Casey Kasem close to Fenton-area family members

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

‘Close,’ ‘kind’ and ‘loving’ is how relatives of Casey Kasem will remember the radio legend. Kasem, who died at the age 82 in Washington this past Sunday, had numerous ties to Fenton and the surrounding areas. He worked as a substitute teacher at Lake Fenton High School and at a family-owned party store called Larry Hamady Pure Food Market, which used to be located at the corner of North LzRoy Street near Kellogg Drive.

Joseph Sefa of Grand Blanc is Kasem’s cousin and was very close to the American Top 40 host. Sefa interacted with Kasem all through his career, from working as an announcer on WJLB in Detroit to running bands in Las Vegas and hosting his radio show in Los Angeles.

Despite the fame and success, Sefa said Kasem always made time to be with family. “He wasn’t the kind of person to make you feel like you didn’t matter. He was a super human being.”

— Joseph Sefa
Relative of Casey Kasem

Michigan Supreme Court denies Corrine Baker’s murder appeal

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

The Michigan Supreme Court recently denied Corrine Baker’s request to hear her case. Baker, 29, of Argentine Township is serving 13 to 30 years in prison for a conviction of second-degree murder after her 4-year-old son, Dominick Calhoun, was severely beaten over several days in April 2010 by Baker’s boyfriend, Brandon Haynes, also of Argentine Township. Dominick was taken off life support at Hurley Medical Center in Flint recently.

See APPEAL on 8A

Great Lakes drowning incidents up

More than 300 have drowned in Michigan’s biggest lakes since 2010

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

The number of drowning incidents in the Great Lakes has increased 50 percent from last year, according to the Great Lakes Surf and Rescue Project (GLSRP). The abnormally cold winter has kept lake

See DROWNING on 6A

Therapy for horses, therapy for humans

►Earliest release date April 2023

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

The Michigan Supreme Court recently denied Corrine Baker’s request to hear her case. Baker, 29, of Argentine Township is serving 13 to 30 years in prison for a conviction of second-degree murder after her 4-year-old son, Dominick Calhoun, was severely beaten over several days in April 2010 by Baker’s boyfriend, Brandon Haynes, also of Argentine Township. Dominick was taken off life support at Hurley Medical Center in Flint recently.

See APPEAL on 8A

Local schools hanging on financially

►Superintendents frustrated by fluctuating revenue, rising expenses

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

If Michigan school districts pitched their funding model to the hosts on “Shark Tank,” the model would fail miserably. At least that’s what Holly Area Schools (HAS) Superintendent Dave Nuss believes.
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Call Ann Hernandez-Gable 248-240-2272
Enjoy a weekend of fun in Saugatuck

Recently voted #1 Summer Weekend Escape in the U.S.

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

If you’re looking for a weekend destination or a mid-week getaway, hop in your car for a leisurely two-and-a-half hour drive west to Saugatuck — recently voted “Best Summer Weekend Escape” by readers of USA Today and 10Best.

Located just southwest of Grand Rapids, Saugatuck is close enough for a day trip, yet enticing enough for a much longer stay. In fact, its bed & breakfasts, picturesque inns and home rentals are some of the reasons people love to stay here. When thinking of Saugatuck, you have to also include its nearest neighbor, Douglas, just a mile apart with a smaller, quieter atmosphere. Together, they make a spectacular vacation package, whether you visit for a weekend or a week.

Saugatuck’s biggest summer attraction is the beaches of Lake Michigan and area sand dunes. See SAUGATUCK on 7A

The sounds of summer

This weekend’s official start to summer reminds us to listen and embrace the season

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

Waves lapping on the shore of Lake Michigan, rocking me to sleep. A gentle warm breeze whistling through the trees. The early morning sounds of birds chirping, telling me in advance of my alarm clock that it’s time to wake up.

These are just a few of my favorite sounds of summer.

Now that the calendar has made summer official on Saturday, June 21, I’m tuning in more closely to take in all these sounds so that I’ll remember them warmly when the breezes turn to winter winds and the sounds of birds are replaced by the sound of winter’s silence.

My fondest sounds of summer, and the ones that keep me going all the rest

See SUMMER on 14A

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2. Boost productivity

For a no-fail way to combat sluggishness and boost productivity during the inevitable afternoon energy dip, use the last 15 minutes of your lunch break to catch up with a coworker or a pal over autes of your lunch break to catch up with a coworker or a pal over.

TRI-COUNTY TIMES

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

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**The Emperor Has No Clothes!**

I recently read in the Times that Fenton discussed severing its relationship with the marketing firm whose singular greatest accomplishment was saddling us with the amorphous and completely ineffectual tagline, ‘Be Closer.’

Let’s hope they do, then we can go about the business of generating a real tagline — one that actually brands Fenton as an up and coming community.

Many of today’s taglines used today are poorly thought out — they are murky, ineffective and unclear. I’m not speaking of the superstar taglines like ‘Just Do It’ — the iconic tagline that single-handedly built the Nike empire. Or ‘Don’t Leave Home Without It’ — the classic, and super-successful, American Express motto since 1975. Or even ‘The Ultimate Driving Machine’ — the branding that has made BMW the car of choice for yuppies around the world.

