

“ ” **tctimes.com**
ONLINE COMMENTS

“Pride is a matter of honesty, integrity and honor. It has nothing to do with personal sexual choices.”

“Mark my words, the downtown crosswalks are a lawyer’s dream. Someone, hopefully not a child, is going to get injured or killed soon.”

“Was stuck for over 10 minutes at Ellen and LeRoy. Do something. The restaurant is making tons of money and the citizens are paying the price. Where is the logic here?”

“If you don’t like a certain float, close your eyes when it goes by. It was a wonderful parade.”

“I am so excited by the construction of the Cornerstone building. Can’t wait to see the new ‘cornerstone’ of a revitalized and thriving downtown Fenton – Woo hoo.”

“What would be awesome would be a movie theater downtown. Everyone would patronize it.”

“ ” **HOT LINE OF THE WEEK**

“Having spent much time overseas, I have learned that a simple toot-toot on your car horn is a far more civil way to prompt an inattentive driver than a confrontational semi-truck blast. Help keep Fenton friendly.”

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



The bridge that made Zilwaukee famous

By Tim Jagielo

tjagielo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

Zilwaukee — Towering over North Westervelt Road is the bridge that made Zilwaukee famous. From underneath it looks like a typical Michigan overpass, albeit enormous, transporting thousands of vehicles daily over the Saginaw River.

The structure hums with traffic passing overhead, and water draining from gutters underneath and

See ZILWAUKEE on 14A

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

With its safety called into question, the Zilwaukee Bridge was finished in 1987, after a three-year delay. Since then, millions of travelers have trusted the bridge as they crossed over the Saginaw River. (Right) Zane Austin, 9, fishes with grandfather Michael Vaughn, both of Zilwaukee.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

The party at “the point” brings hundreds of boats each year, and is monitored closely by the Genesee County Sheriff’s Department.

‘We can’t keep ‘em off the sandbar’

► Sheriff’s Department duty-bound to monitor point

By Sharon Stone

sstone@tctimes.com; 810-433-6786

Activity on Lake Fenton will be calmer this weekend, as compared

to last weekend.

As the law enforcement agency for Fenton Township, Genesee County Undersheriff Chris Swanson said that the sheriff’s department

See SANDBAR on 20A

Fenton Township man struck, killed while getting mail

► Sheriff’s Dept: Driver of vehicle had no time to brake

By Sharon Stone

sstone@tctimes.com; 810-433-6786

A 59-year-old Fenton Township man was killed when he was struck by a vehicle on Fenton Road, between Thomp-

son and Ray roads in Fenton Township Wednesday evening.

Undersheriff Chris Swanson of the Genesee County Sheriff’s Department said Nicolai Bodnariuc, a native of Romania, was walking with a friend near the Fenton Market party store just after 7 p.m.

See KILLED on 5A

State standardized testing for schools to stay — for now

► Gov. Snyder opts for state testing rather than national

By William Axford

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Gov. Rick Snyder approved Michigan’s \$15 billion education budget last month. Part of the budget mandates that the Michigan Education Assessment Program (MEAP) will be administered during the fall, leaving educators confused as

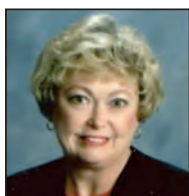
See TESTING on 15A



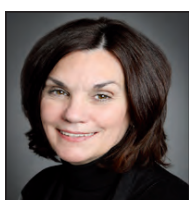
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Police & Fire report

MAN'S ROWBOAT STOLEN

Between midnight on July 4 and 12:40 p.m. on July 5, unknown suspects stole a 15-foot steel rowboat valued at \$1,000 from property in the 14000 block of Westman in Fenton. Fenton police were unable to locate the boat and believe it might have been dragged to Lake Fenton. A 54-year-old man told police that during that time he witnessed two people wandering around on his property, and when he yelled they left.

WHEELBARROW STOLEN

On July 7, Fenton police received a report of a stolen wheelbarrow. A homeowner in the 500 block of Peach Tree Lane said sometime during the previous night someone took his two-wheeled cart from his yard.

ESCAPE PLAN BACKFIRES

Minutes after midnight on July 4, Fenton police responded to an apartment off Torrey Road to pick up a 23-year-old Fenton man on an outstanding arrest warrant out of Flint. As a police officer attempted to make contact at the door of his apartment, the man decided to attempt an escape by exiting out the balcony. When he got to the ground, another police officer took him into custody. He was transported to Flint for an arraignment.

TRI-COUNTY TIMES

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'Cheap, fun day' at the mud bogs

► 2,300 line up for fun, food, beer, and lots of mud

By Tim Jagielo

tjagielo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

Byron — Before the fireworks fly on July 4, so goes the mud, whipped up by huge, aggressive tires, a roaring motor and a heavy right foot.

The Byron Mud Bog at T & E Farms is in its 10th year, and 2,300 converge on the 400-foot-long mud pit run. It smells like mud cooking on exhaust and hot dogs and burgers on the grill. The roar of these rigs can be painful to the ears if you're too close.

Many get stuck, but all are encouraged by the crowd, who treat the mud bog like a spectator sport.

“You can't go anyplace for \$5, and take the kids, ride ATVs, swim.”

Ed Vandenboss
T & E Farms

See **MUD BOGS** on 10A



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

(Top) Raymond Hook picks mud off his friend's rig, which has 53-inch tractor tires and 500 horsepower. It's next to his friend's son's Jeep, which has no horsepower and 12-inch tires. (Immediately above) One brave rider gets closer to the mud than anyone else during a run.

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Truth *and* consequences

Truth be told, President Obama has never shown an aptitude for leadership of any sort. Not surprising when you consider the fact that before being elected president he'd never led anything. His only other position in his entire professional life was as a 'community organizer' where his job was to incite unrest amongst the economically-challenged masses by convincing them their plight was due to 'social injustices,' as opposed to personal effort. It should surprise no one that he has modeled his entire presidency on the same creepy 'salesman of injustice' business model he was taught to use as a 'community organizer.'

It worked for a while, but people are now — finally — waking up and realizing that under Barack Obama's

leadership, America has never been more polarized socially, challenged financially or at-risk globally.



In the history of America, there has never been a president more interested in the trappings of the office, but less in the duties of it. President Obama has cemented his place in history not on results, but on the cult of personality that his handlers and the butt-lickers in the media have built around him.

The president's 'legend' was carefully created long before a single vote for president was cast. He was the smartest, most gifted man ever to run for office. We know this because, well...because the talking heads on TV told us he was. Never mind that there is more proof that Big-foot is living in Argentine than genuine

examples of his alleged brilliance. But a myth repeated often enough has a way of gaining legs that even stark reality has difficulty overcoming.

Barack Obama can give a speech, but his tired and repetitive platitudes are now meaningless, neutered by the lack of any substance behind them. His Academy Award-winning style of delivery that intoxicated people into believing the messenger while ignoring the message is now blunted by the reality of six years of absolutely zero accomplishments other than enriching his friends and doubling the national debt.

The euphoria has worn off for all but those who refuse to accept reality, preferring perception over what their brain actually sees and processes. With President Obama's own dictates being rejected by the courts, his

own party and the masses, his desperation and audacity is growing by the day. Ineffective in strategic, legal or partisan tactics, his non-existent leadership leaves him with only an arsenal of public temper tantrums, insults and

complaints that are a stain on the dignity of the office of the President of the United States.

Our nation deserves better. And it will be better once we are rid of this cranial lightweight and his equally inept associates. The United States is strong enough to survive the amount of damage any single individual can inflict on us — even for eight long years. We will

survive it and, hopefully, learn from it.

The above is the unvarnished truth. The consequences are yet to come.

Opinions offered in If I Were King are the author's alone and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Tri-County Times or its staff. Email the King at king@tctimes.com. Some content adapted from the internet.

Hot lines

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

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

SAW A LOT of huge, unsightly boat covers on Lake Fenton over the weekend. Hope they aren't blocking the beautiful lake views for your neighbors.

TO THE FAMILY in our sub, clean up your yard. Your trampoline has been destroyed for months. Your yard is a disgrace. We live in a nice sub and you should be ashamed how your yard is kept. This is a nice sub and people like you ruin it.

WHAT WAS UP with the early Ponetian Nights this year? We needed more time to plan.

I SURE AGREE with the article asking for a traffic light by the new restaurant in downtown Fenton.

MANY HOMEOWNERS DO not edge the sidewalks, many are partially covered with grass. Let's get some pride. Thanks.

NOW THAT ROSE Township supervisor has his part-time employee doing the cemeteries, when is he going to make him get out and clean them up?

A LEGISLATOR'S CAMPAIGN signs around this area read 'elect' him to office when it should be 'reelect' him since he is currently in office. Is it, if voters knew this, they would not vote for him?

I HOPE THE scumbags that stole my two cone-shaped, pink begonia hanging planters from Ray Road between Torrey and Fenton enjoy them as much as I did. They were a gift to me for Mother's Day. Will you please bring them back?

THANK YOU TO all the many people I saw in downtown Dibbleville planting flowers the past few weeks. You have helped to make that area look so nice.

LINDEN IS SO fortunate. The staff and members at the Loose Senior Center are very warm, welcoming and friendly. It is a beautiful facility with so much to offer for those 50 and over. It enriches the lives of seniors in so many different ways.

LINDEN'S NEW CITY mural is creative, colorful, and artistic, but it does not 'fit' Linden. Linden is quaint and charming. Let's keep it that way. A historic mural with toned down colors would be better.

PEOPLE NEED TO stop 'automatically' assuming that just because you can drive a car, you can drive a boat. Driving a boat should require a license, no matter your age. It is a lot harder to stop a boat than a car.

SHAME ON FENTON for closing FARR, the family that volunteered all these years was always there, helped everybody. I really miss that store.

IT WOULD BE so much nicer if the Loose Center had card games from 1-3:30 p.m. Have they ever thought about it?

I THINK THE mural in Linden would have looked much better if it were in black and white. The mainly yellow background gives it a childish feel and look. But why is it

that businesses cannot use some of those same colors on their signs?

THE AMERICAN PUBLIC thinks Obama is the worst president since World War II. I think he's the worst president since World War I. The only thing he is number one at is being the worst president in history of our country.

