



GI find it so typical of our leadership that they would discuss firing

New Moon one week, and then beg them to come back the next week. How

many more tax dollars are you going to waste on this nonsense."

GDear Mr. President, actions speak louder

than words. Please come off the



the world that you are actually a leader.

GIf you watch PGA golf tournaments, you are seeing a broken man

> who traded his family and

his career for

a few nights

with tramps



and groupies. Are all you men paying attention?

Give never seen such a beautiful summer in my life. The lakes, the trees, and the flowers are such a gift. Make sure you slow down and enjoy it.



Another moratorium extension for Fenton?

Planning Commission to discuss medical marijuana again at end of month

By Ryan Tackabury

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Fenton — A familiar action took place Monday night at the Fenton City Council meeting — the moratorium on special land use for medical marijuana, such as dispensaries, has been extended.

What's different this time, as opposed See MORATORIUM on 7

Many don't know it's illegal to drive under the influence of medical marijuana

By Yvonne Stegall

ystegall@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792 Drugged driving and drunk driving are both cases of impaired driving. They are punishable by law and officers are not tolerating impaired driving, which risks the lives of everyone on the road. But what are the laws? Drunk driving is the act of driving a motor vehicle under the influence

of alcohol. It is illegal for a driver to See MARIJUANA on 14

L The use of marijuana. like any other drug, can affect your ability to drive. 77

Rick Aro, Fenton police chief



Downtown oasis

Passionate gardener creates spectacular tropical gardens in downtown Fenton

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282 It looks like Dow Gardens has come to Fenton. All you have to do is drive

by the home of Stewart Melrose on Shiawassee Avenue across from The Laundry in Fenton, and you'll notice a wall of giant tropical flowers that make a spectacular statement in

Tropicals are my favorite, but I love everything in the garden. <mark>-</mark>--

Stewart Melrose Fenton city gardener

this city landscape. Next door at the home of his parents,

Howard and Sonya Melrose, you'll see See OASIS on 9 TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Three generations of gardeners (from back) Stewart Melrose, Howard Melrose and 8-year-old Angelina Melrose, pose in front of their Shiawassee Avenue home on Tuesday.



IMES MITTED Connor and Spencer Owen. Bradley and Breanna Trecha, and Don and Dave Wolf pose for a twin

Local twins represented at Twins Days in Ohio

Brother/sister twins take second place for looking the least alike

By Yvonne Stegall

ystegall@tctimes.com Every year The Twins Days Festival in Twinsburg, Ohio is the largest annual gathering of twins in the world. This amaz-

ing annual event takes place the weekend of the first full week of the month of August. This year there were nearly 2,000 sets of twins there competing in more than 50 different twin contests.

The Twins Days Festival is an event that is open to all See TWINS on 15



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

The Linden community held a candlelight vigil to remember Linden High School student Josh Pacheco in this 2012 file photo. Linden schools recently held a district-wide workshop for its employees as it strives to bring more awareness to bullying and ways to prevent it.

The right choice for senior care, Caretel Inns time away.' Offering personal care in an intimate setting. 2 New Assisted The Bridge Street **Living Inns** Now Open! One Month Free Rent!

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(call for more details)

Better awareness is district's goal

Linden Community Schools readies entire staff with anti-bullying workshop

By Sharon Stone

sstone@tctimes.com; 810-433-6786 More than 50 employees with Linden Community Schools took part in an anti-bullying presentation on Wednesday.

The Michigan Masonic Charitable Foundation facilitated the event at Loose Senior Center in Linden.

The Foundation brought in Larry Newman and Joe Brancaccio of Newman/Stecher International. The men spent the day training the Linden staff how to

ing and conflicts.

had incidents of bullying over the years. After being on the receiving end of bully-

We need to help them develop how to interact nicely while away from their parents. **77**

Kathy Hardy

deal with several issues including bully-

Linden, like other school districts, has

First-grade teacher at Linden Elementary

discussed on Tuesday. Once these areas are known, it's important that there be more adult supervision. Bullying doesn't necessarily happen in the classroom, but in areas beyond the watchful eye of adults.

ing at the high school, Josh Pacheco took

his own life in 2012. An outpouring of support followed for his family and many

sought to establish a better awareness and

Linden Elementary attended the Bully-

ing Prevention and Conflict Management presentation on Tuesday. A teacher for

Kathy Hardy, a first-grade teacher at

23 years, Hardy said

the school leaders are

working toward bring-

ing the district, and the

community, together for

where bullying is hap-

pening, ask the kids.