These taglines are the best because, like all good taglines, they share three common traits:

- They are memorable. ‘Just Do It’ hasn’t airded consistently in 10 years but is still a ge
ic phrase for overcoming obstacles through hard work.
- They make you pause. American Express makes it clear that there are no substitutes, that an AMEX card is essential and replaceable, and you need to have one.
- Most importantly, they tell a story. If BMW’s tagline was ‘Really Nice Cars’ would you buy one? Not likely. But who wouldn’t want to be behind the wheel of ‘The Ultimate Driving Machine.’

The problem with most taglines — whether for a community, an organization or a business — is that they fail to fulfill any of the three necessary traits, much less all three. They fail because they are usually administered by people who don’t understand the principles and tenets of taglines, nor the high stakes they are playing for. Having no tagline is a far better option than having a poorly conceived, ambiguous or, worse yet, confusing tagline. Unfortunately, ‘Be Closer’ is all of these. It’s right up there with Beaman, Iowa’s ‘You’re not Dreamin, You’re in Beaman.’

Conversely, I am rather fond of our neighbor, Harrison, Michigan, whose tagline is ‘20 Lakes In 20 Minutes.’

But, I digress.

**What is your favorite sound of summer?**

I’m not sure what the answer is. Depending on your preference, you could argue for ‘Children playing outside. My grandchildren come around in the summer.’

“Birds, I like the cardinals.”

— Charles Hanks

“Waves coming across the shore. We have a cottage on Lake Huron.”

— Michael Mutzelburg

“Waves splashing upon Lake Superior. I don’t go anymore, but I sure enjoyed it.”

— Shirley Raksa

“The birds chirping. I like robins because they are homey. They stay at our house all year.”

— Virginia Sine

“I like the sound of crickets, it’s peaceful.”

— Mark Perry

Compiled by Torrey Christopher, intern.
Local photos, such as this one taken by Times reader Tom Kinney, could end up being published in an upcoming Times newspaper.

**Times holds summer photo contest**

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

Get your cameras ready and your creative juices flowing. The Times is holding a summertime online photo contest in order to compile an extensive library of local photos taken by our valued readers. We are looking for a variety of high-quality photos including those that are patriotic, feature fun activities, parades, kids, family pets, summer activities, and local landmarks to name just a few ideas.

Above is a photo that Times reader Tom Kinney submitted in 2012 of a colorful hot air balloon drifting over an area lake. Kinney’s photo won a spot on the Times’ 2013 Sourcebook cover.

If your photo is published in an upcoming issue of the Times, you will receive a photo credit, a laminated copy of the page your photo appeared on, and $10 cash.

Submit your photos at tctimes.com by clicking on the Summer Photo Contest link. Be sure to include your name, names of those appearing in the photo, where the photo was taken and the date it was taken.
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INSIDER TIP
Consider yourself a gourmand (a person who takes great pleasure in food)? Then a gastronomical trek through Saugatuck’s Hungry Village Tours (www.hungryvillagetours.com) is the perfect way to spend a few hours. You’ll sip and taste treats at some of the area’s specialty food and wine shops, learning secrets like how the local bakery makes its famous cookies.

SAUGATUCK-
DOUGLAS VISITORS BUREAU/FELEDA FARCHILD
Lake Michigan is always close when enjoying leisure time on Saugatuck’s boardwalk.

Fenton Realtor Wade Pyles’ favorite places to visit in Saugatuck area:
1. Oval Beach — A must stop on the west side.
2. Climbing the steps to Mt. Baldy — great views.
3. Everyday People Café for great food and atmosphere. Their gnocchi is so good.
4. Roan & Black, the premier contemporary art gallery built from an old garage.

TO THE LADY in Fenton who likes to use simple tools to do gardening, the rotary cultivator you refer to is available in a catalog for Amish products, LEHMANS.COM. Why I started receiving the catalog, I don’t know. Hope this helps you. Happy gardening.

I WONDER WHAT the Democrats would say if Mary Barra (CEO of General Motors), concerning defective ignition switches, testified that she could produce two years of email records because GM’s computers crashed. Would they say — no problem, the IRS computers conveniently do that, too. I doubt that very much.

I WISH I had a video where the lip reader read Michelle Obama’s lips when she said, ‘All this for a stupid flag.’
You’re invited to an outdoor service and beach picnic

Free admission to Silver Lake Beach for worship, picnic on Sunday, June 29

By Sally Rummel

Food, fun and fellowship — it’s all on the menu for Sunday, June 29 at the third annual Silver Lake Park outdoor service and picnic, sponsored by the community by The Rock Church of Fenton Township.

All the fun will take place at Silver Lake Park on 16000 Jennings Rd. in Fenton. The park entrance is off Silver Parkway on Jennings Road.