HEY, ARGENTINE FINALLY realized McCaslin Lake exists! Yeah, it's time for all of us to pay our taxes. That's the only time they think about us.

ONE THING THAT Obama is good at; he's a good standup comedian.

HAS ANY CITY official actually stood downtown and watched the death-defying crosswalk logic in action? No one knows what to do, neither drivers nor pedestrians.

LOVE THE MURAL on the side of the bicycle shop on North Leroy. Linden officials should come over and see what a real mural looks like.

THANK YOU LINDEN High School band for marching in our Fourth of July parade.

WHY DO LINDEN elected officials continually subject their own citizens to the warped arbitrariness of their personal taste when it comes to our town? It's our town, you work for us.

CUSTOMERS OF GAS stations, please figure out which side of the car your gas tank is on before coming to get fuel. I've never seen so many people not know which side their gas tank is on.

IF YOU ARE so sick of Obama, and all you are going to do is complain about him to

your friends and to the paper, then stop watching his speeches! No one wants to hear it anymore!

HOW INCONSIDERATE OF the landlord to mow the lawn on Fourth of July morning from 8 to 9 a.m. He then left to go wherever he came from after waking up and disturbing the neighborhood. Many people take that holiday morning to sleep in and enjoy the quiet.

DRIVERS, LEARN THE rules when driving through downtown. You don't have to stop and wait for a pedestrian that is 30 feet from a crosswalk. If they are not in the crosswalk itself, continue as you were. Sheesh, it's not that complicated.

IF PRESIDENT OBAMA did not do things on his own, nothing would get done. This must be the laziest congress in U.S. history. They haven't done anything for six years except try to make political points against the president.

THANK YOU TO the Freedom Festival organizers and volunteers. It was an awesome day; the parade was the best one yet. Also, thanks to the Linden Marching Band, it was super having a band in the parade.

IF WE WANTED to have a fundraiser to raise money to get our roads fixed, why don't we put an auto parts store at the end of McCaslin Lake Rd.? You'd have the money in no time.

FENTON HAS GONE mad. A parade is supposed to represent the best of small town life, not a commercial for sexual preferences. I would like to know who exactly made this insane decision that affects the rest of us.

See **HOT LINE** throughout Times

Compiled by Torrey Christopher, intern

What song brings back the most memories?

streettalk



"'Little Deuce Coupe' by the Beach Boys. I used to be a hot rod as a kid."

— Tom Barker
Tyron Township



"'The Rolling Stones' 'Jumpin' Jack Flash.' It was a good dance song."

— Lonnie Ward
Linden



"'American Pie.' My cousins and I used to sing Karaoke to it."

— Rachael Starrs
Linden



"'Only You' by The Platters. It was my wedding song."

— Barbara Viola
Fenton



"'If I Could Save Time in a Bottle.' It's a nice sentiment."

— Mark Willmarth
Fenton



"'The one they sing for the Fourth of July, 'God Bless America.' I have listened to it since I was a kid."

— Goldee Kettelson
Fenton Township

Board struggles with ordinance to allow car sales

►Concerns raised that law would also allow sale of mobile homes

By William Axford

axford@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Fenton Twp. — The Fenton Township Board of Trustees voted down a proposed amendment they drafted at Monday's meeting. The amendment, which would allow for the sale of automobiles and recreational vehicles, was drafted in order to allow Bob Stoddard, owner of On Line Auto, to sell cars within the township.

Trustees took issue with a small oversight, however, as the amendment would have allowed for the sale of mobile homes. Despite Stoddard's promises to not be involved with the sale of mobile homes, township leaders couldn't justify passing the amendment.

"The fact is, I don't know what to tell you guys what to do because I don't know how you're going to vote," Stoddard said. "I'm bleeding money waiting for this process — thousands and thousands of dollars. I've also laid off six employees over the past month. I don't want to lose these people."

Discussion amongst the board to amend the ordinance on outdoor vehicles and mobile homes began at the June 16 meeting, where Trustee Shaun Shumaker suggested the board follow the township's master plan when deciding to allow Stoddard to sell vehicles. Trustee Robert Kesler advocated that the board should encourage new business to operate within the township.

While the board didn't pass the amendment to the existing ordinance, they did take a second vote to allow for the sale of automobiles and outdoor vehicles by "a

rite with a special use permit," effectively allowing Stoddard to begin operation of his business once he obtains the correct permit. The vote came 6 to 1, with Township Clerk Robert Krug casting the dissenting vote.

Treasurer John Tucker pointed out that while the board was sympathetic to Stoddard's situation, the car salesman should have been aware of the zoning restrictions when he selected the location for his business.

"When I looked at (the amendment), I too wondered where mobile homes came from," Tucker said. "(Stoddard) moved into the building but didn't have the appropriate zoning for it. I understand what he's telling me but rezoning takes time."

The new amendment will be presented to the planning commission and will have a second reading at the July 21 Fenton Township board meeting.

“I’m bleeding money waiting for this process.”

Bob Stoddard
Owner of On Line Auto

KILLED

Continued from Front Page

While Bodnariuc's friend walked into the party store, Bodnariuc walked across the street to get mail out of his mailbox. Swanson said witnesses reported that after Bodnariuc retrieved his mail, he turned around to walk back across the street. With his head down to look at his mail, he reportedly stepped, without looking, into the path of a Chevy Cobalt, which was traveling southbound at the posted speed.

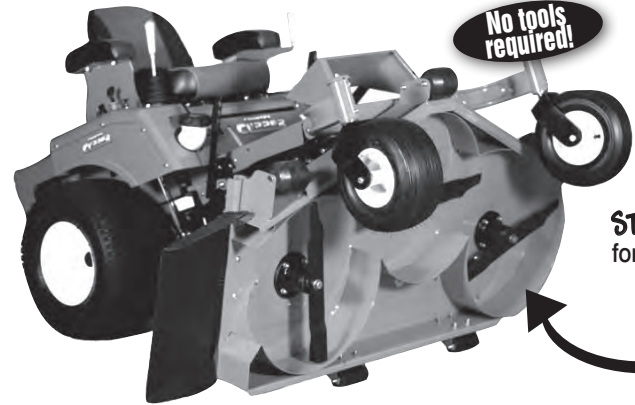
With no time to brake, the Cobalt, driven by a 29-year-old Fenton woman, struck Bodnariuc at full speed. After striking the windshield, he was thrown about 25 feet from the car.

Swanson said the Fenton Township Fire Department arrived on scene quickly for traffic control and emergency personnel began medical care to Bodnariuc, as well as the driver of the Cobalt. She sustained head injuries from the impact.

Bodnariuc was pronounced deceased at the scene and was transported to Hurley Medical Center in Flint. The driver of the Cobalt was transported to Genesys Health Park in Grand Blanc Township for treatment of head injuries.

Swanson said neither alcohol nor speed were factors with the driver of the Cobalt, however, the crash remains under investigation.

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Brad Hissong

Hissong's work everywhere, in Fenton

►Long-time administrator retires after 42 years

By Tim Jagielo

tjagielo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

Although Brad Hissong has retired from the city of Fenton, his phone is still ringing, and he still has a pile of work to do, some of it city-related.

Hissong retired on June 26, after 42 years as building and zoning administrator. That short title does not reflect the huge number of roles the job entailed. He ran three departments under that title — the building, zoning, and enforcement departments for the city. He also reviewed construction plans, which is not a common skill for a city building official.

Today, he said he's having trouble letting go of the responsibility. He's still on-hand to ease the transition to the next building official, and offers his advice.

"Even though I love my job, I did it for 42 years. It's just time to do a little less," he said.

He won't have any trouble finding things to keep him busy, and he'll also get back to doing some music promotion work.

Looking back, he has a lot of moments in his career to be proud of.

Early in his position as a building official in Mt. Morris Township, he was part

of a grand jury trial that condemned 100 poorly built homes, which he lists as his biggest career accomplishment.

Fenton visitors and residents can easily see his work around town.

Finishing Silver Parkway was his single biggest accomplishment. "We made sure it was built the way it was approved by the planning commission," he said.

He's also proud of holding the line on blight in the city when the economy fell — abandoned homes received new win-

dows, lawn care and were updated instead of boarded up, and turned around quickly.

In either case, he credits city planners and code enforcers for making him shine. "My quality, is I don't like lights blinking, and phone messages. If I don't deal with it today, I'll have to deal with it tomorrow," he said. They didn't skip anything by moving quickly. "We just worked harder."

The hardest part of his job was keeping up with construction plan reviews, which had to be done thoroughly, and often at home. He guesses he spent 12-15 hours a week keeping up with the plans. One of the biggest was, of course, the Cornerstone building, which helped all involved save money.

Since retiring, he's gone up north with his family, which includes his wife, grandkids and father-in-law.

“Even though I love my job, I did it for 42 years. It's just time to do a little less.”

Brad Hissong

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Holly VFW sees renovation for first time since 1940s

►Leaders looking to expand membership

By William Axford

axford@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Holly — For the first time since coming into existence in the 1940s, the Holly VFW Post 5587 on Airport Road has been fully renovated. From a new drop ceiling and ventilation to new cabinets and appliances in the kitchen, the interior of the Holly VFW looks like a completely different building.

"One of the founding members of the Post, Bud Mendez, has told me a million times, 'I can die in peace now,'" said Post Commander Sam Alvarado. The next step for post leaders is to attract more local veterans who have never visited the Post. "Our goal is to make this post grow with younger men who served in Afghanistan, Iraq and Desert Storm."

Opportunities for veterans to learn more about the VFW range from an open house on Saturday, July 12 to a pig roast on Saturday, July 19. Alvarado and post member Bob Dixon said camaraderie and help navigating

through the veteran assistance program are two of the biggest advantages for nonmember veterans to become involved with the VFW.

The Post currently has 81 members and hosts numerous other organizations such as the Great Lakes National Cemetery, Boy Scouts, Holly Area Youth Assistance and other local organizations. Post leaders are working on events for the public as well, with a few ideas including Euchre tournaments and teen nights, where Wi-Fi and coffee will be available. The hall, located at 201 Airport Drive, is available for rental for events such as weddings and anniversaries.

"We have a solid core group of veterans who make all this possible," Alvarado said. "This is the most active the Post has been in the past 14 years. They're not going to play Taps on us."