That was an important,

yet basic, fact that was

If you want to know

better awareness.

to put an end to bullying.

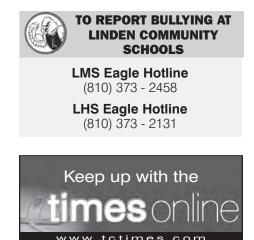
With her first-graders, Hardy said she wouldn't label some of their behavior as bullying, instead she perceives it as the young children becoming more independent and testing out independent behaviors like any typical first-graders. "We need to help them develop how to interact nicely while away from their parents," she said. "This can be their first

Angie Kelley, a counselor at Linden High School said she gained a lot of insight at the presentation by listening to all of the other employees' takes on situations. Group sessions brought teachers, counselors, bus drivers, custodians, etc. together for discussions. "It was positive to me. We were all sitting down and working on it together."

One goal that the staff focused on was to make sure everyone in every building knows how to identify bullying. Oftentimes bullying can come across subtly as joking around. "One key point was - if you see it, who do you call," Kelley said. She said it's so important to know what to do if you observe behavior that could be considered bullying.

If any form of bullying is observed, Kelley said it needs to be reported. It can't be addressed if it's not reported. To start with, the incident should be reported to any staff member or by calling the hotlines at the middle school and high school. The more adults it is reported to, the faster it can be responded to.

Kelley, who is starting her second year as counselor at the high school, did not deal with any major bullying situations last year. "You hear about it by talking about other things," she said.





FEATURESAND**NEWS**

Police&Fire report

FAKE \$100 BILL DISCOVERED On Aug. 9, Fenton police responded to a business in the 18000 block of Silver Parkway to investigate a report of a counterfeit \$100 bill. Lt. Jason Slater said the store manager reported that the fake bill must have come in between 8 and 10 p.m. on Aug. 8 and they discovered it when they were processing the money in the morning. Fenton police took the bill and will be turning it over to the Secret Service for further investigation.

SHOPPER'S WALLET STOLEN

At 5 p.m. on Aug. 9, Fenton police responded to a retail store on Owen Road to investigate a stolen wallet complaint. A 56-year-old Fenton Township woman told police that she was shopping and when she got to the checkout, she realized someone had stolen her wallet from her purse, which was in her cart while she shopped. Loss prevention employees will be reviewing store videos for suspect information.

See POLICE on 6

TRI-COUNTY TIMES

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FRANCHISE.COM

Do your research before heading to a dollar store. While some products come with a cheap price, sometimes you get what you pay for.

SHOPPING AT THE DOLLAR STORE

My personal

opinion is dollar

stores shouldn't

cigarettes and

other than that

it's a great place

to buy cards, gift

alcohol... But

bags, etc. 77

Dollar store shopper

Tara Malin

be selling

Quality is the difference between a good or bad dollar store purchase

By Yvonne Stegall

ystegall@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

With the recent news about Dollar Tree buying competitor Family Dollar in a cash-and-stock deal

worth about \$8.5 billion, it makes people wonder why there is so much money in the dollar store business. Most people are happy to save a buck or two when it comes to shopping, but are dollar store prices really a good deal?

First, it's important to know that not all dollar stores are equal — in the respect of cost, anyway. Stores like Family Dollar and Dollar General sell low-priced items, but they come at varying costs to the

consumer. Dollar Tree, however, sells all of its items for one dollar.

Once upon a time, it seemed like dollar stores were a rare breed, but now there is one on nearly every corner. Consumerist recently did a couple articles on what to buy at dollar stores, and what not to buy. There are many items at the dollar store

that are worth the trip, but not everything is a good deal and some items can actually be found cheaper elsewhere. Some items aren't as good quality from dollar stores either, which is why people need to know what they should and shouldn't buy from there.

