Cornerstone building almost ready for business, tenants

Businesses open by November, residents in by middle of January

By Tim Jagielo
jjagielo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795
Fenton — The building’s imprint on the city is growing clear.

Outside, the Cornerstone building appears complete in some areas, and “under construction” in others. Much of the brick on the south side is complete, and in many places the protective white tyvek sheeting can be seen and windows are framed in. This is also the first week the tenants can go in with their own contractors and begin constructing their own spaces, called “build-outs.”

The bottom floor tenants are Sawyer Jewelers, Sagano Japanese Bistro, Café Aroma and Salon 416.

Stephanie Evans, owner of Café Aroma plans to start her build-out on Aug. 18. “We’re excited, finally we’re ready,” she said. As someone familiar

See CORNERSTONE on 8

Artist behind mural explains what symbols represent

Unveiling of controversial Linden mural is tonight

By Yvonne Stegall
ystegall@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792
The Linden Mural will officially be unveiled at 5:30 p.m. today, Wednesday, Aug. 6. Although many people have already seen the mural, especially those who live in Linden, there is still some controversy over the art.

The best way to combat controversy is to talk to the source. The mural was designed and painted by Linden High School art teacher Gemma Amendola, art students and community members. Amendola said she was approached by Linden schools’ superintendent to meet with the city to include students in community art projects.

“We met and decided to start with

See MURAL on 9

Funding, demand, kill half-day kindergarten at FAPS

Parent group advocates for half-day option, restoring funding

By Tim Jagielo
jjagielo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795
This year, some parents of the Fenton Area Public Schools (FAPS) were surprised when they went to register their children for kindergarten. For the first time ever, half-day kindergarten was not offered. In contrast, full-day kindergarten was not offered four years ago, according to Superintendent Timothy Jalkanen. This switch has prompted the formation

See KINDERGARTEN on 7

New Moon likely to return while options mulled

Council discusses possibility of in-house marketing individual

By Ryan Tackabury
news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282
Fenton — For the past four years, New Moon Visions has worked with Fenton’s Downtown Development Authority (DDA) to provide marketing services. This year New Moon Visions (NMV) decided not to renew their yearly contract with the city, citing pressure from outside sources.

After speaking with NMV, Mayor Sue Osborn reported to the city council on Monday that the advertising firm was willing to return for the year if it was what the city council and DDA would like.

See NEW MOON on 2

Summary

The city will ask New Moon Visions to provide marketing services for another year while spending that time determining what its next step will be in regards to potentially hiring an in-house marketing individual.
Holly sights, sounds and tastes enjoyed by hundreds

**Great food, good music, ideal weather — perfect combination**

By Terry Connell  
news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Holly — Saturday brought perfect weather, along with it more than 500 attendees who enjoyed the 12th annual “Sights, Sounds, and Tastes” event hosted by the Holly Area Chamber of Commerce.

Holly residents Dave and Teresa Myus were just a couple of the many repeat attendees who said the food in particular was even better than last year. Teresa said, “The Shepherd’s Pie from Blackthorn Pub is really good. I’m excited to go back for my next plate.”

Rick Powers of Holly said, “It gets better every year. The food is always great.”

This year’s event featured dishes and beverages from nine local businesses, including Avia Family Dining, Bittersweet Café, Blackthorn Pub, Delich’s Orchard and Cider Mill, Fenton Winery and Brewery, Holly Foods, Holly Moose Lodge #1168, McDonald’s and Red Devil Restaurant.

Linden’s Judy Weekes won a grand prize bundle, which included a kayak, mountain bike, and tent. “I come here every year with my daughter,” said Weekes, “This is the first time I have ever won anything in my life and it’s awesome.”

Lester Blues Band took the stage early in the evening. They brought dancers immediately to their feet, and kept everyone entertained into the night with their rock-blues style.

Volunteer Chamber of Commerce Board President Nicole Arnold reported an increase in profit over 2013 of more than 16 percent, despite a drop in contributing sponsors.

Arnold expressed gratitude toward volunteers from McKay Hardware, The State Bank, and Oakland County WWAM for assistance during set up and clean up, and Holly Area Community Coalition for selling tickets and wristbands at the entrances.

**NEW MOON Continued from Front Page**

The council came to the consensus that it would be best to stay with NMV for the upcoming year, and spend that time deciding how to approach an in-house marketing employee.

The decision was made in part due to the looming deadline of the Streetscape project that will see downtown Fenton receiving a major facelift. This project is accompanied by a marketing project, one that NMV has already begun working on. It was noted that half of the marketing work for the upcoming streetscape work by NMV had already been completed and paid for, as it had been worked on in the past before the project was delayed for over a year.

Services provided by NMV in 2014 included maintaining the Be Closer website, developing an online magazine, maintaining the city Facebook and Twitter pages, the monthly merchant newsletter, coordinating and promoting the Silver Parkway Rewards program, billboard negotiation and design, radio ad negotiation and design, and merchant outreach. Additionally, New Moon coordinated the ArtWalk event and provided marketing, merchant outreach, negotiation to purchase and production of media for the event. The DDA budgeted $46,625 for this work.