Alvarado and Dixon said they are open to suggestions from the public on activities the Post should host, as well as talking to veterans who are interested in becoming a member of the Post. To find out more, contact Alvarado at (810) 955-6799 or Dixon at (248) 328-9738.

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USA last when it comes to maternity laws

►Lack of guaranteed paid time off for parents of newborns puts stress on new families

By William Axford

axford@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

America is known as the “land of the free, home of the brave.” For newborn parents, it’s also the land of “congratulations, get back to work.”

According to the Human Rights Watch (HRW) organization, America, Papua New Guinea and Swaziland are the only three countries in the world that do not have a legal guarantee of paid maternity leave. The lack of guaranteed time off leaves many parents strained, worried whether they will lose their job if they have to take time off in order to raise a newborn.

The Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) is the only semblance of maternity leave in Michigan and most states in America, which allows for up to 12 weeks unpaid leave from work (check sidebar for comparison of maternity leave in America and other countries).

Heather Laube, who teaches sociology, and women and gender studies at the University of Michigan-Flint, said the first few months of a child’s life may be the most important, and that stressing about finances and staying employed should be the last concern for new parents. But due to the lack of comprehensive maternity laws in America, parents of newborns often rush back to work, taking inadequate time to nurse their child.

“If parents are worried about finances and looking to get back to work, it’s not good for newborns,” Laube said. “It’s huge to be able to pay your bills and care for your family, but it’s important for kids to have care, particularly from their parents.”

Laube attributes the lack of maternity leave laws to American culture, where society focuses on individualism rather than a collective approach to childrearing. Laube points out this ideology may have been achievable in the 1950s, but



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

Carrie Keech of Fenton Township gets her girls ready to play outside in this May file photo. Keech, 38, was a teacher at Orion Oaks Elementary School in Lake Orion for nine years, before her last maternity leave when daughter Josie, now 18 months, was born. That brought her home as a full-time mom. She said the school was flexible with her time away as she contemplated leaving the profession to be a stay-at-home mom. Overall though, paid maternity/paternity leave is not supported by law in the U.S.

has become unrealistic with each passing decade.

According to the HRW’s publication “Failing its Families,” the American workforce includes 19 million women who contribute a significant amount of income to a household, four times the amount of women working in the 1950s.

“Having active parents in childrearing usually keeps kids out of violence and helps them do better in school,” said Laube. But between low-paying jobs, more instances of single par-

enting and the high cost of child care, most women find themselves in a bind when it comes to childrearing and finances. “We don’t have a system for child care. We say that we’re a country that cares about kids, but we don’t.”

So what should be done?

Ideally, Laube said both the mother and father should receive a minimum of three months paid time off work to take care of a newborn and the option of an additional unpaid three months off work. Laube points

to California, where new mothers are given 12 weeks of job leave, with six of them paid for. More flexibility and time off for childrearing, Laube said, creates a better work environment and encourages more young people to create a family.

“Employers who have flexible times

Summary

►Unlike other countries, America has little protection for parents to keep employment after the birth of a newborn. States like California and a few bills in Congress may expand maternity laws in the country.

for employees have workers who don’t call in sick as much. California has a paid parental care policy that comes from a small tax fee so it’s something that is supported collectively as a society,” Laube

said. “Why employers don’t do it now is kind of a mystery.”

Maternity laws around the world

America — Up to 12 weeks unpaid leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act.

Canada — Mothers can take up to 50 weeks off for maternity leave earning up to 45 percent of pay, capped at \$485 per week.

Sweden — Mothers can take up to 60 weeks for maternity leave and earn up to 80 percent of pay.

Denmark — New moms get a full 52 weeks off, with 100 percent pay during maternal leave.

Serbia — New moms get the Denmark treatment, also receiving a full 52 weeks off and 100 percent pay.

Source: *The Los Angeles Times*, ServiceCanada.gc.ca, Denmark.com/healthcare/pregnancy-birth, SSA.gov

“It’s unrealistic and impractical, this idea that men should earn money and take care of the whole family.”

Heather Laube

Sociology professor at the University of Michigan-Flint

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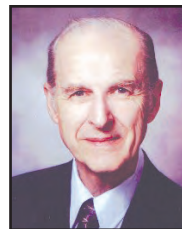


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Featured columnist

By Roger Campbell



Let God carry your cares

Most of us have known people who were serene when everything seemed to be crashing down around them. In the most trying of circumstances, they have remained trusting and calm. Those going to comfort them have come away comforted. The secret of such peace in times of peril is to allow God to carry our cares.

We will never escape cares because they are part of being alive. Every circumstance and time of life has its own peculiar set of cares, therefore we must guard against wishing our lives away looking forward to times we think will be less stressful than today.

People who are struggling financially may continually have money problems on their minds, but those who have plenty of money also have cares. Surprisingly, most studies show that wealthy people have more problems with worry and depression than those with less money.

How then shall we handle life's cares?

According to the Bible, we are to worry about nothing and pray about everything. Faith and fear are opposites and as faith increases, fear decreases.

I have a friend who was a prisoner of Nazi forces during World War II. While he was imprisoned, Allied bombing

of that area kept increasing until the danger of being killed by friendly fire became a greater threat than surviving his imprisonment. Anxiety over this two-way jeopardy would have been unbearable but for a Bible verse he had memorized that provided him both strength and hope: 'Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and He will sustain thee' (Psalm 55:22).

My work has placed me with people in the most trying times of their lives. I have often been there when tears were flowing, when all the castles had tumbled, when the feared and unwanted had become reality. But I have watched many of these same people rise up after their storms and get on with faith-filled living, some even seeing their former trials as learning experiences that contributed to later gains.

Businessmen who appeared to be on the brink of bankruptcy have prayed and worked their way back to success. Grieving people have found His grace and comfort sufficient enough to enable them to smile again.

Parents who had nearly despaired over their wayward children have hung on, and now rejoice in the good things that are happening in the lives of those they love.

Women whose marriages of many years had crumbled when their husbands suddenly deserted them have been the most amazing of all in finding strength to rebound and find purpose in living.

Whatever you're facing today, remember you don't have to carry these burdens alone. God loves you and awaits your prayers. He's ready to carry your cares.

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

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HOT LINE CONTINUED

I AM SO sick of people talking about the LGBT floats. I am not gay, but I feel that everyone should have the right to live whatever life makes them happy. What I am sick of is all the church floats and Hot lines being shoved in my face. If we need to eliminate agendas, let's start with the churches keeping to themselves too.

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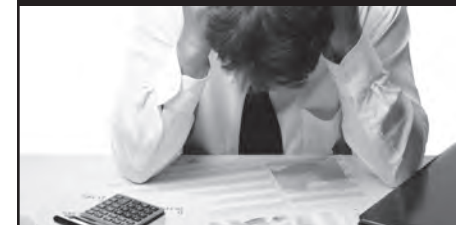
THE PEOPLE WITH the squirt guns were far more offensive than the LGBT group. When did it become acceptable to shoot random parade watchers with squirt guns?

TO THE PERSON who left the big roll of carpet on the city property behind the hair care business in Linden, city property is not your personal dumpster.

DON'T WASTE YOUR time talking to any of the gay crowd. No matter what they were doing on the float, they would tell you to use it as a teaching experience for your kids.

TO THE LADY that bought the baby gate at my garage sale for \$3, you took the extension box, but forgot the gate. I hate for you not to get the gate. Please stop by, I have it for you.

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TINA GARTLY

Osprey grow to be 2-feet long, with a wingspan of 6 feet. This chick was banded, and taken back up to the nest.

DNR tags local raptor

► Baby osprey banded for population tracking

By Tim Jagielo

tjagielo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

Fenton Twp. — On Wednesday, Wildlife Biologist Julie Oakes with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Seven Lakes State Park office tagged an osprey chick, after it was brought down from the 190-foot tower by a Clearlink Wireless technician.

The chick is larger than most adult birds, and was carefully transported down the tower, tagged, and brought back up.

Through the process, the nervous mother circled, emitting her distress calls. Eventually, adult osprey are tagged with a tracking device.

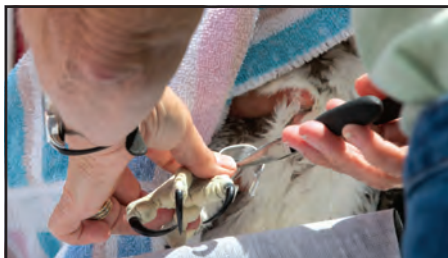
Oakes said they try to band as many of them as they can to keep track of the population. Last year, the nest was lost.

Osprey are a raptor native to Michigan. This pair can be seen flying fish all the way from Lake Fenton to the nest, located atop a tower behind the Fenton Sears store, to feed. Osprey are also unique in their ability to dive into the water for fish.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

The baby osprey is replaced, freshly banded for tracking, as the mother circles warily.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TINA GARTLEY

The DNR tries to tag as many of the baby osprey as possible.

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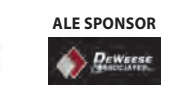
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MUD BOGS

Continued from Page 3A

Tim Felker of Owosso drove his 700 HP 1987 GMC pick-up through the course about five times. He guesses he burned 10 gallons of gas overall — or around 2 gallons per 400-foot run.

It's harder to find a more uniquely American celebration than the big tires and engines it takes to pass the course, while spectators drink beer and grill, decked out in red, white, blue and of course, mud, and the always kitsch "Murica" variation.

Ed Vandenboss with the farm runs the event with his family, and it started as a fun thing to do on July 4, when a trip up north got too expensive. It grew into a family reunion, and then into one of the biggest events in the area on July 4. The point is driven home by the 22 acres of parked vehicles, and the number of tents set up around the mud pit.

The entrance fee for spectators is \$5 — though some can get away with not paying. Ironically, the veterans he tries to let in for free often pay to support the event.

Aside from the spectacle of the mud bog, there is a pond with a slide and diving board for the kids. It's the kind of atmosphere you can run around barefoot in.

Vandenboss describes the mud bog as a



"cheap, fun day — you can't go anyplace for \$5, and take the kids, ride ATVs, swim."

The money covers the costs associated with the event; set up and clean up help is all paid, as well as the gas for recovery

vehicles when trucks get stuck.

