Prime real estate, no visionaries

Unoccupied building continues to decay while rest of downtown booms

By William Axford

Fenton is seeing substantial growth downtown with new restaurants and the construction of the Cornerstone building. But there’s one prime piece of real estate that remains stagnant while other surrounding businesses move onward and upward.

The front building located at 112 West Silver Lake Rd., connected to Fenton Collision, remains unoccupied, awaiting a visionary to take it over.

See REAL ESTATE on 22A

Unoccupied building continues to decay while rest of downtown booms

The building located at 112 West Silver Lake Rd., in front of Fenton Collision, continues to be unused. Realtor John Luke said while some inquiries have been made on it, no serious purchasers have yet appeared.

Infant’s death remains under investigation

Identity of baby mauled to death by family dog not released

By Sharon Stone

While a Springfield Township family grieves the death of their 2½-month-old baby, the Oakland County Sheriff’s Office continues to investigate the fatal incident.

Just before noon on Sunday, June 8, see BABY on 14A

MODERN DAY DAD

He’s no longer just the breadwinner

By Tim Jagielo

The American Psychological Association (APA) suggests that a father’s love on a child’s development carries the same weight as the mother’s. The APA also suggests that

See DAD on 20A

U.S. Senior Open qualifier at Spring Meadows

Golfers aged 50 and older competed in a U.S. Senior Open qualifier held at Spring Meadows Country Club on Friday. The top two golfers earned a qualifying spot into the U.S. Senior Open being held later this summer. Local golfers in the event were Denis Husse, Lou Iordanou, Jack Seltszer and Michael Murray (at right).

See Page 16A
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Meat 101:

Use best cuts for best results in your kitchen and on the grill

By Sally Rummel
news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

If you’ve been getting sticker-shock at the meat counter lately, it’s not just your imagination. Meat prices have risen steadily over the last two years, hitting a new record average high for a pound of beef this year at $5.50, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. That means today’s hamburger costs almost as much as yesterday’s steak.

So what’s a cook to do? You may have to get a little creative, but you can turn some less expensive cuts of meat into meals your family will love. All you have to do is become more

See MEAT on 8A

Average price per pound

- Chuck cuts $5.99-$6.99
- Beef brisket/flank $7-$8
- Beef plate $4.50-$7.80
- Beef shank $4
- Beef short loin $12-$13
- Sirloin $6
- Beef rib $12-$18
- Beef tenderloin $12-$18
- Chicken $2.99-$3.99
- Pork $3.59

Bernie Thick, VG’s on Silver Parkway meat specialist, trims Delmonico steaks Wednesday morning. Excess meat is used for ground beef.

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

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An important message for all fathers

Dad, we need you. Your family needs you. Your sons and daughters need you. Sociology says that good fathers have been the nucleus of strong families and the force behind happy, adjusted children since the beginning of time.

Today is Father’s Day.

Today is the day we honor all dads, but especially those who still teach their sons to open doors for women and who demand respect for and from their daughters, who stand on principle in the face of adversity, and who are models of courage, conviction and character for their families.

I was one of the lucky ones. The lessons my father taught me have been a rock in my life for over half a century. He may be gone, but his principles are still with me and my brother.

These days not everyone is so fortunate. Two-thirds of young adults from fatherless homes – five times the average. Over 90 percent of all homeless and runaway children are from fatherless homes – 32 times the average.

Over 84 percent of all children who show behavior disorders come from fatherless homes – 20 times the average. Four out of five rapists come from fatherless homes – 14 times the average. More than 71 percent of all high school dropouts come from fatherless homes – 9 times the average.

An appalling 39 percent of jailed inmates come from single-parent – nearly all mom – homes. This doesn’t mean they’re bad, it just means they’re not dads. Even more compelling is the fact that abandoning your children is learned behavior that will very likely be repeated by the next generation – and so on, and so on.

How did this happen? How did we go from the strongest fathers in history – the “Greatest Generation” fathers – to the weakest fathers in history in one or two generations? It’s simple. The foundation for nearly all the characteristics of a child are imbedded at an early age by the environment of the home. The vast majority of fatherless households become breeding grounds for drug use, pregnancy, gang activity, dropouts and crime because – despite what Hollywood, TV and society tell us – moms make lousy dads.

The combination of unwed births, rampant divorce, and “liberated” women has resulted in an explosion of single parent – nearly all mom – households. Meanwhile, our culture incentivizes single motherhood by rewarding it with monthly welfare checks, rent and food subsidies. Replacing dad with a government check has resulted in an ever-growing population of cradle-to-the-grave taxpayer-sponsored households spanning the next generations.

Being a good father is tough – a lot is riding on your shoulders. Little eyes are always watching. And there’s no shortcuts. Good fathers are the result of good fathering.

Sons of good fathers become good fathers. Daughters of good fathers marry good husbands. Being a good dad is the ultimate legacy to pass on to your children.

Happy Father’s Day.

\*

Owen offered advice in If I Were King on the author’s doing and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Tri-County Times or its staff. The column originally published in 2009. Email the King at king@tctimes.com. Some content adapted from the internet.

\*

**THE UNITED STATES** will be world leaders if all of our children go to school and just learn the basics. Think about that statement.

**FOR HELP WITH Canada Geese on Lake Fenton, please read the announcement headed ‘Geese Problems Wanted’ in the recent Lake Fenton Property Owners Association newsletter.**

**DISAPPOINTED THAT FENTON council chose to surrender the rights of those who have Christian values by passing an ordinance to provide protection for individuals who choose to ignore the law.**

**FORCING people who have values to cater to those who thumb their noses at God’s laws is discrimination on them. This needs to go to a vote before Fenton voters. Recall the council, except Mr. Blund.**

**THE MOSQUITO PESTICIDE spraying truck was out for the second time this year last night in Fenton. This morning, I have found two big, fuzzy bees dying in my yard. I’m no expert on bees or pesticides, but could the two be connected?**

**I WORK WITH the public and see all walks of life. Most people I deal with must talk to a bit. It makes me happy that only a few are right-wing lunatics. Most people in Fenton are normal.**

**LET’S MOVE ON and then complain about the wildlife that is trying to live in their natural environment.**

**REALITY? The self-entitlement in this world is out of control.**

**I ALWAYS thought Fenton was immune to hate crimes. Not so. I know a gay friend who was called a name because he and another man were holding hands. Bigots have no place here. If you don’t like it, move down South.**

**VIOLENT CRIME in America is at the same level now as the early 70s. The data comes from the FBI. One reason is the rise in nonconcealed pistol license holders. Why does Obama ignore the FBI data? I’m ashamed to have Obama as President.**

**WE SENT FIVE terrorists back to fight for the simple reason that it was politically advantageous for Obama to get Berg- hazi off the front pages. The man has no agenda except socialism.**

**IN A FEW years, we will all be learning Arabic in grade school as a second language if the insane left stays in power. Sounds funny now, but 10 years ago having a black, Muslim, foreigner in the White House sounded funny also.**

**WHY WOULD ANY tool think that Charter Cable has anyone’s interest at heart other than their own? They are a business, not a philanthropic organization.**

**THE WORDS NOT the intention of ‘separa- tion of church and state’ are not, and have never been, in the First Amendment to our Constitution. Sadly, when a lie is told, the people believe it.**

**I’M IN FINANCE, most people won’t have any idea of the financial devastation coming down on them from the ACA until they become part of the office. Most of us, such as inheritance taxes going from zero to 55 percent, goes into effect in 2016.**

