Internet and banking — by refusing to use its antitrust and regulatory powers to curb abusive practices that prey on Americans by allowing monopolies to be created.

Case in point: Cable TV providers like Charter and Comcast already enjoy a monopoly in nearly every community

they, 'service,' (their term, not mine). Each year, both Charter and Comcast raise rates for cable TV and high-speed Internet far faster than the rate of inflation. They do this for one simple reason — lacking competition, they can charge whatever they want.

Now Comcast proposes to acquire Time-Warner Cable and establish a virtual national cable/Internet monopoly that will allow them to charge any price they wish. This should never happen, but it will. Here's why: this is

a quote from the unashamedly ultra-liberal NY Times about David Cohen, the Washington DC lobbyist hired by Comcast to broker the Time-Warner acquisition: 'Mr. Cohen has close ties to President Obama. A major Democratic fundraiser, Mr. Cohen and his wife

hosted Mr. Obama at their Philadelphia home last year, raising \$1.2 million at an event where the president called the couple 'great friends.'

My point is that for all his liberal BS rhetoric that paints him as a champion of the poor and middle class, President Obama is the same as all politicians — he is enriching himself at our expense. We will soon be paying \$200-\$300 a month for cable and Internet for no other reason than the guy who wants it to happen is a 'great friend' of the Obamas.

Have you ever wondered why small business loans from banks are now so hard to get? Or why CDs only pay 1 percent interest. Or why bank fees have quadrupled over the last six years? It's because the people we elected to look

out for our interests have sold us out by passing misnamed 'financial reform'

laws that allow large banks to gobble up all the small, local banks. The result? Lacking competition, all costs to us — the end-user consumers — go through the roof. It's due to lavish contributions to politicians by multi-millionaire bank execs — with the blessing of the current administration.

If you are naïve enough to think that Obama is any better than all the other political scoundrels are, well...you're a damn fool. He is a wolf

in sheep's clothing with no morals, no decency and no concern for me, or you.

We'd all better open our eyes and wise up. Because we're sure as hell going to open our wallets and pay up.

Coming soon — \$300 cable TV bills — and much, much more.

Opinions offered in If I Were King are the author's alone and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Tri-County Times or its staff. E-mail the King at king@tctimes.com. Some information reprinted from the Internet.



Hot lines

Submit at: tctimes.com, call 810-629-9221 or text to 810-771-8398

All submissions, if approved for publication, must be 50 words or less and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Tri-County Times. We reserve the right to edit for clarity, length and liability.

TWO YEARS AGO, then Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, fought hard against putting the Al-Qaeda group, Boko Haram, on its list of terrorist organizations. This group is now abducting hundreds of teenage girls from Nigeria. Hillary Clinton is just as incompetent as her boss.

GALLUP'S LATEST POLL shows the percentage of the uninsured has dropped from 17.9 percent in 2013 to 13.3 percent. Obamacare is saving hundreds of thousands of lives and Republicans want to repeal it. Good luck running on that.

ALLERGY SUFFERERS, TRY 'stinging nettles' capsules. It is an all-natural herb, a fraction of the price of allergy scripts and in my personal experience, works better (consult your doctor before using).

FACT — LESBIAN, GAY bisexual or transgender (LGBT) people can be denied housing (a place to live) and/or employment (a job) due to their sexual orientation. Fact — There is no Federal or State law that protects this from happening. Education reduces ignorance.

EMPLOYED FOR ALMOST 28 years at the same company. In December 2013, I was let go when location closed. I'm 46 years old, wish me luck finding full-time work with benefits in same salary level.

Unemployment has helped me get by. We're not all lazy people, thank you.

IT'S EVERYBODY WHO pays federal income taxes business what private employers pay their employees. If they aren't being paid enough to support themselves, then we taxpayers make up the difference via welfare, food stamps, Medicaid, the school lunch program, WIC etc. Corporations making billions shouldn't get government subsidized employees.

RAISING THE MINIMUM wage to \$10.10 an hour would increase the price of a \$16 product at Walmart, such as the typical DVD, by just a cent if all of the extra costs were passed on to consumers, according to an analysis by an economist for Bloomberg News.

THE TIMES INACCURATELY referred to the meals provided to low-income students by the school lunch program as 'free.' They are not 'free.' They are funded by income taxes. Calling them free is both inaccurate and downright offensive to those of us who fund the program through our income taxes.

I'M NOT LAZY because I'm on unemployment and I don't choose to be on unemployment. My six-figure job was eliminated for more profits for shareholders. I hope someday your job is taken away so you can spend hours sending out resumes and never get calls back, then maybe you'll understand.

WHY ARE ORGANIZATIONS allowed to stop traffic during rush hour to collect money? This causes huge traffic delays. I will only give to those who collect at grocery and hardware stores or anywhere else

that they do not impede traffic flow. Like we don't already have enough traffic issues.

THE WELDERS COULD get 15 months in prison for making false statements yet our Immigration Department released illegal immigrants awaiting trial for rape, treason, dangerous drug dealing, murder, domestic violence, drunk driving, welfare fraud and on and on. A nation of laws?

IF MISSISSIPPI VOTERS approved an interracial marriage ban, it would be unconstitutional. Michigan voters approving a gay marriage ban in 2004, doesn't make it OK if it violates the U.S. Constitution.

BY A 5-4 vote, the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that religion-specific prayers before public meetings are OK. As such, I implore the Satanists, Muslims, Hindus, Wiccans, Buddhists and Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster followers to submit their equal-time requests.

SUNDAY LIQUOR BANS are a joke. I mean what do we live in 1906? People get a pass to drink in church on Sunday mornings and don't need to buy special state licenses to do so, so why can't everybody else?

I WAS DENIED medical compensation because of a law called Open and Obvious. It protects corporations from every ounce of negligence. It basically states that if you should have seen it, then the facility is not held responsible.

WE LIVED IN Waterford 25 years ago and paid \$30 a quarter (\$120 per year) for our garbage pick-up. We don't even use \$30 in orange tags in a year's time. So, I say, leave the tag system alone.

I CERTAINLY HOPE the cameras at the high school caught the kids that wrote on the outside of the building and they are made to clean it up. Very disrespectful of school property.

IF YOU ARE as peeved at the trash collection company as I am please call the township and the trash company and complain. They leave trash laying on the ground right next to the recycle bins because they are too lazy to pick it up.

SOMEHOW THE NEWS media is saying that a majority of people of the state say we need Detroit. The state can get along just fine without Detroit.

I MISS THE old TOPPS store in Fenton. All of a sudden they disappeared, to be replaced by apartments, but that deal fell through. Now it's just a sad empty spot. So sad.

THE REPUBLICAN PARTY is so far gone Ronald Reagan couldn't win a primary today. He raised taxes to save Social Security, gave amnesty to millions of illegal immigrants, got us out of Lebanon after 200+ soldiers were murdered and engaged in diplomacy over war to deal with the Soviet Union.

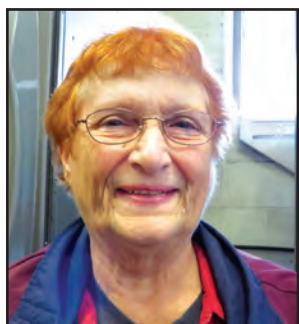
DO REPUBLICANS REALLY want to compare the number of deaths as a result of mistakes by the Bush and Obama administrations? Obama: Four Americans dead in an attack in Benghazi, a war zone. Bush: 3,000+ Americans on 9/11 and 3,000+ Americans soldiers in Iraq plus over 100,000 Iraqi civilians.

See **HOT LINE** throughout Times

Compiled by Hannah Ball, intern

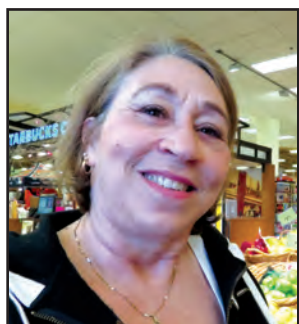
Which intersection do you dislike the most?

streettalk



"Owen and Silver Parkway, especially for people coming out of the parkway. There's no indication traffic has been stopped."

— Nickie Steinhoff, Fenton



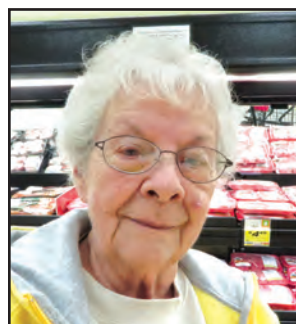
"Owen and Silver Parkway. There's so much congestion and so many different lights to wait for."

— Evie Jensen, Gaines



"The one that comes off of Silver Lake Road and Poplar."

— Bob Switzer, Fenton



"Silver Parkway and Owen. Coming out of here, forget it. Your ice cream melts."

— Geraldine Hover, Fenton



"Coming out of 23 and you stop at Silver Lake Road, turning left."

— Denise Hack, Linden



"Silver Lake and LeRoy. Why they put that stupid curb in there, I'll never know."

— Don Clark, Fenton

Legislators looking to crack down on drug-using drivers

►Bills would provide harsher punishments for driving under the influence

By William Axford

axford@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Drivers under the influence of drugs may have cause to be more concerned on the road. A slew of bills in Lansing could give police in Michigan broader tools in identifying people operating vehicles under the influence of drugs. Sponsors of House Bill 5383 and 5385 said they supported more drug testing efforts after hearing multiple complaints from constituents about accidents caused from motorists on painkillers.