There were 84 rigs registered to take a run at the pit at a cost of \$5 per truck, which is paid to the guys who have to hook the trucks up to a tow rig if they're stuck in the mud.

After they make a run at the mud pit, they are required to wash off next to the pond, at a hose and pump provided by Vandenboss — it keeps the pounds of mud off the roads afterward, which can be especially unsafe if you're on a motorcycle.

The mud bog is insured, though Vandenboss would rather attendees carry themselves as if it wasn't. There are also 10 porta-johns and two first-aid staffers, and several parking attendants, all wearing neon green shirts.

To prepare the mud pit, Vandenboss pumps the standing water out of the pit, after which his grandkids scoop out the fish and turtles, and relocate them to the pond behind the house.

The soupy mud is dozed out, and the bottom of the run packed in, and then the mud is replaced. The idea isn't to make an especially difficult course — enough



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

(Upper left) included in the entry fee is the pond, which included a slide and diving board. (Middle top) Nick Anderson flicks mud at friends from atop a modified Toyota truck. (Upper right) Jake LaVoy, 16, of Byron gets a wash from Tim Felker after accidentally getting transmission fluid in his hair. (Bottom right) Krista Beauchesne, 17, of Swartz Creek washes mud from her brother's truck. (Bottom left) a Chevy Blazer buzzes past the spectator tents after a successful run.

trucks get stuck as it is. "The more people that don't get stuck, the safer it is," he said. The day of the mud bog, he'll disc off the surface with farm equipment.

Getting through the course he said, does take some technique. He said it takes the right amount of throttle, and avoiding the holes by watching the drivers who went before.

Also zipping around are golf carts and ATVs, which are supposed to keep to 5 mph. Despite how it might sound, the atmosphere is relatively safe and under control.

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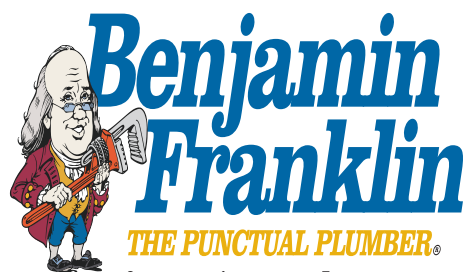
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ZILWAUKEE BRIDGE FACTS

- **The Zilwaukee Bridge** is a high-level bridge carrying I-75 (and U.S. 23) over the Saginaw River at Zilwaukee. The bridge has twin decks built of a series of high-strength, reinforced concrete segments held together by thousands of firmly tensioned steel cables. The mile-and-a-half long bridge replaced an outmoded, inadequate drawbridge that caused backups on the freeway every time it opened for river traffic.
- **The bridge is** 1.5 miles long, and has about 27,000 miles of eighth-inch wire, that makes up the steel cables that keep tension on the bridge. There are 12 strands in each cable, which are the size of man's wrist.

- **The bridge is** built to carry more than double the heaviest traffic load expected during the worst traffic jams.
- **The launching girder** apparatus that lifted the concrete segments into place weighed 1,700 tons.
- **Another bearing project** was attempted and completed in 2008 — but not without difficulties, as the bearing plates were found to be defective, and traffic was rerouted through downtown Saginaw causing backups.

— Source: MDOT



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

A train passes beneath the Zilwaukee Bridge at North Westervelt Road in Zilwaukee on Wednesday.



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ZILWAUKEE

Continued from Front Page

the occasional nesting bird. In the state-owned area below the bridge, some heavy equipment waits for its next task. Expansive, clean geometric lines and surfaces make the bridge, completed in 1987, look new.

The calm underneath belies the annual 21 million vehicles that will pass over the bridge, and city, and the massive project being conducted on it this summer.

From atop the bridge you can see the city to your left, and to your right, the looming piles of crushed rock from a local gravel and ready-mix company.

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is investing \$36 million into the bridge in a year-long project, which will affect anyone traveling north on I-75 this summer.

Currently, MDOT is working on the Goliath through January 2015. The project in the bridge area will cost \$36 million, encompassing the area between the north and south I-675 junction.

Workers will replace dozens of piers, abutment and expansion joint bearings, 10,000 feet of bridge barrier, and 3.2 percent of the total surface area of the bridge deck overlay. Sealant is also being added to the decks in both directions, north and south.

Project engineer Matt Chynoweth said bearings transmit the weight of the superstructure and traffic loads down to the substructure. They also allow for superstructure movement due to changes in temperature. "For example, the Zilwaukee Bridge can move as much as 8 inches at some bearing locations," he said via email.

Chynoweth said this is the first Zilwaukee Bridge project of this scale, to preserve and extend its life. He said they

need to lift the superstructure off the substructure at every pier and expansion joint location, which is 75 times. "Some of the lifts are in excess of 17 million pounds."

Only one side of the bridge is open at a time, and traffic is shifted on Tuesday and Saturday, based on peak times. On Saturday, the bridge has three southbound lanes, while northbound traffic takes I-675. The flow is reversed on Tuesday.

Zilwaukee Mayor Eugene Jolin can see the bridge from his office at the city administration building. "It's quite impressive to

see that big old monster looking at you," he said. While it's nice for sunset pictures, long-time city residents like him are less awestruck, having lived near the bridge since it was built.

Today, he said people in the community are happy with the bridge,

and it has brought businesses for the easy-on, easy off, highway access, and has become a huge part of the city identity.

The bridge, and the city it's built on, is a gateway to the north, and Jolin said the boom in traffic happens during the summer, and deer hunting season. "Anyone going up there has to come this way," he said.

Before it was built, the original draw bridge was credited with a 56-mile traffic jam, and the idea of replacing it was fielded in the mid '70s.

Construction began in 1979 with the \$77 million project. It ran into delays with a massive construction accident in 1982, the ensuing controversy prompted investigations from the U.S. General Accounting Office, and a report to then Michigan Rep. Bill Schuette.

It was found that as many as five factors contributed to a massive shift in the bridge, which damaged the structure during construction. It was finished three years behind schedule, in 1987.

"It's quite impressive to see that big old monster looking at you."

— Eugene Jolin
Zilwaukee mayor

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Activity trackers are the newest way to monitor your personal health habits

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

Activity trackers are today's version of yesterday's old-fashioned pedometers. They count not only steps taken, but also calories burned. Many models also measure sleep quality, compute calorie intake and serve as alarm clocks or watches. Some display your progress in real time, while all trackers can show it later on a smartphone, tablet or computer.

Trackers provide insight about your daily habits and health, and can also help you lose a few pounds. The most well-known mass-marketed trackers are by Fitbit, although there are dozens of different models manufactured by other companies at varying price points.

"I have a Fitbit One," said Victoria Stratton, 30, of Rose Township. "I got it because I had already lost so much weight, but needed the motivation to keep going since I still have more to go."

Stratton loves her Fitbit One because it shows her that what she's doing is working, even when the scale doesn't budge. She wears it underneath her clothing. So far, she has lost 67 pounds since December. "I love being able to challenge other Fitbit friends on how many steps we've each taken. I don't go anywhere without it."

Stratton says she averages 8-10,000 steps a day, because she pushes herself to meet that goal, thanks to her Fitbit One.

Former Fenton resident Sarah Green, 33, of Bay City, has had her Fitbit Flex since May 2013. She wears the Flex on her wrist; it syncs via Bluetooth directly to her iPhone, making it easy to check her steps.

"It's a constant reminder for me to stay active," said Green, a busy mother of two. She currently sets her goal of 10,000 steps daily, equivalent to about five miles.



"I'm more apt to walk the extra distance in a parking lot or take the stairs instead of the elevator, etc. I've even been known to pace around my house late at night just to register a few extra steps for the day. It's oddly gratifying to

feel the little vibration and see the flashing lights on your bracelet once you reach your distance goal for the day."

The Fitbit Flex can track not only steps taken and calories burned, but it can also track sleep patterns, water consumption, etc. "You can even link up with friends via Facebook and the app itself to track one another's step progress and compete with each other. It's very customizable, and you can do as little or as much as you want with it."

In addition to the Fitbit One and Fitbit Flex (both priced at about \$99), there's also more basic Fitbit Zip (priced at \$59.95) that offers fewer customized features, but may work well for a person looking just to track steps, distance and calories burned.

TOP-RATED ACTIVITY TRACKERS BY CONSUMER REPORTS:

Consumer Reports measured how accurate six activity trackers were at counting steps and calories, checked how easy each was to use and assessed their features.

HERE ARE THE TOP SIX AND THEIR OVERALL SCORES:

- Fitbit One (\$100) – score of 80
- Nike+ Fuelband (\$150) – 70
- Up by Jawbone (\$130) – 67
- BodyMedia Fit Link Armband (\$150) – 64
- Fitbit Flex (\$100) – 63
- iHealth Wireless Activity & Sleep Tracker (\$60) - 62

"I don't go anywhere without it."
Victoria Stratton
Fitbit One owner

8TH GRADE 2013 MEAP RESULTS

	PERCENT PROFICIENT IN MATH	PERCENT PROFICIENT IN READING	PERCENT PROFICIENT IN SCIENCE
FENTON	35	83	24.9
LAKE FENTON	41.2	82.6	28
LINDEN	43.5	89.2	29.4
HOLLY	34.7	76.7	12
STATE AVERAGE	34.5	72.7	19.8

11TH GRADE 2014 MICHIGAN MERIT EXAM RESULTS

	PERCENT PROFICIENT IN MATH	PERCENT PROFICIENT IN READING	PERCENT PROFICIENT IN SCIENCE	AVERAGE ACT RESULTS (OUT OF 36)
Fenton	26.8	75.5	35.9	21
Lake Fenton	32.9	63.2	29.6	19.9
Linden	23.2	68.4	32.1	17.3
Holly	31.1	66	38.3	20.1
State average	28.8	58.7	28.4	19.6

TESTING

Continued from Front Page

to whether the Smarter Balanced exams will be part of the spring 2015 school year.

The Smarter Balanced exam falls in line with the national Common Core Standards, which were adopted by Michigan's State Board of Education in 2010. According to corestandards.org, Michigan is one of 43 states that have adopted the standards. The website defines the standards as a "research and evidence based" and "application of knowledge through higher-order thinking skills" education.

Snyder's approval of the MEAP test for the upcoming school year is a turnaround from what the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) was preparing for.