**SEPARATION OF CHURCH and state — go to www.walkbuilders.com. It has a booklet, which documents what our founders meant. Everyone seems to have their rendition of what they think or what they’ve heard. The booklet makes it easy.**

**YOU ARE ENTITLED to collect SSI if you live long enough, have specific disabilities, or are a minor child whose parent dies. It is not a savings account you ‘pay into.’ Current workers fund payouts for the current aged, orphaned or disabled. When you collect, the workers will fund you.**

**THANKS TO THE ‘open-carry’ groups across America, gun owners are helping the gun control movement do what it hasn’t been able to do for the past 40 years: get open-carry banned. You’re showing potential criminals you’re an easy mark and that not all ‘law-abiding’ gun owners should own guns.**

**AFTER HEARING TODAY that the Republicans voted down a bill that would have allowed student loans to be refinanced for 3.86 percent, I say go Hillary in 2016. The Republicans have lost all touch with reality.**

**UM, EXCUSE ME. If SS isn’t funded by the person that is receiving it, then why are the amounts paid out based on the amounts paid in by the individual?**

**FENTON DRIVERS ARE so considerate. Someone always lets me into traffic with a wave and a smile. Great town.**

**TO THE PERSON who said that medical marijuana is a joke; do you still feel that way about cancer patients and their use? It has been proven to aid them with their appetite (chemo diminishes it) and helps with their outlook on the possibility of death.**

**What’s the most important thing your dad taught you?**

**‘My dad taught me what it is to be a good person through example. He was such a great person.’ — Jackie Lemon Argentine Township**

**‘Honesty, because it needs to be at the heart of everything you do, both personally and in business.’ — Marian Smith, Fenton**

**‘To work for whatever you want. Nothing is free and learning this at a young age makes you responsible.’ — Pat Sylvestre, Holly**

**‘Be a hard worker and be a better person than he was. Seeing him made me want to be more compassionate.’ — Jeanine Zilliox, Durand**

**‘Humility. It is a qual- ity most people respect and it keeps you in your place.’ — Jim Bollera Linden**

**‘If you’re going to be a liar you better have a good memory, I didn’t understand it when I was young, but I got it as I grew up.’ — Bob Reden, Argentine Twp.**

What a kick!
Art in downtown Linden?

City manager looking to gather local artists, create murals around town

By William Axford

Linden—City hall may become much prettier when Mills Days kicks off. City Manager Paul Zelenak made a proposal to city council on Monday that would allow artists to paint a mural on the side of city hall.

Currently, the only artwork in the downtown district is a mural on the side of Thimbleberry Antiques. Zelenak is hoping that once people see a new mural going up, other local artists will be inspired to help beautify the city.

“It is my feeling that we need to bring more art and culture to the city of Linden,” Zelenak said. “I think we should create a local Linden mural project whereby local artists are engaged and create unique murals in town. By doing something like this in our community, it will hopefully draw more attention to the area.”

The proposed mural is comprised of many elements seen around Linden, including the millpond, piano keys, trees and the mill building. The painting might be slightly tweaked prior to being painted onto the side of city hall. The transformation of buggies into cars and nature is also a part of the mural.

While murals that are not signs do not need approval from city council, murals in the historic district do have to be approved by the Historic District Commission, primarily the color. A plaque highlighting the artists and the meaning to each mural is also in the works.

Murals that do not turn out as expected or become an eyesore can be painted over, according to Zelenak.

City council agreed that art could attract more people downtown and would give people something to talk about.

Safety and updating murals once they became old were some concerns, yet the council voted unanimously to move forward with city art.

“With multiple murals, we can create a walking map to highlight the artists, the work and the meaning behind the mural,” Zelenak said.
Fenton Township firefighter retires after 36 years

By William Axford

A 36-year veteran of the Fenton Township Fire Department has retired from serving the community, Phil Smith, who joined the department in 1978, is hanging up his firefighter’s hat and spending the rest of his days playing Bridge and helping out with his Masonic fraternity.

“There’s some self-satisfaction in helping out and getting the job done,” Smith said. “There was also the camaraderie with the fire department.” Battling fires during blistering cold winters are some of the memories that stand out to Smith during his nearly four-decade-long service. Smith once helped the state arson investigator prove a fire was started intentionally, although the two were unable to tie it to anyone.

“He made it as high as a sergeant and was a training captain,” said Fenton Township Fire Chief Ryan Volz. “He’s an easy going guy and always wanted to help out. That’s why he stayed with the fire department so long.”

Outside of the Fenton Township Fire Department, Smith worked for General Motors as a computer programmer for emission testing. Smith will remain in Fenton Township, where he’s lived since 1978.
The deadliest 100 days for teen drivers is now

Crashes, deaths increase between Memorial Day and Labor Day

By William Axford

Teens behind the wheel had better look both ways before crossing the street this summer. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reports that nearly 1,000 people died in vehicle crashes involving teenagers between Memorial Day and Labor Day in 2012, with more than half the deaths being that of teen drivers. The mix of no school, inexperience and increased traffic during the summer leads to increased car-related deaths.

Technology, impaired driving and even passengers are other distractions attributed to the high rate of death in teen age drivers. Fenton Police Chief Rick Aro said that while many young drivers in the Fenton area are good at wearing their seatbelts, minimizing other dangers on the road should be a top priority.

“Diverting your attention from the road for several seconds to type a text can be disastrous. Do the right thing and pull over or wait until later to return the message,” Aro said. “Car crashes are a leading cause of death for teens and about a quarter involve an underage drinking driver. Simply stated, do not drink and drive.”

According to the NHTSA, more than 10,000 people died in alcohol-related crashes in 2012, amounting to one person every 51 minutes. Alcohol-related crashes are estimated to cost drivers $37 billion annually.

Passengers are one of the biggest distractions for teens as the Center for the Study of Young Drivers reports that teen drivers are 15 percent more likely to engage in risky behavior when driving with two or more other teenage peers. Phones, music players and other electronic devices are other huge factors in teen driver deaths, with more than 15 percent likely to use some sort of device while driving.

So what can teenagers do to increase safety while driving? The National Safety Council recommends parents spend at least 50 hours teaching their kids how to drive. Skills like scanning the road for potential hazards should be emphasized over other skills such as parallel parking. Abstaining from texting while driving and reducing the number of passengers, especially in newer drivers, are other factors that can help reduce the possibility of an accident.

“Inexperience plays a part in many of the crashes we see involving young drivers,” Aro said. “Parents can prevent their young driver from driving in unfamiliar surroundings, poor weather conditions and limiting drivings to less busy hours of the day.”

Penalties for teens and any other driver caught in risky behaviors or impaired behind the wheel can be harsh. Motorists caught texting while driving are fined $100 for a first infraction and $200 for each following infraction.

Driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol can lead to a charge of Operating While Intoxicated (OWI) or Driving Under the Influence (DUI), both of which can lead to thousands of dollars in court fees, loss in drivers license and mandatory alcohol and drug testing.

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for teenagers in the U.S. In 2010, approximately 2,700 teens in the U.S. aged 16-19 were killed, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This time of year is the most dangerous for teen drivers.

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MEAT

Continued from Page 3A

knowledgeable about different cuts available at the meat counter, and how to cook them for optimum flavor and tenderness. Here are some popular cuts that won’t break the bank:

• Round cuts are very, very lean and provide a very mild flavor profile. In general, cuts labeled “round” (such as top round) are more tender and flavorful than cuts with the word “bottom.” Eye of round falls somewhere in the middle. They are best sliced very thin. Deli roast often comes from this cut. Beef round is best prepared using moist heat, and is a good choice for pot roast. Cube steak is another beef round product.

