Dive teams deal with dangerous, murky water when searching for bodies

Missing Flushing man was found in 43 feet of water

By Tim Jagielo

djagielo@tctimes.com, 810-433-6795

When sheriff’s department divers search in Lake Fenton for cars — or missing people — they’ll often search by feel, because visibility is only a couple feet.

Because of this, Maj. Phil Hart of the Genesee County Sheriff’s Department is glad he does not have to dive for work. He’s an experienced recreational diver, but having to search for the bodies of missing people could ruin that for him.

See DIVE TEAMS on 15A

Mural, mural on the wall...

Gregg Bugala of Fenton Township works on a section of the 2,000-square-foot mural of the old Durand “Diamond District” he’s painting in downtown Fenton. He guesses he has 50 hours in so far, and will be done in less than two weeks. It’s the biggest mural he’s done in his 20-year career. (Below) Bugala closed the sidewalk for pedestrian safety.

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com, 810-629-8282

To local artist Gregg Bugala, painting murals on buildings and walls is like being on stage.

“I like working big,” said Bugala, 54, a graduate of Lake Fenton High School and Western Michigan University with a bachelor of fine arts degree. “I like the attention. I’m a bit of a rebel at heart.”

Many of Bugala’s murals have become landmarks in the Fenton community.

What does mural artist Gregg Bugala think of the mural recently painted on the side of Linden City Hall?

“I approve of it. It adds color to the town, rather than just tans, taupes and grays.”

Gregg Bugala
Mural artist

Understanding confusing Proposal 1

Voters to decide on controversial tax change

By Sharon Stone

sstone@tctimes.com, 810-433-6786

As voters head to the polls on Tuesday for the Primary Election, in addition to local and statewide races, residents across Michigan will be voting on Proposal 1.

See PROPOSAL 1 on 13A

Go to tctimes.com for audio and written explanation of Proposal 1

Gas prices down, likely to rise by Labor Day

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com, 810-629-8282

If you haven’t taken your road trip yet this summer, you might want to take advantage of lower gas prices now before they swing up again.

See GAS on 17A
BYRON
15358 Longfellow Drive
Just in time for summer fun!
This large 3 bedroom 3 bath ranch sits on over 1.5 acres. Enjoy boating and swimming in Myers Lake during the day and beautiful sunsets in the evening. Lower level walk out comes with a full bath and kitchenette; great for entertaining.
$269,900
Call Mark Goldsworthy 810-955-3736

GRAND BLANC
6097 Wilderness Pointe
New carpet and fresh paint throughout this beautiful ranch home located in the Maple Pointe sub in the Grand Blanc school district. Bright & welcoming open floor plan with lots of windows. 3 bedrooms and 2 full baths on main level. You will find a large family room, 4th bedroom and 3rd full bath in the walkout basement giving you a total of 2200 sq. ft. of space!
$159,900
Call Patrik Welty 810-750-2300

FENTON
707 Elmwood Drive
If you need a little space, this is for you! Large home on a beautiful double corner lot in the city! Well maintained with covered cudels, hardwood floors. 4 or 5 bedrooms, 2 full baths on main level, 1 and 1/2 baths in partially finished basement. Oversized 2+ car garage with plenty of work space and a fenced yard. Move in ready!
$137,900
Call Sheila Rhodes 810-348-7357

LINDEN
13263 Linden Road
Open floor plan on this ranch setting on one acre with 1631 sq. ft. Master bed and bath. Beautiful lakefront with island open to living room. First floor laundry & two car garage wopener.
$92,900
Call Donna Fraidenburg 810-845-1971

NEW LISTING
The Ultimate Man Cave to Hang Out With the Guys!
** Updates include carpet, full kitchen remodel, attic insulation and a brand new 96% efficiency furnace! Huge finished basement with wet bar & half bath (needs toilet only) could make this the ultimate hang out to entertain friends & family or man cave to hang out with the guys. Great location! Walking distance to quaint downtown Vassar, schools & parks make this one you don’t want to miss! All appliances included with full price offer.
$62,500
Call Kevin USEaHAIN 810-965-6552

NEW LISTING
Beautiful lakefront property
Located just minutes from the Shiawassee Beautiful lake and well maintained home. Nice original woodwork, spacious rooms, Michigan room for relaxing and nature! Prime cul de sac location in the Hills of Tyone. All of the requisite amenities are here: 2 Story GREAT Room w/fireplace, Dining Room, spacious kitchen opening to Nook & Great Room. 4 Bedrooms including a 1st floor master bedroom suite w/walk-in closet, shower & garden tub. Finished LL w/home theater room, office, den & exercise room.
$369,900
Call Ann Hernandez-Gabler 248-240-2272

NEW LISTING
117 N Adelaide Street
Come to the country to see this sprawling ranch. This 3 bedroom 2 bath home has over 1700 sq ft of living space including a fire lit family room, living room, and convenient first floor laundry. Home has neutral decor and all appliances stay. All this and more on over 1 acre.
$109,900
Call Patrik Welty 810-750-2300

NEW LISTING
11178 Tyone Trial
Super sq home located on a perfectly manicured 1.35 acre lot with in-ground pool & huge private yard. Prime cul de sac location in the Hills of Tyone. All of the requisite amenities are here: 2 Story Great Room w/fireplace, Dining Room, spacious kitchen opening to Nook & Great Room. 4 Bedrooms including a 1st floor master bedroom suite w/walk-in closet, shower & garden tub. Finished LL w/home theater room, office, den & exercise room.
$369,900
Call Ann Hernandez-Gabler 248-240-2272
Are you a cat person or a dog person?

How to tell the difference between feline fanatics and canine connoisseurs

By Yvonne Stegall
ystegall@cttimes.com; 810-433-6792

If you enjoy pets, it is likely at some point in life you have been asked if you are a dog person or a cat person. If not, then it will happen eventually.

Scientific studies have actually shown that there are differences between those people who consider themselves cat people and those who are dog people.

Ball State University did a study in which they surveyed pet owners about their personalities and pet ownership. The results of this study showed that people believe that their own personalities are similar to those of their pets.

Sixty-two percent of homes have at least one pet in them. Approximately 86 million people own cats, and 78 million own dogs.

Are you a dog person or a cat person?

FACEBOOK FANS SPEAK OUT

Sandy: “30 years of veterinary practice have taught me I am a dog person when with a dog, a cat person when with a cat, and a horse person when with my horse. God gave them all to us for our needs are different on different days.”

Dawn: “Dogs. Because their love for you is totally unconditional. Because no matter what kind of day you’re having, a dog is always happy to see you. They’re loyal, loving.”

Carrie: “Dogs! They are an active part of your family. They reciprocate the love given to them, unconditionally. They comfort you, give you purpose, and protect you. They teach your children responsibility, the role of a caregiver, and respect for others (including the non-furred). Dogs are a wonderful addition, to the right family.”

Kelly: “Cats, because you can go away for the day or a few days and they are fine. Nobody has to come feed them or let them outside to go to the bathroom.”

Got the ‘hots’ for horseradish?

You either love or hate this ‘ugly brother’ condiment

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

You either love it or you hate it, and one national restaurant chain has built its reputation on it.

Horseradish is a “cousin” to other strong-flavored perennial plants in the Brassicaceae family, including mustard, wasabi, broccoli and cabbage. It’s also considered “the ugly brother” of the condiment world — ketchup, mustard and mayonnaise.

Today, horseradish is known as a flavorful accompaniment for beef, chicken and seafood, and “horsey sauce” (in which horseradish is one ingredient) has become synonymous with Arby’s roast beef sandwiches. However, this 3,000-year-old plant has also been used as an aphrodisiac, a treatment for rheumatism and a bitter herb for Passover Sederers, according to the Horseradish Information Council.

If you’re not prepared for it, horseradish can bring tears to your eyes and a burning sensation to your throat. That’s because when you eat horseradish, your body heat evaporates the compound in the plant called Allyl Isothiocyante, and it travels up your nose and throat passages as a gas. The nervous system responds by stimulating mucus glands in the nasal passages.

Mass Transportation Authority Millage Renewal of Services

Over 6.2 million riders depended on MTA Flint’s public transportation services last year.

VOTE YES and keep Genesee County moving forward.

Paid for by Friends of Public Transportation, P.O. Box 920, Flint, MI 48501
The sounds of summer

I feel bad for most kids today. They are missing out on one of the most wonderful sensorial experiences in the world — the sounds of summer.

When I was a kid, almost every home kept their doors and windows wide open 24 hours a day in the summer. The main reason was that very few households had air conditioning and the summer breezes blowing through the screened doors and windows were necessary to provide relief from the heat. Additionally, there was little or no crime, and houses and lots were much smaller then, so most of us lived in tightly packed subdivisions or neighborhoods where everybody knew everybody, and everybody looked out for their neighbor and their neighborhood.

But, I digress. The result was that sounds from inside the homes could be heard from the outside, and sounds from outside the homes could be heard from the inside. It was a win-win for all involved.

Most kids today have never awakened to the sound of birds singing and chirping outside their window at the crack of dawn. Nor have they ever heard a noisy milk truck chugging down the street, stopping at every home to place milk, butter and ice cream into the two-way chutes that nearly all homes had back then. Few know what the slap of a morning newspaper landing on the front porch sounds like or the hydraulic whine of garbage trucks stopping at every home. Clocks ticked, bees hummed, toilets flushed and babies cried. It was a sunrise symphony repeated each summer morning that was as comforting and reassuring as a mother’s voice.