It was agreed on by the council that over the course of the next year it was time to evaluate the future of the city’s marketing needs. “I really think that our downtown now has started to change, if you will, in a good direction. It’s becoming more active,” said City Manager Lynn Markland. “I think it’s time, at least next year for the city to go with the main street program and to have an in-house person.”

Osborn told the council “It is very important to me that the DDA explicitly said they want to continue with it and I want to support them.”

Councilman David McDermott said that with time and money already invested in the Streetscape marketing project, the city did not have the luxury of making choices right now.

A well-received idea was suggested by Councilman Scott Grossmeyer, who suggested looking at not just hiring an in-house marketing individual for the DDA, but someone who could market the entire city.

“This particular year we probably do need that continuity and should stick with New Moon Visions,” McDermott said. “But we should look very hard moving forward, what should be the right thing to do?”
Dozens of choices, milk substitutes cause confusion for shoppers

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

With so many milk options available today it can be difficult to decide what to buy. Whole, skim, 1- and 2-percent are no longer the only choices. There is lactose-free milk and RBST-free milk. There is organic milk, and there is the option to buy non-pasteurized (raw) milk, too.

If you have not noticed, cow’s milk is not the only option anymore. Goat’s milk is readily available on the market. Not interested in milk from an animal? There are plenty of non-dairy options too, such as soy milk, rice milk, almond milk and even hemp milk.

While milk alternatives can easily be found at the local grocery stores, it helps to speak to someone who focuses on healthy substitutes. Marjie Andrejciw, owner of Marjie’s Gluten Free Pantry of Fenton knows a little something about milk.

“Milk, whether it comes from a cow or goat, in its most natural state from grass is incredible. It’s good for the body. It helps to delay hunger.”

See MILK on 9

FAT AND CALORIES IN VARIOUS MILK TYPES, PER 16 OUNCES

- Whole — 7.93g fat, 146 calories
- 2 percent — 4.81g fat, 122 calories
- 1 percent — 3.14g fat, 108 calories
- Fat free — 44g fat, 86 calories
- Soy — 4.70g fat, 127 calories
- Goat — 10.10g fat, 168 calories
- Plain almond — 2.5g fat, 30 calories

SAGE advice for herbs . . .

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

There’s nothing that perks up a meal more than the addition of fresh herbs like basil, parsley, cilantro, to name just a few.

But when you buy fresh herbs at a farmers market or grocery store, the huge bunch you take home can be overwhelming, especially when your recipe calls for a mere two tablespoons or quarter cup.

What do you do with all the rest?
If you’re like me, you end up throwing them away, even if you’ve followed careful instructions to “preserve” the herbs for several days in your refrigerator.

Basil is especially tricky, because it’s not supposed to be refrigerated, as enzymes will cause the leaves to turn black. I’ve tried keeping basil in a jar of water on the counter, watching it still wilt before my eyes. I’ve stored it in a zip lock bag surrounded with damp paper towels. After wasting so many bountiful fresh herbs, I finally gave up buying fresh and bought McCormick’s dried basil instead.

That is, until my sister, Mary Travis, an excellent cook, shared her fresh herbs secret with me. It’s so simple that it changed my cooking personality forever, and I hope it can help you, too.

See SAGE on 7
There’s a hidden side to today’s poverty debate that traditional politicians on the left and right too often overlook or undervalue: the decline in neighborliness.

My column-writing colleague Timothy Carney at The Washington Examiner linked a decline in ‘neighborliness’ to the recent wave of stories about parents getting arrested for letting their children play alone. For example, a mother in North Augusta, South Carolina was thrown in jail earlier this summer for leaving her 9-year-old daughter at a neighborhood park while she went to work.

More recently, a Port St. Lucie, Florida mom was similarly charged after she allowed her 7-year-old son to walk a half-mile to a park alone.

Well-meaning people call the cops when they see a child without parents, writes Carney, but ‘neighborly adults look after other adults’ kids when the parents are unavailable.’ I’m not alone in detecting deeper social anxieties at work here.

Edmund Burke, the 18th-century father of modern conservatism, highlighted the importance of churches, trade groups, civic associations and other ‘little platoons’ of civil society for providing the glue that holds a society together.

We see that glue coming apart in many of today’s social crises. For example, in the recent surge in gun violence in Chicago, police complain of a lack of cooperation from witnesses in high-crime neighborhoods.

New-wave methods like Community Policing help, largely because they aim to restore the neighborly rapport that the old-school ‘good neighbor’ had with residents.

That’s why I am intrigued by the new ideas offered by some aspiring conservative Republican presidential hopefuls. The detailed antipoverty plan offered by Rep. Paul Ryan of Wisconsin last week offers some highly debatable ideas. But at least he shows some appreciation for the little platoons.

But on the plus side, the plan recognizes the importance of neighborliness. It would distribute funds through nonprofits and public agencies that would work closely with recipients to help them organize their financial plans.

Ideas like that won’t solve all of our social problems, but at least they would help build good neighbors.