A dollar store that has dollar and up pricing will be more likely to carry some name brand items that are higher quality, but those same items may See SHOPPING on 14

The Times asked its Facebook fans for their input as to good and bad deals at dollar stores in general. Here's what they said:



4 Awesome cleaner. Also other cleaning supplies. Shampoo, cream rinse, shampoo and soap for kids, toothpaste. — Sandi



4 Party supplies are the best to buy there! You're going to throw them away anyway, why spend a fortune? – Michelle





— Rachel

Gift basket items: mugs, candy, popcorn, baskets, plastic wrap, tall beer glasses. Then adding some higher price fill in items as well from VG's and such.77 - Ally

...and what not to buy

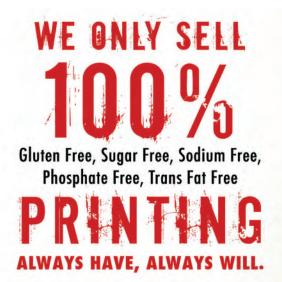
FROMF

WHERE OUR

Worst — Some of the kids' toys are cheap but only wasted a dollar. – Sandi



foods. - Cheryl



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FROM THE LEFT



To fight social chaos, build good neighbors

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 nearby.

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

'We're arresting parents,' observed Michael Brendan Dougherty of 'The Week' magazine, 'because civil society is retreating from children altogether.'

Indeed, that should concern all of us. Edmund Burke, the 18th-century father of modern conservatism, highlighted the importance of churches, trade groups, civic associations and others 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 highcrime neighborhoods.

Yet witnesses, who have had bad experiences with some police officers on one hand and with gangbangers on the other, often feel too stranded and intimidated to get involved.

The anxiety and frustration calls for more than the traditional liberal answers, such as more day care and higher wages, which are largely out of reach in today's political climate anyway.

Taxpayers could cut out middle men and receive a full credit from their income taxes for contributions to an approved list of community-based non-profits that show a good track record of results.

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

good heighbois.

Compiled by Sally Rummel, features writer

What's the most unusual job you've had?



"I worked for the FBI as a fingerprint examiner. It was fun to put that on my resume."

— Paul Lennox, Fenton



"I worked for about seven years fitting cancer patients with a prosthesis, until the company was bought out."

— Dawn Burrell, Fenton



"My most energetic job was as the 'lunch lady' for the middle school in Holly. I still have a hearing loss from those three hours every day."

— Joan Snitget, Holly



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> "I worked on a horse farm as a teenager and had to get up at 4 a.m. to go to work before school, then worked after school there until 10 p.m."

— David Carter, Linden



quencing lab at Univer-

sity of Michigan, serv-

ing all the labs at U-M

the U.S."

and other universities in

Connie Esposito, Fenton

www.tctimes.com



Nixon's resignation 40 years later

On the occasion of last week's 40th anniversary of Richard Nixon's resignation from the presidency, The Washington Post sponsored a reunion featuring Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, the Watergate reporters who 'brought down' the 37th president.

In fact, Nixon committed political suicide. He thought he could get away with what other politicians had done, but forgot the rules are different for Republicans.

Lyndon Johnson 'stole' the 1948 Senate election away from Coke Stevenson, allegedly by use of voter fraud. It is also no secret how Kennedy money and a little mafia influence delivered the 1960 presidential election to John F. Kennedy.

Nixon was different. While Kennedy expertly schmoozed the press and Johnson was a master manipulator and arm-twister, Nixon brooded about slights and injustices he felt had been done to him.

Nixon, or someone on his staff, likely pre-cleared the speakers in order to avoid the potential embarrassment of one of them criticizing Nixon for not immediately ending the Vietnam War.

I found these events uncomfortable and a contrast in content and form from my own church experience. An explanation came when the secretly recorded Oval Office conversations became public and Nixon is heard taking God's name in vain and disparaging Jews and his 'enemies.' On hearing the tapes, Graham expressed shock and dismay at Nixon's language, though on one recording Graham is heard agreeing with Nixon about Jews controlling the media, a comment for which he later apologized.