Evenings provided an even more entertaining cacophony. The Missouri twang of Ernie Harwell as he broadcast Detroit Tiger baseball games could be heard throughout the neighborhood. Crickets chirped and cicadas buzzed. Laughter emanated from windows dimly bathed by TV’s. The riff of cards being shuffled at weekly euchre games. The inevitable bickering of children playing hide-and-seek or tag. This ritualistic and reassuring din would wane as the sun sank in the west, replaced by the pop and crack of the streetlights coming on in concert with the mournful, loon-like calls of distant train whistles.

Few kids today get to experience the unhindered joy of those days. Far too many rarely venture outside their homes in the evening, preferring to stay inside, mindlessly clicking away on their electronic devices, watching inane television shows or listening to music wearing earbuds, oblivious to the opus of life taking place outside.

Nowadays, it is not uncommon for neighbors who have lived next door to each other for years to hardly know one another. Bigger yards and bigger homes are partially responsible for some of this anomaly, compound-ed by over-protective parents and a loss of the neighborhood comradery-ship that existed intriably every block a mere two generations ago.

It’s a shame that so many kids are missing these magical summer sounds. For me, they epitomize the best of a wonder-ful childhood where we didn’t have much, but wanted for nothing.

The sounds of summer — they’re still out there, we just need to listen.

— Hannah Curran

Hot lines

Submit at: times.com, call 810-629-9223 or text to 810-771-8398

KUDOS TO GOVERNOR Snyder on his support of Michigan as a right-to-work state. Recent studies have confirmed that Michigan’s per capita income has increased much to the dismay of both the Democrats and the unions. Think the Democrats will figure out they are headed down the wrong road?

WHO CARES IF our president is a Muslim? Everyone, that’s who. What an unbelievable statement. You must have a single digit IQ.

CALLING FOSTER CHILD’s a hate monger just because you disagree with him makes you a hypocrite. You hate him for the simple reason you disagree with him. Look in the mirror to see a real hate monger.

IT HAS BEEN more than seven years since Linden’s Union Block building was destroyed by fire and there is nothing in downtown Linden to memorialize it. A mural of this historic landmark would have been a better choice, for the side of Linden City Hall. Let’s honor our past.

MUSLIM’s QURAN states that if you are not a Muslim, you are an infidel and must be killed. Whereas our Lord tells Must be killed. Whereas our Lord tells...
Fenton man found deceased in car at doctor's office five days after appointment

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

Funeral services for David C. Smith were held Thursday, Smith, 70, of Fenton was discovered deceased in his vehicle by a Fenton detective last Sunday.

Fenton Police Chief Rick Aro said his department received a missing person report on Saturday, July 26 involving Smith. An out-of-town relative called and asked that an officer go over to Smith’s Whisperwood condominium since family had not heard from him in several days.

Det. Scott Townsend checked Smith’s home, however, Smith was not there. After obtaining additional information from family, Townsend’s investigation led him to a doctor’s office at Ballenger and Beecher in Flint where Smith had an appointment on Tuesday, July 22.

On Sunday, five days later, Townsend located Smith slumped over in the backseat of his car, which was parked in the lot near the medical center. There were no signs of foul play and it appeared that Smith had died from natural causes.

Aro said security cameras at the medical facility showed Smith leaving his appointment and getting into the backseat of his car. The police chief could not say how or why Smith’s car went unnoticed in the parking lot for nearly a week. He added, “Townsend did an excellent job locating him though.”

The case has been turned over to Flint police for follow-up.

HORSERADISH
Continued from Page 3A

The tear glands in the eyes to produce extra fluids

Walden’s Lounge in Fenton has been serving horseradish along with its locally famous, hot corned beef sandwiches and ham sandwiches for all of its 80-year history. “Just about everybody orders horseradish on the side for their sandwiches,” said Nancy Walden, who was busy serving a full crowd of diners and drinkers on Wednesday night. She’s been known to warn customers to put just a tiny amount on a sandwich, especially when the jar is first opened and the flavor is at its most pungent.

“I put horseradish on pint jar near everything,” said Dune “Fuzzy” Walden, co-owner of Walden’s Lounge. “I wait ‘til it tones down a bit, and isn’t as hot.”

Walden gets his horseradish from Brede Foods in Detroit, and also sells it in a pint jar at the bar. “We’ve also got hot mustard, too,” he said.

When buying horseradish at the grocery store, consumers should look at the ingredient list to choose a simple preparation without sulfites as preservatives. Vinegar is all that’s needed. Some sauces, such as Arby’s Horsey Sauce, are mixed with mayonnaise, which can up the calorie count and fat content. Horseradish is consumed in such small quantities that its nutritional content barely registers.

Once a jar is opened, horseradish will remain fresh for three to five weeks, although it will be at its hottest when the jar is first opened and not yet exposed to air. The unused portion can be frozen in its original jar, as long as long as the jar’s content is not full.

(errant) Horseradish is believed to have come from the word “horse,” denoting large size and coarseness and the word “radish,” coming from the Latin word meaning “root.”

Today, 85 percent of the world’s horseradish is grown in southwestern Illinois. Approximately six million gallons of prepared horseradish are produced annually in the U.S., enough to generously season sandwiches that could wrap around the world 12 times.

Fenton School of Dance & Academy
REGISTRATION
AUG. 18TH
4:00PM-8:00PM

Fall Dance Classes
FENTON SCHOOL OF DANCE & ACADEMY

CLASSES BEGIN SEPTEMBER 8TH

Is your dancer looking for a challenge?
Fenton Dance Academy is the answer! Genesee County’s most elite studio! There is no substitute for excellence.

AUDITIONS AUGUST 13TH
FOR COMPETITIVE TEAMS
AGES 7-18 YRS

OFFERING: BALLET & POINTE • TAP
• JAZZ • HIP HOP • MUSICAL THEATRE
• MODERN & CONTEMPORARY
• MOMMY & ME (2YRS - 3YRS) • PRE-DANCE I (3YRS)

ADULT CLASSES • WERQ FITNESS
DANCE FITNESS CLASS. CHECK IT OUT AT WWW.WERQFITNESS.COM

We offer programs, Beginner through Advanced for Recreational and Competitive Dancers

Our beautiful downtown studio boasts 5 dance rooms and viewing windows

112 E. ELLEN ST.
FENTON
(Downtown by the Old Firehall)
810-629-3551
810-629-5200

Open 7 Days a Week
Mon. - Fri. 7am-7pm • Sat. & Sun. 9am-5pm
380 S. Ferway Dr., Fenton
www.miscapesupply.com
Fore!

Monday/Wednesday

Come Back Special

Play on Monday for $26. Receive a coupon to COMEBACK on Wednesday for $12.

MUST PRESENT COUPON. EXPIRES 8/31/14. NOT VALID WITH LARGEST, OUTLINES OR PRE-BOOKED EVENTS.

Fairway Fridays

$22

18 holes

valid for up to 4 players. Must present coupon. Expires 8/31/14.

248-887-3777

12400 Highland Rd. (M-59) • Hartland

www.hartlandglen.com

(2 miles east of M-59 & US-23)

Fenton Village Players Presents

Seven The Musical

Get Your Tickets Today!

July

31 at 7:00pm

August

1, 2, 6, 9, 15, 16 at 7:00pm

3, 10, 17 at 2:00pm

Our Box Offices:

The Ups Store

17195 Silver Parkway

Penton, MI 810-750-2920

Fenton's Open Book

105 W. Shiawasee Ave

Penton, MI 810-629-8000

Image Projections

1470 Torrey Road

Penton, MI 810-629-0700

Online

FentonVillagePlayers.org

Fenton Village Playhouse

14197 Torrey Rd. • Penton • 810-750-7700

FAMILY SPECIALS

Feeds minimum of five. All family specials include medium Greek salad and a bag of breadsticks.

Baked Mostaccioli $31.95

Baked Lasagna $35.95

16” Cheese Pizza $24.95

Supposed 31.25 each

12 pc. Chicken Dinner $28.95

Baked or BBQ includes Fettuccini

$2 OFF

Regular Menu Price

May not be combined with other offers. Expires 8/31/14

2 medium pizzas with 2 Toppings for

$13.99

Carry out only.

May not be combined with other offers. Expires 8/31/14

Buy one meal at full price, get second at 1/2 price

Discount taken on lesser priced meal. Limit one 1/2 price meal per coupon. Expires 8/31/14

Text Your Hot Line

810-771-TEXT (8398)

Times

News briefs

CHIP SEAL OPERATIONS CONTINUE

The Genesee County Road Commission announced that, weather permitting, chip seal will be applied to the following roads: Saturday, Aug. 2: Silver Lake Road from Ripley Road to Fenton city limit in Fenton Township. Bennett Lake Road from Balfour Road to Jenkins Road in Fenton Township. The sections will be closed in one-mile increments from approximately 8 a.m. until approximately 8 p.m.