“Admission to the park is free all day for our guests,” said Wes Morris, pastor of The Rock. “Use of the park will be available all day, and we’re hoping you’ll join us at 10 a.m. for church on the beach. We’ll all be dressed in casual beachwear, so come as you are, wherever you are.”

The day begins with a 10 a.m. outdoor service, followed by a picnic and beach activities like swimming, volleyball, kickball and softball. “We invite you to be a part of the service, by sitting on the hill and enjoying the music and worship,” said Morris. “If you can’t be there for the service, then join us all day for fun at the beach.”

People are invited to bring their own food for the picnic, or they can enjoy a casual spread of hot dogs and accompaniments, provided by The Rock. If you’re a “regular” at The Rock, you’re asked to park at the Kmart parking lot to make room in the park for guests from the community and handicap parking. There will be shuttles running before and after the 10 a.m. gathering.

“Come and make a family day of it,” said Morris. In case of rain, the event will be postponed for another date.

The Rock is a welcoming, non-denominational Bible-based church with five services held each weekend: Saturday at 6 p.m., Sunday at 8:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. The church is located at 11400 Linden Rd., Fenton Township, at the corner of Linden and Bennett Lake roads.

DROWNING
Continued from Front Page

Drowning is a leading cause of death among children under 14 years of age or younger.

The focus on water safety hit the tri-county area during the summer of 2012 when two people died in Fenton Township from two separate drowning incidents. Since then, the Fenton Township Fire Department has trained divers for drowning recoveries. Fire Chief Ryan Volz said there have been zero incidents of drowning in Fenton Township this year and that divers will be on call during the Fourth of July holiday weekend.

For those who do have to report an incident to authorities, Volz recommends making a mental marker of where someone is drown and to remain calm.

“The main thing is to remember where someone went down. Visually, it gives a spot to start at,” Volz said.

For those who do find themselves in distress, Benjamin advocates doing the “flip, float and follow.” Rather than expelling energy trying to swim or panicking, Benjamin’s safety precaution calls for conserving energy until rescuers arrive.

“We found that your ability to float is more critical than your ability to swim,” Benjamin said. “With drowning, time is of the essence. If you’re recovered within two minutes, you have a 90 per cent chance of surviving, without brain injury.”

Other factors like body mass, intoxication and over exposure to the sun may also hamper one’s ability to swim.

“I hope it’s a nice, safe season and everyone minds their P’s and Q’s, especially with alcohol,” Volz said.

APPEAL
Continued from Front Page

Baker had pleaded no contest to second-degree murder and second-degree child abuse in connection with her son’s death. Hayes is serving life in prison after being convicted of the boy’s murder. Last fall, the Michigan Court of Appeals also denied her request to appeal her case. Baker could be released as early as April 22, 2023.
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**SCHOOLS**

**Continued from Front Page**

To Nuss, it’s not sustainable with rising costs. “We’re gonna survive it, but we’re hanging on,” he said. He’s not speaking for every other district in the tri-county area or the state, but they might echo his words.

While the economy in Michigan seems to be improving, school districts are still not out of the woods. In any given year, there are usually more than 50 districts in the state (out of several hundred) that are running in a deficit. This deficit means they just spend more than they take in — this means they have no money in savings either.

Last summer, the Buena Vista school district was dissolved due to finances.

Michael Flanagan, state superintendent with the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) posted a quarterly report, indicating that 48 school districts were running deficits this year, instead of the 55 last year. Districts include Flint Community Schools and Detroit Public Schools.

None of the tri-county area districts are running a deficit that severe, though like many households, things are tight financially.

HAS is suffering the most, with less than 1-percent in its fund balance — the savings account for covering extra expenses, emergencies and projects. With a $34 million budget, HAS has approximately $300,000 in this fund. This is down from 4.6 percent in fiscal year 2012, and 8 percent in 2011. It is suggested that districts carry a 15-percent fund balance.

As there is a fund balance, and the district can pay its bills, the state won’t take notice, but Nuss is still frustrated with the financial situation his district faces. He’s up against smaller, better-funded districts like Royal Oak, which doesn’t provide transportation — HAS is 124 square miles. Royal Oak Community Schools had $8,638 in foundation grant funding, per pupil. Holly had $7,026.

HAS enrolled approximately 3,415 students, meaning that difference in funding would mean an additional $550,000 in funding each year for the district.

Even worse, the district is losing $230,000 in other funding sources.

Fenton Area Public Schools (FAPS) is operating on a 5-percent fund balance, or $1.7 million, and fortunately, doesn’t have to dip into its fund balance this year or next to meet the budget, said Executive Director of Finance Doug Busch.

The $11 million millage the voters recently passed will also help the district.

The healthiest district in the tri-county area is Lake Fenton Community Schools (LFCS), which maintains a 16-percent, $2.7 million fund balance, with a $17 million budget.

But even the healthiest budget was balanced on a razor — $7,000. Superintendent Wayne Wright said the district was in the black by a mere $7,000, and the fund balance did not have to be used.