Average price per pound: $3.99

• Chuck cuts from the shoulder are very flavorful, and require slow cooking to break down their plentiful connective tissue. Chuck eye steak, English roast, chuck eye roast and chuck roast are a few meats in this category. They are a good choice for braised meats like beef stew or pot roast. “Low and slow is the best way to cook these meats,” said Mark Russell, meat manager at VG’s meat counter. “Many people use a chuck roast for barbecued beef.”

Average price per pound: $5.99-$6.99

• Beef brisket plate or flank cuts are more flavorful, yet still tough, and best slow cooked or thinly sliced. These are the cuts from which pastrami, corned beef and London broil are made.

Average price per pound: $7.88

• Beef plate includes the short ribs and skirt steak, excellent for braising. Skirt steak is often used for Mexican dishes such as carne asada.

Average price per pound: $4.50-$7.80

Best economical meats for grilling

Sirloin — rub it down with salt, throw on very hot coals for 10 minutes total.

Flat iron steak — looks like flank steak but doesn’t require marinating. “It’s naturally tender and almost indestructible,” said Russell. London broil — requires a marinade, grill seven minutes a side, let it rest, then cut across the grain.

Ground beef — Russell likes using ground chuck on the grill. “It’s got the perfect amount of fat to make a nice, juicy burger,” he said. “It’s middle of the road in price.”

Poultry — thighs are cheaper and tastier than chicken breasts, which easily dry out. To keep breasts moist and add flavor, use teriyaki or other marinade.

• Beef shank is the leg, and is extremely tough and full of connective tissue. Beef shank is used in making the Italian dish, osso bucco.

Average price per pound: $4

• Beef short loin is where many of the most desirable cuts of meat are, including T-bones and porterhouse steaks, as well as the strip loin and strip steaks. Dry-heat cooking is best for these cuts, making them prime candidates for grilling.

Average price per pound: $12-$13

• Beef sirloin is another tender cut, an excellent choice for roasting or barbecuing. When you have a hankering for a steak, reach for sirloin at about $6 per pound, rather than New York strip, Delmonico or rib eye, which are pricier at $12 to $13 per pound, suggests Russell.

It has less fat, which can make it dry if overcooked, but just watch it closely, or turn it into kebabs. Just cut into 1- to 1½-inch cubes and thread onto a skewer with your favorite vegetables — that will also save you some money.

Average price per pound: $6

• Beef tenderloin, the finest cut of beef, is found inside the loin and is where filet mignon comes from. It should only be cooked using dry heat from grilling or broiling.

Average cost per pound: $12-$18

• Beef rib, made from the center section of rib, is used for the traditional standing rib roast (or prime rib). It’s also the source of the popular, pricey rib eye steak.

Average cost per pound: $12-$13

• Ground beef can be ground from many different cuts of meat, including round sirloin ($5.99 to $6.99 per pound) and chuck ($8 to $9 per pound), which will be reflected in its price.

Ground beef may not contain any added fat, up to a maximum of 30 percent total fat. The definition for hamburger is the same as for ground beef, except that added fat may be used, still adding up to no more than 30 percent total, however.

The difference in the two products is that ground beef’s fat content is predetermined by the particular cuts of beef used, and hamburger can be made up of any cut of beef, including low-fat, tougher cuts and scraps added to bring the fat content up to the desired no more than 30 percent level.

Average price per pound: $3.50

• Chicken is also a budget cook’s best friend. While chicken prices have risen, prices aren’t as steep as beef prices. For the most economical budget, use chicken thighs/legs instead of chicken breasts or better yet, roast a whole chicken.

Average price per pound: $2.99-$3.99

• Pork products like tenderloin and shoulder cuts are also economical and can be braised or grilled.

Average price per pound: $3.59

Consider these different cooking methods

SLOW COOKERS

When using less expensive cuts of meat, consider your cooking method, as well as the cost of the meat. While you might think of using slow cookers mostly in the winter for soups and stews, it’s also a handy gadget on hot summer days. “A crock pot won’t heat up your house like the oven does,” said Russell. He suggests using a crock pot for summer favorites like pulled pork, using an inexpensive pork shoulder.

However, don’t use a slower cooker to cook meats like tenderloin, sirloin or chops that don’t contain much connective tissue.

MARINATING

Marinades are used primarily to add flavor to a food and/or produce a tenderizing effect. It’s a liquid in which meat is soaked, and the liquid is seasoned with herbs, spices and other seasonings. A marinade usually contains oil and some form of acid to provide tenderization. Marinating is best suited for tougher steaks, lamb, flank, skirt, sirloin, round and hanger.

GRAISING

Brasing is a type of moist-heat cooking that breaks down connective tissue in tough cuts of meat, leaving them tender and flavorful. Best cuts of meat for braising are those from the shoulder, leg or rump as well as those that contain a lot of connective tissue, like the chuck, shank, brisket and oxtail.

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HOT LINE CONTINUED

EVEN MORE PEOPLE ARE POINTING fingers at the Democrats, Republicans or Obama. The fingers should be pointing to us, as a society and a country. There is a reason why there was a rebellion in the past; for the betterment of the country.

OK, ONE LAST time. The words “Separation of Church and State” do NOT appear in the Constitution, including the First Amendment. You will NOT find it there.

POLICE

Continued from Page 3A

a warrant for their arrest for various reasons. Major Paul Stephens is not or has not been employed by the Livingston County Sheriff’s Office does not have any affiliation with a Major Paul Stephens. Paul Stephens is not or has not been employed by the Livingston County Sheriff’s Office. The sheriff reminds the public not to give any money or personal information to anyone without confirming their identity.

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At 3:44 p.m., on Wednesday, June 11, the Fenton Township Fire Department, Linden Police and the Genesee County Sheriff’s Department responded to a rollover crash involving one vehicle on northbound U.S. 23, just south of Thompson Road in Fenton Township. Two occupants of the overturned car were transported to Genesys Health Park in Grand Blanc Township with minor injuries. According to Fenton Township Fire Chief Ryan Volz, the driver said the car hydroplaned on the wet road surface, which caused him to lose control.

Senate Bill 6: Earmark some sales tax revenue for roads. To revise and make permanent a one-time earmark to road spending of a specified percentage of sales tax revenue collected from sales taxes.

For the next fiscal year this would mean around $128 million more for road projects. Introduced by Sen. John Proos (R).

Passed 37 to 0 in the Senate
Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Genesee County) ☑️ YES ☑️ NO
Sen. Dave Robertson (R-Genesee County) ☑️ YES ☑️ NO

House Bill 5400: Reduce certain low-hazard waste restrictions. To reduce restrictions on using certain low-hazard industrial byproducts that potentially have a beneficial use, including as fertilizer, road construction material, construction fill or other uses. The bill would also expand the definition of “inert material” in the state environmental protection law to include a number of specified materials, which would not be subject to restrictions depending on how they are used. Introduced by Rep. Wayne Schmidt (R).

Passed 25 to 11 in the Senate
Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Genesee County) DID NOT VOTE. No Michigan Democrats voted in favor
Sen. Dave Robertson (R-Genesee County) ☑️ YES ☑️ NO

House Bill 5385: Expand driving provisions to include illegal drugs. To expand the law that requires a person stopped for drunk driving to take a breathalyzer or field sobriety test so that it also applies to suspected driving while drugged. The bill would not authorize the use of a roadside saliva test, which is considered unproven. Introduced by Rep. Dan Lawers (R).