Part of the bills included a provision allowing police to administer drug tests via saliva. The bills were amended after medical marijuana advocates said saliva tests are inaccurate when it comes to detecting the use of marijuana, which could lead to false arrests.

Currently, police can test for drugs through blood, urine and breath.

"We listened to the concerns about the saliva test, and made the bills even stronger and more effective," said Representative Dan Lauwers (R-Brockway Township) in a press release. "The ultimate goal of these measures has not changed. We want to make our roads safer for Michigan motorists."

While saliva testing is no longer included for on-the-road officers, the legislation does authorize a pilot program to be tested by State Police for three to five

years. The legislation also aims to align punishments for drugged driving to be similar to drunk driving, with conditional bonds placed into the Law Enforcement Information Network (LEIN) and permit licenses issued to drugged motorists.

While the saliva portion of the testing did draw concerns from medical marijuana advocates, driving on the influence of prescription pills and other drugs is viewed as a national crisis. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) found that roughly 15 percent of nighttime drivers test positive for illicit

drugs. In 2009, drugged driving was responsible for nearly 4,000 deaths.

Holly Police Officer Robert Goedertier hasn't seen an increase in drugged drivers, but also admits they're harder to identify than drunk drivers are. Holly police officers who encounter someone they suspect to be on drugs may administer sobriety tests or check for other bodily cues like dilated pupils and slurred speech. But other

than a blood test, spotting drugged drivers doesn't involve a system as effective as Preliminary Breath Test (PBT).

"Incidents of drugged drivers generally happen during afternoon and midnight shifts," Goedertier said. "They're harder to investigate because signs are not always prevalent like drunk driving." He added that he isn't sure if drugged driving has increased in Holly after the legalization of medical marijuana.

The bill remains under consideration in the House Judiciary Committee.

“(Drugged drivers) are harder to investigate because signs are not always prevalent like drunk driving.”

Robert Goedertier
Holly police officer

CRASH

Continued from Front Page

Medical Center in Flint where he was later pronounced dead.

Argentine Township Police Chief Dan Allen said Homent was traveling in the eastbound lane of Lobdell Road on his Harley-Davidson motorcycle. It appears that Homent's motorcycle and the westbound utility bucket truck collided when the truck turned left onto Hilltop Drive.

The police chief said the speed limit

in this portion of road is 55 miles per hour. The crash reconstruction team is investigating to determine how the crash occurred and what driver is at fault. Speed and alcohol do not appear to be factors. Allen added that Homent's helmet was on the ground near the crash, however, there was no damage to the helmet.

The crash scene was blocked at Lobdell Road and Hilltop Drive, and traffic was diverted down Hogan Road. Linden police and the Genesee County Sheriff's Department assisted with traffic.

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Calendar of events

BALLET

Young People's Ballet Theatre presents "Peter and the Wolf and More" at Bower Theatre in Flint on **Friday June 6 at 7 p.m. and Saturday June 7 at 2 p.m.** Dancers perform the classical children's ballet along with contemporary and jazz dances. Tickets are \$10. For details call (810) 309-9501 or visit ypbt.org.

SOUTHERN LAKES TRAILS

Anyone who is interested in a multi-use paved trail connecting Fenton, Linden and Argentine is asked to attend the next Genesee County public workshop at the MTA facility on Dort Highway at I-69 in Flint on **Thursday, May 22 at 2:30 p.m.** The Southern Lakes Trail Coalition is hoping to have many supporters in attendance as the county prioritizes its funding. The Southern Lakes Trails primary pathway is to be a multi-use (running, cycling, rollerblades, etc.) paved trail for connecting the communities, similar to the Kensington Park pathway.

News briefs

Volunteers needed!

City of Fenton Inaugural Community Flower Planting will take place on Saturday, May 31 beginning at 9 a.m. at City Hall. Volunteers are needed to assist the Fenton Beautification Team to help plant flowers around the city. Please call Dawn Overmyer at (810) 620-0455 or Pat Lockwood at (810) 629-6555.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

This sidewalk can either be considered an exciting obstacle to navigate, or a scary trip hazard.

City sidewalks: your job to fix

►City will pay for half the cost to replace, repair sidewalks

By Tim Jagielo

tjagielo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

There are more than 40 miles of sidewalks in the city of Fenton — and they're mostly your responsibility.

Although sidewalks are within the city right-of-way, the brunt of their upkeep lies with the property owner, per city ordinance. Every crumbling buckled sidewalk is actually the job of the adjacent property owner to fix.

Department of Public Works (DPW) Director Dan Czarnecki said this is how it usually works in cities — it's the homeowner's responsibility to maintain sidewalks, whether snow removal or the concrete itself. In Fenton, the city will pay half for repairs out of the general fund.

Some sidewalks in the city are perfectly smooth, while others resemble an obstacle course, as they are lifted by

tree roots or the shifting of the ground.

The last time there was a significant overhaul to the city system was before Czarnecki's time at the DPW, around 2006.

Today, a homeowner in the city can repair or replace the sidewalks on their own when they want to. They just have to get a free permit from the city and follow some guidelines —

like having the correct packed-sand base and slope.

If the city has to repair the walk, it will probably be more expensive. The city will have to study and bid out the project just like with a road project. "It's a time

consuming, expensive project to get done," he said.

For projects, the city will pay the up-front costs, and allow the property owner to pay their half up front, or pay over time with interest, or have it added to their taxes like a special assessment. "We try hard, and the people in the community for the most part, try hard to take care of it the best they can."

Czarnecki said an average cost per square foot is around \$5.

“...the people in the community for the most part, try hard to take care of it the best they can.”

Dan Czarnecki
Fenton DPW director



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Teen birth rates continue to decline

►Economy, education, contraception credited for historically low numbers

By Tim Jagielo

tjagielo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

The peak of teen birth rates was in 1957, when 96.3 births per 1,000 were to women 15 to 19.

Today, rates in this age bracket are at an all-time low of 30 per 1,000. These numbers are according to the National Center for Health Statistics.

Of course in 1960, according to Pew Research, most of those teens were married. Around 15 percent were estimated to have been unmarried at the time.

Today, 89 percent are to unmarried mothers instead, and teen pregnancy rates are at about 65.3.

But the rates of teens giving birth have declined steadily since the 1960s, with upticks in 1990 of 61.8 percent, and 2006 of 41.5 percent.

A Pew Research Analysis linked low-birth rates to the strength of the economy. "States experiencing the largest economic declines in

2007 and 2008 were most likely to experience relatively large fertility declines from 2008 to 2009," the analysis finds.

Since 2008, when births dropped to 4.25 million, numbers have declined.

The other reason for reduced teen births is less sex, and more contraception.

Of the approximately 700,000 pregnancies among teens in 2009, roughly 58 percent are estimated to have ended in live births, 25 percent in abortions and 17 percent in miscarriages or stillbirths, according to Pew.

Since 1988, fewer unmarried female teens have reported having sex. Of unmarried teens, most reported using contraception their first time, and 86 percent report using it every time — and 20 percent used more than one method of contraception.

Even shows like "16 and Pregnant" and "Teen Mom" may have contributed to a third of the decline since 2009.

Teen abortion rates have also declined along with teen pregnancy rates. Birth and pregnancy rates are also tied to region and race. The Midwest falls in the middle, while the south has the most, and northeast has the least.

“The composition of teen mothers has changed drastically since then. Back in 1960, most teen mothers were married.”

Pew Research report



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

A driver in a full-sized pick-up impressively navigates the flooded section of Dauner Road at Eddy Lake Road in Fenton. Only one driveway seemed to be impacted by the flood.

Residents, city coping with rainy week

►Overwhelmed Fenton drain system worked properly

By Tim Jagielo

tjagielo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

This week, city workers and homeowners alike battled more than 4 inches of water, most of which fell on Monday and Tuesday.

Some basements flooded as the storm sewer, and sanitary sewers maxed out, and catch basins clogged with debris. "We're scrambling around trying to make sure a drain that was plugged was cleared," said Department of Public Works (DPW) director Dan Czarnecki.

This week, it was all about handling

the affects of the water for his crew. He encourages any resident to clear catch basins that they see are clogged — the seven-member DPW crew probably has their hands full.

As of Thursday, the lift stations at various points in the city were back to normal, with only two of the 14 running.

The ground is still saturated and needs some wind and sun to dry.

Czarnecki said there is a lot of standing water, and some roads are still closed — like Eddy Lake Road at Dauner Road. The road will drain when the pumps clearing parts of Seven Lakes State Park catch up. "They're pumping what they can pump," he said.

FARMERS

Continued from Front Page

local field crop farmers, the excessive rain is worse than blistering heat. The washed out soil is keeping seeds from being planted and, if the weather continues, farmers will have to deal with a shorter grow season this year.

"The combination of rain and lack of heat doesn't dry things up so well," said Jennifer Griffin, administrative manager for the Genesee County Farm Bureau. Other farmers have told Griffin that this May has been the worst they've seen for farming conditions. "It's not a good situation."

The Farmers Almanac predicted that April and May would be warmer with more rain than previous years. The almanac also predicts rain to continue through June, with above average temperatures coming in July and a drop in precipitation. So far, the annual guide for farmers is on key.

Previous summers in Michigan have ranged from bountiful to dire for farmers. In 2012, a devastating drought hit most of America, causing fruit producers like Mueller's Orchard in Fenton Township to shut down for the season. Last summer, cooler weather

and relatively normal levels of rain allowed farmers to bounce back from an unproductive season.

This year, farmers will have to wait out the rain before they get any seeds into the ground.