Still, Wright is frustrated because like any school district budget, it is a moving target. Although they budgeted conservatively, his district will still have less money than they budgeted for. He was going off a $111 planned increase in per pupil funding, so he budgeted for $99, but instead got $50.

This illustrates the moving target schools have with their budget. It would be like a family planning for expenses (which are rising), while the salary they’ll get can fluctuate up until the first check is sent.

Losing or gaining 10 students is the difference of more than $70,000.

Along with other decreases, his budget is now suddenly operating without $84,000 — or the salary of a staff member. He said for his district, the new budget is “devastating.”

Linden Community Schools will balance their budget this year, but only after using $200,000 in fund balance for 2013-14, and will use $600,000 in 2014-15. They have approximately $2.7 million out of a $25 million budget in fund balance.

This means that like HAS, Linden schools are running a deficit, but not to the severity of a state take-over.

Superintendent Ed Kolod said they adjusted staff level through attrition four years ago, so layoffs aren’t planned.

However, this does add to the stress of the job. Fewer people means more work for the individual, and retaining talent can be difficult. “If something doesn’t change in the future, funding-wise for schools, I think there will be a lot more turnover in the teaching fields,” he said.

“While we’re definitely happy to finally see things are improving for the economy, it doesn’t mean all other costs stay constant, or put us in a better situation.”

**Ed Kolod**
Superintendent, Linden Community Schools

**HOT LINE CONTINUED**

**IT TOOK a lot of nerve for Les Bland to stand on his personal beliefs and vote ‘no.’ To the Hot liners who castigated him last week, I say try affording him the same courtesy and respect which you demand for your views. My conclusion is: what a bunch of hypocrites.**

**OBAMA MADE PROMISES** he never should have made to these foreign countries. It’s costing you and me $252.00 to house all of these children at Army bases like Ft. Sill in Oklahoma. This is an outrage. Most of the children are planning to find their illegal alien parents. Impeach now!

**IF WERE black I would be so sick and tired of people thinking I needed something like racism, lower test scores, affirmative action, etc. just to get along in this world. Like I am not man or woman enough to do it on my own.**

**NOW THAT FENTON passed a gratuitous discrimination ordinance, they should hire a cadre of patrol officers to enforce the law. The new unit should be called SWATS (Special Words And Thought Squad), which will pounce on offenders who think, or heaven forbid, have the temerity to say unapproved PC words.**

**RUSSIA AND CHINA** are expanding, Iran is building nuclear bombs, radical Islam wants to destroy us, the economy is weak, illegal immigrant detention centers are full. Why are Obama and Redd concentrating on the name of an NFL team?

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SUMMER
Continued from Page 3A

of the year, are those that tell me we’re up north beyond the Mackinac Bridge. There’s the grating sound of being on the metal side of the bridge’s five-mile span, and that’s one of my unpleasant sounds of summer. But the smell of up north pine as soon as we pay the bridge toll makes that sound less “grating” and worth every minute. Other favorite sounds up north are the sounds of the Rock River as we cross over a rickety bridge (it’s a whole other sound!) to get to my family’s 77-year-old cabin on the shores of Lake Michigan. The welcoming sound of the handmade wooden screen door as it squeaks when it opens and slams when it closes is a welcoming, familial sound. The sounds of buzzing mosquitoes and black flies are not.

I love the crunchy sound of weeds under my bare or sandaled-feet as I make my way down to the beach from the cabin. I love the sound of water running from an outdoor faucet to clean the last vestiges of beach sand off my feet before re-entering the cabin that my grandpa built in 1937.

When I’m home from the cabin, I still love many familiar sounds of summer. I was reminded Wednesday how much I love a summer thunderstorm, even though the soft patter of a gentle summer rain is much more calming than yesterday’s downpour. I’m awed by the power of a swift crack of thunder, grateful when it’s far enough away to not be a concern of safety for my family and friends.

Some of these summer sounds are new to me, as it’s our first summer in a condo that faces a very scenic wetlands area. I haven’t yet distinguished all the different sounds apart from one another, but to me, they make a beautiful symphony of ducks, geese and frogs in the distance, I even hear the moo of cows that make their home in a pasture across the field.

Another wonderful sound of summer is the smart crack of a bat hitting a baseball at a summer ball game. It’s such a satisfying sound. I hope to get to a Tigers or Loons game this summer, to hear that sound in person, rather than from memory.

Some of my other favorite summer sounds have come from our 3-year-old granddaughter Ava’s laughter as she runs outside, enjoying every second of the warm breeze on her face.

"My fondest memories of summer, and the ones that keep me going all the rest of the year, are those that tell me we’re up north beyond the Mackinac Bridge."

Sally Rummel
Times Feature Writer

HOT LINE CONTINUED

MANY THANKS TO the two gentlemen who work at VG’s gas station who tried to help when I looked myself out of my new car and to the kind woman and her grandson Jacob who drove me home. Fenton is a wonderful place to live.

POLITICAL CORRECTNESS HAS run amuck, and has lost all common sense. Using common sense, begin with the basics: girls and boys are different.