Nixon defenders have always contended that he did nothing different from other presidents. Maybe, but he certainly appears to have done a lot more of it than other presidents.

Nixon was not a conservative Republican. He imposed wage and price controls, created the Environmental Protection Agency and two of the four justices he appointed to the Supreme Court — Harry Blackmun and Warren Burger — were part of the 7-2 majority vote in the Roe v. Wade case, which ushered in abortion on demand.

Still, he remains one of our most fascinating presidents and one we can be sure historians will 'kick around' for at least another 40 years.

street talk



"I worked at a junkyard and drove a crane that cut iron, and also wrapped boats for winterizing."

I'M DIFFERENT. I'M a

woman who is a dog

person, always have

been. In photos of me as

a toddler and small child, I was cuddling a stuffed

toy dog. As a teen, I had

WE HAVE PEOPLE

complaining about low

Hot lines along with an

Kardashian smartphone

downloaded. Nobody who has the Kim

Kardashian app should be allowed any-

where near a voting booth. Low voter

BOLD? YOU PARKED illegally on pri-

vate property and you are the victim?

TO THE PERSON who complained

about having their truck towed from the

'empty' lot at the Taste in Fenton. There

were 'no parking' signs posted that you

chose to disregard. Follow the rules or

IF YOU DON'T know anything about the

candidates or proposals on the ballot

then you have no business voting. It's

not a shame that so few people voted.

It's a shame that so few people took the

time to educate themselves on the can-

didates and issues we were voting on.

NO FOOL WHO voted for Proposal 1

can complain when the lost tax revenue

from manufacturers is made up by rais-

ing the use taxes that we all pay on our

phone bills, cable bills, etc. You've just

voted for another mass transfer of the

tax burden from large corporations to

THE PROBLEM ISN'T where Obama

NOW REGISTERING FOR FALL CLASSES

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consumers.

turnout isn't always a bad thing.

app as one of the most

article listing the Kim

voter turnout in the

No, shame on you!

pay the consequence.

a pet dog. Today, I still

love doggies.



was born. I don't care if

he was born in Hawaii,

even our great town of

Fenton. The problem is

where he lives and gov-

erns now — The White

SHAME ON THOSE

celebrity smokers in the

smart enough to have

one of their successful

lives, I would not smoke

for that. They think their

it away. I'd be too grateful

August 15 issue. If I were

House.

lives are stressful, but they should try

I HAVE A burning question that I would

like answered: How many psychics have

WHILE TRAVELING NORTH on U.S.

23 on Saturday, Aug. 9, just past Clyde

Road. just before 6 p.m., I believe I saw

what appeared to be a dead lion on the

left shoulder of the highway. Can anyone tell me if that's what I actually saw?

I HAVE BEEN thinking about the

\$180,000 to be used to renovate the

library. You know when you put lipstick on a pig, you still have a pig.

about his religion? Why, because of his

name? Like Kareem Abdul Jabaar and

THE IRS JUST audited my tax return.

immigrants; 42 million on food stamps,

2 million in prisons; half of Mexico and

ate.' Evidently, this was not an accept-

535 persons in the U.S. House and Sen-

See **HOT LINE** throughout Times

Ages 2+

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Lyrical • Hip Hop

It clearly asked me to: 'List all de-

pendents.' I replied: 12 million illegal

YOU CAN PROVE that Obama lied

Muhammad Ali, right?

able answer.

struggling to pay bills.

ever won the lottery?

Kenya, Timbuktu, or

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

Have you seen the fireflies?

Some areas are overrun, others have none

By Yvonne Stegall

ystegall@tctimes.com It really depends on where you live and what type of area surrounds your house on whether you have seen fireflies this year.

According to entomologist Howard Russell, MSU Extension, people surrounded by trees and wooded areas are more likely to see these flashing lightening bugs than those who live in the city, or in more urban areas.