"It's hard to speculate the weather. It must improve in the next few weeks, since corn has to be planted by June 5," said Chad Morey of Morey Farms in Swartz Creek. "Our spring weather is still a symptom of the cold, above precipitation of the winter we just had."

Morey may be on point citing this past winter as the reason for the colder, wetter spring. According to NOAA Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory, the Great Lakes were still frozen into the start of spring, keeping arctic air cooler than normal.

The ice also reflected a large amount of sunlight, possibly keeping Michigan cooler than usual.

For Morey and other farmers, the weather has to dry up soon or corn and other crops won't come until the middle or possibly end of June.

"There's been other years like this but I can't recall a spring where we have not been able to plant," Morey said. "We're still optimistic the good weather will bless us soon."

“I'm flooded out with most of my corn. There's going to be no farming for a week and a half.”

Dwight Eichelberg
Fenton Township farmer

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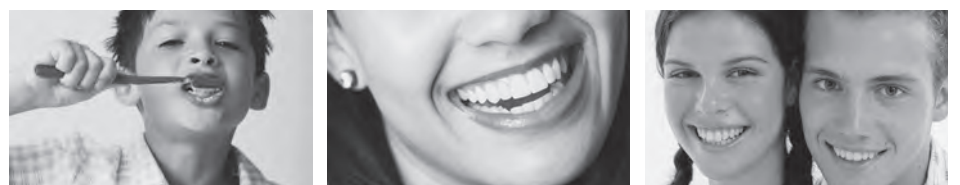
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HOT LINE CONTINUED

LET'S MOVE ACROSS the street from a gravel pit and complain about the truck traffic.

WHAT KIND OF a man lives with his girlfriend while still married but going through a divorce?

ANOTHER MOTORCYCLIST HAS been hit and killed. Please, people watch for motorcycles. Put your phone down and watch the road. I cannot imagine what it would feel like to be responsible for taking another life.

THE REPUBLICANS ARE praying for Hillary. There's more wrong with her

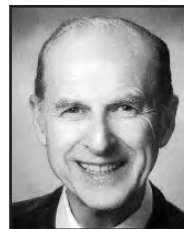
than my 20-year-old car, and believe me, there's a lot wrong with my 20 year-old-car.

TO THE LITTLE boy and girl selling magnets and bookmarks for piano and dance lessons, we found the missing \$5 bill under the car. Come back so we can give you your money. Thanks.

TO THE FEMALE with the burn permit and the SUV, it's not all about you. It's about consideration for your neighbors who have to smell what you may be burning under that burn permit. You may want to check and see but smelly trash, cans, bottles, and your dirty underwear are not permissible under your burn permit.

Featured columnist

By Roger Campbell

**The book for all seasons**

Once, while painting our bathroom ceiling, I ended up in the tub. Here's how it happened: I had placed a ladder and a tall kitchen step-stool in the room so I could move from one to the other. When stepping from the stool to the ladder, my foot slipped and in a moment I was airborne, flying backward and crashing into the tub...well, not quite crashing.

My wife looked up to see her flying husband headed for the tub and feared I would be seriously hurt. Then, she said, when I reached the tub a strange thing happened. Everything seemed to go into slow motion and I was eased into the tub as if waiting hands had lowered me to safety. I sustained no injuries.

How can I explain this unusual deliverance? To answer, I must take you to the bedside of a woman in a hospital where I once did volunteer work as a chaplain.

'Do you ever read the Bible?' I asked.

'I read the ninety-first Psalm every day of my life,' she replied.

This sufferer's statement sent me to her favorite Bible text to discover why she visited it so often. There I found many faith-building promises, including: 'He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways. They shall bear

you up in their hands, lest you dash your foot against a stone' (Psalm 91:11-12).

When driving through the parking area of a large shopping plaza, I felt a hard bump from behind and upon stopping faced an apologetic driver of a pickup who, unable to stop in time, had crinkled the paint on my rear bumper. When exchanging insurance information, I discovered he had only a temporary driving permit because alcohol use had cost him his driver's license. Now he resumed apologizing again.

Since I had publications with me intended to help people break free from alcohol, I knew this was no accident and told him to stop apologizing. 'If this hadn't happened, we wouldn't have met,' I said, handing him this bondage breaking information.

He was surprised at my reaction, but I was simply drawing on a Biblical promise that has enabled me to see a divine design in every experience: 'And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose' (Romans 8:28).

For many years, my work has taken me to people in times of crisis. Often I have felt inadequate to cope with such needs, but I have had a resource that has always been up to the occasion: the Book for all seasons.

Troubled people have been lifted by 'Let not your heart be troubled' (John 14:1). Those imprisoned by fear, have found the many 'Fear nots' in this Book adequate to overcome their anxieties.

No matter what you're going through, there's an answer for you. You'll find it in the Book for all seasons; the Bible.

Roger Campbell is an author, a broadcaster and columnist who was a pastor for 22 years. He can be reached at rcministry@ameritech.net.

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DEATHS

Continued from Front Page
Infants

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), most babies die of congenital anomalies. Between 2005 and 2010, heart complications were the cause of death for more than 2,500 babies. Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), short gestation and pregnancy complications are other leading causes of death for people younger than 1.

Ages 1-44

From the ages of 1 to 44, unintentional injuries are the primary cause of death, more so for people 25 years and older. Broken further down, teenagers (13 to 19) are most likely to die from accidents, homicides, suicide, cancer and heart disease. Between 1999 and 2006, 16,375 teenagers died per year, less than 1 percent of all the deaths that occurred each of those years.

Ages 20-34

Adults 20 to 34 experience large incidents of homicides and suicide, leading deaths following accidents.

Ages 35-55

By the age of 35, more people die of heart disease, cancer and tumors.

After age 55

Incidents of suicide and homicide begin to decline rapidly after the age of 55. Instead, respiratory disease, liver disease, diabetes and influenza are leading causes of death. HIV and viral hepatitis increase by hundreds by 45 years and older.

The biggest cause of death in 2010 was heart disease, claiming 597,689 people. Respiratory disease, accidents, diabetes and Alzheimer's Disease round out the other top deaths, killing more than 50,000 people a year each. The rate of death in America increases dramatically after the age of 65.

Worldwide, multiple countries are facing an aging population with fewer children being born. Japan is home to the longest-living people on the face of the earth. The AARP reports that most women in Japan live until the age of 87, while men can expect to survive for 80 years. By comparison, men in Hawaii usually live until 78 and women 84, the highest of all the states in America. Lifestyle and diet are attributed to longer life. Miso soup, fish and a variety of vegetables comprise the Japanese diet, leading to less hypertension and other heart-related issues. Exercise and being actively involved with jobs or hobbies contributes to longevity.

Looking to increase your lifespan? Not smoking, drinking in moderation and having a vegetable-based diet helps when it comes to living longer. Genetics also plays a big part, as some people may be more prone to contract certain diseases and illnesses. But, as CDC statistics prove, life is full of unexpected twists and death can stem from multiple factors at any age.

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SALLY RUMMEL

The staff of Acupuncture & Herbal Clinic is pictured here with a variety of organic produce in front of their clinic. From left are Teresa McDaniels, Lee Indianer, Andrew Goforth, Michal Kelly, Kylene Goforth and Suzy Sikora.

Acupuncture & Herbal Clinic

Clinic adds staff, services, including Organic Farmers Market

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

The Acupuncture & Herbal Clinic in Fenton believes that a healthy body begins from the inside with good nutrition.

That's why they are hosting an Organic Farmers Market every Sunday this summer through fall, beginning July 13 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the plaza that houses their clinic at 12272 North Fenton Rd., Suite 3. Fred Hensler, of Hensler Wealth Management, has donated the plaza space for the first year of this market, according to Michal Kelly, clinic owner.

"In addition to having organic fruits and vegetables, we'll also have chicken, grass-fed beef, pork, lamb, as well as dairy products, locally-produced honey and crafters from the Flint Farmers Market," said Kelly.

The clinic recently added Andrew Goforth, certified massage therapist and

clinic manager. Kylene Goforth, Dipl. OM., NCCAOM has been added as the second acupuncturist on staff, offering a new style of acupuncture that is more energetic and balancing than traditional acupuncture.

The Goforths join Kelly, Dipl. OM., NCCAOM, Suzy Sikora, ND, MH, CCH, naturopathic doctor/ hypnotist and Lee Indianer, certified massage therapist/I-Ching Consultant. Teresa McDaniels is office assistant.

The clinic has begun more integrative work with other medical practitioners, including chiropractors, Michigan Holistic Dentistry and the Preventive Medical Center in Flint.

In addition, a Whole Food Nutrition six-week course will be offered twice a year, beginning this fall. For details, call (810) 714-5556 or visit www.fentonacupuncture.com. You can also "like" the clinic on Facebook.



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DOG BOWL 14

Butterflies, moons, sea life dot downtown landscape

► New sculptures bring fresh air to downtown, in annual exhibit

By Tim Jagielo

tjagielo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

Fenton — The weather broke just enough to allow downtown sculptures to be exchanged, in what might be a yearly event.

Sculptures like “Lollypop Tree,” “Ruf-fian” and “Akimbo III” are gone, switched out in a matter of hours by Michigan Sculpture Initiatives (MSI) of Blissfield.

Pieces like “Wintermoon,” and “Promise to Flower” are now peppering downtown. The combined value of all the pieces is around \$90,750, though the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) rents them for a fraction of that cost. This year, the art sculpture budget was expanded, to \$10,000 in DDA funds total. Sculptures cost \$1,250 each to rent.