OBAMACARE WORKING? You must be delusional. First, ACA has not been fully implemented. Second, Obama has dictated that major parts of this abomination be conveniently delayed until after the election. The employer and individual mandate are the elephant in the room. Can you say Edsel? 

ON JUNE 18, Obama started trafficking Central American children from Honduras, Panama etc. to different states in the U.S. Not only is this illegal but dangerous. He can’t get one veteran out of a Mexican prison but can make taxpayers pay for housing 100K illegals for political reasons.

IS THERE A more jacked up set of traffic signals anywhere then those in Fenton? Seriously, what is with the lights at LeRoy and Silver Lake/Main? It’s ridiculous that people making a right are sitting so far back. If I’m going right, I’m driving through.

Skipper Bud’s marina on Lake Fenton is pummeled by rain on Wednesday. The rumble and rain of storms is part of the sounds of summer.

Fenton is a wonderful place to live. My fondest memories of summer, and the ones that keep me going all the rest of the year, are those that tell me we’re up north beyond the Mackinac Bridge.

as I love that sound and the beauty of a Michigan fall, I’m not ready to even think about another autumn or winter. I think instead I’ll take a week’s vacation up north and cherish that old screen door slamming and the smell of up north pine as soon as we pay the bridge toll makes that sound less “grating” and worth every minute. Other favorite sounds up north are the sounds of the Rock River as we cross over a rickety bridge (it’s a whole other sound!) to get to my family’s 77-year-old cabin on the shores of Lake Michigan. The welcoming sound of the handmade wooden screen door as it squeaks when it opens and slams when it closes is a welcoming, familial sound. The sounds of buzzing mosquitoes and black flies are not.

I love the summer sounds of weeds under my bare or sandaled-feet as I make my way down to the beach from the cabin. I love the sound of water running from an outdoor faucet to clean the last vestiges of beach sand off my feet before re-entering the cabin that my grandpa built in 1937.

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Casey Kasem was too big to talk to anyone. You didn’t need to have a handshake with him,” Sefa said. “He was a super human being. He’d give you the shirt off his back.”

Sefa met a range of stars whenever he flew out to see Kasem, including Frank and Nancy Sinatra and musical groups like the Righteous Brothers at Coconut Grove. Kasem at one time wanted Sefa to help manage one of his bands in Las Vegas, but Sefa declined the offer.

“It wasn’t my lifestyle, but I appreciated that he thought highly enough of me to potentially do that,” Sefa said. “I saw people lose more money in a night in Vegas than I earned during my whole two years in the Army.”

Sefa’s sister, Joan Turner, also of Grand Blanc, said Kasem would always make time for family, flying back for anniversaries, events and when her father’s store closed.

“He never forgot his family. We were a very close family,” Turner said. “This was a good man.”

Summary

Casey Kasem made regular visits to family members in Genesee County, even after he found success in Los Angeles. Relatives have fond memories of Kasem, even as his life descended into controversy before he died.

Joseph Sefa (right) of Grand Blanc stands next to his cousin Casey Kasem.

Casey Kasem

Continued from Front Page

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Family disputes between Kasem’s second wife, Jean, and his children ruled tabloids and plagued the final years of his life. Sefa and Turner were sorry to see Kasem’s family life end with so much turmoil, especially since he remained close to his relatives in Michigan.

Turner and Sefa attribute much of the hardship to Kasem’s wife, Jean, who they said kept his children and other family members away while he was on his deathbed. Turner said Jean transported Kasem to Arizona, Las Vegas and eventually Washington State, where Kasem died.

“I’ve read stories that say ‘kids can’t wait to get money.’ The kids aren’t mentioning any money but the wife keeps mentioning $80 million,” Turner said. “I don’t know what she is hoping for, we don’t get it. His own brother couldn’t even see him.”

Sefa has had similar experiences with Kasem’s second wife, noting the rift between his children and the second wife.

“His ex-wife treated him better than his second wife,” Sefa said. “I know Casey wasn’t happy, but I understand why he did it.”

Turner said a Druze ceremony is planned for Kasem in California. Detroit and Flint events in remembrance of Kasem are tentatively in the works, which Sefa plans to attend. Kasem’s brother, who also lives in Grand Blanc, is currently in California to attend Kasem’s funeral.

“When the family came out, he would always make time to be with them,” Sefa said. “He was a super guy.”
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Family feeling resonates with Fenton HOF

Price-Torok, Barclay, Hintz join 1967 football team into Tigers athletic hall

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

Fenton — With each class inducted into the Fenton Athletic Hall of Fame, the stories change. The athletes and their sports change as well.

But what doesn’t change is one constant theme — family.

When Carol Price-Torok, David Hintz and Barbara Barclay were inducted into the Fenton Education Foundation Athletic Hall of Fame at Fenton High School recently, the theme popped up constantly. Sometimes it involved their actual nuclear families, and sometimes the family was the school or community itself. Sometimes the word was used for both.

The undefeated 1967 football team was inducted as well as was Delio Barletta as an honorary community member.