"The woods are the perfect firefly habitat," said Russell. "The larvae live in dead

Summary

Fireflies may seem scarcer this year in some Michigan areas, but not

everywhere.

trees and on the forest floor. The presence of larvae determines how many adults there will be."

Russell said that reports have come in from various areas in Michigan on the sight-

ing of fireflies:

• Grand Rapids had more this year.

- Wexford County didn't see many.
- Allegan County had a lot this year.
- The U.P. had a lot the last two years, but

not so many this year.

Firefly.org points out one of the reasons fireflies are being seen less is too much light. Because fireflies use their flashing lights to attract mates, many aren't seeing each other in more urban areas, which means fewer are being produced. There are ways to help keep the fireflies alive and reproducing though.

Turn off outside lights at night. Fireflies use their flashing lights to signal each other, attract mates and warn others of danger. While the science is still preliminary, it's likely that human light pollution can disrupt their flashes—making it harder for fireflies to find mates and breed.

Let logs and litter accumulate. This is a great place for firefly larvae. Litter, such as leaves and fallen branches give baby fireflies a place to grow.

Avoid using pesticides. These things can have a negative effect on the firefly population. They may ingest poisons on plants, or be exposed to it other ways.

Don't over-mow your lawn. Fireflies like to stay on the ground during the day

and mowing can disturb their habitat. Adding some long grass areas into your landscape can promote areas where fireflies can stay and the yard still is well groomed. Most fireflies only live up to two months, which is why it is important for them to attract a mate and keep the life cycle going. Those that are alive when winter hits burrow themselves underground or behind tree bark and hibernate until spring.

Interesting firefly facts

• There are more than 2,000 species of fireflies, and it is a type of beetle. Only some species produce adults that glow.

• Males that do glow use their flash to attract females.

• Each species has its own pattern of light flashing, and sometimes

fireflies synchronize their flashes.Firefly light can be yellow, green

or orange. • Firefly larvae may glow, which is

why they are called glowworms. • Firefly Larvae are carnivorous and particularly enjoy snails. However, adult fireflies usually live off nectar and pollen, and some don't eat at all.

• A chemical reaction within the firefly's light organ produces the light. *Source: firefly.org*

The woods are the perfect firefly habitat.

Howard Russell MSU Extension Entomologist



FIREFLY.ORG Fireflies are also known as lightning bugs, and there are thousands of different species around the world.







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Trust and Investment Management Accounts are not FDIC insured. May lose value. Not financial institution guaranteed. Not a deposit. Not insured by any federal government agency. Maximizing one's ability to hear well should be part of any smart career strategy. Individual performance in an organization is found to be directly related to listening ability or perceived listening effectiveness. In fact, listening is one of the top skills employers seek in entry-level employees and in those being promoted.

People who both hear and listen well are also more likely to establish positive working relationships with bosses, clients, and colleagues.

An alarming new study by the Better Hearing Institute (BHI) reveals a direct correlation between unaddressed hearing loss and earnings. The national survey, entitled "The efficacy of hearing aids in achieving compensation equity in the workplace," clearly demonstrates that hearing loss has a significant impact on people's ability to earn a livelihood. The study underscores how critically important it is for workers to treat hearing loss early in order to maximize their job performance and earning potential.

According to Sergei Kochkin, PhD, author of the study: "The real tragedy

in delaying hearing loss treatment is that when left unaddressed, hearing loss negatively affects individuals and their families for the rest of their lives in the form of lost wages, lost promotions, lost opportunities, lost retirement income, and unrealized dreams. But when people with even mild hearing loss use hearing aids, they improve their job performance, increase their earning potential, enhance their communication skills, improve their professional land interpersonal relationships, stave off depression, and improve their quality of life."

Key Study Findings

- People with untreated hearing loss lose as much as \$30,000in income annually.
- There is a strong relationship between the degree of hearing loss and unemployment for those who do not use hearing aids.
- Use of hearing aids was shown to reduce the risk of income loss by 90%–100% for those with milder hearing loss, and from 65%–77% for those with severe to moderate hearing loss.

Why 22 million Americans delay trying a hearing device to solve their hearing problem

Inadequate Information. Most people lose hearing gradually and may not realize they have significant loss. Your family and friends adapt by speaking to you more loudly and clearly.