Passed 101 to 8 in the House
Rep. Joe Graves (R-Argentine Township) ☑️ YES ☑️ NO

House Bill 5168: Facilitate DATA operating Woodward streetcar. To authorize the Detroit Area Regional Transportation Authority to operate a potential Woodward Avenue streetcar in Detroit. The bill would exempt this project from a provision requiring unanimous action by the DARTA board for any form of rail passenger service, and specify that Detroit and Wayne County would be responsible for covering the line’s operating deficits (and not other communities in the RTA). Introduced by Rep. John Walsh (R).

Passed 82 to 26 in the House
Rep. Joe Graves (R-Argentine Township) ☑️ YES ☑️ NO

House Bill 4486: Authorize involuntary treatment for substance abuse. To allow relatives or a health care professional to petition a court to take an individual abusing drugs or alcohol into involuntary treatment, and grant the court the power to place the individual on probation, or to send the person to an in-patient treatment facility for up to 90 days. Introduced by Rep. John Walsh (R).

Passed 38 to 0 in the Senate
Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Genesee County) ☑️ YES ☑️ NO
Sen. Dave Robertson (R-Genesee County) ☑️ YES ☑️ NO

House Bill 4738: Repeal interior designer registration. To repeal a law that establishes a government interior designer registry and makes it available to all local government agencies. To be included on the registry a designer must have passed a test created by a national organization of incumbent interior designers (which has sought repeatedly in previous legislatures to impose a full licensure and regulatory regime on interior designers). Introduced by Rep. Andrea LaFountain (R).

Passed 29 to 9 in the Senate
Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Genesee County) ☑️ YES ☑️ NO
Sen. Dave Robertson (R-Genesee County) ☑️ YES ☑️ NO

House Bill 4964: Authorize automatic government employee 401(k) enrollments. To allow the state, schools and local governments to automatically enroll eligible employees in 401(k) retirement accounts, with a percentage of the individual’s pay deposited in the account. An employee could choose to opt-out of deductions and deposits. Introduced by Rep. John Walsh (R).

Passed 22 to 14 in the Senate
Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Genesee County) ☑️ YES ☑️ NO
Sen. Dave Robertson (R-Genesee County) ☑️ YES ☑️ NO

House Bill 4378: Expire governmental employee 401(k) enrollments. To repeal a law that established a government retirement savings program for federal employees and make it available to all local government employees. To be included on the registry a designer must have passed a test created by a national organization of incumbent interior designers (which has sought repeatedly in previous legislatures to impose a full licensure and regulatory regime on interior designers). Introduced by Rep. Andrea LaFountain (R).

Passed 29 to 9 in the Senate
Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Genesee County) ☑️ YES ☑️ NO
Sen. Dave Robertson (R-Genesee County) ☑️ YES ☑️ NO

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Passed 38 to 0 in the Senate
Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Genesee County) ☑️ YES ☑️ NO
Sen. Dave Robertson (R-Genesee County) ☑️ YES ☑️ NO

See VOTES on 20A
A father’s greatest goal

Knock on our front door and you’ll find yourself staring at a plaque containing the following quote of Joshua (of wall-falling fame): “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord,” a goal for any father at any time, but an especially on Father’s Day.

Who was this committed father whose words expressing his family goal remain familiar to millions after all these years?

Joshua lived an exciting and sometimes dangerous life. He had worked as a spy, served as top assistant to Moses, became the leader of his nation after the death of Moses, was a successful military leader and a possessor of faith that even the walls of mighty Jericho fell before him. But his greatest goal in life was the acceptance of his faith by his family.

We don’t know Joshua’s descendents. His life spanned 110 years, so it’s likely his conviction that his entire family would serve the Lord encompassed a large number of people. Does this mean that Joshua’s entire family immediately embraced his faith, never rebelled and always walked with God? Probably not!

Family commitment was his goal and he expected his prayer to ultimately be answered, so he declared his confidence it would happen in concise terms that have endured the test of time.

Joshua’s powerful position may have been an obstacle to members of his family following his advice or desiring his reputation as a man who walked with God. Barriers to his direction by his children may have seemed higher and more difficult to scale than the walls of Jericho, but those solid walls had been broken down by faith, so why not these emotional ones?

Some of Joshua’s family may have been wayward as year 110 approached and this determined conqueror on his deathbed may have said through gritted teeth: “We will serve the Lord,” even if it meant some would come to faith and be involved in the service of God after he was gone.

Mothers have gained the respect of the world for their powerful praying. Most can name mothers whose prayers have made a difference: Susannah Wesley, the mother of John and Charles Wesley; the mother of John Newton, whose son went from being a slave trader to a minister of the gospel and wrote ‘Amazing Grace,’ and others.

But fathers pray, too. And we ought to honor them for their faith and faithfulness.

Jesus told His hearers about the prodigal son whose journey to the far country moved his father to pray for and expect his return.

This would be a good day to tell your father how much you appreciate him. And, if you’re a prodigal, it’s time to answer your father’s prayers by respecting his faith and heading home.

Roger Campbell is an author, a broadcaster and columnist who was a pastor for 22 years. He can be reached at reministry@ameritech.net.
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Silver Lake Ski Club show dates
The Silver Lake Ski Club performs ski shows at Silver Lake Park on Silver Lake in Fenton every Tuesday, from June 3 to Aug. 12. Shows run from 6 to 8 p.m. Bring your lawn-chairs, a picnic and your camera and witness a tournament-style ski show featuring youngsters from 4 years old to big kids over 50 years old. Guests will see pyramids, bare-footing, ski-jumping, and many other disciplines including their beautiful women’s bullet line. Silver Lake Park is located at 16100 Jennings Road off Silver Parkway. Show dates are June 17, June 24, July 1, July 8, July 15, July 22, July 29, August 5, and August 12.
Costs — Season passes: Resident - $20, non-resident - $30 and walker/biker $5. Daily passes: Car - $5, walker - $1, bus - $30 and motor home/van - $10 + .50 per passenger over 10 passengers.

Red Cross seeks nominations for ‘Everyday Heroes’
Nominations are being accepted for the Livingston County Chapter of the American Red Cross’ “Everyday Heroes” program. Nominations are being accepted from the community for recognition of Livingston County residents who either saved or greatly impacted a life or lives. Award nomination forms must be completed in full and returned to the Red Cross office by June 23. From helping a neighbor to saving a stranger, they want to hear your story and celebrate those stories of everyday heroism that make Livingston County such a special place. The categories are Adult Good Samaritan Hero, Youth/Child Good Samaritan Hero, Workplace Heroes, First Responder Heroes, Blood Services Heroes, Animal Heroes, Clinton Hu- manitarian Award, and the Mabel Boardman Spirit Award. For details, call the local American Red Cross at (517) 546-0326. The 2014 Heroes will be recognized at the Everyday Heroes Celebration on Sept. 25.

Holly DDA reviews finances
The regularly scheduled monthly meeting for the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) in Holly was held at Council Chambers this week. The DDA reviewed finances for the month of May and it showed a balance of $42,671 at the end of the month. The Board also discussed new business pertaining to the Developmental Plan. During the public comments portion of the meeting, the Board received complaints about speed enforcement. A closed-door session was held to review DDA Executive Director Andrew Potter’s six-month evaluation, which is due in July. The next meeting will be held on Monday, July 14 at 6 p.m.