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Gov. Rick Perry’s bold border move

Gov. Rick Perry of Texas plans to order 1,000 National Guard troops to his state’s border with Mexico in an effort to stem the tide of migrants illegally entering from Central America, dispersing around the country once they’ve made it into Texas.

Critics will call it a stunt and accuse Perry of showboating, but at least he is taking action, while President Obama, who took an oath to defend the country from all enemies foreign and domestic, drinks beer, plays pool and attends fundraisers as our borders are overrun.

Perry says a majority of Americans favor stopping illegal aliens from entering the country.

Texas’ border with Mexico is 1,200 miles long and 1,000 National Guardsmen won’t make a significant difference, but as supplements to the U.S. Border Patrol they could slow the tide. The Guardsmen, however, might be useful in sending a message to Central American countries that the odds of making it into Texas are being substantially raised and the journey is not worth the risk. That message would counter what has been portrayed by left-leaning media.

But even if insufficient to solve the problem, it does nothing in the minds of many to show that America is dithering, gridlock and a dysfunctional federal government.

Perry’s planned troop rollout will occur over the next 30 days. If it reduces the number of illegal immigrants flooding into Texas, Perry could embarrass and serve as a contrast to President Obama and congressional Democrats.

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The Austin news conference, Perry said he expects Washington to foot the bill for the cost of deploying the Texas National Guard. Good luck with that. He may have more success at the border than with Congress or President Obama, who dither and waffle and stall as the issue of illegal immigration jumps to the top of American concerns.

What do you remember about kindergarten?

“I remember lying on the rug for naptime and walking home with friends.” — Jane Samers

“I remember some of my friends went to AM and I went to PM kindergarten.” — Mike Reaves

“I remember how huge everything seemed back then, until I turned 25 and taught in the same building.” — Bob Redden

“Having fun and playing. No pressure.” — Alison Rummel

“I never went to kindergarten. I’m British, we started school early.” — Bob Firth

“Nap time.” — Tom Derwin
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KINDERGARTEN
Continued from Front Page
of the group Mid-Michigan Parents for Half-Day Kindergarten. It is spearheaded by concerned parents like Rachel Peran- toni of Rose Township, who wants the option to be there for families.
Her son took half-day kindergarten and did very well. “He excelled in kindergar- ten. I would say, school. I didn’t have to fight with him about going,” she said.
The change in options came about because the Michigan legislature cut funding by half for half-day kindergarten. Although the building, staff, facilities maintenance and everything is used full time, the students essentially leave after half a “shift.” The school is only reim- bursed $3,500 for that half-time student, instead of $7,000, which funds all the school’s costs.
Prior to the funding change, Jalkanen said there were morning and afternoon options for families. When the funding model changed, most of the districts followed suit and cut half-day classes.
Aside from funding, the district didn’t feel there was enough of a demand. Jalkanen said 33 of the 70 students enrolled in 2012, and 11 in 2013 for half-day kindergarten. All other units of young-5s and full-day kindergarten are full at 18 students per class.
Today, if a parent does not feel their child is ready for kindergarten, they can attend Young 5s instead, which is offered in half, and full-days.
So far, nine full-time kindergarten classes are full, with two full-time young-5s and one half-day are all full. For either, the requirement is for the child to be 5 by Dec. 1.
Jalkanen said that unfortunately, there is no “break-even” point where the school could afford to run the half-day kindergarten. “It’s not a business like that,” said Jalkanen. “We’re struggling because we’re trying to be fiscally responsible with the money.”
By not running half-day kindergarten, they are saving at least $40,000, said Jalkanen, which is mostly one teacher’s salary.
The decision was made months ago, after looking at the financial situation of other districts. Because it appeared demand was low, they decided to eliminate that option. “I can assure you, had the state not made this change about funding, we would not be talking about this,” she said.
He also pointed out that FAPS advertised the half-day option as a hallmark for the district, because they were the only ones offering it, but interest did not grow. “We’re not giving a terrible thing, but it becomes finances.”
Peranoni acknowledges that funding is important. “They don’t use half a bus, they don’t use half support staff, you still need a full custodian,” she said. This is why her group is also trying to engage the Michigan legislature to restore full-time funding to half-day kindergarten.
She said so far, they have a petition on change.org, have drummed up support on Facebook and through email, and have made their voices heard at the FAPS board meetings. They have a meeting with members of the school board and administration on Thursday.
Peranoni and everyone else supporting the option for half-day kindergarten want just that — the option to have children in class for half the day, if that works for the child, and/or the family. She points to a study by the University of Nebraska, authored by Charlene Hil- deband, where on social measurements, students did better on many points only being in school half day.