“Fenton is family,” said Price-Torok, the 2000 graduate who made her mark playing four years of varsity volleyball, three years of varsity basketball and a year of varsity soccer. “Fenton is how I grew up, and the people who know me can’t think of Fenton without talking about the great friends and teammates we had.”

“In my four years of athletics, I don’t think my mom ever missed an event,” said Hintz, who played four years of varsity basketball and track as well as two years of varsity football. “And I’m talking every football game, every track meet and every basketball game road or away including the playoffs, tournaments and summer things. I had just tremendous family support.

“And the coaches, I was fortunate to have great coaches too like LeRoy Decker, Bob Bruder, Mark Covert and Bob Middleton.

... The family support, the coach’s... See HOF on 19A

Eagles creating great unity with young and old at spread camp

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

Linden — In the area behind the varsity football field where the Linden football teams usually practice preparing for games, there was already a lot of activity on Thursday and Friday last week.

While there are no pads on yet, much of what you’d expect from a football practice is going on. There are footballs, huddles, play sheets and a lot of coaches and whistles.

But the annual Linden Spread Camp is a bit different than your typical football practice during the regular season. This one involves everyone from middle school to high school practicing and learning on the same field at the same time.

One minute there will be five middle school quarterbacks trying to complete passes to their wide receivers during the same play — each throwing to a different receiver running downfield. Then maybe a minute later that same plot of land will have the Linden varsity squad driving down the field, practicing their NASCAR drives, which is a hurry-up offense. And at other times, you might even see the older players teaching the youngsters.

“It’s awesome helping them out,” said senior Austin McNeill. “In a couple of years, I’ll be able to come back while I’m in college and watch them. Being able to see these younger kids playing in the future would be nice.”

See EAGLES on 19A

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All ages having fun during Spring Meadows Jr. golf program

> More than 100 youngsters enjoying summer activities on area golf course

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

Linden—She’s only 4 years old, but anyone that watches Olivia Hibbard on a golf course will learn quickly she has competitive fire in her young body.

Not much taller than her own golf clubs, her foursome of players during Spring Meadows’ Junior Golf program on Thursday included only players older than her, ranging from Ashlyn Charder’s still very young 5 to Evan Clay’s veteran age of 8. Yet, there was only one thing on Hibbard’s mind when she played one of two holes her group would play on Thursday on Spring Meadows Country Club. She wanted to be first.

“I hope I beat her,” was a common comment Hibbard made, especially after a strong shot. And with determined ground strokes, she found herself right there competing with her older competitors on the approximately 70-yard hole.

Hibbard was one of many of the one-hole competitors that took part in Thursday’s event. Most weren’t as competitive as Hibbard. Some seemed to aimlessly hit their ball in whatever direction they felt necessary at the time. Some could hardly wait for the ball to stop before hitting it again. And a few took more than a couple of strokes before they were able to hit the ball. But from what could be viewed, it seemed everyone was having a ball.

Spring Meadows Country Club’s First Assistant Golf Professional and Junior Golf Coordinator Jeremy Hibbard said there’s about 120 kids ranging from 4 to 18 playing in the annual junior golf program. Some of the age groups play just one hole, while the high schoolers play 18.

“It’s a good time,” Hibbard said. “The program has grown over the past five years, but we’ve stayed steady at 120 the past two years, so we are assuming it will be about that this year.”

Each week lessons are given to many of the competitors. Many of the youngest competitors had a little help on the driving range or putting green before they headed to their holes. And with the addition the Masters hosting the annual Drive, Chip and Putt competition at Augusta National Golf Course, the junior program also hosts its own competition.

“Myself and teaching pro Rick Kent give a half-hour lesson before tee off,” Hibbard said.

“One week we’ll work on the driver, chipping, long irons or fairway woods. The first week we teach player conduct and how to handle yourself on a golf course. We also teach them how to handle the clubs.”

Hibbard enjoys working with the kids.

“I enjoy when the kids understand what we are asking them to do,” Hibbard said. “Maybe we are working on drives and one is able to get the ball in the air. They get excited and I enjoy when the kids get it and are having fun. When they are having fun, I am having fun. When they succeed, I succeed.”

Hibbard also coaches a special group of junior golfers at Spring Meadows. He has 20 kids competing in a six-team golf league with squads from three other courses. Spring Meadows has two teams of 10. Each squad consists of five boys and five girls between the ages of 9 and 13. During the regular season, the players compete at the home courses of those competing in the league.

Last year, many of Spring Meadows’ participants made the All-Star match and went to play at Cog Hill, located near Chicago.

“That was a lot of fun,” Hibbard said. “We got beat in both matches, but to be 12 or 13 and to be able to play a PGA course and represent your state are memories those kids will remember the rest of their life.”