According to an April 2 MDE press release titled '2014-15 Michigan Statewide Assessments Transitions,' educators were ready to phase out the MEAP and prep students for the new national test.

"The 2014-15 school year will bring substantial change in state required summative assessments," said the MDE. "First, there will be no summative testing in fall 2014. The changeover to spring summative testing (in spring 2015) will result in elementary and middle school students being assessed on learning during the current school year. We will be transitioning all of our assessments to online testing."

If and when the Smarter Balanced exams will come to Michigan is not clear.

Rep. Tom McMillin (R-Rochester) has opposed the Common Core standards since 2010, stating in a Detroit News editorial that "Common Core creates a system of top-down education control to give students the minimum

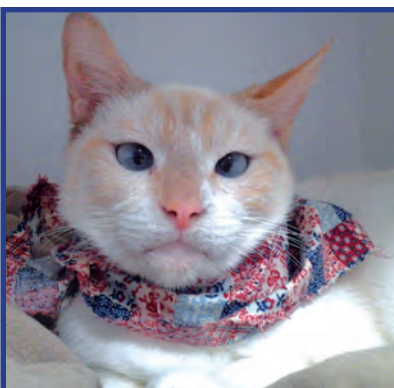
amount of education they need for community college or an entry-level job. The idea is to develop workers for the managed economy, not to educate citizens."

According to data released by the MDE, eighth-graders in the Fenton Area Public Schools (FAPS) were 35 percent proficient in mathematics. In the subject of reading, 83 percent of eighth-graders were proficient in reading. Science was the lowest subject for FAPS, where eighth-graders scored 24.9 percent (check sidebar to see the MEAP results of other tri-county area schools).

At the high school 11th-grade level, the Michigan Merit Exam (MME) is administered instead of the MEAP. The Smarter Balanced exam also tests eleventh-graders and may replace the MME (check additional sidebar to see how tri-county area students scored on the 2013 MME). The MDE reports that Michigan students overall had higher 2014 MME scores than 2013 scores. However, ACT readiness college-level readiness dropped from 18.1 percent to 17.8 percent.

No matter which test will be administered in the future — MEAP, MME or the Smarter Balanced exam — Gov. Snyder said he is committed to seeing Michigan students receiving a quality education.

"These improved scores reflect the hard work of the students, and also the great effort of teachers and others in our state's schools dedicated to improvement," Gov. Snyder said in a press release. "Our mission is to keep that focus on our students, making sure they have the rigorous education they need to be successful."



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SPORTS TRIVIA

BASEBALL

Q What was the longest professional football game?

A During the United States Football League era, the Los Angeles Express defeated the Michigan Panthers 27-21 in a playoff game that wasn't decided until there was 3:33 remaining in the third overtime.

WORLD CUP FINAL

Who's playing?

Germany plays Argentina in the World Cup Final Sunday at 3 p.m.

Semifinal results

In what qualifies as one of the stunning results in World Cup history, Germany scored five first-half goals and crushed the tourney hosts Brazil 7-1 in the semifinals. Meanwhile, Argentina and the Netherlands played what was a rather listless contest with Argentina winning a 0-0 game after posting a 4-2 penalty kick edge.

David's prediction

No one has been as overwhelmingly dominant in this World Cup as Germany. They are loaded with quality offensive weapons and can possess the ball with efficiency and grace. However, one has to wonder if they've peaked. We'll find out quickly.

For a team playing in the final, it's not like Argentina has been worldly impressive. The squad continues to ride Lionel Messi, one of the world's greatest players. A best game remains in them. But I'll hope that doesn't happen.

It will be a good one.

Germany 2, Argentina 1

TRI-COUNTY Times

Sports

WWW.TCTIMES.COM

SUNDAY, JULY 13, 2014

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INSIDE SPORTS:

RUN FOR HOPE
Second annual 5K event is July 19



Area youth having a ball playing 'tennis'

► Catchy alternative games keep kids' attention, teaches them about sport

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

Holly — When it comes to entertaining games, very few are a better game master than Holly varsity boys and girls tennis coach Will Sophia.

Give him a group of about 20 children between the ages of 3 to 5, and Sophia will keep the tennis enthusiasts' attention for the duration of the Holly Summer Tennis Program's day. And as anyone who has tried to keep even one 3-year-old focused on something for a few minutes can attest, that isn't easy.

Yet, if one watches Sophia and his tennis coaches deal with a large group of children on the William McDaniel Tennis Complex courts at that young age, you'll see they accomplish it with relative ease.

Sophia knows more games that can be played with a tennis racket and a tennis ball on a court than one could ever imagine. On one court, a group of about 10 kids are playing a game that involves their tennis rackets. The students are standing in a

circle with their rackets standing on their handles with their hands holding the top part. When they hear the word go, the players must let go of their racket, advance one racket and grab it before it falls to the ground. The last one standing in this tennis version of musical chairs wins the game.

Another game is played minutes later, involving all the young tennis enthusiasts standing in a "box" created by several tiny orange cones. Sophia and another coach bounce tennis balls inside the box, while the children shuffle their feet side-to-side trying to dodge the balls. Do it and you get to remain in the box and earn a victory if you remain in the box when the bucket of tennis balls is empty.

Another game is sort of like a version of chase. The players stand with their hands behind their backs and are given a ball. On the word go, they look at the ball and based on what type of ball they are holding, they either try to tag opponents

See **TENNIS** on 18A



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS

Hayden Boyer, 3, and many other young Holly tennis players compete in a game where they must dodge tennis balls thrown at their feet.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | GLENN PICKHOVER

Fenton's Darren Flagg competes in a recent event. He recently broke four records at a national event in Grand Rapids.

Fenton's Flagg powers his way to the record books

► Powerlifter breaks four records in his division

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

If one runs into Darren Flagg through the normal periods of life, wearing regular street clothes, one thing sticks out before anything else.

It's Flagg's very thick but well groomed dark beard.

"After my last competition, the photographer photoshopped it on everyone on the podium," Flagg said proudly.

It's certainly one of Flagg's trademarks, but when it comes to powerlifting, he doesn't need a gimmick to get his name known. All he has to do is compete. And when he does, there's a good chance a couple of records will go tumbling down.

While competing in the American Powerlifting Federation's U.S. Senior Nationals competition in June, Flagg, 41, broke the Masters I world record in the 75 kilogram competition in the squat, bench press, deadlift and for the combined total of the three in his eight class. The Masters I division includes

See **FLAGG** on 18A

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David's Dabblings

A few thoughts about the area's sports scene and some others not dealing with sports at all.



SUMMER IS BERRY TIME

When it comes to summer one thought pops into my mind when it involves our lawn — it's berry picking time.

We live in an older neighborhood with an average-sized lawn. And what lawn we do have, a great portion is dominated by my wife's love of flowers. However, I am lucky enough to have three types of plants in our yard that satisfy my berry needs. We have strawberry plants, blackberry bushes and blueberry bushes.

The strawberries kick off my berry season. It's easy for me to figure out when that season begins. It's the day when I walk in our sideyard and I see about 10 birds fly out of the patch. Once I leave, they come right back. It's actually kind of funny to witness how quick they return sometimes.

Our strawberries are pretty much done, but that's OK because the blackberries are thriving right now. My wife would love to see those things go, but, gosh darn it, I love wild blackberries. A few years ago, I cut them down a bit after the greatest yield of blackberries we've had, to pacify her need to see them contained. I'll never do that again. It's been a two-year process, and they are still not to the point they were back then. However, they are doing much better.

Why the love of blackberries? When I was a kid we lived near a field and a woods, and we would pick blackberries during the season. I've become a master of getting right in the middle of our vines and getting to all the prime spots to pick the berries. Usually, I charge out there in a pair of shorts, a T-shirt and barefooted. My wife thinks I'm pretty wacky to immerse myself into those thorny vines with so little protection, but it's something I've been doing since I was about 8. I'm pretty used to it.

Finally, the blueberries come out about a month after the blackberries. They haven't grown like I hoped, and the berries are always pretty tart, but just having them is a pretty good feeling.

Those are the edible berries we have in our yard. Unfortunately, we don't have another class of berries which provide entertainment — the sporting 'throwable' berries. The 'throwable' berries are the ones that you don't (or rarely) eat, but they are perfect for competitive berry wars. Crabapple trees are ideal for such fights. We had countless battles when we were kids with our crabapple tree. Of course, those battles didn't compare with the ones involving our Rowan berry tree. Rowan berries are tiny and orange. They grow in great clusters. They are great for multiple berries being tossed in one motion. They also fit perfectly in one of our toy air guns. So when we ran out of toy yellow balls for the rifle, guess what we used?

My poor parents. They loved the color the berries provided to the tree, but more often than not, they only provided orange spots to our grass, the places they laid after one of our berry wars.

Summer time is great for many reasons. Berries are one of those reasons.

Linden's softball future looking bright

►Middle school squad posts unbeaten season

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

Sports results are all about wins and losses.

That's unless you are a member of the Linden Middle School softball team.

Over the last two years, they have hardly experienced that 'L' word.

The Linden Eagles capped an unbeaten season during the spring, posting an 11-0-1 record. But, in a lot of ways, the outstanding season wasn't that much of a shock. After all, the only time the eighth-grade Eagles lost while on the middle school team came during the first game of their seventh-grade season. The Eagles lost the opener of a doubleheader and then mercied their foes in the second contest. Since then, the only contest the squad didn't win was a 4-4 tie against Davison this spring.

"I kind of expected it because we lost only one game last year so it's been a pretty strong program the last few years," said Linden coach Kim Clemons. "The eighth-graders play a lot of travel softball, so we know we have some talent."

"The only game they lost was the first game during their seventh-grade season and then we mercied the team in the second game. I think they were suffering from some kind of jitters in the first game."

Typically, the victories are on the decisive side as Clemons said most contests



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO

Linden Middle School's softball team finished the 2014 spring with an unbeaten 11-0-1 record.

are won via the mercy rule. In fact, the mercy contests become a burden.

"So many of our games are only four or five innings long, so it's really hard to find 15 girls playing time," Clemons said. "It's hard to do it, but we do it."

Clemons has been around many of the girls for quite awhile. This was her first year as the head coach of the middle school team, but she was an assistant coach a year earlier, when the team lost just the one contest. Prior to that she was a coach when many of the girls were in the little league system, playing softball. That season the squad also went undefeated.