Free Lung Screenings

Regional Medical Imaging is providing free lung screenings (valued at more than $100,000) to Genesee and Saginaw County residents Aug. 1 through Dec. 31. As of 2013, there were nearly 230,000 cases diagnosed nationwide each year and nearly 160,000 lung cancer deaths. Lung cancer and smoking rates in Genesee County are among the highest in the state and nation. Nearly half (104,199) of Genesee County residents fall within the high-risk age range and may qualify for CT lung screening. The exams are endorsed by the American Lung Association and numerous other medical societies. At RMI, patients are eligible for a FREE screening if they have a physician’s order and meet the following criteria:

- Age 55 to 80,
- Current smoker or quit smoking within the last 15 years,
- Smoking history of at least 30 pack years (an average of one pack of cigarettes per day for 30 years, two packs per day for 15 years, or a half pack per day for 60 years, etc.),
- No history of lung cancer or obvious lung problems.

RMI has five locations including one in Fenton (810) 732-1919. Appointments need to be made in advance for patients who meet the specific criteria and have a referral from a physician.

Fire Department Training on Sunday

Linden Fire Chief Brian Will said the Linden Fire Department, along with members of the Fenton Fire Department and Fenton Township Fire Department, will be conducting various training exercises at a soon-to-be demolished building on North LeRoy Street in Fenton on Sunday between 8:30 and 11 a.m. The one-story building on the west side of the road, just north of Fenton Glass has recently been purchased and the fire departments have permission to conduct training. There will be no intentionally set fires, however.

Featured Columnist

By Roger Campbell

A fishing story to remember

There I was at one of my favorite places doing one of my favorite things: standing on the shore of a nearby lake fishing. Soon the sun would sink down over the horizon behind me and I would head home to polish a few more pages on a book I was writing.

Fishing often reminds me that our Lord loved to be near the water and that He had called humble fishermen to be his disciples, saying He would make them fishers of men. These unlearned men of the sea would come to follow Him and later become known as world changers who brought thousands into the family of faith and launched a spiritual adventure that continues to change lives today.

The serene scene before me, as it is often the case, moved me to worship. That was the setting when my few hours of fishing were transformed from a time of routine relaxation to an unforgettatable experience.

I had just made a long cast and settled back while reeling in the bait when I observed a fluttering of wings and suddenly a dove landed, not more than an arm’s length away, on my casting rod. I’m grasping for words to describe an indescribable moment: one that seemed frozen in time (or eternity) for as long as this beautiful bird was there resting on my pole.

“Well, you’re a pretty bird,” I remarked, a comment I might have made to a cardinal, a robin or even a sparrow. But this winged one was different. This was a dove that had arrived uninvited to my worship service.

Forty days after the tops of the mountains began to appear, following the great flood of Noah’s time (Genesis 8), Noah sent out a dove to see if the water had receded enough to embark from the ark. The dove’s return and subsequent second mission let Noah know that by God’s grace he had weathered the storm and saved the race.

When Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist, Matthew says the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove came to rest on Him (Matthew 3). So doves have come to symbolize peace or the presence of God.

Imagine then my surprise when one of these carriers of good news had come to visit me while I was singing, praying for others and giving thanks. “Cut to the chase,” some reader says: “Did you catch any fish?”

Yes, a northern pike, which I soon set free to roam the depths and grow, just as a beautiful dove had arrived out of the blue to help me grow in my understanding of God’s love and share this unforgettable story with you.

How long did the dove stay? Those magic moments weren’t timed, but their memories remain today.

And the peace God brings to a troubled heart confirms His love will never depart.

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

More natural solutions are out there

By Yvonne Stegall
ystegall@tctimes.com; 810-433-6702

It may be wonderful news to many people to hear that some good competition when it comes to repelling those annoying mosquitoes. That competition is welcome, especially since it is a more natural alternative.

In some tests, it has been shown that the competition, Picaridin, repels almost all the mosquitoes that come in contact with your skin. While DEET repels all of them, Picaridin comes in at a very close second, and has many other great benefits over DEET.

Bayer created Picaridin (pih-CARE-a-den) in the 1980s. It is a synthetic compound developed from a plant extract from the genus Piper, which shares the same plant genus that the pepper comes from. Though Picaridin has been available since 1998 in Europe and Australia as an insect repellent, it was only approved for sale in the U.S. in 2005. Just like DEET, the EPA has concluded that the normal use of Picaridin does not present any health concerns.

Picaridin is odorless and non-greasy, and unlike other DEET alternatives, people who use it do not seem to get bit. While DEET will keep the mosquitoes from even landing on you, those that land on the Picaridin are quick to fly off without having a drink.

It is important to work toward winning the battle against mosquitoes, not just because they are annoying and leave you with red, itchy welts; mosquitoes are carriers of many diseases. A couple of the most common diseases transferred from mosquito to human include the West Nile Virus and Malaria.

The percentage of DEET or Picaridin in your bug repellent makes the difference in how long you are protected. DEET is available in concentrations from 4 percent to 100 percent; Picaridin levels range from 7 to 20 percent. The higher the concentration, the longer your protection.

Boyd Huneycutt, founder of Mosquito Squad in Fenton, offered some tips on reducing the amount of mosquitoes around your home, allowing you to use less repellent sprays in general.

• TIP — Tip anything outside that could hold water, because mosquitoes can reproduce in the amount of water that fills a bottle cap.
• TOSS — Keep your yard clean and toss all grass clippings, leaves and mulch piles so standing water cannot collect.
• TURN — Similar to the first suggestion, take five minutes a day to walk through your outdoor spaces and turn over anything that might hold a bottle cap’s worth of water.
• TARP — Check any tarp that may be in the backyard to make sure they are nice and taut, as water can easily pool in a loose tarp crevasse after it rains.
• TAKE CARE — Manicuring your outdoor spaces in the first place can also help decrease breeding locations as it further eliminates standing water (think hollow trees, irrigation systems, gutters, etc.).
• TEAM UP — All of these tips work best when you and your neighbors team up against the mosquitoes; your yard may be mosquito free, but if your neighbor’s is not, their mosquitoes may find their way into your life.
• TREAT — Have your yard treated to ensure the mosquitoes cannot continue to breed. Having your yard treated can also reduce the amount of bug repellent on your body when using your outdoor spaces.

If the possible toxicity of DEET keeps you away, try a bug spray containing Picaridin. Use these tips for keeping the amount of mosquitoes low in your own yard too, and enjoy warm weather with less annoying bug bites.

You Are My Sunshine...

From the moment she was born I promised to love her, to protect her from all the monsters under her bed, and to support her and all her dreams. From the moment she was born I promised that I would always provide for her, no matter what.

That’s why I bought Life Insurance, because from the moment I held her I wanted to secure her future in case I couldn’t always be there for her. Because it’s not about my life, it’s about hers.

BRAD HOFFMAN
INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.

“Serving the area over 40 years”

102 S. Leroy Street, Fenton, MI • 810-629-4991

Auto-Owners Insurance
Home foreclosures lowest since 2006

By Yvonne Stegall
ystegall@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

It seems that Realtors are in agreement that foreclosures are down, but many may be wondering how long it will last. Chris Hendrix, president of Coldwell Banker Professionals in Fenton, said, “I do not anticipate them going back up to the levels we have seen in the past, but I don’t think we are completely out of the woods yet.” He added that the market is definitely healthier, especially in the Fenton area. RealtyTrac’s midyear foreclosure report on July 15 showed improvements to the foreclosure housing market. It showed the numbers of foreclosures were reported to be the lowest level since 2006. The numbers of foreclosures have fallen 2 percent from May and 16 percent from June 2013.

The decline in foreclosures is wonderful news for homeowners. It means there are fewer homes on the market holding prices down. As home prices rise, homeowners have the incentive to sell their home. More homes for sale means there will be a more competitive market for sellers, too.

In Michigan, foreclosures and short sales that are on the market are down at a minimum of 50-percent of what they were as recently as a couple years ago, according to Hendrix. Why are they down? “I think there are a lot of factors as to why they are down, starting with the improved automotive industry and the economy in general, in southeast Michigan,” he said. “We have worked through a lot of the problem loans where homeowners’ payments were ballooning at the same time we had significant job loss, and I believe the banks are working harder with homeowners in order to control the amount of foreclosures.”

It is believed that the number of foreclosures will continue to go down over the next six months, even in Michigan. According to Hendrix, “What foreclosures are out there banks are really starting to look at alternatives to sell them, such as both sales and auctions, in addition to just traditional marketing.”

Home values are rising, so it is a good time for people to start thinking about selling if they have any interest in doing so. Hendrix said, “The market is ‘red-hot’ right now and it is a perfect time to sell. Inventory is at a six-to-seven-year low right now.” That means that while the foreclosure rate is down, there are fewer homes available on the market.

The reasons behind the foreclosure slow-down

• In many states, the market has worked through the bad loans that triggered the foreclosure crisis.
• The rise of home prices has helped troubled homeowners regain equity.
• Aggressive foreclosure prevention efforts have helped people avoid foreclosure.

Home foreclosures lowest since 2006

Now is a great time to sell

By Yvonne Stegall
ystegall@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

It seems that Realtors are in agreement that foreclosures are down, but many may be wondering how long it will last. Chris Hendrix, president of Coldwell Banker Professionals in Fenton, said, “I do not anticipate them going back up to the levels we have seen in the past, but I don’t think we are completely out of the woods yet.” He added that the market is definitely healthier, especially in the Fenton area. RealtyTrac’s midyear foreclosure report on July 15 showed improvements to the foreclosure housing market. It showed the numbers of foreclosures were reported to be the lowest level since 2006. The numbers of foreclosures have fallen 2 percent from May and 16 percent from June 2013.