It seemed many memories were made on Thursday morning as well.
HOF
Continued from Page 17A
support and all of the players I played with, I’d like to thank everyone in Fenton High School. It’s a great honor.
“My family was there for me the entire time,” said Barclay who was a four-year softball player and basketball player. “Ma and pa never missed a softball game ... I’d be in the backyard until it was dark (with my dad).
“I want to take a moment to thank everyone here — family and friends.”
Price-Torok’s athletic career at Fenton resulted in a college career at Texas A&M playing four years of volleyball and a year of basketball. She is the current assistant volleyball coach at the University of Arkansas.
“Overall, I wouldn’t change my high school experience for anything — great teams, great people, great individuals,” Price-Torok said. “You giving one thing creates 12 to 13 things in return from your teammates. That’s a powerful thing, being a part of a great team is a powerful thing.
“I played with both of my sisters and made life-long friends in volleyball and basketball. I was fortunate to have great coaches. They were great influences in my life, not only on basketball and volleyball but teaching me things I took with me down the road and with my coaching now.”
Barclay posted a 45-0 record against Metro League foes during her final two years and had an overall record of 61-5 in her four years on the softball team as the squad’s star pitcher. She led the team to state championships in 1978 and 1979.
“I wouldn’t be here without my team,” Barclay said. “I hung out with them in high school. Even after practice was over we hung out.”
The 1967 football team’s season almost didn’t happen due to a failed millage. When it didn’t pass, practices were canceled. But the community was able to raise $16,000 to support the athletic program and allow the squad to play out its season. The rest is history. While there were several close games, the squad ended up capturing the school’s eighth consecutive league championship, completing the season ranked second and third in the state in the Associated Press and the United Press International polls, respectively.
“We almost lost it,” said end Dan Cyphe. “We were seniors ready to play and start practicing and then the millage was voted down. We didn’t have practice and it was devastating. My dad was on a bowling team and the six of them put money together to buy a ticket to help get to the $16,000. Giving $100 or $200 back then was like a thousand dollars now. It was a big deal to them.”
But with the season safe through community donations, the team only had to worry about its play on the field after they returned to practice. Bentley, Ahtherton and Montrose presented great challenges, but the team prevailed in each. They ended the season outscoring their foes 225-65.
The team had a first-team All-State performer (Ben Lewis) and an honorable mention All-State performer (Vance Huff). Coach Ken Wegener was named the Coach of the Year.
“It was a great time, a great group of guys and a lot of great memories,” Cyphe said. “We all played together for four years and we did good.”
Barletta, who passed away on Sept. 23, was the owner of Johnny’s Pizzeria, hosted several Friday night celebrations over the decades after Fenton athletic contests. Many involved the 1967 football program, as Fenton athletic director Michael Bakker mentioned at the banquet. There’s a story that some of the players were actually temporarily banned after horseplay and neglecting to pay their bills. But the ban didn’t last long.
“He was a regular donor to the athletic program,” Bakker said. “In the 1960s and 70s he had the only pizza place in town. Students and fans dominated his place after any sporting event after a game. Johnny’s was truly the shared family kitchen where people celebrated.”

EAGLES
Continued from Page 17A
“This is where it starts, especially for the little kids. They come to the camp, play football, see how fun it is and that’s how we build our teams here at Linden.”
Linden co-head football coach Denny Hopkins loves the interaction. Occasionally he has the older players work with the younger ones during the two-day camp.
“The older kids will help the little kids and stuff like that,” Hopkins said. “And next week we’ll have the seniors instruct hands on in our camp for first-through fifth-graders. You can’t beat having the kids they watch play on Friday night, put their arms around them, show them what to do and help them out. You just can’t beat that.”
But the spread camp is also a good chance to get the team ready for the rest of the summer sessions, which include many seven-on-seven events.
“We are getting back into the swing of it, getting used to a couple of new faces,” senior Jake Marshall said. “We are coming together as a family and getting closer, getting down each other’s timing.”
The Eagles return a large portion of their team from a year ago, but do have two new quarterbacks competing for the starting spot — Holly transfer Jake Zorn and Fenton transfer Ethan Queensnille. Zorn spent his freshman season within the Linden program, so he’s returned back to his original program.
“It’s a healthy competition,” Hopkins said. “They both look really good right now.”

The members of the 1967 Fenton football team take time for a photo during the 2014 Fenton Education Foundation Athletic Hall of Fame Induction held on June 12. The squad was inducted into the hall during the ceremony.

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS

The Oaks at Woodfield
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Car shows bring excitement, nostalgia

Summer is biggest time for auto events in the tri-county area

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

Who doesn’t remember their very own first car or an experience they had riding around town as a teenager?

Nostalgia is in the air at every car show, bringing back memories of summers past. You can’t help but enjoy the cars, camaraderie, food and fun at area car shows, which are plentiful in the tri-county area this summer.

Here are a few car shows to mark on your calendar:

**Fenton**

North LeRoy Business District Car Show, North VG’s parking lot, Saturdays July 12, Aug. 9 and Sept. 13, food by Beale St. BBQ. Presented by Christian Cruisers Car Club.

**Linden**

Hildreth Air Park (Price’s Airport) Car Show, Saturday, June 21, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Shuttle buses will run between the Air Park and Milby Day events, so visitors can enjoy both car shows.