SAGE
Continued from Page 3
All you need is ice, and dry off the herbs, chop them into small pieces and place in a labeled freezer bag. When she needs a “pinch of this” or a “pinch of that,” she just reaches into the freezer and pulls out the frozen herb to add to a dish — no need to thaw.
She admits that basil, for example, loses its fresh green appearance in the freezer, so it doesn’t work as well this way as a garnish.
But for all other purposes, it retains its fresh flavor perfectly and adds a summertime freshness to every meal.
I’ve tried this easy method of freezing with parsley, thyme and cilantro, and it works so well I can’t believe it has taken me a lifetime of wasting expensive herbs to learn this method.
I know there are some other ways to preserve fresh herbs (mixing with oil, then freezing in ice cubes), making pesto, etc., but for simplicity and ease, you can’t beat rinsing, drying and freezing them.
I’ve also read recently that Blanching them before freezing helps them retain their color, so that may be worth a try. But for me who likes it easy when spending time in the kitchen, I’m all for simple, simple, simple.
Besides, listening to your “more experienced in the kitchen” sister is always sage advice.

After wasting too many fresh herbs, I finally found a simple way to preserve them in the freezer.
Sally Rummel, Times features writer

How to freeze basil and other herbs for year-round use:
Option 1: Wash and dry the basil leaves, coarsely chop the leaves and freeze in labeled zip lock bags. There’s no need to thaw — just take out as needed and use in your favorite dishes. This is my preferred method, thanks to my sister, Mary Travis.

Option 2: Blanch the basil leaves for 15 seconds, and then plunge in ice water to stop the cooking process. Dry, and then freeze as in Option 1. I have not tried this, but I’m sure it would work well. I just use the easiest method and listen to my wise “elder” sister.

Option 3: Use a food processor to coarsely chop clean basil leaves. Add a drizzle of olive oil, and pulse to lightly coat the leaves with oil (this will keep basil from turning black in the freezer). Scoop the mixture into ice cube trays and freeze. Transfer finished cubes into freezer bags and use as needed. One cube equals about two tablespoons of fresh basil.
Source: About.com Food Preservation

Lake Fenton names new AD
Former teacher takes on two administrative roles for district
By Yvonne Stegallystegall@tctimes.com, 810-433-6792
Lake Fenton — Vince Cicalo is a familiar face around Lake Fenton High School. He has been there for 15 years. He is a former general science and physics teacher. Now he is taking on the role of Athletic Director, as well as Assistant Principal.
Cicalo has his Masters in Administra- tion, but it was not until a year and a half ago that he decided to start pursuing an administrative position. He started out by joining a leadership group offered by Genesee County through the GISD. It just so happened that with his decision to go in a different career di- rection the position for AD opened up, so he applied.
He is thrilled at all of the “congratulations” he has been hearing from students, and says he is happy to know most of the faces already, other than the freshmen coming in this year.
Since Cicalo will no longer be a teacher, his role of president with the teacher’s union goes to the vice presi- dent, Jamie Ureche.

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CORNERSTONE
Continued from Front Page
with how construction projects go, she’s not surprised by the delays.

She and her husband’s business will be renamed to The Rough Draught (pro-
nounced “Draft”) coffee and barroom, and include a full bar and kitchen, and
ofﬁce, with lots of reclaimed brick and light fixtures.

Chip Beltinck, owner of Sawyer Jewel-
ers, is also waiting on his build-out, and re-
proofing. “I can’t wait to see all the
ﬁnishing touches too,” he said.

With the delays, he said businesses just kind of go with it, and it’s better to wait and
make sure it’s done right. “When the time
is right, we’ll get in there,” he said. “We’re
all very anxious, we’re excited.”

Beltinck said all the businesses are hop-
ing to be open in November, before the
holidays, and before the winter weather hits.

On Monday, Project Superintendent
Rohn Smith for Sorensen Gross Con-
struction Services measured the bricks
to make sure they were in line. It looked
like he was surveying a large yellow tripod.

“We’re getting there,” he said. “People can see
what the exterior brick actually looks like.”

Inside, duct work is rising, handrails are
being welded and as always, masonry is going on outside.

The weather has impacted the progress and has pushed out the ﬁnal completion
date. Contractors lost six weeks of con-
struction time during the bitter cold of January, and much of the spring due to the
rain. The building should still be ready for
loft occupancy by the middle of January, which became the adjusted completion
date as announced in February. Bottom
 ﬂoor businesses should be ready to move
in, and open in November.

The building is sealed enough against the weather that Tuesday’s rain didn’t af-
fect most work going on inside. Masonry work, which also includes those exterior bricks,
cannot be laid if it’s wet out. “If they don’t
get the outside done, they still can’t open
the building,” he said.

Basement, upper decks and the upper
 ﬂoor work is continuing. Bricks at the south
end are ﬁnishing up. Exterior walls are
framed, windows are framed. Iron workers
are almost done with the north stair well.

Smith said the roof is 95 percent com-
plete, and is water tight inside. Plumbers are
dropping piping from the second
 ﬂoor, and
tying in the ground as the sprinkler system
is being roughed in. Windows have been
installed on the ground ﬂoor.

In September, parking lots and concrete
work should be underway by the city
contractor.

Smith said there are 30 contractors to
coordinate, and many have subcontrac-
tors themselves. At any given time, there are
approximately eight contracting groups on
site. On Monday, there were masons, carpen-
ters, sheet metal workers, roofers iron workers
and others.