The money for the sculptures comes from DDA-captured funds, not the city’s operating budget.

There will now be seven sculptures



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Artist Ray Katz of Pontiac and studio assistant Kelson Helbig of Ferndale install “Wintermoon” in front of the Fenton post office on Wednesday. This is the second year of the downtown sculpture exhibit, funded by the DDA. There will be seven sculptures in the exhibit this year, total.

placed around downtown, as the DDA chose to buy “Pescados,” the fish sculpture near the gazebo for less than \$4,000. It was part of the inaugural sculpture exhibit the DDA initiated to enhance downtown.

Behind the Fenton Fire Hall restaurant, Ken and Ian Thompson of MSI carefully backed one flatbed truck toward the river, loaded with a very large stainless steel butterfly. The aptly named “Stainless Steel Butterfly” by James Havens of Woodville, Ohio, weighs around 700 pounds and will greet river gazebo and restaurant visitors until next year.

As it was being rested upon concrete pads, park visitors watched and took pictures. Some stopped to ask a Havens questions.

“It enhances the community. Fenton has a lovely community,” said Havens, of the public art. “It contributes a little bit to make something just a little bit better. You can’t compete with nature, because you will get beat hands-down each time.”

“Public art — it should bring a smile to your face when you see it, there should be happy things,” said Dave Vande Vusse. He created “Calamari II,” which looks like a sea creature combined with the monsters from “War of the Worlds.” He said public art is supposed to be fun, with no hidden deeper meaning. “If it needs explaining it’s like a joke that needs to be explained.”

Near the post office, sculptor Ray Katz of Pontiac and assistant Kelson Helbig of Ferndale assemble “Wintermoon,” an 11-foot-tall brushed aluminum piece that had to be assembled more so than the other sculptures delivered that day.

ART
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“Wintermoon” by Ray Katz

Valued at \$32,000; is made of brushed aluminum, standing 11 feet high by 10 feet wide by 6 feet deep.

“Promise to Flower” by Ric Leichter

Valued at \$16,750; and is made of painted steel, and stands over 9 feet high.

“Calamari II” by Dave Vande Vusse

Valued at \$8,500; is made of quarter inch painted steel and stands 8 feet high by 13 feet wide by 9 feet deep.

“Stainless Steel Butterfly” by James Havens

Valued at \$17,500; is made of welded stainless steel, with blue ink stain and stands 9 ½ feet high by just over 9 feet wide by 5 ½ feet deep.

“Big Wheel Watcher” by Jim Collins

Valued at \$5,000; is made of mixed metals with a powder-coated finish, stands 5 feet high by 5 feet wide by 2 feet deep, and weighs 100 pounds.

“Through” by Todd Kime

Valued at \$11,000; is made of welded steel and fused glass and stands 8 feet high by 6 ½ feet wide by 1 ½ feet deep, and weighs 700 pounds.

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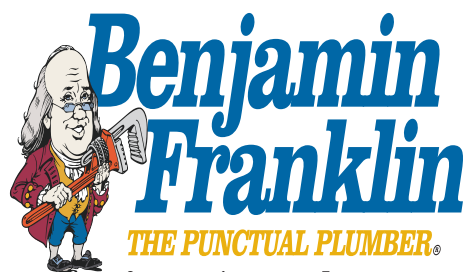
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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELLO

Consumer's Energy has rebates for electric vehicle (EV) charging stations. It costs around \$1 per day to charge, according to several owners.

VOLT

Continued from Page 3A

The Chevy Volt is going on 3 years old, and according to Reuters, has only sold around 60,000 units. They compare that to 70,000 of Ford's most popular f-series truck selling in February.

The Volt probably costs GM money, said Matt Stevens of Vic Canever Chevrolet in Fenton. But in a little more than a year, Reuters also reports the second generation of cars, which can be sold at a lower price point, will begin production in the Detroit/Hamtramck Assembly plant.

The current Volt sells for about \$40,000, though Stevens said the most popular option is to lease — which can cost as low as about \$200 per month.

For Kristy and Doug, the cost is the same to drive the Durango and fill it up each month, compared to the Volt's lease payments and insurance costs. But his family gets a new car of the highest technology available.

Doug said it costs about \$1 each day to charge the car, and they even get a deal on a charging station, and cheaper electricity if they charge the car from midnight to 4 a.m.

This is the option both Stevens himself, and the Fairbanks took with their Volts, though both said they're probably sold on the idea of another electric after their lease ends.

Both report that the winter cuts down on the efficiency of the car, and sometimes it's just too cold for the car to run on the batteries, and the gas-powered generator kicks on. The Volt has an electric-only range of around 38 miles, 40 with no

accessories. After that, the gas generator runs, powering the electric motor.

Stevens said the heat also worked fine in the cruel winter, and the car's traction control system kept it on the road.

With the first mass-produced GM electric car available, it's all about technology from top to bottom. Mimicking any other electronic device, it received regular improvements and upgrades electronically.

Stevens said a significant improvement to the car's software improved the performance of the heater system, which at first seemed to be designed for efficiency over comfort. This was done without a piece of hardware changing on the vehicle.

The Volt's OnStar system also sends periodic email reports on performance and the car's display shows you in real-time how efficiently you're driving.

"I do see it being sort of how the future will go, I think," said Fairbanks. With the gas generator adding to the range, and charge stations at popular spots like The Detroit Zoo, the electric car has fit snugly into their family life.

Although it can drive 35 miles on only electric power, the gas generator allows the Volt to drive cross-country if you wanted.

Going forward, Stevens sees the Volt as a strong contender in the electric market. "The greatest thing about this Volt is that it's U.S. technology," he said. The batteries are built in Holland, the car assembled in Hamtramck.

Also, GM's first all-electric vehicle, the Chevy Spark EV, is currently being tested in California and Oregon, and will eventually hit the Great Lakes state.

**“The greatest
thing about
this Volt is
that it's U.S.
technology.”**

Matt Stevens
Volt owner, Vic Canever
general sales manager

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MICHIGAN VOTES

WHAT YOUR LEGISLATORS VOTED ON RECENTLY

MichiganVotes.org is a free, non-partisan website created by the Mackinac Center for Public Policy, to provide concise, non-partisan, plain-English descriptions of every bill and vote in the Michigan House and Senate. This report was released on Friday, May 9.

Senate Bill 762: Senate version of Community College budget

The Senate version of the community colleges budget for the fiscal year that begins Oct. 1, 2014. This would appropriate \$371.5 million in gross spending, compared to \$335.9 million the previous year. The Senate did not adopt a 3.2 percent cap on tuition increases recommended by Gov. Rick Snyder. Note: An amount equivalent to around 25 percent of community college payroll expense (or more) goes to cover employee retirement benefit costs. Introduced by Sen. Darwin Booher (R).

Passed 25 to 13 in the Senate

Sen. Jim Ananich D-Genesee County:

☐ YES ☒ NO

Sen. Dave Robertson R-Genesee County:

☒ YES ☐ NO

Senate Bill 763: Senate version of Community Health budget (with Medicaid expansion)

The Senate version of the Department of Community Health budget for the fiscal year that begins Oct. 1, 2014. This would appropriate \$17.492 billion in gross spending, compared to \$15.385 billion originally authorized for the previous year (before that amount was increased by the legislature's adoption of the federal health care law Medicaid expansion). Of this, \$12.023 billion is federal money. Most of this budget consists of Medicaid health care subsidies. Introduced by Sen. John Moolenaar (R).

Passed 32 to 5 in the Senate

Sen. Jim Ananich D-Genesee County voted:

☒ YES ☐ NO

Sen. Dave Robertson R-Genesee County:

☒ YES ☐ NO

House Bill 5477: Replace per-gallon gas tax with 6 percent wholesale tax

To replace the current 19-cent per gallon gas tax and 15-cent diesel tax with a 6 percent wholesale fuel tax. The tax could only rise by 5 percent per year even if the price of fuel rose faster, but if the price of fuel fell the rate could be increased to prevent any reduction in tax revenue compared to the 2014 level. Introduced by Rep. Rob VerHeulen (R).

Passed 85 to 24 in the House

Rep. Joe Graves R-Argentine Twp. voted:

☒ YES ☐ NO

House Bill 5459: Allocate sales tax on fuel to road projects

To earmark two-thirds of the sales tax collected on gasoline and diesel fuel sales to road projects. The bill would increase the amount available for road spending by around \$130 million annually. Introduced by Rep. Peter Pettalia (R).

Passed 91 to 18 in the House

Rep. Joe Graves R-Argentine Twp. voted:

☒ YES ☐ NO

House Bill 5492: Earmark some state "use tax" revenue to roads

To earmark one-sixth of the revenue from a 6.0 percent state "use tax" to road projects. Reportedly this would generate around \$250 million annually for roads. This is one of several bills in a House road funding package that together would increase road funding by around \$500 million annually, with most of the money from repurposing current tax revenue and a relatively small amount from increased taxes and fees. Introduced by Rep. Earl Poleski (R).

Passed 91 to 18 in the House

Rep. Joe Graves R-Argentine Twp. voted:

☒ YES ☐ NO

CPR

Continued from Front Page

who are not breathing and do not have a pulse. CPR can help get much needed oxygen to the brain, where it can keep the nerves of the brain alive long enough for someone to get the patient's heart beating again. Training will also teach how to help someone who is choking, by removing the airway obstruction.

CPR training programs are available at nearly all hospitals, ambulance services and fire departments. These classes are targeted to their audience; for example, the general public doesn't get the same training that paramedics must have.