"We have a lot of leaders and everyone steps up," Clemons said. "A lot of the eighth-graders step up. My assistant coach says, 'Watch the eighth-graders' and they do. They all get along really well. It's not like a squad of eighth-graders and seventh-graders. They all get

along and are truly a team."

Six of the girls are solid pitchers, and all are serious about their play.

"(Linden varsity softball coach) Gordon Jamison offers hitting clinics during the winter and a lot of the girls take advantage of them," Clemons said. "They are all very dedicated and coachable."

The players on the team include Corryn Reger, Eva Darling, Christina Clemons, Ashley Bertschy, Alaina Bradley, Hannah Marshall, Megan Oda, Deanna Jenkinson, Madeline Smith, Mackenzie Gormley, Heather Crampton, Liz Rakowski, Isabel Wright, Erin Gillespie and Kaitlyn Dunn. Connie Rollison assisted and Rachel Pudney was a manager.

"It was a great season," Clemons said. "I can't wait to see them grow and see what they can do next year and during the years to come."

Run For Hope 5K slated for July 19

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

If a tri-county resident is looking for road races to fill their summer, they don't have to go any farther than the tri-county area communities.

Whether it be at airports, during community festivals, or at Linden County Park every Wednesday in July, there are plenty of weekly events to keep one occupied.

This week it was Fenton's Bastille Day Walk and Run. On July 19 it will be Linden's Hope Lutheran Church hosting their second-annual Run for Hope 5K in Linden.

Proceeds for the event go toward college scholarships for local high school students.

The 5K race begins at 9 a.m. On-line registering is available at <http://snapregistration.com/runforhope/>. Registration the day of the event begins at 7:30 a.m. at Hope Lutheran Church.

There is a 1/4-mile run run for kids at 10 a.m. as well.

Last year's inaugural 5K race was attended by about 200 participants. For more information go to www.facebook.com/RunForHopeLinden.

Wednesday Night Races

The Wednesday Night Races at Linden County Park continue for the next two weeks. There are race distances for every age competitor, starting with the 1/4-mile race at 6:30 p.m. The two-mile and three-mile races start at about 7 p.m. The cost is \$2 a runner or \$5 for a family.



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ET Rover Pipeline LLC, an Energy Transfer Company, is currently developing plans to create a natural gas pipeline to connect the Marcellus and Utica Shale production areas to "liquid" markets in the Midwest, Great Lakes and Gulf Coast regions of the United States, or for export to Canada. The natural gas will be transported from processing facilities in eastern Ohio, northwest West Virginia, and western Pennsylvania, or from pipelines located near Clarington, Ohio.

The Rover Pipeline Project plans to transport 2.2 billion standard cubic feet of natural gas per day through the proposed 600 miles of 24- to 42-inch diameter natural gas pipelines.

ET Rover Pipeline anticipates having initial service from the production regions to the "Midwest Hub" located near Defiance in western Ohio by the end of 2016 to serve the Chicago and Gulf Coast markets. The remaining service to markets in Michigan and Canada will be operational by the second quarter of 2017.

FLAGG

Continued from Page 16A

competitors between 40 and 44. Flagg competes in raw events, which basically means he only wears a singlet and a belt.

"It definitely felt good," Flagg said. "The bench press was a surprise, and once that happened I was feeling confident I'd get the rest of them."

Flagg squatted 192.5 kilograms on his third attempt on the squat. He opened by clearing 185.5 kilograms on his opening lift.

His next event was the bench press, where Flagg cleared 133.5 kilograms, breaking the old record by one-half kilogram during his fourth attempt. Typically in competitions, athletes get three attempts, but because Flagg had already won the event on his third bench press attempt, he earned a fourth attempt.

"I just wanted to set it slightly above the record," Flagg said.

Finally, came the deadlift. He earned that record by breaking the old one by a kilogram, with a lift of 251 kilograms. A kilogram converts to about 2.2 pounds per one kilogram.

His overall total ended up being 577, but since he had to take credit for one of his first three bench press attempts, he captured the overall record with a total of 570 kilograms. The previous total was 542 kilograms.

"I was entered in the open division,

so my goal was to win the open, which I did in my weight class," Flagg said. "At the same time, I was aware of what those records were. My secondary goals was to try to break those."

"Prior to the competition I thought the squat and deadlift I'd be able to handle, but I was not sure about the bench. That's why it went to a fourth attempt. I built up to it, got strong and got a good lift."

Flagg has qualified to compete in the World Championships to be held in Florida but isn't sure if he'll be there yet. If not, he'll probably lift at the World Championships the next year.

"It's up in the air because I want to get stronger," Flagg said. "I don't want to call myself the best in the world overall unless I'm competing with those people, and I'm not sure if those people will be there."

Flagg is a Fenton native, who moved back from Colorado awhile back. He owns his own business called Animal Strength Human Performance Training. He recently moved back to be closer to his parents. He currently lives in the house located next door to his parents. He's training clients at Fenton's Powerhouse Gym. He doesn't plan on quitting his powerlifting career anytime soon.

"I enjoy it a lot and will do it as long as my body allows me to," Flagg said.

If that's the case, it appears Flagg will be lifting for a long time.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | GLENN PICKHOVER

Fenton's Darren Flagg competes in the deadlift in recent event. He recently broke four records at a national event in Grand Rapids.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES
DAVID TROPPENS

(Above) Holly Summer Tennis Program coach Will Sophiea (top) begins a cheer with some of the young kids at Tuesday's event. (Left) The kids play a game where they must let go of their racket and grab the next one before it falls.



TENNIS

Continued from Page 16A

before they get to the other side or try to get to the other side without getting tagged.

These are just three of the games Sophiea has his students playing during weekday summer mornings at Holly High School through July.

"I've gone to a ton of workshops," Sophiea admits. "Some pros will say, 'These are good games but change them to make them your own,' so we change them and add to them. We are out here all day, so we have to be creative."

His coaches, most of whom are graduated players who once went through the camp themselves, seemingly enjoy the games as much as the children.

"It's a lot of fun," Carley Postma said. "We play some tennis. We have kids that are all different ages, all different skill levels and it's a lot of fun coming out here."

"What we try to do with Holly tennis is focus on consistency and focus on having fun instead of just doing drill work. Instead of just hitting forehands, we work on something that helps with agility, or serving by playing a game. And they are having a whole lot of fun doing it."

"All of the games relate right back to tennis, and the kids are having a lot of fun doing it," coach Katherine Skubik said. "They don't quite understand it, but with the games they gradually learn the game."

But the entire program isn't based on just children 5 and younger. That's just a small portion of the people at the courts during the summer sessions. The ages range from as young as 3 right to students who will be seniors in high school. The older the class, the more competitive the sessions are. However, even the high school students find themselves playing secondary games as well. On Wednesday they were playing a game

that looked a lot like the tennis version of four square. The four service boxes are used with a player defending each box. A tennis ball is bounced into a box, forcing that player to have to bounce the ball back into another opponents' box. If you fail to return the ball, or it bounces twice in your box, you are forced back to the end of the line, anticipating the chance to compete when you return to a box. And on Wednesday, the prep tennis players were enjoying the game.

When one watches the entertainment on the courts, it's easy to see why the Holly tennis programs — boys and girls — have been, arguably, the most successful athletic programs in the tri-county area over the last three decades. They make tennis a ton of fun.

"You are not sitting around waiting to bat," graduate and program coach Jeff Sophiea said. "We keep them busy. Will does a great job of that. Even a kid my age, being a part of it, it's a lot of fun. Watching all the games Will creates, these funny and crazy games — they are fun to watch."

And when the kids to play, they are given a chance to do so with equipment that makes sense for the children to succeed.

"I'll be here and see this little guy with his dad with regular balls and an adult-sized racket, swinging and missing, swinging and missing," Will Sophiea said. "The kid is then like, 'Dad, I'm not having fun. I want to go home.'"

"What we do is get the small balls, play on mini-courts where they can have fun. They can rally and keep score. Then they say, 'I like tennis, I'm good at it' instead of swinging and missing. It makes so much sense and to think (this type of training) is just becoming big."

There's no doubt, the training is big at the Holly tennis courts during the summer. And, without question, everyone is having fun.

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Bob Harris, 89, a retired marine, has written seven books, three so far about Fenton, through the decades. He is promoting "The Village Players During the Post-War Years 1946-1950," which he wrote through the death of his wife and his own health problems. Another book is on the way.

A trilogy of local books

►Local businessman pens seven books, three of which are about Fenton

By Sally Rummel
news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282
"All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players..."

This Shakespearean quote is what inspired local businessman Bob Harris, Sr., to name a trilogy of books, "Fenton Village Players Books 1, 2 and 3" about key people in Fenton in its pre-, during- and post-war years, from 1937 to 1950.

"All that had been written about Fenton before this was from the 1800s," said Harris, 89, a marine who retired from the service in 1965 as a lieutenant colonel. "I wanted to write a series of books that would tell people what life was like during a very important time of our history."

Harris completed the third book, "The Village Players During the Post-War Years 1946-1950," last year. It was a

difficult year for Harris, who lost his wife, Marie, in May 2013, after 69 years of marriage, and Harris had a number of his own health challenges.

Today, his health has improved and he is looking forward to promoting his books, which are available for sale at Fenton's Open Book, at the Fenton Regional Chamber of Commerce, the A.J. Phillips Museum and at Harris Financial in Fenton.

His previous two Village Players books, The Village Players 1937-1941 and The Village Players at War 1942-1945, were written in 2006 and 2011, respectively. He researched his books by using micro-filmed copies of local newspapers.

Harris has penned seven books in all, his first one entitled "But, That's Another Story," written as a legacy for his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. At 89, he still has many more words to say and stories to tell. He is now working on a book entitled: "The Village Players Korean War Period 1951-1955."

"I told a friend that we ought to write these things down, so that's what I did."

Bob Harris, Sr.
Author



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HOT LINE CONTINUED

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I'M CERTAIN 96.2 percent of Fenton residents would prefer a parade without a float promoting homosexuality. Who makes the decision that this is acceptable to the mass majority who don't approve of it?

WHY SHOULD YOU have to explain a float in the parade to your children? Because it's your job as a parent to explain to them how the world works (preferably in an unbiased manner so they can form their own opinions).