Cadet Academy for young adults
The Livingston County Sheriff’s Department is hosting its Cadet Academy August 25-29. The Academy is for young adults ages 14-21 who have a strong interest in law enforcement. Cadets will experience the responsibilities and functions of law enforcement first hand. Cadets will learn how to process a crime scene, prepare a case for a mock trial, go through a firearms simulator and experience a SWAT team demonstration. There is also a presentation from Police K-9 officers, DEA, Livingston County Dive Team, Medical Examiner Investigator, 911 operations and the Michigan State Police. Uniforms and lunch are provided. Upon completion, Cadets will join the Cadets Post, which meets on a regular basis throughout the year. The Cadet Post competes in paint ball competitions and an annual competition in which the Cadets put their training and skills up against other Posts from around the state. Cadets are also eligible for scholarships through the Department. For details, contact Dep. Brad Neff at (517) 540-7894, email him at bneff@livgov.com or go to www.livgov.com/sheriff/Pages/Cadet.aspx.
Maximize the cool during summer’s heat

Use your air conditioning most efficiently and adjust your lifestyle for a cooler house

By Sally Rummel news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

We all know that sweaty, drippy 90-degree, 100-percent humidity feeling. While we haven’t had that hot, sticky kind of weather yet, we know it’s coming this summer, and it pays to be prepared.

Even if you have air conditioning at home like almost 90 percent of Americans, there are still ways to “maximize the cool” during the hottest days of summer.

“Leave your air conditioning unit’s fan in the ‘on’ position all the time,” advised Mike Fields, service technician at Dave Lamb Heating & Cooling in Fenton. “Also, maintain a constant temperature in your home, especially if it’s humid outdoors. Don’t turn off the air when you leave your house, then turn it on when you get home, and expect it to be cool right away.”

When running your air conditioner, set your thermostat as high as comfortably possible in the summer — try it at 78 degrees or higher. Each degree setting below 78 degrees will increase energy consumption by about 8 percent. The less difference between the indoor and outdoor temperatures, the less your overall cooling bill will be.

Fields also suggests that you “size” your air conditioner based on the size of your home. Some people buy an air conditioner that’s too large, thinking it will provide better cooling. However, an oversized air conditioner is actually less effective and an energy waster.

“For every 600 square feet of house, you need a ton of air conditioning,” he said. In BTUs per hour, an area that is 1,400 to 1,500 square feet needs 24,000 BTUs. “Have your house properly sized for air conditioning. There are so many variables, such as the age of your house, how large your ducts are, etc.”

All homeowners with air conditioning also need to be aware of the phasing out of the ozone-depleting refrigerant R22 in 2015, a staple in most systems.

“Customers need to check their units now, because R22 and its replacement 410A are not compatible,” said Fields. He suggests that homeowners check with a heating and cooling professional to see how this environmental change will affect their system.

It’s also very important that you change the filters in your air conditioner for maximum efficiency.

Mike Fields Service technician for Dave Lamb Heating & Cooling

Other ways to “stay cool” at home this summer

• Install programmable thermostat to automatically reduce the temperatures during low-occupancy hours.
• Use a ceiling fan to create air movement in a room. That will make it feel four degrees or more cooler. Only run the fan when you’re in the room — it doesn’t actually make the room cooler; it just feels cooler with a breeze.
• Set your ceiling fan for summer. Make sure the blades are turning the right way for summertime operation — with the high edge of the tilted blade going forward first, to force air downward.
• Shade your air conditioner by planting trees or shrubs. Be sure not to block the airflow.
• Shade windows with coverings, awnings, trees and bushes. Exterior shading is more effective than interior shading.
• Use bath and kitchen exhaust fans sparingly, especially when the air conditioning is operating. You’ll avoid pulling warm, moist air into your home.
• Avoid creating heat. Delay heat-generating activities like cooking and dishwashing until cooler evenings.
• Seal off unused areas, such as storage areas, an unused upstairs, etc.
• Repaint your home’s exterior with light colors, especially for the roof. Light colors reflect the sun away from the building.
• Use a whole-house fan, which pulls cool air through the house and exhausting warm air through the attic. They are most effective when operated at night and when the outside air is cooler than the inside. You must keep most windows open when using a whole house fan, to allow adequate ventilation and prevent backdrafts of furnaces and flames from gas appliances.
• Use fans with your window air conditioning unit to spread cooled air more effectively through the room.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Energy
Tri-county golfers trying to live a dream

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

Spring Meadows hosts U.S. Senior Open qualifier

Fenton resident Michael Murray watches his ball go left while competing at the U.S. Senior Open Qualifier held at Spring Meadows on Friday.

Fenton varsity volleyball coach (center) Linda Rusaw recently resigned her position so she could pursue other interests. Rusaw won 788 matches during her Fenton coaching career.

No more ‘Cheese’ for Fenton volleyball

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

Linda Rusaw has always loved volleyball.

But the game hasn’t always been entirely good to “Cheese,” her nickname stemming from her maiden name of Chesebro.

She was cut from Fenton’s volleyball program her junior year.

“I only played varsity my senior year. I was cut my junior year,” said the long-time Fenton varsity volleyball coach. “I was kind of devastated about that because I had been playing a lot during the summer and felt I was a pretty good player. Then I got cut and thought, ‘Gosh.’ But I continued to play a ton in the summer and the next year made it.”

Rusaw has done pretty well in volleyball since. She flourished in the sport at Michigan Tech, and returned to coach at Fenton during the 1981-82 school year.

Cheese made her impact felt immediately. Coaching both the JV and varsity teams, the varsity squad finished with a 24-7 mark and captured

See CHEESE on 19A
Linden honors its college-bound athletes

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

Linden — For athletes like Zach Bakos and Sydney Elmer, thoughts of competing at the collegiate level after their prep careers were done has been in their minds for as long as they can remember. For others like Rebecca McDonald such thoughts only came during the middle of her senior season, “when I realized I was actually good and not just someone that sat on the bench and cheered.”

But regardless when they figured it out, the number of Linden High School seniors who are heading to the next level to play collegiate athletics is pretty impressive. Nine are expected to play, and six attended a Linden High School Signing Day created to honor the students on Monday.

Elmer, who will run for the University of Michigan and is the class’ only scheduled Division I athlete, pretty much had competing in cross country and track in her mind after her first season of distance running. “I knew probably about the seventh grade. I’ve known for a long time,” Elmer said. “I started running in the sixth grade, but when I got to seventh grade I knew this is what I wanted to do. I loved running, and I ended up fortunate enough that I could advance to the next level with my running.”

Others headed to schools are Dustin Sack to Mott Community College for cross country, Jacob Kloczek to Cleary College for baseball, McDonald to Mott Community College for volleyball, Bakos to Northwood University for soccer, Justin Mckenzie to Indiana Tech for track, and Jeremiah Gossett to Ferris State University for cross country. Others headed to a collegiate career but not at the event were Jeremiah Gossett to Ferris State for cross country, A.J. Brasure for soccer at Cleary College and Collin Hoeberting to Jackson Community College for soccer.

It’s easy to see why Elmer is getting a chance to run at Michigan. She’s a three-time Metro League cross country champion and was first-team all-league and all-region four straight years with the cross country squad. She also was All-State three times. She also was a six-time individual Metro League champion during her career on the track and also earned first-team all-league and all-region honors every year of her career. She also played basketball and was named MVP this winter.

However, as good an athlete Elmer was, she was probably a better student. She was valedictorian of her class.

“For me Michigan ended up being perfect for everything,” Elmer said. “They have awesome academics, are unparalleled business and were fourth in the nation in cross country. How can I beat that? It ended up being the perfect school for me.”