Knowing which level of CPR training you need is the first step to finding a class. There are classes for Adult CPR, Adult and Pediatric CPR, etc. Most CPR classes also include training on an automated external defibrillator (AED), because they are so commonplace in the public. Some classes are on-site for one day, while others are "blended," a mix of online learning and a final classroom work session.

It's important to attend CPR classes that are sanctioned by the two most reputable organizations that offer them: the American Heart

Association and the American Red Cross.

Locally, the North Oakland County Fire Authority (NOCFA) will hold a one-day CPR class at Station 1 at 5051 Grange Hall Rd. on Saturday, June 7 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. It will be an AHA Heartsaver and Healthcare Provider class, with a fee of \$45 and \$55, respectively. They're keeping the costs low to encourage the general public to take advantage of lifesaving CPR training. To register, contact George Murray at (248) 245-8161 or Robert Graves at (248) 807-7047.

Genesys Regional Medical Center offers an AHA-sanctioned CPR course on the third Wednesday of each month from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Genesys Conference Center. Carolyn Joseph, R.N., Genesys community nurse educator, coordinates the classes, which teach adult, child and infant CPR, and AED.

"This time of year is our busiest, because parents want their child care providers to be trained, as well as students needing CPR

certification, lifeguards, personal trainers, etc.," said Joseph. "The general public is also invited to get their two-year AHA certification through this class. If you have a group that needs CPR training, I can schedule a separate class."

For a full schedule of American Heart Association CPR classes, visit www.heart.org and click on CPR classes.

The American Red Cross offers classes on-site at their offices at 1401 South Grand Traverse St.

in Flint and also online.

For a basic online course, people can take Family First Aid & CPR at a cost of \$25, although they won't receive any certification.

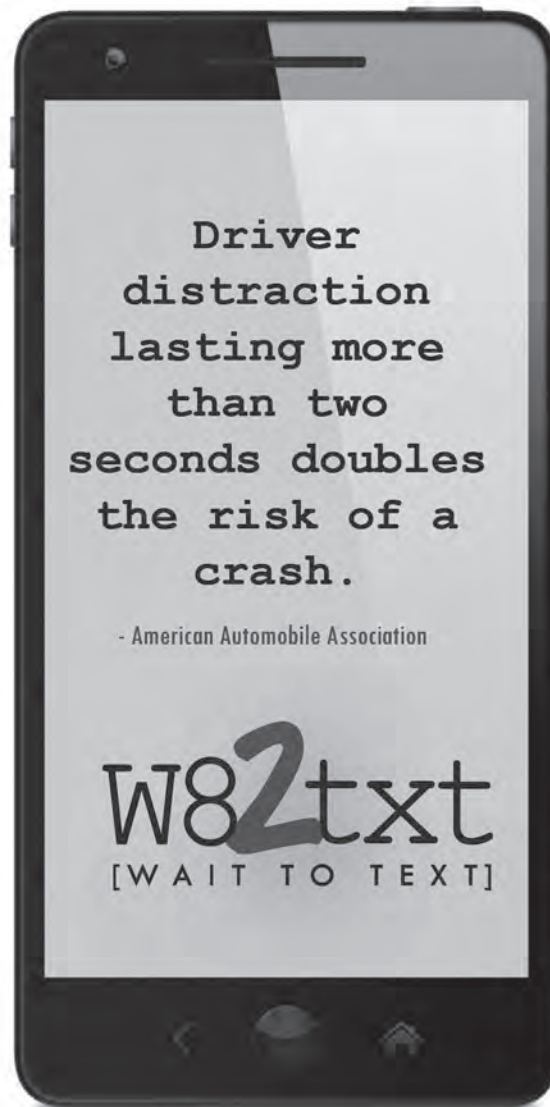
For two-year certification, people can take Adult CPR/AED; Adult First Aid/CPR/AED or Adult & Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED. Most of the courses are offered online, with material required to be completed before attending the hands-on classroom skills session.

To find an American Red Cross CPR class near you, visit www.redcross.org/ take-a-class, or call 1-800-733-2767, ext. 3.

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SUNDAY, MAY 18, 2014

PAGE 16A

Q Has Stan Van-Gundy, the Pistons' new head coach and president of basketball operations, ever coached in the NBA Finals?

A He did once, when he was coaching the Orlando Magic in 2009. The Magic lost to the Los Angeles Lakers four games to one.

DAVID'S DABBLINGS

So Stan VanGundy is the new head of basketball operations and new head coach for the Detroit Pistons.

I find it a little strange in today's era to have one person fit both roles, but all that said, his hiring has to be an upgrade, right?

The Detroit Tigers are at 24-12 and have the best record in baseball. I didn't think this type of start was possible, particularly with the pen. I don't think the Tigers will win two of three games the rest of the way, but I guess my prediction of around 85 wins is looking a bit silly right now. The Tigers need to find two things — another quality reliever and a potent lefty bat. They get those two things before the year is up (whether from trade or within their organization), I'll be pretty excited this October.

And for the few soccer fans, let's look quickly back at the English Premier League TV contract held by NBC sports this year. Wow, I watched more EPL games this year than I have the rest of my life combined during prior seasons. They did a great job.

Lady Eagles earn share of Metro crown

► Easy 9-2 victory vs. East sets up chance to win outright title on Monday vs. Swartz Creek

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

Linden — It's a roster that includes only two seniors.

It's a team that coach Kevin Fiebernitz still would like to find some answers so the squad can truly fulfill its great potential.

But, some of that potential is starting to show. It translated into hardware on Wednesday. The Eagles dominated Lapeer East in drizzly conditions, crushing the host Eagles 9-2 and earning at least a share of the Metro League crown for the first time since the 2009-10 school year. That season, the Eagles won the title outright.

The Eagles remain a perfect 7-0 in Metro action. If Linden defeats or draws Swartz Creek on Monday at Linden High School, the Eagles will be the outright league champions.

"We are leaving with a good team and we are playing pretty solid, obviously going undefeated like this," said one of Linden's seniors, Sarah Ford. "It's nice going out with a bang. It's our last year, might as well make it great. Right?"

"It's awesome," said the Eagles' only other senior, Bri Holscher. "The last two years on varsity we didn't get this far. Fenton and Lapeer West have been good competition.

"We all get along really well and work well on the field together. I think that shows in our game. Off the field we are close."

The hosting Eagles never left Wednesday's game in doubt, leading 5-1 at the half. Linden's offense remained in control in the second half, but was unable to score again until the final 10 minutes of the



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | MARK BOLEN

Linden's Sarah Ford (left) battles for the ball with a Lapeer East player during the Eagles' 9-2 victory on Wednesday. Linden locked up at least a share of the Metro title with the win.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS

Fenton's Katey Cairnduff (right) scored on this play at the plate during the Tigers' split with Clío.

Tigers split key Metro twinbill against Mustangs

By David Troppens

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Clío — Of course, a sweep would always be the better option in any doubleheader.

But if a split can feel like a victory overall, the Fenton varsity softball team had one of those moments on Wednesday at Clío High School.

Dancing in between occasional sprinkles of rain, the top two teams in the Flint Metro League battled to a doubleheader split, keeping the Fenton Tigers atop the Metro standings.

Fenton starter Paige Dean tossed a five-hitter and Macie Keller provided the go-ahead two-run single, leading the Tigers to a 6-1 victory in the opening game.

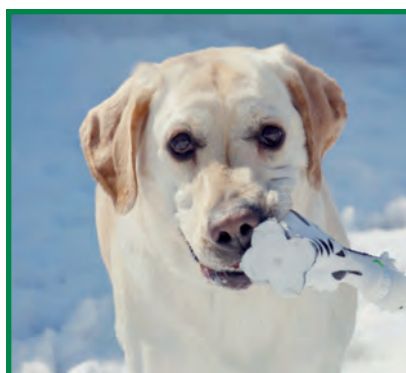
In the nightcap, Ellie Cowger pitched

a solid contest, but the Fenton offense left too many runners on base, including two in scoring position in the bottom of the seventh, resulting in a 3-2 loss to the Mustangs.

But all things considered, the second loss wasn't too damaging for the first-place Tigers. Fenton still holds control of its own Metro crown destiny. If the Tigers win their last four Metro contests (doubleheaders against Linden and Swartz Creek), Fenton will capture the league crown. If they lose just one of those four games, the Tigers could do no worse than share the title, and for that to happen, either Clío or Brandon would have to win the remaining of their Metro contests.

In the opener, the Tigers upped their

See **TIGERS** on 19A



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Second-half comeback fuels Fenton's 3-2 win vs. Devils

►GAC regular-season champs take 2-0 lead at half before Tigers answer back with three goals in final 40 minutes

By David Troppens

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Fenton — Sometimes a little luck goes a long way.

Fenton got a little bit on Thursday night. Lake Fenton's varsity girls soccer team came close to posting an upset, but a bad bounce over Lake Fenton keeper Melissa Eggelston's shoulder on a ball that was basically rolling on the grass until the hop ended up being the decider. Fenton's Brianna Costigan scored on the shot with 5:06 left, giving the Tigers the tight and entertaining 3-2 victory in what were drizzly and cold conditions.

"I knew I was wide open and I was making the run through," Costigan said. "I was waiting for Brennan (Sullivan) to play it through, and she had a beautiful ball to me. I just focused on keeping my shot down low, shot it and it went in. It was a nice bounce, so that's always nice."