REGARDLESS OF YOUR personal beliefs, LGBT is a fact of life. Rather than complain that children are being exposed to it, take the opportunity to explain there are different lifestyles and choices in this world. Explain tolerance and coexistence. Why shelter kids from life when you can educate them?

LOVE HOW THE VFW leads the parade. I love the veterans of this country. Thank you very much for your service.

I LOVE FENTON, however, what I don't love is having to share my town with ignorant, close-minded gay bashers. These people make the rest of us look like a bunch of back woods hicks — disgusting.

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THE TRI-COUNTY Times



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FRI - SAT 12:20 3:15 6:05 8:55 11:45
SUN - WED 12:20 3:15 6:05 8:55
THUR 12:20 3:15 6:05 8:55 11:45

***3D DAWN OF THE PLANET OF THE APES: REALD 3D (PG13)**
FRI - SAT 10:10 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:55 11:00
SUN - WED 10:10 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:55
THUR 10:10 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:55 11:00

STARTING THUR JULY 17

***2D PLANES: FIRE AND RESCUE (PG)**
THURS 9:00

***3D PLANES: FIRE AND RESCUE: REALD 3D (PG)**
THURS NIGHT/FRI MORNING 7:00 12:05

***PURGE: THE ANARCHY (R)**
THURS 8:00 10:25 12:05

***SEX TAPE (R)**
THUR 7:00 9:15 12:05

CONTINUING

***EARTH TO ECHO (PG)**
***TAMMY (R)**
***DELIVER US FROM EVIL (R)**
***AMERICA (PG13)**
***TRANSFORMERS: AGE OF EXTINCTION: AN IMAX 3D EXPERIENCE (PG13)**
***3D TRANSFORMERS: AGE OF EXTINCTION: REALD 3D (PG13)**
2D TRANSFORMERS: AGE OF EXTINCTION (PG13)
***THINK LIKE A MAN TOO (PG13)**
JERSEY BOYS (R)
2D HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON 2 (PG)
***22 JUMP STREET (R)**
THE FAULT IN OUR STARS (PG13)
2D EDGE OF TOMORROW (PG13)
2D MALEFICENT (PG)
BLENDED (PG 13)

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How Michigan's \$52 billion budget affects you

►Public safety, per-pupil-funding set to increase

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

Legislators in Lansing have set the state's \$52.3 billion budget for the 2014-15 fiscal year, up 6 percent from last year's \$49.5 billion. Here's an overview of how it will affect Michigan residents.

Education at all levels will be impacted by the new budget, some more than others. Per-pupil funding is set to increase \$50 to \$175, depending on a school district's existing funds. Lower-funded districts are poised to receive more per-pupil funding, with the aim of closing funding gaps between school districts. Overall, the minimum per-pupil-funding is set at \$7,251 per student.

At the collegiate level, tuition at public universities throughout the state should increase less than 3.2 percent, since higher tuition increases would exclude universities from additional funding from the state. According to the Associated Press, the Michigan Tuition Grant program is increasing by nearly 6 percent, a program that aides financially strapped students who are attending private universities.

A long-term plan to improve Michigan roads is nonexistent, as the Legislature embarked on summer break before passing a plan to raise extra funding for the state's infrastructure.

Lawmakers did give a \$215 million boost to road funding back in the spring and have set aside \$285 million for road improvements during the next budget cycle according to reports, but the current funding plan falls short of the \$1.5 billion Gov.

Summary

►The Michigan Legislature has approved a \$52.3 billion state budget for the 2014-15 budget cycle.

Rick Snyder was hoping to get set in motion before the summer recess.

Since the legislation failed, motorists won't have to pay more for registration fees at the Secretary of State, however, they will face more scrutiny in verifying that their insurance is up to date.

Funding cuts to programs for food assistance and welfare have come from the state

and federal government, impacting the state's Department of Human Services. The agency will see a 4-percent decrease due to increases in employment. Conversely, tax incentives for movies and art have increased, with \$50 million in film incentives and \$2 million for cultural projects for municipalities.

Public safety in Michigan should beef up during the next fiscal year, with nearly \$50 million set aside to train and hire 100 additional state troopers. Plans for a new state police helicopter are also budgeted, which would focus on Flint, Saginaw and Detroit. Cyber-security will also be a point of focus for law enforcement next year, as legislators have dedicated nearly \$7 million to battle online crimes.

Municipalities will see a 7-percent increase for revenue sharing and an extra \$8 million for cities that are experiencing financial hardships. The increase is slightly less than half of the 15 percent Gov. Snyder was aiming for in revenue sharing.

Vetoed from the 2014-15 state budget was a pedestrian crossing study, which Gov. Snyder called unnecessary as the budget for state transportation is still pending. A high-speed rail crossing pilot program was also vetoed since "current traffic control measures are consistent with federal standards."



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SCOTT SCHUPBACH

Many Fourth of July celebrations gravitate toward "the point," a sandy area in the southern end of Lake Fenton. Deputies monitor this area from land to ensure the safety of all boaters.

SANDBAR

Continued from Front Page

will continue to monitor the area lakes on a regular basis. However, the marine patrol will likely be less busy now since the Fourth of July holiday festivities have passed.

As previously reported, as many as 1,500 people, of all ages, gravitated to "the point," a sandy area in the southern end of Lake Fenton. More than 100 boats and pontoons anchored at the sandbar to soak up the sun, party with friends and celebrate the Fourth of July.

Swanson said the main goal of the sheriff's department is safety when it comes to patrolling the area lakes. Marine and police deputies have no choice but to monitor this area from a couple of homes at the end of the slim peninsula that is a popular gathering spot for boaters.

"We cannot keep them off," said Swanson when referring to the water surrounding this point. "It is a public place and they

have riparian rights.

"We can't keep 'em off the sandbar. They bring the party to us."

For safety sake, deputies station themselves on the homeowner's property to be close to the action, which can turn rowdy, due to the number of people and likely use of alcohol.

As in the past few years, deputies will continue to order people off the family's yard when they monitor Fourth of July lake activity, but there is nothing the sheriff's department can do to prevent people from simply gathering in the lake in this area.

Locals will remember years ago when the popular gathering spot was at the north end of the lake, in an area known as "pig beach." When the old pink marina was torn down to make way for homes and other docks were installed at that end of the lake, partying crowds apparently chose to move south to "the point."

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MICHIGAN VOTES

KEY VOTES OF THE 2013/2014 SESSION

MichiganVotes.org is a free, non-partisan website created by the Mackinac Center for Public Policy to provide concise, non-partisan, plain-English descriptions of every bill and vote in the Michigan House and Senate. While the Legislature is adjourned for a primary election campaign break, this Roll Call Report, released Thursday, July 3, summarizes key votes of the 2013-2014 session.

House Bill 4369: Codify “education achievement authority” for failed schools. To codify in statute the powers and structure of a state “education achievement authority,” which is an office in the Department of Education tasked with managing, overseeing or contracting-out the operations of public schools deemed to have failed academically.
Passed 57 to 53 in the House
Rep. Joe Graves (R-Argentine Twp.) voted: ☒ YES ☐ NO
Passed 20 to 18 in the Senate
Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Genesee County) voted: ☐ YES ☒ NO
Sen. Dave Robertson (R-Genesee County) voted: ☒ YES ☐ NO

House Bill 4378: Repeal interior designer registration. To repeal a law that establishes a government interior designer registry and makes it available to state or 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.
Passed 110 to 0 in the House
Rep. Joe Graves (R-Argentine Twp.) voted: ☒ YES ☐ NO
Passed 27 to 10 in the Senate
Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Genesee County) voted: ☐ YES ☒ NO
Sen. Dave Robertson (R-Genesee County) voted: ☒ YES ☐ NO

House Bill 4026: Require posting of agency agreements with feds, other states. To require that before a state agency or a local government enters a cross-border memorandum of understanding with the federal government or another state, it must do a review to determine it does not exceed its authority or violate the state constitution. The measure has not been taken up by the Senate.
Passed 109 to 0 in the House
Rep. Joe Graves (R-Argentine Twp.) voted: ☒ YES ☐ NO
House Bill 4363: Ban local governmental body “phone-in” voting. To establish that if a member of a public body is allowed to cast a vote on a decision by the body without being physically present, it is a violation of the state Open Meetings Act. The Senate has not taken up this bill.
Passed 92 to 14 in the House
Rep. Joe Graves (R-Argentine Twp.) voted: ☒ YES ☐ NO

House Bill 4118: Require drug testing of welfare applicants. To require drug testing of state welfare benefit recipients or applicants if an “empirical screening tool” indicates a reasonable suspicion, and prohibit benefits for six months if a person tests positive a second time (or refuses “treatment” the first time). If the recipient has children, an appropriate “protective payee” would be designated to receive welfare benefits on their behalf. This would begin as a one-year pilot program in three counties.
Passed 77 to 33 in the House
Rep. Joe Graves (R-Argentine Twp.) voted: ☒ YES ☐ NO
Passed 25 to 11 in the Senate
Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Genesee County) voted: ☐ YES ☒ NO
Sen. Dave Robertson (R-Genesee County) voted: ☒ YES ☐ NO
House Bill 4139: Eliminate “peace bonds.” To repeal a section of criminal law that authorizes a judge to order a “peace bond” from an individual who has threatened to commit an offense against the person or property of another. This is not the same as the much more common “personal protection orders” used in domestic violence, stalking and similar cases. The Senate has not taken up this bill.
Passed 88 to 22 in the House
Rep. Joe Graves (R-Argentine Twp.) voted: ☒ YES ☐ NO

House Bill 4168: Repeal mandate for sheriffs to kill unlicensed dogs. To repeal a 1919 law that requires county sheriffs to locate and kill all unlicensed dogs, and which defines failure to do so as nonfeasance in office.
Passed 106 to 0 in the House
Rep. Joe Graves (R-Argentine Twp.) voted: ☒ YES ☐ NO
Passed 36 to 0 in the Senate
Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Genesee County) voted: ☒ YES ☐ NO
Sen. Dave Robertson (R-Genesee County) voted: ☒ YES ☐ NO
House Bill 4234: Vehicle trade-in “sales tax on the difference.” To exempt from sales tax the value of a trade-in on the purchase of a new vehicle, recreational vehicle or titled watercraft. The buyer would only pay sales tax on the difference between the value of the trade-in and the purchase price of the new item. This would eventually save new car buyers (and/or dealers) some \$220 million annually when fully phased-in after six years.
Passed 100 to 7 in the House
Rep. Joe Graves (R-Argentine Twp.) voted: ☒ YES ☐ NO
Passed 38 to 0 in the Senate
Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Genesee County) voted: ☒ YES ☐ NO
Sen. Dave Robertson (R-Genesee County) voted: ☒ YES ☐ NO

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Business briefs

GLIKS NAMES NEW MANAGER OF FENTON STORE
Glik Stores, a 117-year-old apparel and footwear chain with 62 stores in nine states, announced the appointment of Sara DeBrod as manager of the Glik’s store on Silver Parkway in Fenton. DeBrod is currently working toward her BA in Psychology/Communications.