Bakos, a soccer player headed to Northwood University, also has known he wanted to play collegiately for a long time. “I can’t remember one time when I wasn’t thinking about it,” Bakos said.

A four-year varsity performer, he earned All-State honors all four years, once as a first-team selection and another as a second-team pick. He helped lead the Eagles to the regional finals last fall. His club team, the Michigan Wolves, won a national title last summer, and are trying to win another this year. Bakos is ready for the challenge.

“I know there are going to be the big kids, and it’s going to be completely different,” Bakos said. “It will be challenging, but I’m up to the challenge.”

“By playing with the U19 Wolves, going toregions and, hopefully, nationals again. All the other kids are college kids so they’ll put me in the right state of mind and put me where I need to be.”

Kloczek was one of the key players on Linden’s Metro League and district championship baseball team. He’s going to Cleary for baseball, but also had football options.

“ ‘I was looking at Adrian College for football and Cleary for baseball,” Kloczek said. “I picked Cleary because baseball is my passion. I wanted to keep on doing that.”

Kloczek was a member of two straight district title squads and consecutive Greater Flint Tournament championship squads.

McDonald was another strong two-sport athlete with options, and chose to play volleyball over track. In volleyball she was a second-team All-Metro selection this year and the squad’s MVP. She led the team in kills. In track, she was the team’s sprinter MVP and also a state qualifier in the long jump. She plays volleyball with Intensity Live, a travel team that recently won a large tourney at Penn State.

See LINDEN on 19A

Golfers

Continued from Page 16A

“It’s an honor for us. We have a championship golf course. We are 7,000 yards from the back tees. We’ve hosted every championship tournament in the state other than a PGA event. Hosting the qualifier is just a sign we have a championship course,” Zielinski said preparing the course for the event was reasonably routine. The biggest
gest condition was having a course that played at least 6,800 yards.

Seltezer was hopeful about his day. “I’ve shot in the 60s a couple of times in a couple of events over the years at Spring Meadows,” Seltezer said. “I have a good feeling about it, but we’ll find out about it when I tee it up…. It’s one-round qualifier. It’s a matter of catching lightning in a bottle for one day, and if you catch it, great. If I don’t it’s not a problem.”

Fenton resident Denis Husse (front) signs his name, acknowledging he understands the rules of the 18-hole round for the U.S. Senior Open Qualifier held at Spring Meadows Country Club.

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The 2014 World Cup

What you need to know about the planet’s largest and most anticipated sports tournament

Since 1930, there has been an international soccer event called the World Cup. It was created to find what country is the world champion in soccer. It has been played once every four years (with the exception of the years during World War II) much like the Olympics.

Teams from six different regions in the world compete in regional qualifying matches for about three years prior to the World Cup for the right to be one of the 32 teams to compete. There is one exception — the host country automatically qualifies.

Once at the tournament, squads are placed randomly in one of eight pools (four-team leagues) with each team playing each squad in the pool. The top two teams in each pool qualify for the round of 16, and from there single-elimination play continues until a champion is crowned.

There’s a little background on the tourney. With the rest of this page, we’ll discuss a few other subjects.

Six top contenders

These teams have the talent to win the World Cup.

1. Brazil
2. Argentina
3. Germany

Note: Brazil not only has a ton of talent, but they are the host nation in a pool of teams (Croatia, Mexico and Cameroon) who shouldn’t pose a problem for the squad. Led by Lionel Messi, Argentina should be the strongest attacking team in the tournament. Germany’s depth places them on the list as one of the favorites. They are one of the teams the United States must face — good luck. Italy will need Mario Balotelli to show up and keep his head, which can be a challenge. Spain is the defending champions and remain a serious threat. On the next tier, one of my favorite players is Romelu Lukaku and he’s on a talented Belgium squad. They are a team to fear.

1. Who is considered the top player in the world right now?

The United States will face him if he’s healthy. Portugal’s Cristiano Ronaldo (photo) scored 31 goals in 31 games with Real Madrid this season.

2. Who are some of the other top players?

Argentina’s Lionel Messi has taken a step down due to injuries, but he’s a human highlight film when he’s healthy. Watch out for are Brazil’s Neymar and Italy’s Andrea Pirlo. And, of course, Brazil’s Neymar and Italy’s Andrea Pirlo.

3. What are the United States’ chances of advancing past pool play?

It’s going to be tough. The United States are in the so-called group of death with powers Germany and Portugal, both ranked in the top five in the world by FIFA. And who is their other opponent? Why it’s a team that has beaten them in each of their last two games between the squads — Ghana. Place the American’s odds at making beyond pool play at around 25 percent.

4. What is the group of death?

Because teams are randomly selected into pools, it seems every World Cup has a four-team group that is considerably tougher than any other. The United States’ group has been given by many designation this year as one of the world’s best.

5. What is the best the United States has ever done at the World Cup?

They finished third in 1930, but in more recent times they finished eighth in 1990 and ninth in 2002.

Top 6 US players now

Based on American Soccer Now’s website.

1. Michael Bradley
2. Tim Howard
3. Clint Dempsey
4. Geoff Cameron
5. Fabian Johnson
6. Landon Donovan

Note: The United States typically looks like a much better team when Michael Bradley plays in the midfield. He settles the team considerably. It can be argued Tim Howard has lost a notch of his ability, but he remains a world-class keeper. Midfielder/forward Clint Dempsey has been a focused player since the MLS season has begun. He has eight goals in nine games played this year. Geoff Cameron and Fabian Johnson are part of a defense that hasn’t been very good. The United States have a team to fear.

World Cup Pool Play Schedule

Saturday June 14
9 a.m. - Colombia vs. Greece
12 p.m. - Uruguay vs. Costa Rica
3 p.m. - England vs. Italy
6 p.m. - Ivory Coast vs. Japan

Sunday June 15
9 a.m. - Switzerland vs. Ecuador
12 p.m. - France vs. Honduras
3 p.m. - Argentina vs. Bosnia-Herzegovina

Monday June 16
9 a.m. - Germany vs. Portugal
12 p.m. - Iran vs. Nigeria
3 p.m. - Ghana vs. United States

Tuesday June 17
9 a.m. - Belgium vs. Algeria
12 p.m. - Brazil vs. Mexico
3 p.m. - Russia vs. South Korea

Wednesday June 18
9 a.m. - Australia vs. Netherlands
12 p.m. - Spain vs. Chile
3 p.m. - Cameroon vs. Croatia

Thursday June 19
9 a.m. - Colombia vs. Ivory Coast
12 p.m. - Uruguay vs. England
3 p.m. - Japan vs. Greece

Friday June 20
9 a.m. - Italy vs. Costa Rica
12 p.m. - Switzerland vs. France
3 p.m. - Honduras vs. Ecuador

Saturday June 21
9 a.m. - Argentina vs. Iran
12 p.m. - Germany vs. Ghana
3 p.m. - Nigeria vs. Bosnia-Herzegovina

Sunday June 22
9 a.m. - Belgium vs. Russia
12 p.m. - South Korea vs. Algeria
3 p.m. - United States vs. Portugal

Monday June 23
9 a.m. - Netherlands vs. Chile
9 a.m. - Australia vs. Spain
1 p.m. - Croatia vs. Mexico
1 p.m. - Cameroon vs. Brazil

Tuesday June 24
9 a.m. - Italy vs. Uruguay
9 a.m. - Costa Rica vs. England
1 p.m. - Japan vs. Colombia
1 p.m. - Greece vs. Ivory Coast

Wednesday June 25
9 a.m. - Nigeria vs. Argentina
9 a.m. - Bosnia-Herzegovina vs. Iran
1 p.m. - Ecuador vs. France
1 p.m. - Honduras vs. Switzerland

Thursday June 26
9 a.m. - United States vs. Germany
9 a.m. - Portugal vs. Ghana
1 p.m. - South Korea vs. Belgium
1 p.m. - Algeria vs. Russia

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Linden

Continued from Page 17A

“I’m pretty excited. I started thinking about college when we started winning my junior year,” McDonald said. “I was really excited and just wanted to continue playing.”