It was a battle of halves. Whoever had a stiff wind at their backs, dominated play. In the first half, it was Lake Fenton. The Genesee Area Conference champions enjoyed a huge possession edge and an 11-4 shot advantage in the first 40 minutes, resulting in a 2-0 halftime lead.

Both of Lake Fenton's goals had

something to do with the state's all-time greatest scorer Jordan Newman. The first was a Newman goal off a nice cross from Denise Carlson. Holding the ball, Newman turned around toward goal, created space and gave Lake Fenton a 1-0 lead with 29:05 left in the first half.

Then with about 16 minutes left in the first half, Newman dropped a ball to Ashlyn Skidmore, who took a shot from nearly 40 yards out. The shot went in, doubling the Blue Devils' lead.

However, in the second half, Fenton had the wind and dominated play, enjoying a 14-1 shot edge in the final 40 minutes.

The Tigers made their mark with corner kicks for the first two goals. Off a cross from Crystal Krupp, Kaleigh Keyandwy was able to get a shot off and score the Tigers' first goal, cutting the margin to 2-1 with 27:01 left. Just 2:50 later, another corner kick resulted in the Tigers' second goal. The cross remained bouncing around the Lake Fenton goal mouth for what was close to 10 seconds. Finally, Fenton's Mackenzie Murphy got a shot off and scored, tying the game at 2-2.

Fenton continued the pressure, but it took about 20 minutes to get the game-winning goal, albeit

with the lucky bounce.

The Blue Devils could leave knowing they were considered heavy underdogs, and almost left with a result. Yet, it had to be frustrating knowing they had come so close.

"I learned we shouldn't be overconfident going into the second half so we don't blow a 2-0 lead," Newman said. "I feel like we came out way too comfortable, thinking we already had the game. ... We didn't have the same work ethic as they came out with (in the second half)."

Newman said the game does give the team confidence.

"Yeah it definitely does. We know that we could've had that game," Newman said. "We have the potential."

For Fenton, it's a matter of finding out why the team's second halves are so much stronger than their first halves this season. Just about 24 hours earlier, the Tigers trailed Swartz Creek 3-0 late in the second half, before answering back with four goals.

"It's getting to the point where we are trying to go hard in the first half, we are trying to get our warm-ups faster so we can go out the first half like we do the second half," Costigan said.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SCOTT SCHUPBACH

Fenton's Hannah Evo (right) and Lake Fenton's Alex Isaac battle for possession of the ball in the Tigers' tight 3-2 victory against the Blue Devils on Thursday night.

Late goals spark Tigers' victory vs. Swartz Creek, 4-3

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

Matt Sullivan called it "the most exciting finish in Fenton soccer history."

He might be right considering the hole the Fenton girls varsity squad dug themselves out of on Wednesday.

Trailing by three, the Tigers scored four goals in the final 17 minutes against Swartz Creek to hold their slim Metro League title hopes alive, winning a 4-3 home contest.

"We had constant pressure but we just couldn't finish until the end," Sullivan said. "Sometime it's better to be lucky than good, and we had a little luck in the last 17 minutes. Our girls never panicked. We played tight and not to lose in the first 60 minutes, and it showed. It was a lot like the first Linden game, and we have to correct that before the state tournament."

Trailing 3-0, the goals that gave the Tigers the unlikely victory were provided by Brianna Costigan, Chloe Foor, Kaleigh Keyandwy and Brennan Sullivan. Costigan assisted two of the goals, while Allison Cialkoszewski and Riley Moore had one each.

Creek took a 1-0 lead in the first half and eventually led 3-0 in the second half. Casey Allesie, Haylee Johnson and Bristol Murphy had goals for Creek.

Fenton (6-1, 9-3-3) needs to win its last two Metro League contests against



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SCOTT SCHUPBACH

Fenton's Kaleigh Keyandwy (front) dribbles with the ball during the Tigers' 3-2 win against Lake Fenton. Keyandwy scored a goal in the Tigers' 4-3 victory against Swartz Creek on Wednesday. The Lake Fenton player in the background is Kaitlyn Begley.

Kearsley and Lapeer West, but also must hope the Linden Eagles lose their last Metro contest on Monday against Swartz Creek to earn a share of the crown.

Fenton played Kearsley on Friday and travel to West on Monday.

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***2D GODZILLA (PG13)**
 FRI-SAT 1:45 9:55 11:55
 SUN-WED 1:45 9:55
 THUR 1:45 9:55 11:55

***@3D GODZILLA: REALD 3D (PG13)**
 FRI-SAT 11:00 3:05 4:30 7:15 10:40
 SUN-WED 11:00 3:05 4:30 7:15
 THUR 11:00 3:05 4:30 7:15 10:40

***@GODZILLA: AN IMAX 3D EXPERIENCE (PG13)**
 FRI-SAT 12:45 3:30 6:15 9:00 11:40
 SUN-WED 12:45 3:30 6:15 9:00
 THUR 12:45 3:30 6:15 9:00 11:40

***MILLION DOLLAR ARM (PG)**
 FRI-SAT 10:30 1:15 4:00 6:45 9:35 11:55
 SUN-WED 10:30 1:15 4:00 6:45 9:35
 THUR 10:30 1:15 4:00 6:45 9:35 11:55

STARTING THURS MAY 22

***2D X-MEN: DAYS OF FUTURE PAST (PG13)**
 THUR NIGHT/FRI MORNING 11:00 12:05

***@3D X-MEN: DAYS OF FUTURE PAST (PG13)**
 THUR NIGHT/FRI MORNING 10:00 12:05

***BLENDED (PG13)**
 THUR 7:00 9:35 12:05

CONTINUING

***NEIGHBORS (R)**

****MOMS NIGHT OUT (PG)**

***@3D LEGENDS OF OZ: DOROTHYS RETURN: REALD 3D (PG)**

***2D LEGENDS OF OZ: DOROTHYS RETURN (PG)**

***@3D THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 2 REALD 3D (PG13)**

#2D THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 2 (PG13)

THE QUIET ONES (PG13)

THE OTHER WOMAN (PG13)

BRICK MANSIONS (PG13)

BEARS (G)

#HEAVEN IS FOR REAL (PG)

DRAFT DAY (PG13)

2D RIO 2 (G)

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GODS NOT DEAD (PG)

DIVERGENT (PG13)

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Bronchos edge LF to earn spot in Flint title game

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

The Holly varsity baseball team is headed to one of the Greater Flint Baseball Tournament championship games.

The Bronchos defeated the Lake Fenton Blue Devils 2-0 in what was a strong pitchers' duel between Lake Fenton's Logan Crisp and Holly's Drew Eggleston.

Between the two hurlers, the teams managed just five hits, and despite being the losing pitcher, Crisp allowed just two of those five hits. Still, Holly managed the victory by scoring a single run in the first and then another run in the fourth to earn the victory. The game's only RBI was provided by, probably rightfully so, one of the hurlers. Eggleston had it.

"They are pretty excited to be in the finals," Holly coach Benny Jackson said. "It will be a big positive note to win it going in to the districts."

"Drew's effort was terrific. He pounded the strike zone all game."

"We pitched well and played good defense, but we just couldn't generate anything at the plate," Lake Fenton coach Brad LaRowe said. "We only had runners in scoring position twice, and never had a runner reach third."

Eggleston allowed just three hits and three walks while striking out eight. He tossed 106 pitches, 70 for strikes. And he threw first-pitch strikes to 19 of the 27 batters he faced. Crisp walked four and struck out two.

Holly will play either Mt. Morris or Lakeville in the title game at Flint's Broome Park on Memorial Day. The Linden Eagles also earned a spot in one of the Greater Flint Baseball Tournament title games, and will also play a game on Memorial Day.

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS — Holly's Drew Eggleston pitched a complete-game shutout against Lake Fenton on Wednesday.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS Fenton's Jamie Castiglione tossed a complete-game victory against Clio on Wednesday. Fenton swept the twinbill against the Mustangs.

Strong pitching leads Tigers to sweep of Clio Mustangs

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

Clio — The Fenton varsity baseball team seems to be getting better by the week.

After a tough start to the season, the Tigers now find themselves nearing the .500 mark. And it seems the squad is doing it with some strong pitching and defense.

The Tigers got both of those things again at Clio on Wednesday, sweeping a doubleheader against the Mustangs 2-1 and 3-2 in eight innings.

In the opener, Jamie Castiglione continued his masterful season, tossing a complete-game three-hitter. He allowed just one run in the fourth inning.

The Tigers (7-7, 11-12) never trailed in the opening game, scoring the first run of the contest in the third inning. Zach Kostka collected a hit and scored on Chase Coselman's RBI-single. Fenton led 1-0.

The lead grew to 2-0 in the fourth. Landon Mikulas singled and courtesy runner Kyle Eck advanced to third on a bunt and an error. Eck eventually scored on a wild pickoff throw to first. Fenton led 2-0. The Mustangs scored a run on a bases-loaded walk in the fourth, cutting the gap in half, but it hardly mattered against Castiglione, who continued to make Metro batters whimper, as he earned another com-

plete-game victory. Clio hurler Jimmy Ziobro took the loss despite allowing just one earned run. He struck out five.

In the second game, it was another pitchers' duel, this time against Fenton's John Leaske and Clio's Zach Takacs. Tied at 2, the Tigers broke the deadlock in the top of the eighth inning when Coselman singled, was sacrificed to second by Mikulas and scored on Leaske's RBI-single. Leaske was relieved in the eighth by Drew Garrison, who earned the save with a shutout inning of relief.