The decline in foreclosures is wonderful news for homeowners. It means there are fewer homes on the market holding prices down. As home prices rise, homeowners have the incentive to sell their home. More homes for sale means there will be a more competitive market for sellers, too.

In Michigan, foreclosures and short sales that are on the market are down at a minimum of 50-percent of what they were as recently as a couple years ago, according to Hendrix. Why are they down? “I think there are a lot of factors as to why they are down, starting with the improved automotive industry and the economy in general, in southeast Michigan,” he said. “We have worked through a lot of the problem loans where homeowners’ payments were ballooning at the same time we had significant job loss, and I believe the banks are working harder with homeowners in order to control the amount of foreclosures.”

It is believed that the number of foreclosures will continue to go down over the next six months, even in Michigan. According to Hendrix, “What foreclosures are out there banks are really starting to look at alternatives to sell them, such as both sales and auctions, in addition to just traditional marketing.”

Home values are rising, so it is a good time for people to start thinking about selling if they have any interest in doing so. Hendrix said, “The market is ‘red-hot’ right now and it is a perfect time to sell. Inventory is at a six-to-seven-year low right now.” That means that while the foreclosure rate is down, there are fewer homes available on the market.

The reasons behind the foreclosure slow-down

• In many states, the market has worked through the bad loans that triggered the foreclosure crisis.
• The rise of home prices has helped troubled homeowners regain equity.
• Aggressive foreclosure prevention efforts have helped people avoid foreclosure.
ELECTRICAL PROBLEMS?

We can help you with:
- Troubleshooting
- Surge Protection
- Lighting Fixtures
- Circuit Panels
- Home Re-Wiring
- Generator Hook-ups/
  Emergency Power
- Safety Inspections
- Code Violation Corrections
- Outlet / Plug Installation

ALL ELECTRICAL SERVICES

This Week’s Super Special...

ELECTRICAL SERVICE CALL

ONLY $29.50

Normal Service Call Fee $59.00

100% Satisfaction Guaranteed
Electricians are Drug Tested and Receive
a Comprehensive Background Check
Repair Guaranteed for up to 2 years
Fair and Consistent Pricing with
No Hidden Cost
Fully Equipped Big Red Trucks
Technicians Leave Your Home
White Glove Clean

PHONES ANSWERED LIVE 24/7
1-888-SPARKY
(1-888-877-2759)
810-750-1858 810-694-4800 810-632-9300
Licensed & Insured • Locally owned & operated
www.mistersparky.com

PLUMBING PROBLEMS?

We can help you with:
- Water Heaters
- Water Softeners
- Sump Pumps
- Pressure Tanks
- Gas Line Installation
- Tankless Hot Water Heaters
- Hose Bibs
- Drain Clearing/Cleaning
- Leaks
- Whole House Repipes

ALL PLUMBING SERVICES

This Week’s Super Special...

PLUMBING SERVICE CALL

ONLY $29.50

Normal Service Call Fee $59.00

50% OFF Normal Service Call!

100% Satisfaction Guarantee
Technicians are Drug Tested and Receive
a Comprehensive Background Check
Fully-Equipped Big Blue Trucks
for Same-Day Service
Straight Forward Pricing™
No Surprises We Charge by the
Job not by the Hour

PHONES ANSWERED LIVE 24/7
1-866-770-7774
248-674-7107 248-855-1707 248-685-7774
Licensed & Insured • Locally owned & operated
www.benfranklinplumbing.com
A combined 385 acres of recreation, 15 acres of islands

take care to be good neighbors, and the lake tends to not be too crowded. “It’s rather pleasant for everybody,” he said.

Murphy, as a GM employee, sought a centrally located home on a lake. He narrowed his choices down to Silver Lake, and knew he didn’t want to live anywhere else. “It’s a beautiful lake, just about from every angle,” he said, of visiting many of the homes on the lake. “I don’t think there’s a bad view from any of them.”

He describes the lakes as picturesque, with marshlands and a healthy animal population, which includes snapper and leatherback turtles, and fish, including bass and perch.

Lake access to Silver Lake is at one of the two marinas, Silver Spray Sports and White’s Land ing, both off Silver Lake Road.

The association has cooperated with the city of Fenton on goose removal, and lately uses nest and egg destruction to keep the population, and eColi down. He said the lake is also pretty clean, with decent visibility.

Marl Lake is named as such because it was a sight for mining marl, a type of clay, through the 1890s to 1930s. He said the first paved concrete road in the world was in Detroit, and cement came from the Marl Lake plant.

Silver Lake Village was a small, platted community, which became the early cottages on the lake, located on Silver Lake.

The operations enlarged Marl Lake, and also created the deepest parts of Silver Lake. Lake levels today are consistent, and kept at court-ordered levels by a weir, or a dam-like structure.

---

SILVER/MARL LAKES

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

The namesake of the Silver Lake Road business district is overrun on July 4 with fireworks spectators. It also the only public beach in Fenton.

Silver Lake Park is home to daytime cookouts, and the beach is the home of the Silver Lake Ski Team, which performs regularly throughout the summer.

Tom Murphy of the Silver-Marl Lake Homeowners Association said it is a all-sports lake, though boaters

---

This year we are celebrating our 17th anniversary.
We are grateful for your generous support and loyal patronage over the years.

Dine with us on Monday, August 4, and we will treat you to a slice of Anniversary cake, while supplies last.

Here’s to the memories.

---

125 W. Shiawassee at Adelaide
Fenton, Michigan 48430
lunchandbeyond.com
MURAL
Continued from Front Page

If you’ve driven down LeRoy Street in Fenton, you’ve experienced the mural art that defines the exterior of two local buildings — CycleFit Multisport and the former C.J. Motorsports.

The CycleFit mural, painted more than a decade ago, almost didn’t happen. The project was the brainchild of owner Ron Stack and Bugala’s own love of history. Together, they decided on a black and white rendition of the historic Fenton Bicycle Club.

“The city made a fuss about it at the time and wanted me to pay $400 for a variance,” said Bugala. “I skirted around the issue and did the mural in record time. The city ended up being glad I did it and has sort of given me a ‘pass.’”

How much did he make on that job? “I bartered for bicycle parts,” said Bugala, with a laugh. “I’m an avid bicyclist like Ron and we’re good friends. It worked for both of us.”

He has also painted many interior murals, from Chasse Ballroom & Latin Dance Studio to therapeutic murals at the Rose Cancer Center at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, Crittenton Hospital in Rochester, Genesys Regional Medical Center in Grand Blanc and Outpatient Children’s Surgical Center in Southfield.

He has also painted murals in many local school hallways.

“I feel like this is my town,” he said. “A mural becomes part of history and that sort of grounds me. I feel like I’m helping put Fenton on the map, so to speak.” Bugala said that the life expectancy of a mural depends on its position facing the sun. “Facing south, a mural will last about 20 years. Facing north, it will last 40 years or more.”

While Bugala would love to make 100 percent of his living through art, he’s thankful that he’s able to provide for his family through commissioned work like murals, and by painting kitchen cabinetry for clients. “Painting murals requires so much concentration, that it’s good to also do another kind of painting,” he said. “I can only work on a mural for about six hours at a time, because it requires so much focus.”

Bugala has just begun the largest commissioned mural of his career — a full 61-feet-wide and 30-foot-tall mural on the building of Dr. Rajiva Tirtha, DDS & Associates on the corner of Clinton and Saginaw streets in Durand. He began the work last Wednesday, and expects to complete the mural within a few weeks.

One of the challenges of the job will be using big tools like a spray gun, rather than brushes, plus an electric boom truck to get him up to the height he needs to do his work.

“I’m scared of heights more than 20 feet, so this will be a full 10 feet higher than my comfort zone,” said Bugala. “I may be praying for safety, claiming Psalm 121 that ‘The Lord will steady my foot.’”

Murals are unique from other painting in that they are designed for a broader audience. “They’re not as personal,” said Bugala. “That’s what makes them special; the community rallies around the artwork and it becomes theirs.”

Sen. Bill 397: Expand a corporate/developer subsidy regime. To authorize creation of a sixth “Next Michigan Development Corporation” which is a government agency that gives tax breaks and subsidies to particular corporations or developers selected by political appointees on the entity’s board for projects meeting extremely broad “multi-modal commerce” criteria (basically, any form of goods-related commerce). The new entity would be in the Upper Peninsula. Passed 33 to 4 in the Senate.

Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Genesee County)

Sen. Dave Robertson (R-Genesee County)

Passed 87 to 22 in the House Rep. Joe Graves (R-Argentine Township)

Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Genesee County)

Sen. Dave Robertson (R-Genesee County)

Passed 7 to 5 in the Senate

Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Genesee County)

Sen. Dave Robertson (R-Genesee County)

Passed 26 to 11 in the Senate

Sen. Ananich (D-Genesee County) 

Sen. Robertson (R-Genesee County)

Passed 22 to 14 in the Senate

Sen. Ananich (D-Genesee County)

Sen. Robertson (R-Genesee County)

Sen. Bill 307: Let 278 cities impose additional public safety property tax. To allow cities with less than 70,000 residents to impose “special assessment” property taxes to pay for police and fire services. These taxes would be imposed over a period of three years per property tax rat and require voter approval. According to the Senate Fiscal Agency, this could allow 278 cities to impose these additional taxes. The House has not taken up this proposal.