**Linden Mills Days Car Show**, Saturday, June 21, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Broad Street downtown.

**Back to the Bricks Tune-up Party Week**, Wednesday, Aug. 6. This event is a prelude to Flint’s 10th Anniversary Back to the Bricks, Aug. 12-16, with car shows, free drive-in movie, rolling cruises, swap meets, yard sales, sock hops, etc. For full schedule, visit backtothebricks.org

**Holly**

Cruise to Battle Alley/Holly Car Show, every Wednesday until October, from 5 to 8 p.m., in downtown Holly, major sponsor is Bar’s Leak. D.J., door prizes, 50/50 raffle at Lisa Clark’s table. Organizers are John Bozart and Bob Allsop.
One-tank getaways

Hop in your car and drive toward three of the Great Lakes for pure Michigan beauty

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

Michigan has more shoreline than any other state in the U.S., with four of the Great Lakes lapping against 3,200 miles of Michigan’s coast. With all this natural beauty around us, why not hop in the car this summer and visit three of the Great Lakes that are within a one-tank drive in Michigan?

ONE-TANK DRIVE #1

Lake Huron
80 miles — take I-69 and head east
Lake Huron is only 80 miles from Fenton, landing you in Port Huron, known for fishing, boating, freighter watching and access across the Blue Water Bridge to Sarnia, Ontario, Canada.

For more of a beach destination, travel a little further on I-75 to Bay City and head east on M-25 to Michigan’s Thumb, where 90 miles of swimming and fishing shoreline await you.

FURTHER NORTH, travel on U.S. 23 to Tawas, Oscoda and Alpena on Michigan’s “Sunrise Side” for beautiful beaches, lighthouses and ships.

IS YOUR CAR READY FOR A SUMMER ROAD TRIP?

Here’s a pre-trip checklist to go over with your local dealership or car care professional before you leave:

- Check the brake system and make sure the battery connection is clean, tight and corrosion-free.
- Check filters and fluids, including engine oil, power steering and brake and transmission, as well as windshield washer solvent and antifreeze/coolant. Dirty air filters can waste gas and cause the engine to lose power.

See ROAD TRIP READY on 23A
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GETAWAYS
Continued from Page 21A
only four hours from Fenton. Leave early and stay late, there’s a lot to enjoy in the surrounding cities of Mackinaw City and St. Ignace.

If time allows, you still have enough gas to cross the bridge and visit the Mystery Spot, the Cut River Bridge and other U.P. attractions.

ONE TANK DRIVE #3
Lake Erie
- 200 miles west to Ludington — U.S. 23 north to U.S. 10 all the way to Lake Michigan
- 150 miles to Holland — take I-69, then I-96 west

You can head in two different directions west: both ultimately taking you to the beautiful beaches of Lake Michigan. Northwest destinations include the popular tourist towns of Ludington, Traverse City and Petoskey, plus the incredible beauty of the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

Southwest destinations include Holland, just south and west of Grand Rapids, Saugatuck, Grand Haven and South Haven. Saugatuck was recently named the #1 weekend getaway in the entire U.S. by USA Today, famous for its beaches, unique bed and breakfasts, shopping and restaurants.

ONE TANK DRIVE #4
Lake Erie
150 miles to Sandusky, Ohio on your way to Cleveland — take U.S. 23 south and I-90 east

For an action-packed one-tank trip, visit Cedar Point in Sandusky, voted “best amusement park in the world,” but don’t stop there. Lake Erie’s unique islands, including Put’n’Bay, plus specialty sport fishing, make this resort area a must-see visit.

Continue on to Cleveland, just 210 miles from Fenton, and stop at the Rock’n Roll Hall of Fame Museum, Great Lakes Science Center and the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

ONE TANK DRIVE #5
Lake Michigan
- 200 miles west to Ludington — U.S. 23 north to U.S. 10 all the way to Lake Michigan
- 150 miles to Holland — take I-69, then I-96 west

You can head in two different directions west: both ultimately taking you to the beautiful beaches of Lake Michigan. Northwest destinations include the popular tourist towns of Ludington, Traverse City and Petoskey, plus the incredible beauty of the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

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ROAD TRIP READY
Continued from Page 21A
- Check the hoses and belts that can become cracked, brittle, frayed, and loose or show signs of excessive wear. These are critical to the proper function of the electrical system, air conditioning, power steering and the cooling system.
- Check the tires, including tire pressure and tread. Underinflated tires reduce a vehicle’s fuel economy and uneven wear indicates a need for wheel alignment. Tires should also be checked for bulges and bald spots.
- Check that the gas cap is not damaged, loose or missing, to prevent gas from spilling or evaporating.

Source: The Car Care Council

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SAVE OVER $8,800
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$95 PER MONTH
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$23,967
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$23,700
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$13,900
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$4,995
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$4,900

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$18,900
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$14,375
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$20,900

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Saturday: 10am - 4pm • Sunday: CLOSED

SERVICE HOURS
Monday: 7:00am - 8pm
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Saturday: 8am - 2pm • Sunday: CLOSED