Leaske's bat got the game-winning run to score, but his pitching arm kept the Tigers in the game. He tossed seven innings of five-hit, four-walk and three-strike out ball. He allowed three of those walks in the first inning, but got out of the jam without allowing a run.

Fenton's first run was scored in the first on an RBI-double by Mikulas. Fenton upped the gap to 2-0 during the top of the third when Coselman, who doubled, scored on Mikulas' RBI-single. Clio scored two runs in the third, making it a tie ball game until the top of the eighth.

Mikulas, Coselman and Kostka had two hits each in the second game.

If weather permits, the Tigers continue Metro action at home against Linden on Monday at 4 p.m.

PREP REPORT

SOCCER

► **Linden 2, Brandon 0:** The Eagles remained undefeated in Metro play with the victory. Alia Frederick and Maddie Zayan scored the goals. Zayan and Katie Wilkowski had the assists.

► **Lake Fenton 11, Dryden 0:** The Genesee Athletic Conference regular season champion Blue Devils crushed Dryden with the easy win. Jordan Newman had four goals and three assists, while Melissa Williams scored three goals.

► **Brandon 1, Holly 0:** The only goal of the game was provided by Bran-

don's Sarah Buda.

SOFTBALL

► **Linden vs. Powers:** The Eagles split with Powers as Linden won the opening game 6-3, but lost the second 11-2.

In the opener, Alexa Marsh was the winning pitcher, allowing no earned runs and eight hits. She struck out four.

Offensively, Marsh also drove in a run. Molly Churches provided two hits and two RBI.

In the second game, Sterling Degayner doubled and scored a run. Alyssa Logie had a single and drove in two runs.

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TIGERS

Continued from Page 16A

win streak to 16 games, with the victory. However, Clio did score first, collecting a run in the second inning on a walk and an RBI-single by Sabrina Sage. The Lady Mustangs led 1-0.

The Tigers answered back in the fourth inning. Katey Cairnduff tripled with one out and scored on Dori Carpenter's ground out, tying the contest at 1-all.

Fenton's offense wrapped up the victory in the fifth with five runs on three hits, a walk, a sacrifice and two Clio errors. The fifth inning started with Taylor Mowery's infield single. Logan Carter sacrificed her to second, but a poor throw allowed Carter to be safe and moved Mowery to third. Carter stole second. An out later, Macie Keller came up with the key hit of the game. On the first pitch of the at bat she lined a two-run single to left, putting the Tigers up 3-1.

"I pretty much wanted to get my bat on the ball because I've been popping up a lot lately," Keller said.

"Hands down, I was looking for my pitch. And when I saw it, I got it."

The inning didn't stop with Keller's single. Cowger walked and Emma Brant had a bunt single. An out later, Carpenter reached base on an error, allowing three more runs to score

on the botched defensive play. Fenton led 6-1.

That was all the offensive support Dean needed. While Clio got at least one runner on base in each of the final four innings, the Mustangs never scored again. Clio did load the bases in the bottom of the seventh with two out, but Dean capped the game with a pop out she caught herself.

"The outside pitch was working," Dean said. "He was calling it so I was definitely trying to get it out there as much as I could."

"(When we were trailing 1-0) it's a little bit tougher, but I have a great defense behind me, so I know if I get the ball where it needs to be when I'm pitching that they can get me out of it."

The Tigers' defense made just one error during the first contest.

"You could feel the intensity," Dean said. "I could feel we were struggling with the bat a little bit, but once we harnessed that intensity, we made it work."

Entering the second game with a chance to expand their lead on the Metro contenders to three games, the Tigers fell a little bit short. The rain came down harder a little bit more during the second contest, but it didn't take away from the game's intensity.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS

Fenton's Emma Brant (right) tries to avoid a tag while stealing second in the Tigers' doubleheader split with the Clio Mustangs on Wednesday. The split means the Tigers retained a hold on first place in the Metro League standings.

At the start, Cowger was masterful on the mound, setting Clio down in order in each of the first three innings. During that spurt, the Tigers took the early lead. Carter doubled and eventually scored on a batted ball by Sabrina Cleis that was mishandled. Carter ended up advancing from second to home on the play, putting the Tigers up 1-0.

Just like Fenton did in the opening game, the Mustangs tied it back up with a run in

the fourth on an RBI-single by Clio starting hurler Paige Montague. Then, during the top of the sixth, Clio scored two runs off of three hits and a sacrifice. The key shot was a Montague two-run single, putting the Mustangs up 3-1.

Fenton tried to battle back. In the bottom of the sixth, Cairnduff reached on an error, and eventually scored on Carter's RBI-ground out. The lead was cut to 3-2. In the seventh with

two out, Cowger singled, Brant walked and both ended up at second and third. However, the game ended with a strike out.

Fenton stranded seven runners in the second game, including four at third base.

Cowger struck out seven while taking the loss.

The loss also ended the Tigers' 16-game winning streak. Fenton returns back to Metro action on Monday with a home doubleheader against Linden at 4 p.m.

CROWN

Continued from Page 16A

half. But once they started scoring again, there was no stopping the Eagles, scoring four in the final 9:41. The final goal was provided by Alia Frederick on a free kick attempt right at the ending buzzer. Frederick hit the top right corner of the net.

Sophomore Katie Wilkowski continued her strong season by scoring three first-half goals, helping spark the early lead.

"It means a lot," Wilkowski said about the co-title. "We've worked so hard all year. It's been a great year. We all have fun, want to work and we want the title really bad."

Frederick finished the contest with two goals, while Elizabeth Walterhouse, Emily Waltrip, Erica Freeman and Teresa Walterhouse had a goal each. Maddie Zayan had two assists, while Brenna Howard, Jessie Magalski, Holscher and Walterhouse had an assist each.

The Eagles (11-3-3) dominated play, throughout the night.

"We were a little slow to the ball, but other than that, we played off of each other and shot a billion balls," Ford said. "We got what we could get in and came out with the win."

"We all get along really well and we work well on the field together," Holscher said. "I think that shows in our game. Off the field, we are really close."

Even with the big win, Fiebernitz is still looking for the Eagles to show that little extra something to place the team in the "special" category.

"I'll be honest. I was a little disappointed with the leadership and disap-



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | MARK BOLEN

Linden's Teresa Walterhouse scored a goal in the Eagles' 9-2 win against Lapeer East on Wednesday.

pointed with our back tonight," Fiebernitz said. "That team only scored four goals until today and they scored two today."

Still, Fiebernitz realizes that maybe he needs to sit back and realize what the team has accomplished.

"They are a great group of girls, and the thing I have to remind myself is they are young, too," Fiebernitz said. "It's tough because I'm such a competitor that I want it to transition to those girls to be that way, like their coach."

"But a win is a win and it's very difficult to go undefeated in this league. Creek is a pretty solid team and we'll have to be ready for them on Monday."

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It's the 1800s for Tomek-Eastern

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

All three second-grade Fenton Tomek-Eastern classes were able to get a taste of school life in the 1800s on Wednesday. They used slate-and-chalk to write, classroom decorum was stricter and no computers were used. Here, Yvonne Duncan's class parades through downtown Fenton, many students dressed to participate.



HOT LINE CONTINUED

NO MORE MONEY for the city of Detroit. They made their bed, let them sleep in it.

■■■

I GET A kick out of the conservatives. Everything that happened during Bush's administration was Clinton's fault. Everything that happened during Obama's administration was Obama's fault. I guess Mr. Bush didn't do anything wrong.

■■■

REGARDING THE PARKING by that new restaurant, it's not all public parking for the person who thought it was. Some of that belongs to the church and evidently, you don't live near there trying to get away from you people who are drinking and pulling out in front of us who are just trying to get home.

■■■

WHERE DO THE Obama bashers think Obama should hold his fundraisers? In a soup kitchen?

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Social News

ENGAGEMENT



SUCHOWESKY-WALKER

Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Walker of Fenton, Michigan, announce the engagement of their son, LCpl. James Walker to Kaitlin Suchowesky, daughter of Russell and Tina Suchowesky of Hartland, Michigan. Both are graduates of Hartland High School. The future bride is a graduate of the Brighton Institute of Cosmetology with a specialty in Aesthetics. The future groom is serving in the Marine Corps at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. The wedding is to be held at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial on May 31, 2014. The couple will be living in North Carolina.





ANNIVERSARY



WILSONS CELEBRATE 65TH ANNIVERSARY

Robert and Joyce Wilson of Linden celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on May 4, 2014 at Zehnder's of Frankenmuth. Wilson and the former Joyce Walker of Flint were married at the Flint Oak Methodist Church on May 6, 1949. They have three children: Tim (Jan) Wilson of Tecumseh, Steve (Patti) Wilson of Swartz Creek and Ann Marie (Tony) Magalski of Gaines. They have seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

THIS WEEK'S INSERTS

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 - 4 Seasons Outdoors
 - Alpine Marketplace
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 - CVS Pharmacy
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 - Kmart
 - Rite Aid
 - Sears Hometown Stores
 - Southern Lakes Parks & Rec
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HOT LINE CONTINUED

CANCELLED CHARTER TV and phone to escape their high prices after they twice wouldn't deal. I am now getting mail, email and calls daily to come back, annoying me greatly. Their marketing people are schmucks.

■■■■
ONE HUNDRED THIRTY five people on Common Core review panels. Not one was a K-3 classroom teacher or early childhood professional. No parents. K-12 educators were brought in after the fact only to tweak, endorse and legitimize.