Stigma and Cosmetics. Some people reject hearing aids because they are concerned of what others will think. This does not need to be a barrier to improving your hearing. With advances in technology your hearing solution can be nearly invisible to others. Once your quality of life is improved, cosmetics will be of less concern to you.

Not Realizing the Importance of Hearing. Another reason for rejection of hearing aids is that people have forgotten how important hearing is to their quality of life. However, untreated hearing loss can lead to anxiety, stress, fatigue, withdrawal from family and friends, impaired memory, reduced alertness and personal safety, reduced job performance and earning power and diminished overall health.

Cost. Your hearing solution will be based on your type of loss and lifestyle. Many factors' go into your hearing aid purchase and will affect the price.

Which type and style is best for you? What features do you need? What's included in the price? (Warranty, 30-day trial period, free cleaning and adjustments). Your hearing health care provider should present to you clear and easily understood pricing options as well as financing options. Be sure to freely ask

any questions that will help you make an informed decision.

Call and Schedule a FREE Ear Inspection Using the Latest Video Technology

Save on one of our smallest custom Getting Started. digital hearing aids! It's FREE and Easy At Miracle-Ear, we make our BUY 1, GET 1 FREE! process comfortable and convenient. We also offer you Valid on model a variety of valuable services Audiotone® Pro CIC Valid at participating Miracle-Ear locations only.Limit one coupon per purchase. May not be combined with other offers and does not apply to prior sales. Cash value 1/20 cent.Offer expires 8/15/14. at no charge FREE Ear Canal Inspections† A miniature camera "tours" your ear canal. You may not Another Great Way to Save have hearing loss. Save on our most Advanced Technology it may be nothing 3 more than earwax. BUY 1, GET 1 50% OFF! Good only from participating Miracle-Ear® FREE Hearing Test† How only non-participant with the coupon per purchase. No other offers or discounts apply. Discount does not apple to prior sales. Offer valid on ME-1, ME-2, ME-3 Solutions. Cannot com-bine with any other offers. Cash value 1/20 cent. Offer expires 8/15/14. A complete hearing test that reveals where you need hearing help. Recommended annually FREE CHARGER WITH PURCHASE Keep your hearing aids charged all day with no need to keep buying batteries. Free charger with the purchase of any Miracle-Ear® ME-1 or ME-2 Hearing Solution (2 aids) with rechargeable battery option. Nat valid with any other discount or offer. Does not apple to prior purchase. Offer expires 8/15/14 Miracle-Ear Hearing Center of Fenton ///∖/_///iracle·Ear 18010 Silver Parkway 810-936-6524 **Jason Gilmore** Hearing Instrument Specialist



2013-2014 SEASON

MichiganVotes.org is a free, non-partisan website created by the Mackinac Center for Public Policy to provide concise, nonpartisan, plain-English descriptions of every bill and vote in the Michigan House and Senate. While the Legislature is on a summer break this Roll Call Report, released on Friday, Aug. 8 reviews key votes of the 2013-2014 session.

Initiated Legislation 1: Ban abortion coverage through federal health care law exchange

To prohibit health insurance policies sold in Michigan through the federal health care law's "exchange" from including abortion coverage. Individuals could use their own money to purchase a policy "rider" for this outside the exchange if they choose, but no federal subsidy would cover the cost. The measure was placed before the legislature through a petition drive organized by Right to Life of Michigan, after Gov. Rick Snyder vetoed a 2012 bill with the same measure. Passed 27 to 11 in the Senate State Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Genesee County)

¥ YES □ NO Passed 62 to 47 in the House State Rep. Joe Graves (R-Argentine Township)

YES 🗆 NO

Senate Bill 661: Prohibit mandating issue-ad contributor disclosure To establish that third party political

"issue ads" need not include a disclosure of who paid for the ad, which preempts a proposal made by the Secretary of State. The bill would also allow the Republican and Democratic caucuses in the legislature to raise and spend money promoting their preferred candidates in primary elections, and increase the maximum campaign contributions allowed by state election law.