Passed 37 to 0 in the Senate

Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Genesee County)

Sen. Dave Robertson (R-Genesee County)

Passed 57 to 52 in the House Rep. Joe Graves (R-Argentine Township)

Sen. Ananich (D-Genesee County)

Sen. Robertson (R-Genesee County)

Passed 71 to 39 in the House Rep. Joe Graves (R-Argentine Township)

Sen. Ananich (D-Genesee County)

Sen. Robertson (R-Genesee County)

Sen. Bill 609: Authorize new state Senate office building. To authorize the sale of the Farnum Senate office building in Lansing and construct a new building for Senators’ offices. The House has not taken up this bill, but Senate Majority Leader RandyRichardt recently revealed that the Secretary of the Senate has issued a Request for Proposals from developers and contractors.

Passed 22 to 14 in the Senate

Sen. Ananich (D-Genesee County)

Sen. Robertson (R-Genesee County)

Sen. Bill 652: Make state Appeals Court venue for suits against the state. To establish that the venue for all legal claims against state agencies, commissions, boards, etc. (the state “court of claims”) will no longer be the Ingham County circuit court, and instead will be the state Court of Appeals (which consists of 24 judges elected in four regional elections).

Passed 26 to 11 in the Senate

Sen. Ananich (D-Genesee County)

Sen. Robertson (R-Genesee County)

Sen. Bill 636: Facilitate “land line” transition to cell phones. To streamline regulations on “landline” telephone service providers so as to facilitate transitioning customers to a wireless (cell phone or VOIP) system, and allow phone companies to discontinue landline service after 2016. The bill authorizes appeal procedures for individual customers for whom the replacement service does not work well.

Passed 32 to 3 in the Senate

Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Genesee County)

Sen. Robertson (R-Genesee County)

Passed 71 to 39 in the House Rep. Joe Graves (R-Argentine Township)

Sen. Ananich (D-Genesee County)

Sen. Robertson (R-Genesee County)

Sen. Bill 693: Expand a corporate/developer subsidy regime. To authorize creation of a seventh “Next Michigan Development Corporation” which is a government agency that gives tax breaks and subsidies to particular corporations or developers selected by political appointees on the entity’s board for projects meeting extremely broad “multi-modal commerce” criteria (basically, any form of goods-related commerce). The new entity would be in the Upper Peninsula. Passed 33 to 4 in the Senate.

Sen. Ananich (D-Genesee County)

Sen. Robertson (R-Genesee County)

Passed 87 to 22 in the House Rep. Joe Graves (R-Argentine Township)

Sen. Ananich (D-Genesee County)

Sen. Robertson (R-Genesee County)

Passed 26 to 11 in the Senate

Sen. Ananich (D-Genesee County)

Sen. Robertson (R-Genesee County)

Passed 22 to 14 in the Senate

Sen. Ananich (D-Genesee County)

Sen. Robertson (R-Genesee County)

Sen. Bill 670: Make state Appeals Court venue for suits against the state. To establish that the venue for all legal claims against state agencies, commissions, boards, etc. (the state “court of claims”) will no longer be the Ingham County circuit court, and instead will be the state Court of Appeals (which consists of 24 judges elected in four regional elections).

Passed 37 to 0 in the Senate

Sen. Ananich (D-Genesee County)

Sen. Robertson (R-Genesee County)

Passed 57 to 52 in the House Rep. Joe Graves (R-Argentine Township)

Sen. Ananich (D-Genesee County)

Sen. Robertson (R-Genesee County)

Passed 71 to 39 in the House Rep. Joe Graves (R-Argentine Township)

Sen. Ananich (D-Genesee County)

Sen. Robertson (R-Genesee County)
CASTEEL-MITCH

Clark and Nancy Casteel of Linden are proud to announce the engagement of their daughter, Stephanie Casteel, of Linden to Carl Mitch of Linden. The bride-to-be graduated from Linden High School in 2002 and the University of Michigan-Flint in 2011, majoring in Elementary Education. She is employed by Above and Beyond Childcare and Education Center in Rochester Hills. Carl graduated from Linden High School in 2005 and Michigan Tech University in 2010, majoring in Management Information Systems. He is currently employed as a computer engineer in Bay City. The groom’s parents are Michael and Donna Mitch of Linden. The celebration will take place on August 23, 2014 at 4 p.m., at the First Presbyterian Church of Fenton. A reception will follow at the Holiday Inn Gateway Center in Flint. The newlyweds will reside at their new home in Clio, Michigan.
PROPOSAL 1
Continued from Front Page
The ballot language for Proposal 1, which, if approved by voters, would do away with the Personal Property Tax, in favor of a State Use Tax. It was written by the state’s legislature and many have the opinion that the wording is confusing.

In an article for Michigan Public Radio, writer Mark Brush explained Proposal 1. He said that Michigan residents are being asked to vote on a measure that represents a big change in how local governments collect revenue across the state, and in how the state shares revenue with local governments.

According to his article, a “yes” vote would endorse the Legislature’s plan to phase out and replace the personal property tax in Michigan. A “no” vote would essentially nullify the Legislature’s plans, and keep the personal property tax in place.

In his analysis, Markland explained on the tax system they collect to run their cities and communities. Property taxes pay for roads, police and fire, support schools, etc. In Michigan, local governments not only pay those types of property taxes—the taxes you might pay on a house, for example—they also collect something called “a personal property tax,” wrote Markland.

That’s a tax businesses pay on all kinds of equipment they might own. It could be heavy machinery for a carmaker, or a dishwasher in a restaurant.

Brush went on to write, “To alleviate this concern that would be created if local governments, the Legislature agreed to offset the costs by diverting some of the state’s use tax back to local communities.

The state’s ‘use tax’ is not the same as the sales tax. A use tax is tax paid on all taxable items brought into the state, and on certain services like telecommunications and hotels.”

According to the House Fiscal Agency’s (HFA) analysis of the proposal, the legislation would represent a major shift of current revenue from state budgets to local units of government in order to provide the reduction in personal property taxes for manufacturers, small businesses, and other commercial enterprises.

In other words, the use of this money for local unit reimbursement means it is not available for other purposes. Other major uses of General Fund revenue currently include the state’s Medicaid and other health care programs, Corrections spending, operational support for public universities and community colleges, human service programs, the Michigan State Police, and transportation spending.

With new taxes and expiring credits on businesses, the HFA estimates the losses at $75 million to $125 million a year through fiscal year 2024/25. According to the HFA, voters are being asked whether this proposal is a worthwhile way to spend the state’s revenue. If voters reject the proposal, the Citizens Research Council (CRC) notes that it essentially contributes to the whole set of reforms and re-establishes the personal property tax.

For complete ballot language, go to tctimes.com.

Fenton City Manager Lynn Markland said he has never been a fan of the Personal Property Tax. “It’s not a tax that I like,” he said. “It’s difficult to collect when a business doesn’t pay.” He added that municipalities sometimes are forced to padlock or seize enough property from a business to make up for what the business owes in taxes.

“No municipality wants to do this to a business,” he said. “We want to keep doors open, especially during a recession.”

Markland said the city has worked with some businesses when paying the PPT has become difficult. He said payment plans have kept the business in operation.

If the PPT is replaced with this new Use Tax, Markland said it will be important for Fenton, as well as other municipalities, to keep that stream of revenue coming. “It’s important to us,” he said. “Our revenue is down about $1 million from the recession and it will be a long time to recover that loss.”

To Markland’s understanding on Proposal 1, the state will guarantee to replace the PPT revenue with revenue from the Use Tax, mostly from expiring tax credits and increased use tax revenue.

If Proposal 1 is approved, Markland knows it will take time to see how it all works. He said there would be an implementation period and learning curve.

PROPOSAL 1
(Ballot language)

Approval or disapproval of amendatory act to reduce state use tax and replace with a local community stabilization share to modernize the tax system to help small businesses grow and create jobs. The amendatory act adopted by the Legislature would:

1. Redistribute the tax and replace with a local community stabilization share of the tax for the purpose of modernizing the tax system to help small businesses grow and create jobs in Michigan.

2. Require Local Community Stabilization Authority to provide revenue to local governments dedicated for local purposes, including police safety, fire protection, and ambulance emergency services.

3. Increase portion of state use tax dedicated to school districts.

4. Prohibit Authority from increasing taxes.

5. Prohibit total use tax rate from exceeding existing constitutional 6% limitation.

BACKGROUND:

• Proposal 1 is a referendum on Public Act 80 of 2014, which allocates State Use Tax revenue to replace the Personal Property Tax (PPT) levied by local units of government.

• Local governments are currently responsible for collecting the PPT in 2012 to phase in over a multi-year period beginning in Fiscal Year 2016, partially using dollars freed up by expiring business tax credits.

• Personal Property Tax is a tax on property (mostly machinery, equipment, furniture, tools and computers) used by businesses directly to local units of government. Each local unit sets its rate and uses the revenue to pay for police, fire, local schools, etc. The rate paid by businesses varies by locality, with the revenue averaging $930 million annually.