■■■■
IT'S CALLED PERSPECTIVE — Under the watchful eyes of George W. Bush, 11 U.S. Embassies were attacked resulting in 53 deaths and 90 injuries and nothing was ever said. So get off the Benghazi thing. Under Obama, only two embassies have been attacked.

■■■■
I ALSO LOVE my gas-guzzling SUV and have a burn permit, but have a

good non-union job. Who cares if you vote Democrat or Republican? Just enjoy life.

■■■■
THE PRETTIEST SPRING flower garden is at the corner of First and Howard.

■■■■
LATELY, WHEN I'VE been backing out of a parking place, people either walk or drive behind my car. They can see my car very clearly, because they are going forward. I don't have the same visibility. Please be aware of this fact.

■■■■
I FIND IT hilarious how one minute people are complaining about snow, and the next week they are complaining about the rain. This is Michigan. We already know how the weather works. Shut up already.

■■■■
I HAVE A small amount of sympathy for servers. Yes, some people tip poorly or not at all, but you signed up for the bad, along with the good. My server friends make quadruple, if not more, than I do working a full-time job.



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Business briefs

DENTAL HYGIENIST HONORED FOR 25 YEARS

Lynette Scaffede celebrated her 25th year anniversary with Dr. Steven Sulfaro's dental practice. She has been working as a dental hygienist for Sulfaro Family Dentistry in Holly since 1989. Scaffede has been a hygienist since her graduation from Mott Community College's Dental Hygiene school in 1985 and she has worked in the dental industry since she was 16 years old. She has been a very dedicated member of Sulfaro's team not only expertly carrying out her daily hygienist duties but also representing Sulfaro Family Dentistry in the Linden chapter of Business Network International. As a small token of appreciation, Dr. Sulfaro presented her with a gold watch and dozen roses during an office-wide celebration.

ROOMBA

Continued from Page 3A

than substance, but there have been several new technology improvements since those earliest models.

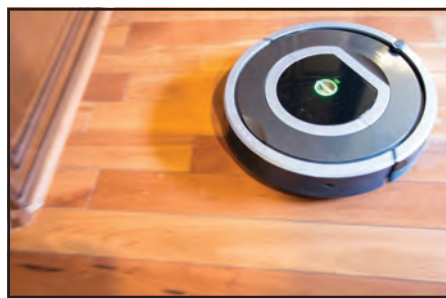
The newest Roomba, the 880, shares the same futuristic style of earlier models, but cleans floors better than many uprights or canisters, according to a recent review in The New York Times.

"I had the first one that came out," said Carolyn Fortier of Tyrone Township. "I bought it on QVC." Paying \$300 for it, she bought it to scoot under beds and other places her home's central vacuum couldn't reach, as well as to keep up with cat hair from her family's four feline pets. She found the battery life to be a serious flaw of that early model although today's newest Roomba models have more long-lasting rechargeable battery power.

Jane Somers of Fenton Township had asked for a Roomba as a gift from her husband and for the most part is happy with it. "It has its pluses and minuses, especially if you have an expectation that it's going to do

"I think robotic vacuums work best in houses with an open floor plan."

Carolyn Fortier
A former Roomba owner



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

The Roomba is mostly self-guided, but also stays within constraints you set for it, and can be programmed to run on a timer.

all the work for you. It's not effortless. You have to do some prep in the room before you use it, like moving small pieces of furniture, picking up rugs, etc."

She uses her Roomba mostly in the kitchen, to pick up small crumbs on the floor and to clean under the beds. "I don't use it for major cleaning projects," she said. "It's more for small pick-up jobs."

Equipped with infrared sensors, today's models will canvass floors, get into corners and can be au-

tomatically set to start at a pre-programmed time. It can move between rooms without assistance, and its "lighthouse virtual wall" feature creates its own boundaries.

In today's marketplace, Roomba now has competition from other robotic vacuums, including the Neato BotVac Robot Vacuum 85 from Neato Robotics. Models start at \$479 with a medium price of \$599. The Roomba's newest model, the 880, is priced at \$700, with older models, like the 760, priced at about \$450. Another competitor, the LG Hom-Bot Square LrV790R, is priced at \$800.

The Roomba 760 earned a 90 percent overall rating from Consumers Report, followed by LG's rating of 79 percent and Neato's 66 percent.

Whatever their differences, they all offer the fun of being a "spectator sport" — advancing, charging and circling around as they pick up dirt from the floor. If you have a cat or dog, you can even have more fun with it, watching your pet try to interact with it.

"I found it was kind of like having an annoying pet at home," said Fortier, with a laugh. Now we know why many robot vacuum cleaner owners actually do name their electronic pet.

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mytown

Meet John Wentworth

- Realtor
- Former hockey player
- 'Retired' horse trainer

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

John Wentworth, 41, is one of the area's top-producing Realtors, with his own team, the John Wentworth Group at REMAX Platinum in Fenton. While he's known for selling waterfront property, his team actually sold one more off-the-water property than waterfront last year. He and his wife, Jennifer, have three children, Christian, 14, Wentworth's son from a previous marriage; Rocco, 4 and Dahlia, 3. They live on Lake Fenton, where they enjoy all kinds of sports as a family.

How long have you been selling real estate? I've always had an interest in real estate, and even flipped houses for a while, but didn't start my career until seven years ago, at the market's worst possible time. I figured that the market had nothing to do with how well I was going to do. There were still houses being bought and sold and it was up to me to do my best and work hard. I learned early on that you have to create business; you can't just sit by and wait for the phone to ring.

What did you do before your real estate career? I had played hockey in high school and got scholarships to play at the college level. But when I was a senior at Grand Blanc High School, I went to Sports Creek Raceway in Swartz Creek and decided right then that I wanted to train horses instead of go to college. I ended up driving and training standardbred horses in Ottawa, Canada, living there for eight months of the year and coming home for four months. I ended up being one of the leading drivers/trainers in North America. After awhile, it became more difficult to be gone from my family so I came back to Michigan and started in real estate. I spent a couple of years flat broke, there's no doubt about it.

Do you ever look back and wish you were working with horses again or playing hockey? No, because I'm an all-or-nothing person. Whatever I'm doing at the time gets 110 percent of my attention. That's why I've usually been successful at what I do. Nobody works harder than I do, when I put my mind to it. I'm definitely driven. Now I'm all out for real estate, and expect I will be for quite awhile. I've got to mention my team, too. I've got two administrators, one marketing



and design professional and six buyers' agents. I handle all the selling, negotiating and marketing of properties. I have no idea how many hours a week I work, but it's a lot.

Do people perceive you a certain way because of your success in the real estate field? I can't speak for how others look at me. I have to do certain things, like dress professionally and market myself, because I have a job to do. I'm not an arrogant person, but putting my face on a billboard is one of the things I have to do to market myself and my team. Real estate is a job like any other — it has its ups and downs, its fun times and its sad times. But ultimately, it's just a job. There's no one deal that will make or break it for me.

What event in your life has really meant something special to you? Getting involved with church, and being baptized in April last year with my son, Christian. I was invited to attend the St. John's Men's Retreat last year and that's how I got started going to church. That hadn't been a part of my life until now, and it means a lot to me.

Do you find any time for fun in your busy schedule? For me, fun is just getting home and being with my family. I'm fortunate to be able to schedule my work around our kids' schedules, I don't have to miss any activities. Jennifer and I also get away a couple of times a year, especially when business slows down in December and January.

How did you and Jennifer meet? Believe it or not, match.com. We were engaged in six months and married within a year. Jennifer is great; I couldn't do what I do without her.

Anything else about yourself? I plan to write a book. It will be about my life and struggles and how I overcame them.

"I learned early on that you have to create business; you can't just sit by and wait for the phone to ring."

John Wentworth
REMAX Platinum

TRI-COUNTY TIMES

SUBMITTED PHOTO

John Wentworth counts family time as his most enjoyable leisure time. Here he pauses at a Red Wings game with sons Christian and Rocco, and daughter Dahlia.



ASK THE MECHANIC

Chris Wilkinson,
Certified Mechanic

Q: My wiper blades keep stopping in the middle of the windshield while they are turned on. In order to get them down or to continue moving back and forth I have to shut them off and then turn them on again. What would be causing this? Also, I have a 2003 Grand Am GT and the clicking of the signal light keeps going off even when the signal lights aren't on. Please help! -Christine

A: Christine, The wiper problem you are experiencing is most likely the cause of a bad wiper motor, but it could also be in the control circuit. You may want to have this checked at a repair shop, since the motor can be expensive and difficult to replace. As for the Grand Am, this one is a common failure and is usually the turn signal/ hazard multifunction switch. They short out internally and cause this problem quite often.

Do you have a question that you would like to have answered?
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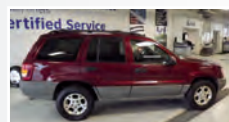
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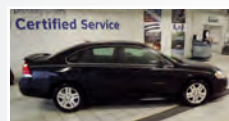
2004 Chevrolet Silverado
173979A.....\$7,900



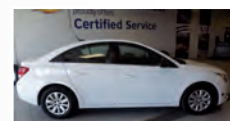
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173992.....\$28,900



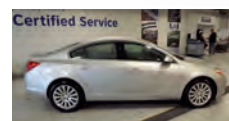
2012 Chrysler 200 Limited
173989.....\$16,200



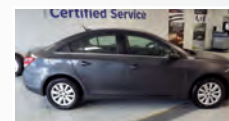
2011 Chevrolet Impala LT
8293870A.....\$11,200



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173985.....\$13,200



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