Decorative details are forming, and the concrete ﬂoors are done, though workers are
still accessing them by ladder because the concrete hasn’t been poured onto the
stairs yet.

CORNERSTONE
BACKGROUND
The $4.7-million, 47,000-square-foot
project was ﬁrst unveiled in 2011. At
four stories, the building will be the
tallest in the city and is aimed at mak-
ing the community more walkable. A
mixture of businesses and apartments are slated to be inside the building,
which will be located at North LeRoy
Street and Silver Lake Road.

At least three months of progress
were lost to the weather this winter/
spring, and the Downtown Develop-
ment Authority saved the project with
a $200,000 loan early this year as
investments did not meet estimates
for cost.

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO
Adam Green of Dee Cramer applies a TDF gasket to a duct elbow in what will be Sagano’s Japanese Bistro and Steakhouse on Monday. (Below) Rohn Smith makes his way through the construction site.

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Second brother earns 135 merit badges

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

Fenton — Scouting has been a tradition for young men for 104 years, and there have been more than 120 million scouts to join the ranks.

Parker Trecha of Fenton is the third young man to earn all 135 of the merit badges in Michigan. At 14, he is also the third youngest ever, and the third non-Eagle to earn them all, out of the 230 total Boy Scouts who have earned all the merit badges.

The highest rank in Boy Scouts is Eagle. Parker is a Life Scout right now, just one step below Eagle but he plans to submit his paperwork for Eagle Scout by the end of this month.

It took Parker 3½ years to earn his 135 merit badges, and he has been described by his father Jeff Trecha as a “diligent, hardworking young man.” Parker comes from an entire family of scouts.

Parker is a driven young man. So driven that in order to earn all of his badges, he had some hard work to complete. As an example, the backpacking merit badge requires the scout to backpack for 30 miles, and to spend five days and four nights out camping with only what will fit in their pack. Parker said the hardest badge for him was Medicine, because there was a lot of information to learn. His favorite was Motor Boating.

Scouting has so much to offer, and the Trecha family highly recommends it. Jeff Trecha, the patriarch of the family, said that, “Scouting builds leadership, it builds skills, and it builds everything.”

The Trechas are part of Troop 219 in Fenton.

Marjie Andrejciw
Marjie’s Gluten Free Pantry owner

Milk
Continued from Page 3
(pasture) fed animals, is good for us as long as the person does not have an allergy to dairy. A healthy animal equals a healthy animal product,” said Andrejciw. “If dairy is to be part of the diet, then choose full fat versions and avoid dairy products where a bunch of other ingredients have been added. Goat’s milk is easier for people to digest because the proteins in it are smaller and more similar to human breast milk. Aside from goat’s milk having less fat it is otherwise very similar nutritionally to cow’s milk.”

There has been a lot of controversy in the news about whether cow’s milk is good for people. Whether it is good, those who suffer from dairy allergies may be in need for an alternative. Andrejciw said, “For people who either have an allergy, or for other reasons choose not to drink milk, there are a lot of milk substitutes such as almond milk, coconut milk, cashew milk, and rice milk. These are all good choices. One thing to be aware of is how much sugar is added.”

Andrejciw recommended choosing unsweetened versions and adding sweetener as needed.

MILK
Continued from Page 3
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Andrejciw recommended choosing unsweetened versions and adding sweetener as needed.

Marjie did make one suggestion about what not to drink. “I do not recommend regularly consuming soy milk. Soy can be very challenging for humans to digest because it contains anti-trypsin. Trypsin is a digestive enzyme that helps us to break down protein. Anti-trypsin prevents trypsin from working as it should. Soy contains high amounts of phytic acid, which inhibits the absorption of certain nutrients like iodine. Iodine is needed for proper thyroid function, so consuming a lot of soy can actually lead to low thyroid function. Lastly, soy contains many plant estrogens called phytoestrogens. This can lead to an imbalance in the steroid hormones (estrogens, progesterone, and testosterone) causing an estrogen dominance.”

Even though Andrejciw does not recommend soymilk as a healthy alternative, she said that fermented soy, like soy sauce, is all right since the fermentation process inactivates these concerns.

MURAL
Continued from Front Page

a mural that everyone could be involved in.

I decided to make the style something that would work on the texture of the wall (very bumpy and hard to paint) and I wanted to make it simple and symbolic so it speaks to everyone,” said Amendola, via email.

Amendola comes from an artistic family, so it was just in her nature. “I love all aspects of art and could never settle on just one medium so I have done everything including bronze sculptures, ceramics, jewelry, printing, photography, and drawing. I went into teaching because as soon as I learned how to do something I had to share it with someone else. I currently teach Art, Graphic Arts, and 3D Animation at Linden High School. I do fine portraits and I have a comic strip in the Flint Comix.”

When it comes to the controversy over the mural, Amendola said, “I strive to see the positive. There are many more positive comments than there are negative.”

She added, “I am constantly amazed at the amount of wonderful positive comments and how much attention the very few negative comments get.”