Mckenzie became one of Linden’s top track and field performers over the last four years, becoming an outstanding pole vaulter. He placed second at the state meet in the pole vault, and is competing at the Midwest Meet of Champions for Team Michigan. He holds the Cranston Field record in the pole vault with a leap of 15-feet-6.

He won the regional title this year with a leap of 16-2.

“I went to Indiana Tech because I was the No. 1 recruit for Indiana Tech,” Mckenzie said. “They gave me the most money and the most of all the freshmen that came to that school. They also have a really good campus.

“My goal is to hit 17-6 (in college). I want to hit 16-6 my freshman year, 17 my sophomore year and 17-6 my junior year. If that happens then maybe I can hit 18 or 18-6 my senior year.” duct Sack has been a mainstay for the Linden cross country team in recent seasons, helping the Eagles to a fourth-place finish at the state meet last fall. The squad placed second at state his junior year.

“It’s close to my house and there’s a lot of other people from my team that go there, like Adrian Taylor and my sister,” Sack said. “I like that. I’m excited about running.”

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DAD
Continued from Front Page

The home leads to less behavioral, or drug abuse problems.

The modern father comes in many forms — stay-at-home, married, and non-residential. In the mid 20th century, dads were less likely to stay home; less likely to be involved in child rearing. But in the past few decades, this has changed. Today, dads are less likely to believe that the man should be the sole breadwinner, especially if the father has a daughter. In that case, the dad may believe men strongly in equality for men and women.

The father is more likely to spend time on direct, physical care of the child.

“Dads are doing more,” said Heather Laube, associate professor of Sociology at the University of Michigan-Flint. She teaches courses on the American family. “They’re also doing a lot more, in particular in child care.”

UM-Flint Associate Professor Kathryn Scheltenberg said her academic knowledge of fathers is minimal — but speaking personally, she benefited greatly from being raised with her step-father in the home. When her single mom married her adoptive father, she said it was the best thing for her.

“He was a father in every praiseworthy sense of the word,” she said.

Dads today spend more time with their kids, as opposed to home maintenance — today, more is expected. “We no longer define a good father as only an economic provider,” said Laube. “He spends time with the kids.”

She said the shift began 40 or 50 years ago, as women entered the workforce in higher numbers, and men would begin picking up the slack.

Another driving force is children who were dissatisfied with their relationship with their own father, and wanted a better relationship with their kids.

To determine how much time is spent with kids in the household, the government completed time plate uses studies from households to ask what people in the home have done in the past 48 hours, and how much time they spend with kids.

Full-time working women still spent nearly double the time than working men — an average of 2.13 hours per day on a variety of activities, over the 1.45 hours a dad that works full-time, according to a 2009 Bureau of Labor Statistics study.

The recession also played a part in bringing men into the home. Some men who lost gainful jobs to the recession may have opted to stay home instead of re-entering the labor market.

Few reports that between 1989 and 2012, fathers who stay at home increased from 1.1 million to 2 million. Of those, 21 percent report leaving the labor force by choice to be caretakers, and stay-at-home dads. At this point, 1 percent of stay-at-home parents to married couples with kids under 15 are men.

Laube said African American, and Latino households are more likely to be headed by a single mom than white households, but there isn’t all that much difference when studying single-father households.

“The thing is — there hasn’t actually been that much change in the percentage of fathers who do primary care,” she said. “Recent data does seem to show that black, white, and Latino dads in similar living situations are involved in about the same ways with their kids... black dads actually a little more so.”

The APA reports that the African American communities exude more pressure on black fathers who aren’t living at home, to provide more direct, physical child care than on Latino, or white counterparts. This means that black men are more likely to be involved with a young child’s day-to-day care.

Laube said that mother or father, it’s not easy to take time off to care for children, and employers may still look funny at a man who asks for time off to care for their kids, versus a woman.

**22 JUMP STREET (R)
FRI-SAT 10:35 11:45 1:20 2:15 3:40 4:45
6:15 7:25 8:35 9:55 11:15
SUN-WED 10:35 11:45 1:20 2:15 3:40 4:45
5:45 6:15 7:25 8:35 9:55
THUR 10:35 11:45 1:20 2:15 4:40 5:45
6:15 7:25 8:35 9:55 11:15
**2D HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON 2 (PG)
FRI-SAT 11:00 1:30 4:00 6:25 8:50 11:15
SUN-WED 11:00 1:30 4:00 6:25 8:50
THUR 11:00 1:30 4:00 6:25 8:50 11:15
**2D HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON 2: REALD 3D (PG)
FRI-SAT 04:35 7:05 9:35 11:55
SUN-WED 4:35 7:05 9:35 11:55
**2D HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON 2: IMAX 3D EXPERIENCE (PG)
FRI-SAT 11:20 2:00
**STARTING FRIDAY-JUNE 20
**WERE BOYS (R)
THUR NIGHT/FRI MORNING 12:05
**THINK LIKE A MAN TOO (PG13)
THUR 200 9:30 11:00 12:30
**CONTINUING
**THE FAULT IN OUR STARS (PG13)
**EDGE OF TOMORROW: AN IMAX 2D EXPERIENCE (PG13)
**EDGE OF TOMORROW: REALD 3D (PG13)
**2D EDGE OF TOMORROW (PG13)
**A MILLION WAYS TO DIE IN THE WEST (R)
**3D MALEFICENT: REALD 3D (PG)
**MALEFICENT (PG)
**3D X-MEN: DAYS OF FUTURE PAST (PG13)
2D X-MEN: DAYS OF FUTURE PAST (PG13)
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**NO VOTES
Continued from Page 10A
Senate Bill 499: Make government firest fabrication of non-public information. To establish that state databases containing information on licenses issued to individuals to purchase, carry, possess, or transport pistols are confidential and not subject to the disclosure under the state Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). The bill was introduced after a New York newspaper published the names and addresses of gun owners it acquired from a state database (since then, New York has also banned releasing this information). Introduced by Sen. Tom Casperson (R).
Passed 80 to 28 in the House
Rep. Joe Graves (R-Ann Arbor) [YES] [NO]

House Bill 5556: Clarify legal basis for insurance lawsuits. To clarify that a prohibition of “unfair practices” lawsuits against insurance companies under the state Consumer Protection Act (rather than the state’s Insurance Code) applies even if the cause of action occurred before a 2001 law was enacted specifying that industries like insurance which are already subject to a comprehensive state regulatory regime are not covered by the Consumer Protection Act. Lawsuits that have already been filed could still proceed, however. Introduced by Rep. Tom Leonard (R).
Passed 57 to 49 in the House
Rep. Joe Graves (R-Ann Arbor) [YES] [NO]

House Bill 4998: Approve “entrepreneurs-in-residence” at Michigan Strategic Fund. To require the state agency in charge of granting selective tax breaks and subsidies for particular corporations and developers to appoint up to 10 “entrepreneurs-in-residence” to help the agency market itself and increase the efficiency of its operations. Introduced by Rep. Wayne Schmidt (R)
Passed 85 to 24 in the House
Rep. Joe Graves (R-Ann Arbor) [YES] [NO]
Meet Jeff Nelson

• Father to six
• Thrill seeker
• Active family man

By William Astord
astord@ctimes.com; 810-433-6792

When he's not working alongside his brothers roofing, Jeff Nelson of Argentine Township is busy juggling the role of father to six kids. While hard work, Nelson said he wouldn't have it any other way.