• State Use Tax is assessed for the privilege of having, storing and consuming certain tangible personal property, plus the services of telephone, telegraph, and other leased communication equipment, used in sales between individuals, and use of transient hotel and motel rooms. The rate is 6 percent of what is billed for each transaction. It brought in about $1,356 million in 2011-12.

• Under PA 98 of 2014, a portion of State Use Tax revenue will be redirected to a newly created special account for distribution to local units of government to replace local government unit’s revenues lost by phasing out the PPT.

• According to the Michigan Municipal League, the PPT, a tax levied by local units of government, is assessed for the tangible personal property, plus the revenue to pay for police, fire, local schools, etc. The rate paid by businesses varies by locality, with the revenue averaging $930 million annually.

• Under PA 98 of 2014, a portion of State Use Tax revenue will fund a newly created special account for distribution to local units of government to replace local government’s revenues lost by phasing out the PPT.

• The Legislature repealed the PPT in 2012 to phase in over a multi-year period beginning in Fiscal Year 2016, partially using dollars freed up by expiring business tax credits.

• Local governments are currently responsible for collecting the PPT in 2012 to phase in over a multi-year period beginning in Fiscal Year 2016, partially using dollars freed up by expiring business tax credits.

• Local governments are currently responsible for collecting the PPT in 2012 to phase in over a multi-year period beginning in Fiscal Year 2016, partially using dollars freed up by expiring business tax credits.

• Local governments are currently responsible for collecting the PPT in 2012 to phase in over a multi-year period beginning in Fiscal Year 2016, partially using dollars freed up by expiring business tax credits.

Opposing Organizations: None identified

Source: League of Women Voters Michigan

Poling locations

FENTON CITY
Scranton Activity Center
600 N. Adelaide St., Fenton
FENTON TOWNSHIP
Lake Fenton High School
4072 Virgil Rd., Linden
HOLLY AREA
Holly High School
6161 East Holly Road, Holly
LINDEN CITY
Faith Baptist Church
4518 Silver Lake Rd., Linden
ARGENTINE TOWNSHIP
Argentine Township Hall
9048 Silver Lake Rd., Linden
TYRONE TOWNSHIP
Tyrone Covenant Presbyterian Church
1028 White Lake Road, Fenton
ROSE TOWNSHIP
Precinct 1 - Persons residing in Rose Township and in the Fenton Area School District vote at the Rose Township Office, 9060 Mason Street.

Precinct 2 - Persons residing in Rose Township east of Milford Road and north of Holly Area School District vote at the Rose Pioneer Elementary School, 7110 Milford Road.

Precinct 3 - Persons residing in Rose Township on Milford Road, west of Milford Road and in the Holly Area School District vote at the Rose Pioneer Elementary School, 7110 Milford Road.

Don’t know where to vote? Scan QR code to find your voter location.

Times
The right agent, the right coverage, the right price.

Joan Liebrock is pleased to provide you with:

Free competitive rate quote

We represent some of the finest insurance companies in Michigan. Check us out at: bbmich.com

You have a local Brown & Brown Advisor, and that makes all the difference.

1190 Torrey Rd., Fenton, MI 48430

Because we appreciate our vets & military families we are extending our discount for all of August

15% OFF Discount to all military families past & present for the entire month of August! All Service Calls or Repairs

Sales & Service Installation • Servicing all makes & models • Heat pumps • Boilers • Furnaces

Get inside savings on green back to our local community & charitable organizations

Dave Lamb Heating & Air Conditioning Inc.
409 E. Caroline, Fenton • 810-629-8946 • www.davelambheating.com

We're here 24/7! We Make House Calls!

HOT LINE CONTINUED

IT IS HARD to believe this country is going to put up with two more years with the most dysfunctional administration this country has ever seen. Any person with any common sense can see it. It borders on so ridiculous that it blows my mind. The Obama administration is useless.

THERE IS AN ordinance within the township that prohibits barking dogs. Call the Township office with the offender’s address as well as the sheriff’s office. They will contact the owner and make the barking stop. Remember, it isn’t the dog’s fault, it is the owner.

AMERICAN ENEMIES are well aware that we are now under the weakest leadership of our nation. They know we will never have an administration as weak as we have now. So if they are going to make a move, it will be in the near future.

MICHIGAN LEADERS SOLD us down the river by allowing fireworks to be sold in the state. In what way do scared dogs and crying, awakened babies benefit the taxpayers? The logic escapes me.

CAN SOMEONE tell me why, after 30 years of no fireflies, they have been so prevalent these past couple years? There are literally hundreds of them in my yard every single night.

DEAR POLITICIAN — ROBO calls are annoying and disruptive. Please do not have a computer call me and spout your qualifications or disparage your opponent. I can read the newspaper and listen to the radio or TV. Your calls are not appreciated!
While diving, sheriff’s deputies use rope tugs to signal those on the surface. Two tugs mean to change direction, three tugs is that they’ve found the object they’re seeking.

**DIVE TEAMS**

**Continued from Front Page**

Sgt. Dan Stenper of the GCSD has been a diver for 15 years. He was on the scene at Lake Fenton last week, though as a supervisor, he didn’t have to get in himself. He said the man’s body was recovered in 10 minutes once he was located.

He said search diving is always in the worst conditions, and always right along the trash, silt and plant life. They also know the family is up there waiting. He said divers sometimes have to block the emotions of searching for a person, and just focus on the job. “I don’t think you really get used to it, you accept it and move on,” he said. “It’s what you’re brought into the team to do.”

Last year, the GCSD had to dive six times, sometimes for people. This year, there have been three dives. The Michigan State Police (MSP) dive team found the missing Flushing man in Lake Fenton last week. When a vehicle or person needs to be found in Genesee County, often it’s the GCSD Dive Team that shows up to dive under ice, in murky water, or in rivers with currents.

“It’s a very dangerous function, but like many anything with law enforcement, these guys volunteer to do this,” said Hart. “They’re kind of unsung heroes, if you will.”

Sgt. Randy Parros, of the MSP Underwater Recovery Unit has done searches in Genesee County. He said when searching for a person underwater, “you want to be mentally prepared for that, those could be long days, long hours, and you know that family is distraught.”

Really, with no visibility in inland lakes, divers can be spared from seeing the person — and therefore they may also not be startled by it. “I’m here to do this for my family that’s missing a loved one,” he said.

“It’s not as startling or traumatic, because you know you’re down there looking for a person,” he said. Mentally, they are prepared knowing they are looking for a person in a specific area, and they are out there to find and bring them back.

To people like Parros, this is second nature — except the time he had to find a child. “That’s difficult. I don’t see how anybody can’t be affected by bringing up a child.”

His first dive was also difficult, but through repetitiveness, he is able to treat the job like a job and even discuss it freely.

The sherriff’s dive team doesn’t just search for a person, they also search for missing vehicles to help solve crimes — this was the case on Tuesday. Sometimes there is even a body inside the vehicle, under water.

For whatever they’re searching, they first narrow down the search area, and try to mark out likely areas to search, and also consider eyewitness accounts. Hart said they’ll use math equations in the case of a current affecting the person or object they’re looking for.

Today, finding objects in the water can be done with side-scanning sonar, as was utilized last week in Lake Fenton. All these tactics are used before a diver is sent down. An MSP dive team’s side scanner located the missing Flushing man in 43 feet of water.

The side scanning machine works using sonar, and a clear outline, or white shape appears on the screen above. These scanners are important because water in area lakes, especially Lake Fenton, is especially murky. He said dive members will have a couple feet of visibility at most.

Searching by feel, along the body of a murky river or lake bed can be especially dangerous. Michigan lakes tend to be cold, so hypothermia is always a concern. There are also a lot of sharp metallic objects in the water, like old shopping carts. Not only are lacerations a problem, so is getting equipment tangled.

He said that with today’s technology, finding a missing person is very likely, and his divers are rarely unsuccessful. Factors like temperature, visibility, underwater plant life, and depth all matter. Also the object’s proximity to a structure like a dam is a factor. “It can be extremely dangerous,” Hart said.

When a dive team member finds a body, the body will be extracted using a gurney, like ones used in aerial rescues. He said it’s the most respectful way, as damage could have been caused by marine animals. A diver will signal the surface that they need a gurney.
Confused about Social Security?

Research your specific situation and contact a professional retirement planner for best advice

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

Maximizing your Social Security benefits can be a tricky business, especially when your own circumstances of life get in the way of a “cookie cutter” answer. One misstep can result in the loss of thousands of dollars in benefits, so it’s important that you strategize well in advance. You may want to consider using a financial planner who can spell out your own specific scenarios.

There are a few clever and legal ways to time the collection of your retirement benefits to increase their worth, according to Kiplinger.com. It may mean the difference between thousands of dollars of annual household income, plus larger benefits later.

Although you can collect Social Security at age 62, it may be wise to hold off. The key to maximizing your family’s Social Security income is to wait until your normal retirement age, currently 66 for anyone born between 1943 and 1954, before you begin to collect benefits.

Summary

The key to maximizing your family’s Social Security income is to wait until your normal retirement age of 66, if you were born between 1943 and 1954, before you begin to collect benefits.