The artist wants people to know that the mural tells a story about all of the beauty in Linden. “The colorful person symbolizes all of the people in Linden. The head shaped as a teapot characterizes the hospitality and friendliness of its residents. The arms are embracing the town that they care for. The brush is painting the water representing the Shiawassee River and all the beautiful lakes in the area. There is a boat, a kayak, a fisherman, and a fish representing all the great water sports that one can enjoy. Music is expressed in the other arm holding an apple that portrays the exquisite orchards in the area. The tea pot is pouring out snow, which covers Linden for a large part of the year where everyone enjoys winter sports including sledding on the sledding hill and building snowmen. The jeans are a road for the various cars. The car industry plays a major role in shaping the community from building the buggy all the way to the modern car. Ford, Chrysler, and GM are all included. On the right is a Linden tree with all the local Michigan birds. Below the tree is the iconic Linden Mills building and wheel. A small plane flies over the building representing Linden’s quaint little airport. If you look closely you can see the word Linden in the spaces between the flowers on the shirt.”

This was not her first mural, but it is the largest. Amendola has done several murals in the Linden Presbyterian Church and in various other private homes. Several anonymous community members donated money for the supplies. No public funds were used.

The Aug. 6 celebration will honor Amendola and her students and helpers. The Linden High School band will provide music.
Cowger’s diversity puts her on top of our Tri-County Softball Team

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

When one grows up in the Cowger household, it seems one sport becomes ingrained in your DNA.

That sport would be softball.

As the years have gone by, the Cowger family has provided many quality softball players to the Fenton program. As those years advanced, Ellie Cowger became just another in the family addicted to the sport.

“I think I had my first glove when I was 2 or 3. I was pretty young,” Cowger said.

“It was never a matter of if I was playing softball. It was just a matter of when I would play softball.”

“Softball was always something that brought us together, whether it was while going to tournaments or going to the field to watch or play games. I’ve always had an interest and love for the sport.”

Her love for the sport has translated into her being a Division 1 All-State softball player last fall. The 2014 graduate also has earned our honor as the 2014 Tri-County Softball Player of the Year.

“I’ve been really fortunate,” Cowger said.

“All the teammates, all the people I met and the great opportunities I’ve had has made it rewarding. I’ve met some of my best friends playing softball, and I haven’t gone to college yet. And when I go to college I’ll get to play for some of the best coaches in the country. That’s what drives me the most — how much more I have to learn and how much more I can learn. I want to reach my potential.”

Looking at Cowger’s senior season, it’s easy to say she reached her potential. Cowger led all tri-county softball players with a .591 batting average and a .656 on-base percentage. That means she either got a hit or received a walk nearly two of every three plate appearances during the prep season. The lead-off hitter finished the season with 78 hits during the 40-game season and walked 24 times. She collected 16 doubles, eight triples and one home run, recording an .856 slugging percentage. She credits her hitting success to her hitting coach Don Seaton.

“He’s always willing to help me,” Cowger said. “If I shoot him a text and ask him for help, he’s always willing to work with me. His passion is to see his players succeed and improve.”

See COWGER on 11

Tour des Lacs remains a hit with cyclists

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

Some do it for group camaraderie.

Others do it for training.

And others do it for the cause it helps.

But whatever the reason why one attends the Tour des Lacs Charity Bike Ride, one thing appears apparent each year — everyone has fun participating.

The 12th annual event incorporated many of the strategies it has used over the years, and added a few new wrinkles to help raise about $23,000 for the University of Michigan’s C.S. Mott Children’s Hospital to help congenital heart disease research.

“It was an amazing day,” event coordinator Kim Foerster said. “And once people finished they stayed. They didn’t have a beer and leave right away. The tent was packed from 9-40 a.m. until 2 p.m.”

The event, which begins and ends near The Laundry, had 221 cyclists who followed either an 18-mile, a 37-mile or a 60-mile paved route. About 12 riders tried out the new 37-mile Gnarly Gravel Grinder, a dirt road track created for this year. Many came with large groups of friends. For example, the Motor City Endurance team came this year. They compete in triathlons and running events. About 12 members showed up Saturday to ride the tour’s 37-mile and 60-mile loops for training.

See TOUR on 11

Tri-County Times | David Troppens

Some of the Tour des Lacs participants begin their rides early Saturday morning. There were 221 cyclists at the annual event.
TOUR
Continued from Page 10

“We like to support bike events like this one,” Roman Krzyzanowski said. “We’ve done this one in the past. It’s a great ride to train and see other areas. We are accustomed to (biking the same areas), so we come here and get to see a new area.”

According to fellow member Scott Griffin Krzyzanowski is one of the leaders of the group. Most of the clan is from the Plymouth area, but Griffin does have a cottage in Fenton.

“We’d go through freezing rain to be with him,” Griffin said. “We all have coming out of morning to spend the time and money to be together. But in five they’ll drop us (race ahead of some of the group). It will be fun (being together) for five minutes.”

An army touring trophy is handed to the group who has the most participants at the event. This year, Diplomat Pharmacy’s Drug Peddlers team won that honor. They won it with several cycles attending for the first time. One of those rookies was Ramona Meyer.