How many kids do you have? Jeffrey, 20, is my oldest. My wife, Kim, and I are raising my nephew Chris, he's 16. Then we have Karly, Kayla, Kylie and Alan. They're 14.

That's a busy household. What do you guys do together? We do SCUBA diving, dirt bike riding, and go up north four or five times in the summer.

Two years ago, we went to Cozumel, Mexico. And then of course, my girls are getting older, they still go fishing with me but not so much hunting anymore. Somewhere along the line, they grew up and that all stopped. My boys still hunt like crazy though. They'll all still go kayaking and fishing with me. The guys like to go up north and hit the rivers and catch the salmon and trout.

What's your approach to fatherhood with six kids? I encourage them to stay in school and to get good grades. They're disciplined. I just try to have fun. I'm doing things I enjoy and they're right there in it, enjoying it as well. But what kid wouldn't enjoy SCUBA diving or kayaking? We find stuff to do and stay busy. We all love to swim, it goes with the diving. Everyone always tells me we do a lot with the kids, but I just don't see my life any other way.

What's the hardest part about being a father? The maintenance. It's a chore to take care of that many dirt bikes. We went diving this weekend and had to run over to my aunt and uncle's to wash all the dive gear. That was a three-hour project just washing the gear. And the house, the kids beat the heck out of it. I'm constantly fixing it up. But I do like having the kids here.

What are you most proud of in your kids? With my oldest boy, he's hit manhood. He has a lot of drive and goes, goes, goes like I do. My nephew, I do see him growing up as well. He's 16 years old, going for his driver's license and all that scary stuff. My girls and youngest boy, I have to get after them every once in a while but they do well in school. They're kind, courteous and polite, the way they're supposed to be. When they're out and not around here, everyone tells me I have good kids. They're doing something right, I'm proud of them for that.

What have been some of your favorite family trips? Either diving in Cozumel or down in West Virginia. They had that big Hatfield and McCoy show on TV and all those trails right there in the mountain. So we went down there and rode the trail system. It's an excellent trail system. It's all hills and mountains so you're riding through the mountains. It was really cool. You're at the edge of cliffs, which gets a little hairy.

Do you ever get worried about injuries with the kids? No, they're pretty safe. When we go dirt bike riding, I make them wear all the safety gear—chest protectors, helmets, boots, the whole nine yards. We don't skimp on safety things. Any sport you're involved in is dangerous at some level.

What are some of the values you learned from your father and grandfather? We learned the trade (roofing) from them. That was one big value. We also learned ‘familiness.’ My brothers, sister and I are still pretty close and live in the area. My mom is just down the road; our families all stayed pretty tight. It's the whole family. I have aunts and uncles and their aunts and uncles are still involved. We all do stuff together.

Is there anything your kids won't do? They have the stuff they don't like doing, like helping in the garden and chores. I have a couple of them who wouldn't do a shark dive. We go up north dirt bike riding and they're not scared of that. We went down to West Virginia on the Hatfield and McCoy trails, none of those hills in West Virginia scared them. I have brave kids but I never shied them away from these activities.

Any advice for fathers to be? I don’t know if I'm the role model father (laughs). But just because you have kids doesn’t stop you from doing the things you love. You just involve them.

Everyone always tells me we do a lot with the kids, but just don't see my life any other way.
**Food prices, now versus last year**

> Meat sees continual increase; vegetables and fruits vary

By William Axford

If it seems like food prices aren’t getting any cheaper, your intuition would be correct. According to a Times review of current food prices found today locally, and one year ago, most grocery prices have stayed the same or have gone up.

Droughts, excessive rain and the harsh cold winter are factors that have affected farmers and herders in recent years, forcing grocers to adjust their prices accordingly. Here are some of the biggest changes the Times found.

Meat overall isn’t getting any cheaper. Boneless, skinless chicken breast has increased from a few cents per pound while other meats, such as beef have increased significantly. Ground chuck in 2013 once cost $2.39 per pound and increased to $2.99 per pound by this year, a 60-cent increase.

T-Bone steak fluctuated from $5.89 a pound last year to $7.99 a pound this year. Bratwurst, depending on the brand, has mostly stayed the same in price, averaging $2.99 a pack.

Other food groups like fruits and vegetables aren’t so uniformed when it comes to pricing. Bi-color sweet corn increased from 14 cents last year to 33 cents, more than doubling. A whole seedless watermelon was $3.99 last year and dropped as low as $3.49 this year.

Grains are one of the few food groups that have decreased in price since last year. Hamburger and hotdog buns were around $3.29 last year, dropping to $2.99 or less this year. Other summer staples like pop and chips were not as easy to compare, as these items are frequently listed as $10 for 10 or buy one, get one free.

The differences in food prices between this year and last year match price levels reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Meats from all across the board including ground beef, steaks and ham have increased 2.6 to 6 percent from last year’s prices. Fruits and vegetables have either increased or decreased by a few percent, depending on the individual item.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations reports food prices have been declining worldwide since March, albeit by only a few percentage points. Fears of swine disease and herders recovering from smaller stocks of cattle may keep meat prices up throughout the year.

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REAL ESTATE
Continued from Front Page

Realtor John Luke, who is listing the property, said several inquiries have been made about the $575,000 space and that one potentially serious negotiation may be underway for the property. But Luke is aware that the inquiries may not lead to a new owner.

“Location is key to real estate and that building is in an excellent location,” Luke said. “Somebody will buy it, I’m sure. Whether it comes to fruition, I’ll never know.”

City officials and planners are shaping downtown into a walkable community, where restaurant goers will wander through other retail stores and enjoy the parks. Part of that vision includes updating every building within the vicinity and bringing more businesses to the district.

“It’s kind of like the Grain Elevator, there’s lots of talk about it but not a lot of activity,” said Fenton City Councilwoman Pat Lockwood. “In the big scheme of things, we’d like to see it add to the walkable community with retail or antique shops.”

The building has served many roles in the past from a car dealership to a gas station to a carryout hamburger stand. Its next role remains to be seen.

City Manager Lynn Markland recognizes the building has the potential to be a draw for people downtown. He said the city’s master plan calls for the building to be redeveloped into a regular downtown building.

“It needs to be redeveloped, it’s not one of the best looking buildings we have in the downtown area,” Markland said. The city manager believes the building would be best used as one similar to what the Cornerstone will become, with retail stores on the first floor or office space, followed by apartments above it.

In addition to renovation, Lockwood notes that parking could be a problem for any business established there. Times readers have been filling the Hot lines with complaints of inadequate parking for existing businesses. City officials know they will have to make more room for parking, especially if they hope to bring more businesses downtown.

For now though, the building continues to be unoccupied while a flurry of activity surrounds it.

“It’s in such a prime location. We’re looking for something that will enhance downtown,” Lockwood said.

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I CERTAINLY hope that every member of the Fenton City Council is enjoying their last term in office. Shame on you for not having the same courage we ask of our children: Just say no!

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