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CATCH OF THE WEEK



Jack L'Esperance, 9, of Fenton caught this 33-inch northern pike on June 21 while fishing on Neff Lake.

The Tri-County Times wants to give our readers the chance to show off the trophies they catch this season. If you have a fish worth showing off, snap a photo and bring it in or mail it to the Times office.

Tri-county fundraisers

CHURCH TO HOST SECOND ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE, CAKEWALK, BOTTLE DRIVE

The Fenton Free Methodist Church, 800 North Rd. in Fenton, will hold a rummage sale, cakewalk and bottle drive on **Saturday, July 19 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.** to raise funds for the Wheels Over Michigan Bike-a-Thon (WOMBAT). WOMBAT is a five-day bicycle trip from Ludington to Port Huron. The Fenton church has three riders and two support personnel going on the trip. Proceeds will benefit the Des-salines Eye and Dental Clinic in Des-salines, Haiti, which provides free eye and dental care for more than 250,000 people. This is the second year that Pastor Chuck Hubbert of Holly is a WOMBAT cyclist. He will be joined by Melva Reyes of Fenton and Rick Holman of Clarkston.

EDWARD JONES OF LINDEN SUPPORTS LINDEN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS BY COLLECTING AND DONATING SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Local residents and businesses may help those less fortunate in the community by bringing in items to the Edward Jones Linden branch office during regular business hours **from July 14 to Aug. 22**. Edward Jones, a Fortune 500 company, provides financial services for individual investors in the United States and, through its affiliate, in Canada. The office is located at 618 West Broad St., Suite A in Linden. For details, call the office at (810) 735-1678.

Calendar of events

Run for Hope

The second annual Run for Hope is set to take place on **Saturday, July 19**. The 5K run will start at 9 a.m., behind Hope Lutheran Church on Silver Lake Road in Linden. Registration can be done at www.hopelinden.org. Look for the Run for Hope section on the main page. Late registrations can be made in the church gym starting at 7 a.m. The 5K course is entirely on the school grounds behind the church, and the course is approximately 50 percent cross-country. A quarter-mile kids' race will be held after the 5K has been completed.

THIS WEEK'S INSERTS

- Alpine Marketplace**
- CVS Pharmacy**
- Holly Foods**
- Kmart**
- Rite Aid**
- Sears Hometown Stores**
- Target**
- VG's**
- Walgreens**
- Walmart**

To have your insert/flyer viewable online, call Gail Grove at 810-433-6822.

FREE Varicose Vein Screenings

Wednesday, July 16

Varicose Veins



Swollen Legs



Skin Damage



Skin Ulcers



- Covered by Most Insurance, Medicare and Medicaid
- 98% of Patients Would Recommend this Procedure

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BY APPOINTMENT ONLY!

Varicose veins are a sign of vein (venous) disease.

You may be experiencing vein disease if you have pain, swelling, restlessness, burning, itching and fatigue of legs as well as skin damage. Call today to learn more about our quick & effective treatment covered by most insurance companies.

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our town

Meet Thomas Hameline

- Tri-County Wireless operations manager
- Goal-oriented
- Family man

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Thomas Hameline, 30, has served as operations manager for Tri-County Wireless for six of the company's 10 years in business. Their first installation was at The State Bank in Fenton, and they've grown today to include hundreds of customers – primarily in southern Genesee, north Livingston and north Oakland counties. Hameline sat down with me last week to explain how Tri-County Wireless works, and why it's a better option for so many businesses and homes in this area.

Let's start with the basics. What is wireless communication, and what does Wi-Fi actually stand for? Wi-Fi stands for wireless fidelity, which is the distribution of the Internet using radio waves.

How does it work? Our signal is transmitted through the air – not through cables. This is a huge advantage in signal strength, reliability and access to unserved or rural areas. We have multiple signal broadcasting locations throughout our market area, some on top of buildings, others are free-standing, including our own towers.

What's the difference between using Tri-County Wireless or Comcast, Charter or AT&T for getting Internet service at your home or business? The latter three you mentioned are all cable companies. Cable installation isn't possible in all locations, and can be very expensive. Because we don't use a physical cable, Tri-County Wireless can be installed just about anywhere. In fact, this past week, I was up at Bay Harbor in Petoskey, installing a wireless customer who lives on an island! Locally, we have customers on Case's Island and Blue Gill Island. We specialize in servicing "the un-serviceable," with better service at a lower cost.

What are the advantages of using Tri-County Wireless as your Internet provider? The biggest thing is that you'll save money and receive better service when you switch from a cable company. We specialize in saving large businesses money – a lot of money – while providing them with better, and more reliable, service. We service many, if not most, of the large, complex businesses on Owen Rd. and the Fenway industrial corridor.



"We specialize in saving large businesses money – a lot of money..."

Thomas Hameline
operations manager for
Tri-County Wireless

What are some other advantages?

You'll have more than a 99.5 percent success rate in your Internet usage. You don't have to worry about downed lines. You're dealing with a small, locally-owned company that cares about your installation. When you call with a question, you will talk to a real person, not a recording. You'll get the exact same bill every month with no surprises — with no taxes or ambiguous fees. Best of all, unlike cable lines, our service is not subject to the chronic weather outages associated with cable service.

How does an install work for a customer? First, we schedule a time to meet with a customer, and then we test the signal. If the signal is available, it will tell us what kind of speeds we can offer. We'll discuss how the customer wants to use the Internet, how many devices are in the household or business and discuss package options that best serve their specific needs. Packages range from \$34.95 to \$109.95, all depending on the speed.

What's a typical day like for you?

I'm usually at work by 7:15 a.m. to schedule my day. I'll check to see if there are any tickets for service, then I'll go straight to site surveys for prospective customers. When I'm not at work, I like to spend time with my wife, Katie, and our kids, Kiersten, 3 and Ian, 1. I always set goals for myself, both personally and professionally. I hope to own my own business someday.

So, do you climb the towers to do service and maintenance?

Yes, I am up in the air three to five times a week. I have been as high as 450 feet in the air. A typical climb is about 200 feet. I am very careful and safety check all my equipment before every climb. My family wants me home, safe and sound, each evening.

Tri-County Wireless Operations Manager Tom Hameline regularly climbs heights of up to 400 feet for wireless customers.



ASK THE MECHANIC

Chris Wilkinson,
Certified Mechanic

Q: I have a 1999 Lincoln Continental that will not start. I purchased it from a friend of mine and he said it just wouldn't start one day. I've talked with a mechanic on this and have tried several things, but I quit getting replies so I am asking here. Here is what I know: It will run with ether/gas in the intake, but will NOT run on its own fuel. It gets fuel to the fuel rail, but will not run. I've checked the following: PCM relay has power at 85 and 30, 86 and 87 are grounded. Pin 55 at the PCM plug is getting power. Injectors are getting power, but won't ground. No blown fuses in the under dash fuse box or the engine compartment fuse box. There is power to the diode for the PCM. The Security light flashes when key is off, but when it is cranking it goes away. The Check engine light does not come on at all, but was told by several people it may be a blown bulb in the dash. I've checked for good grounds near the fusebox and the battery. Also, the dash lights do not come on other than the battery/oil pressure light when the key is on. It will not light up the dash lights even if you adjust the dimmer switch. I'm not sure if this is related, if not I can tackle that problem at a later time. Any information that you can give me would be appreciated. - Andy

A: Andy, It sounds like you either have a bad PCM or a faulty signal going to the PCM. The first thing you need to do is to try and communicate with the PCM using a scan tool check for trouble codes. Then watch for cranking RPM on your scan tool. If you have the proper scan tool you can watch for injector pulse width as well. If you do not see any cranking RPM, then I suspect a bad crank sensor. There is a diagnostic test that you can do if you have the right tools. However, to be honest with you though this sounds like a job for a repair shop.

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**Seller of Winning Ticket:
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Drawing will be held at Taste in Fenton on Thursday, August 7, 2014 • 8 PM Downtown Fenton.

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www.fentonchamber.com.

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If less than 800 tickets are sold, the drawing may revert to a 50/50 raffle with a minimum prize of \$10,000 and a maximum prize of \$30,000 to winning ticket.

Call The Fenton Regional Chamber for additional details (810) 629-5447

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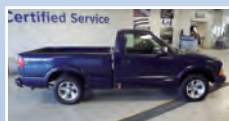
2012 GMC Acadia SL 174018.....\$21,900.



2007 Chevrolet Impala LT 174009A.....\$9,550.



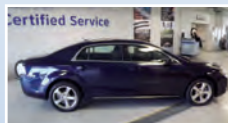
2007 Pontiac G6 8322986A.....\$5,900.



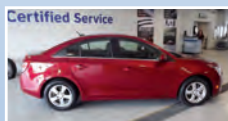
2003 Chevrolet S-10 LS 8288053A.....\$3,900.



2010 Dodge Journey R/T 173952A.....\$12,995.



2009 Chevrolet Impala LT 174003A.....\$7,900.



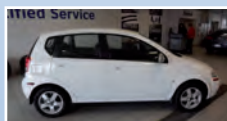
2011 Chevrolet Cruze LT 174021.....\$12,995.



2011 Chevrolet Traverse 174012.....\$19,500.



1993 GMC C/K 1500 1110574C.....\$2,700.



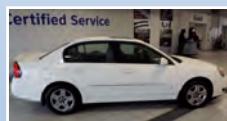
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