“Most of us are first-timers,” Meyer said. “I wanted to be on the road on my bike, and it’s always more fun when you have more people with you.”

Meyer was one of the newbies trying out the dirt road.

Linden resident Nathan Stuart was another one of the members on the Drug Peddlers team. He attended the event two years ago as well.

“I like riding around the area. I ride on a day-to-day basis, but I usually don’t go out as far as the tour offers,” Stuart said.

“I came back on purpose I was able to come back out and challenge myself to see if I can make it.”

Last minute road construction changes

This year’s tour had its share of challenging last-minute changes due to Genesee County beginning the chip and sealing of many of the routes beginning on Friday. It was a process that wasn’t supposed to start until after the tour. One of the key parts of the tour is finding out where construction may be happening and adjusting the routes based on that construction.

“(Committee member) Peggy Matta is amazing,” Foerster said. “We had to redirect the routes and Peggy has an amazing sense of direction and without her, we wouldn’t have been able to do it.”

To help with the new routes, the Fenton Police Department gave an escort to cyclists to get them to the starts of their courses.

Helping fight Congenital heart disease

While he’s not the vocal spokesperson Kim is, Foerster’s husband, Brett, is another major piece to getting the event done each year. He’ll be the first to admit it’s not a spectacular cycle enthusiast. He says if he wasn’t working the event he’d probably do the 18-mile route, but he goes cycle and is proud of what the event has done for the C.S. Mott Children’s Hospital.

Their son, Braylon Foerster, passed away due to a congenital heart defect on Jan. 2, 2007. He was just over 10 months old at the time.

“It’s really important to Kim and I because it helps a lot of families that went through similar situations we went through,” Brett said. “It’s for research and there’s been big breakthroughs the last couple of years. I think we are doing a good thing.

“It’s really special for both of us. We’ve kind of lived it and now we are giving back. It’s great to be part of it.”

The money raised for congenital heart research has exceeded $100,000 since the revenue created by the tour has gone to the cause. Kim Foerster said this year’s $23,000 will surpass last year’s total by about $2,000.

“We don’t have the final totals in, but we had $21,000 last year, so that’s huge,” Foerster said.

“I would say there are several dozen people we see at this event (exclusively) every year, and they support us,” Brett said. “It’s really neat they do that. It’s pretty special.”

COWGER
Continued from Page 10

But Cowger’s game involves so much more than hitting. Once she gets on base, she’s a speed demon to opposing defenses.

She finished her career with 213 stolen bases, and swiped 62 in 66 attempts during the spring. She scored 71 runs during her senior year and crossed the plate 203 times during her Fenton career.

She also provided a threat to opponents while the Tigers were on defense, whether it was on the mound or playing shortstop.

Cowger shared the starting duties on the mound with Paige Dean during the spring, and posted a 16-3 record. She had an earned run average of 2.10, and allowed opposing batters to just hit .207 against her.

She struck out 88 and allowed just 81 hits in 99 2/3 innings of work.

Defensively, she had just five errors while splitting time at short and pitcher.

Oddly, Cowger loves playing the outfield more than the other two positions.

“I haven’t played it much in high school at all and have only played the outfield a little during travel season, but I like the open space,” Cowger said.

“There’s so much area to run and I love diving for balls.”

Cowger is headed to the University of Minnesota this fall where she’ll play Division 1 softball. Cowger loved the time she spent at Fenton. Fenton won a Metro title and a district crown this season.

“Playing with my sister (Sammi) my first two years created a lot of memories, but this last season, my senior season is probably the most memorable,” Cowger said.

“We were the epitome of a team effort this year. We ended up breaking the state record for team hits (512). That’s something that shows how much effort everyone put into the season, getting us to succeed.”

**All Tri-County Softball Team**

**PLAYER OF THE YEAR:**

Ellie Cowger, Fenton shortstop/pitcher

The Division 1 All-State athlete batted .591 with 62 stolen bases offensively. She recorded a 16-3 record on the mound.

**FIRST TEAM**

**Pitchers**

Kim Roe…………Lake Fenton

Paige Dean…………Fenton

Makayla Melton………..Lake Fenton

**Catcher**

Alexis Melton………………Lake Fenton

Kayla Ward…………………Lake Fenton

Dori Carpenter……………..Fenton

**Infielders**

Macie Keller……………..Fenton

Allison Pettis……………..Lake Fenton

Patricia Whittaker………Lake Fenton

Taylor Mowery……………Fenton

Rachel Skiekierski…………Fenton

**Outfielders**

Emma Brant……………Fenton

Allison Pettis…………Lake Fenton

Patricia Whittaker………Lake Fenton

Taylor Mowery…………Fenton

Rachel Skiekierski……….Fenton

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Page 12
Wednesday, August 6, 2014

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sho e wa lls
DIVERGENT

Divergent is a thrilling action-adventure film set in a world where people are divided into distinct factions based on human virtues. Tris Prior (Shailene Woodley) is warned she is Divergent and will never fit into any one group. When she discovers a conspiracy by a faction leader (Kate Winslet) to destroy all Divergents, Tris must learn to trust in the mysterious Four (Theo James) and together they must find out what makes being Divergent so dangerous before it’s too late. Based on the best-selling book series by Veronica Roth.