Claim and switch — the wife takes her own retirement benefit at 62. When her husband reaches full retirement age, he files for spousal benefits on his wife’s account (called a “restricted application,” he has to be at least 66 to qualify). He would get half of her benefit. At 70, the husband switches to his own benefit, which has grown by 8 percent a year, plus cost-of-living increases. If he dies first, his wife switches to her survivor’s benefit, now enhanced by those 8-percent gains.

File and suspend — the husband files for his own retirement benefit at 66, but asks that it be suspended. That lets his future benefit continue to grow. His wife immediately files for spousal benefits on her husband’s account. She would get one-half of his benefit. At 70, he claims his payments, including those 8 percent increases.

If both partners had high earnings, they’d play it differently.

The husband might file and suspend at 66. When the wife reaches 62, she’d request spousal benefits on his account. At 70, each would claim retirement benefits based on their personal earnings record.

Obviously, the optimum strategy is different for all couples, depending on their ages and which spouse has the higher earnings.

What about divorce?

For the most part, Social Security provides divorced-spouse benefits just as they do spouses, if certain requirements are met. A divorced spouse can collect a Social Security retirement benefit on the work record of their ex-husband (or ex-wife). If they are at least 62, were married for at least 10 years, are unmarried now, and are not eligible for a higher benefit based on their own work record.

To collect, a former spouse must also be at least 62 and eligible for Social Security benefits. Even if your ex is remarried, it won’t affect your right to divorced-spouse benefits, nor will it affect your ex’s retirement benefits or his current spouse’s benefits.

However, remarrying makes you ineligible for divorced-spouse’s benefits, unless the later marriage ends.

HELPFUL WEBSITES FOR SOCIAL SECURITY INFORMATION:
www.ssa.gov/myaccount
www.aarp.org/money/social-security
www.sosc.org

LOCAL SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICES:
1149 Robert T. Longway Blvd.
Flint Township
888-518-7288
2021 W. Carpenter Rd.
Flint Township
877-748-9766
National hotline:
1-800-772-1213

Do you see what I see?

Vision therapy can help all ages with common problems or difficulty reading

If your child has difficulty with reading in school, glasses aren’t always the answer.

Vision therapy — a type of physical therapy for the eyes and brain — may be more effective in resolving visual problems which interfere with reading, learning and educational instruction.

Common vision problems such as lazy eye, crossed eyes, double vision, conversion insufficiency and some reading and learning disabilities may be treated well with vision therapy. Adults who are literate but have difficulty with getting past the mechanical phase of reading and into the automated phase will also benefit from vision therapy.

Juan Alvarado, O.D. and Cynthia Cupal, O.D., F.A.A.C., of Fenton Vision Center in downtown Fenton are both licensed in vision therapy and have a trained vision therapist on staff.

“The kids who need vision therapy are the ones who hate school, because the classes that require a lot of reading are so difficult for them. We can turn that round around with vision therapy so they can feel an overall enjoyment of school.”

What is vision therapy?

It’s a progressive program of vision exercises or procedures that begin after a child or adult has had a routine eye exam and undergone functional testing to determine that they will benefit from vision therapy.

“Typically in our office, patients will come in once a week for a therapy, then will do ‘homework’ five nights a week, although this process varies depending upon each individual case,” said Alvarado.

Depending on the case, vision therapy procedures are prescribed to help patients develop or improve fundamental visual skills and abilities; improve visual comfort, ease and efficiency and change how a patient processes or interprets visual information. “A child who has double vision doesn’t realize that’s not normal vision,” said Alvarado.

Unlike other forms of exercise, vision therapy is not to strengthen the eye muscles. Eye muscles are already incredibly strong.

Some of the in-office vision therapy tools used may include:
• Corrective lenses
• Therapeutic lenses
• Prism lenses
• Optical filters
• Occluders or eye patches
• Electronic targets with timing mechanisms
• Computer software
• Balance boards
• Visual-motor-sensory integration training devices

SOME QUICK FACTS:
(Social Security Administration)

• A total of 41.4 percent take the benefits as soon as they’re eligible at age 62
• Half of Americans 65 and older rely on Social Security for at least 50 percent of their family income.
• A total of 23 percent rely on Social Security for 90 percent or more of their family income.
• The average monthly Social Security benefit is $1,294.

It’s the single most rewarding thing I do as an optometrist.

Juan Alvarado, O.D.
Fenton Vision Center

TRI-COUNTY TIMES FILE PHOTO
Dr. Juan Alvarado, O.D. and Dr. Cynthia Cupal, O.D., F.A.A.C bring a high level of practice and specialization to their patients.
Holly water meter project targets reduced waste

By Terry Connell
news@ctimes.com; 810-629-6282

Holly — Holly Village Council unanimously approved a proposed plan on July 22 to install a master water meter servicing Sun Communities, Inc.

Sun Communities owns and manages Hawaiian Gardens and Holly Village manufactured home communities for a combined 419 home sites. Both are located on Grange Hall Road and served by the village of Holly water. Sun is responsible for the water infrastructure and distribution to the individual home sites, each fitted with a water meter.

Village of Holly Public Works (DPW) Director Brian Klassensen estimates it would take three to six months to install the meter system. He said once approved, installation could begin in September.

Clerk/Treasurer Cathlene Behrens supplemented Klassensen’s report with figures to gauge current rate of loss and estimate recovery. Referring to Sun’s water system, she said, “They know that their system is not tight. In other words, there’s a lot of leaks there. People could be taking water illegally — we don’t know — but we don’t have any way to check that.”

Behrens said, “Industry standards is 30-percent water loss in situations like that. Over January to June, the Village lost $15,109.50.” Based on records and forecasts, the $100,000 installation would pay for itself in less than three years, according to Behrens.

Council Member George Kullis highlighted three ways the Village of Holly would save money, beginning with a reduction of loss due to leakage. He said, “Transient homes are hard to keep up with. People move out and we are unable to track them down, and yes, over time, it ends up going on the property taxes for Sun, but we were looking at $30,000 in arrearage at one point in time.”

Kullis added, “Not to mention, we’re going to save money — 420 customers times 12 months that we don’t have to spend postage on. This thing is a win-win all the way around.”

GAS
Continued from Front Page

The average price for regular gas has dropped 9 cents per gallon, according to the Lundberg Survey, a nationwide survey group. Refineries are said to have processed more petroleum, which has resulted in the price decline.

In the tri-county area this week, the lowest gas was priced at $3.28 per gallon for cash at the BP station on Owen Road and the highest price for cash, was $3.69 per gallon at the BP on Thompson Road and U.S. 23, according to gasbuddy.com. The current average price for gas in the U.S. this week was $3.67.

Analysts suggest that the drop in fuel prices has come about despite rising tensions in the Middle East and a surge in the global crude oil price. Industry analyst Trilby Lundberg suggests that U.S. refineries are believed to have abundant supplies of crude oil and now they are reducing the wholesale price to achieve higher sales.

“It’s really a mid-summer gift,” he said, in a report on michiganagasprices.com. “Refiners have been on a kick to run more crude, run at high prices and to cut price. There’s an abundance of gasoline, inventories are high and refiners are cutting to chase those summer sales. But before you get too excited about the price drop, talk to a local gas station owner like Doug ‘Smitty’ Smith. Smith, of Exit 80 Sunoco in Fenton. “In the last three days, the price I pay for my gas has gone up 6 cents. It hasn’t been reflected in the price I charge at the pump yet, but you’ll see it go up at the beginning of next week. I don’t pass the price hike to my customers ‘til I start using the higher priced gas.”

He buys his gas from Corrigan Oil, paying the rack price set at 6 p.m. every evening. “I have no idea why it’s gone up, but I think it may be because of the upcoming Labor Day holiday in late August. I can see the gas prices creeping up until then.”

With a profit margin on gas of just 3 percent, cool summer nights and recent cold weather hasn’t helped gas sales any. “Usually, people buy more gas in the summer for their boats, jet skis, etc., but it’s been too cold to boat lately. I’m glad I also sell snack foods and bait,” he said.

Why gas prices jump around at the pump
• Gas prices generally rise in the spring and summer and usually drop in the fall and winter.
• Gas prices rise after hurricanes or other natural disasters, because most refineries border the Gulf of Mexico.
• Major threats to the world’s oil supply can drive up prices of both oil and gas. The threat usually starts in the Middle East, which supplies most of the world’s oil.
• Commodities traders can create a price bubble through sheer speculation. They buy now, hoping that the actual price will rise so they can sell the contract at a profit. They anticipate and therefore exaggerate actual supply and demand trends.
• Gas prices vary regionally, depending on state taxes and regional formulations. California prices are usually the highest, because of taxes of $0.66 per gallon. Michigan gas tax is currently $.19 per gallon.
• The value of the dollar can affect oil and gas prices, because oil contracts are priced only in dollars.

Source: About.com U.S. Economy

Dirt. Dust. Tracking. Mud. Get Rid Of It NOW!
Blacktop Driveways
Commercial • Residential

10’x70’
$1500

Call Robert at
750-9760 or 800-297-0688
D.O.W. ASPHALT PAVING
FLINT

Guaranteed Quality All Year Round.

Robert M. Crites & Associates
You Have Questions... We Have Answers

• SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY CLAIMS
• SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS FOR CHILDREN
• SOCIAL SECURITY CLAIMS BY PEOPLE OVER 50

If you are considering applying for Social Security or S.S.I. benefits and have questions about the procedure or law call our office. We will analyze your case, give you some suggestions that will help you with your application, and send you an information packet showing you where and how to apply for your benefits.

There is absolutely NO CHARGE for our services UNLESS WE ACCEPT YOUR CASE AND WIN IT!

We have an excellent reputation for thorough preparation - No law office, either local or out of state has a higher success ratio!

Robert M. Crites Attorney at Law
OVER 25 YEARS EXPERIENCE

Free Consultation with regard to all Social Security or SSI matters

800-767-5252
www.criteslaw.com

Check our website for more information about our services.

Flint Office
1030 S. Grand Traverse, Flint, MI 48502
Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-12pm & 1:30pm-5pm

Swartz Creek Office
9001 Miller Road, Swartz Creek, MI 48473
Office Hours: Tues & Thurs 7:30pm-9pm
Record-breaking Newman leads our girls soccer team

LF grad ends career with 195 goals

By David Troppens
droppens@tctimes.com

When it comes to soccer, Jordan Newman is a pretty special player. That became pretty obvious early in life. How early? How about when she was 4. “I don’t remember it that well, but my parents told me when I was 4 in AYSO, a whole bunch of parents came up to my mom and dad and said, ‘Your daughter is a natural, and is going to do good things.’ A couple of them even came to my open house and said, ‘I told you so.’ It’s kind of funny.”

Those people were right. But maybe they couldn’t have guessed just how good the Lake Fenton graduate ended up being. Newman became the greatest female prep goal scorer in Michigan history this year, capping her career with 195 goals. She completely destroyed the old record of 168 posted by Newaygo’s Jaleen Dingledeine (2004-07), making her an obvious choice as our repeat Tri-County Female Soccer Player of the Year.

Lake Fenton’s Jordan Newman

PHOTO BY SCOTT SCHUPBACH

All Tri-County Girls Soccer Team

FEMALE SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR: Jordan Newman, Lake Fenton junior

A First-Team All-State selection, Newman broke the career prep goal scoring record in the state of Michigan by scoring 196 during her four seasons. She scored 41 this season.

A First-Team All-Tri-County selection, Newman scored 41 goals this season.

Name | School
--- | ---
Bri Costigan | Fenton
Grace Walterhouse | Linden
Brennan Sullivan | Fenton
Kaitlyn Begley | Lake Fenton
Miranda Quirk | Lake Fenton
Kaliegh Keyandwy | Fenton

Name | School
--- | ---
Ashlyn Skidmore | Lake Fenton
Jessie Magalski | Linden
Maddie Zayan | Linden
Ann Fetzler | Holly
Mackenzie Murphy | Fenton
Hannah Evo | Fenton
Madison Paige (K) | Linden

Despite all of the goals, it’s other reasons why Lake Fenton girls soccer coach Lenny Glasssettler is going to miss Newman next year. “I think of all the good times we had, and I’m not even thinking about soccer,” Glasssettler said. “She has a great bubbly personality and she really likes to help people. I have never seen her talk bad about anyone. She’s just a great person. And when she plays, she’s electrifying on the pitch anywhere she plays. She can score from anywhere.”

WORKING ON GETTING THE RECORD

Glasssettler has had his share of great goal scorers during his time as Lake Fenton’s girls soccer coach. Back in the day there was Rene LeBlanc. And just a bit after her came Jaime Tomaszewski. The 2008 graduate scored 132 goals during her career. At the time that tally was dauntingly impressive. However, it wasn’t long after that when the Newman era began.

During her freshman season, Newman showed what she was capable of, scoring 40 goals and collecting eight assists. She only got better with each year on the pitch. Her sophomore season, Newman collected 56 goals and 17 assists, and she followed that season with 58 goals and 15 assists her junior season, placing her just 14 goals behind that all-time state record.

Newman missed a few games this season due to injury, but those injuries couldn’t keep her from destroying the state record. She finished her senior season with 41 goals and 11 assists.

“The one thing all three had in common was we always had fun, but once all three stepped on the field, they were dead serious,” Glasssettler said about his three scorers. “All three would do anything they could for the team. Jordan is like that.

“Whenever a coach gets a player as talented as Jordan, you learn a bit from that player. They play at such a high level that they do things differently. She taught me a lot.”

See NEWMAN on 19A
NEWMAN Continued from Page 18A

Newman’s career-breaking 169th goal came in an 8-1 victory at home against Perry. It came on a pass from Brenna Meicher with Newman at the right side of the net. Newman dribbled the ball by a defender to the center of the net, shot and scored. Newman ended the contest with 171 goals, placing her at 171 for her career. At the time Newman didn’t get too concerned about the record. However, she’s admitted time has changed her viewpoint.

“It’s weird because at first it didn’t mean as much,” Newman said. “People will bring it up, saying ‘You know she holds the Michigan goal scoring record?’ I’ll just smile and go with it. It doesn’t mean more than before, but it’s cool knowing that I’ll be able to look back one day and tell my kids (about the record).”

SILENCING THE CRITICS

It seems these days whenever someone breaks a record, there is someone out to discredit it. And Newman’s crushing of the career goal scoring record hasn’t been without critics. There were occasional whispers whenever Newman played. People would wonder if she played for a stronger team, or maybe if the Blue Devils played stronger competition, would she still hold the state goal record? Newman has heard the questions herself. She’s heard it from the players on stronger teams, squads like Powers. She doesn’t let it bother her too much and lets her record do the talking for her.

“They say things like, ‘You wouldn’t have the record if you played against us,’ and I’ll mention, ‘I scored against you, too.’ People spent practices working on trying to stop me. They double- and triple-team and it’s frustrating to hear comments like that. When I’m playing Powers it’s not just average players double-teaming you. They are girls going to Michigan State and Wake Forest, and I scored against them too.”

SCORING GOALS

So how does Newman score all those goals? It might have something to do with the way her mind is able to focus on the action around her.

“It’s almost like everything in my mind slows down,” Newman said. “I am not the type of player to rush it, to speed things up when I’m under pressure.”

Of course, hard work has something to do with it as well.

“She’s such a hard worker,” Glasstetter said. “She’s driven to be the best player she can be.”

Newman’s talent is readily on display for anyone who wants to see it. She averages about a goal a game with her travel squad and is headed to Division 1 Charleston Southern University.

“I can’t wait to see the level of play,” Newman said. “It’s going to be more similar to club ball, and it’s the highest level you can play. I’m excited.”

Charleston Southern is probably pretty excited as well.

WINCH WARS

Join Action Water Sports as it hosts its 6th annual Winch Wars competition on August 8. Enjoy a day full of entertainment, from watching riders compete, to prizes, food and giveaways! And if your planning on competing this year you better bring your “A” game, because there will be $5,000 IN CASH AND PRIZES up for grabs.

Give us a call at (810) 629-1342 for more information, don’t forget to bring the whole family.

NEW MODEL INTRO PARTY

AUGUST 8TH & 9TH
GIANT SUMMER CLEARANCE

HUGE SAVINGS!
22 DEMOS TO CHOOSE FROM!

0% APR FOR 72 MONTHS FOR QUALIFIED BUYERS**

LEASE PULL AHEAD IS BACK!

2014 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500, DOUBLE CAB 4X4
SAVE OVER $10,595***

2014 CHEVROLET CRUZE I/TL
$108 PER MONTH LEASE
Stk# 8414409

2014 CHEVROLET MALIBU
$183 PER MONTH LEASE
Stk# 84142007

2014 CHEVROLET IMPALA
$189 PER MONTH LEASE
Stk# 84225007

2014 CHEVROLET EQUINOX
$145 PER MONTH LEASE
Stk# 7844203881

2014 CHEVROLET TRAVERSE
$180 PER MONTH LEASE
Stk# 10581302

HOT DEAL!
2014 CAMARO SS CONVERTIBLE
NOW $35,999***

2014 CHEVROLET IMPALA
$209 PER MONTH LEASE
Stk# 1362631

2014 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500, DOUBLE CAB 4X4
$150 PER MONTH LEASE
Stk# 138283

2010 Dodge Journey R/T
Best value within 200 miles! Nice tires, leather/heated seats, DVD Player, Back-Up Camera

2007 Chevrolet Impala LT
$6,900

2008 Chevrolet Equinox
$4,900

2010 Ford Focus
$7,900

2014 Chevrolet Raffle - Your Choice!
Stop in to Vic Canever to buy your winning ticket!
You choose which vehicle and you choose the color you want!
(or $30,000 Cash Option)

Tickets are $100 each, 1000 tickets will be sold.

All leases are 24 month except the volt which is a 36 month lease. 10,000 miles per year. GM Employee pricing. Payments are $2,000 down, plus tax, license and dic fee. Include lease loyalty and Volt includes Volt owner loyalty rebate.

**0% Percent for up to 72 months on 2014 Silverado and up to 60 months for 2014 Tahoe, Traverse and Suburban in lieu of rebate. ***Includes GM Discount, all applicable rebates, USAA rebate, plus tax, plates, title, doc.

SALES HOURS
Mon, Tues & Thurs: 8:30am - 8pm
Wed & Fri: 8:30am - 6pm
Saturday: 10am - 4pm • Sunday: CLOSED

SERVICE HOURS
Monday: 7:00am - 8pm
Tuesday - Fri: 7:00am - 6pm
Saturday: 8am - 2pm • Sunday: CLOSED