NEED FOR SPEED

The story chronicles a near-impossible cross-country race against time—one that begins as a mission for revenge, but proves to be one of redemption. In a last attempt to save his struggling garage, blue-collar mechanic T obey Marshall (Aaron Paul)—who with his team skillfully builds and races muscle cars on the side—reluctantly partners with wealthy, arrogant ex-NASCAR driver Dino Brewster (Dominic Cooper). Just as a major sale to car broker Julia Bonet (Imogen Poots) looks like it will save the business, a disastrous, unsanctioned race results in Dino framing T obey for manslaughter.

DVD RELEASES

WEDNESDAY SUDOKU

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 3x3 box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS
1 “Holy mackerel!”
4 Addict
8 Catch
12 Id counterpart
13 Infamous lynx
14 Lotty
15 Showplace?
17 Crucifix
18 Blues legend Smith
19 Nay undoer
21 That girl
22 Elbow room
26 Staffs
29 “Monty Python” opener
30 Regret
31 “Two and a Half Men” role
32 Whatever number
33 Marx or Malden
34 Roman B-Down
35 Pledge drive station
36 Pontificial
37 Neighbor of Sweden
39 Healthy
40 Billboard
41 2002 animated movie
45 Sandwich shop
48 Our galaxy
50 Dogfight participants
51 Pinnacle
52 Praise in verse
53 Watercraft
54 A deadly sin
55 Leary’s “prescription”
56 Drainage system
57 Historic period
58 Writer’s payment
59 Brazilian resort city
60 To in olden times
61 High deg.
62 Swan
63 “Absolutely” star
64 Emanation
65 Holler
66 Analogic target
67 Hodgepodge

DOWN
1 “Dragnet” star
2 Shrek, e.g.
3 Courts
4 “Unmentionables”
45 Party
46 Green, in a sense
47 Meadow
48 salts
50 Nematode
51 19-9 (CEA)
52 In 1999
53 Smith
54 Northern British
55 True
56 Upright
57 Ratio
58 In
59 Chicago’s airport code
60 Enthusiast, e.g.
61 Miss
62 Author of ‘Fried Green Tomatoes’
63 Online
64 2013-2014 Supreme Court
65 Year
66 Not
67 “Tina”
68 Return
69 “Wilma”
70 Have
71 Prize
72 “Heart”
73 “Aspen”
74 “H枫eless”
75 “Time”
76 “Peanuts”
77 “Peanuts”
78 Under
79 River to the Arctic
80 “Horrible Histories”
81 “Beyond the Black Rainbow”
82 “Camelot”
83 “Presence”
84 “Outlanders”

DVD RELEASES

DIVERGENT

Divergent is a thrilling action-adventure film set in a world where people are divided into distinct factions based on human virtues. Tris Prior (Shailene Woodley) is warned she is Divergent and will never fit into any one group. When she discovers a conspiracy by a faction leader (Kate Winslet) to destroy all Divergents, Tris must learn to trust in the mysterious Four (Theo James) and together they must find out what makes being Divergent so dangerous before it’s too late. Based on the best-selling book series by Veronica Roth.

NEED FOR SPEED

The story chronicles a near-impossible cross-country race against time—one that begins as a mission for revenge, but proves to be one of redemption. In a last attempt to save his struggling garage, blue-collar mechanic T obey Marshall (Aaron Paul)—who with his team skillfully builds and races muscle cars on the side—reluctantly partners with wealthy, arrogant ex-NASCAR driver Dino Brewster (Dominic Cooper). Just as a major sale to car broker Julia Bonet (Imogen Poots) looks like it will save the business, a disastrous, unsanctioned race results in Dino framing T obey for manslaughter.

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Creating Memories

one step at a time

Your first dance as husband & wife is one to remember. Gliding rhythmically around the reception dance floor will display your love in a very memorable way.

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THE Ruby PACK Ag E

Start Two Months Prior to Wedding Date

- Five Private Dance Lessons
- One Group Lesson Series
- Five Zumba Fitness® Classes

THE Emerald PACK Ag E

Start Three Months Prior to Wedding Date

- Ten Private Dance Lessons
- Two Group Lesson Series
- Ten Zumba Fitness® Classes

THE Sapphire PACK Ag E

Start Four Months Prior to Wedding Date

- Fifteen Private Dance Lessons
- Choreography of your 1st Dance
- Three Group Lesson Series
- Two 45-minute Semi-Private Lessons for the Bridal Party
- Thirty Zumba Fitness® Classes
- Rehearsal Time (no instruction)
- Performance at a Studio Dance Party

THE Diamond PACK Ag E

Start Six Months Prior to Wedding Date

- Twenty-five Private Dance Lessons
- Choreography of your 1st Dance
- Four Group Lesson Series
- Three 45-minute Semi-Private Lessons for the Bridal Party
- Sixty Zumba Fitness® Classes
- Rehearsal Time (no instruction)
- Performance at a Studio Dance Party

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