Passed 20 to 18 in the Senate State Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Genesee County)

(R-Argentine Township)

	🗆 YES	🗙 NO
State Sen. Dave Robertson	1	
(R-Genesee County)		
	X YES	□ NO
Passed 56 to 52 in the	House	
State Rep. Joe Graves		

🗙 YES 🗆 NO

Senate Bill 443: End automatic school tax increases to pay union contract lawsuit judgments

To revise a provision that requires school property taxes be raised to pay off lawsuit-related judgments against a school district, by establishing that this does not apply for judgments to enforce union labor or other contracts that specifically relate to school operations.

Passed 27 to 10 in the Senate State Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Genesee County)

State Sen. Dave Robertson

(R-Genesee County) ► YES □ NO Passed 76 to 33 in the House State Rep. Joe Graves (R-Argentine Township)

🗙 YES 🗆 NO



Some significant changes in the law coming, Jan. 1, 2015 - Part I

Whenever a defendant has been charged with a crime there are certain rights that are afforded to the accused. Included among these rights are the right to remain silent, the right to have an attorney present at any questioning the defendant consents to, and the right to have an attorney at all subsequent court proceedings.

These subsequent court proceedings may include pretrial conferences and hearings, motions, and the plea or the trial as the case may be.

In Michigan, one of the types of hearings that a defendant is entitled to in a felony case is a preliminary examination, where a district court judge hears the evidence from the prosecution and the defense and decides if there is sufficient evidence to have the case set for a trial or other proceedings in the Circuit Court.

At a preliminary examination the Michigan Rules of Evidence apply. These are rules that generally ensure evidence is admitted or excluded pursuant to established protocols. One of the oldest rules of evidence is that hearsay evidence is not admissible unless there is an exception, which has a guarantee of trustworthiness. Hearsay is an out of court statement offered in evidence to prove the truth of the matter asserted.

In 2001, the Michigan Supreme Court amended the rules to specifically provide that in preliminary examinations in criminal cases hearsay is admissible to prove with regard to property, the ownership, authority to use, value, possession and entry. This means that a witness who is given this information by a non-testifying person is allowed to testify in spite of the testimony being hearsay.

On May 21, 2014 Governor Snyder signed into law Act Number 123 of Public Acts of 2014, to be effective January 1, 2015, which makes some rather significant changes to the hearsay exclusionary rules at preliminary examinations. Additionally some of the duties of district court judges will also be changed as well as some new district court procedures, which will be implemented in felony cases.

In next week's column, I will summarize the new provisions.

POLICE Continued from Page 3 MDOP ON EAST ELLEN STREET

A 26-year-old Fenton woman reported to Fenton police that between 9 p.m. on Aug. 11 and 7 a.m. on Aug. 12, someone broke the rear window out, and broke the side mirror from her '02 Buick, which was parked in her driveway on East Ellen Street. The doors remained locked and no entry was gained.

Most populous counties in state have most crashes

► Fortunately, few crashes are fatal

By Tim Jagielo

tjagielo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795 So far in 2014, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)

estimates 6,800 died in a motor vehicle no fatal c crash, which is a 4.9-percent decrease from last year **Of the tri-county**

at the same time. In 2013, 32,850 died in traffic crashes nationally.

Since 2006, fatalities have dropped each year, except for 2012, where there was a 3.3-percent increase.

Any traffic deaths are too many — but at least in Michigan, they happen only about 0.3 percent of the time.

Today, there are more than 210 million licensed

drivers in the U.S., according to the Federal Highway Administration. Michigan has more than 7 million drivers, ranking just below Ohio and Illinois. California has the most, at more than 22 million drivers.

Each year the Michigan State Police (MSP) compiles detailed tables of traffic crashes within the state.

In the tri-county area, Oakland County had the most crashes, with more than 37,000 last year, with 54 fatal, and 3,700 injuries. Of course, Oakland County is home to bigger cities like Pontiac, not to mention much of metro Detroit. Again, fatalities seemed to only happen in about 0.3 percent of crashes.

In the same period, Wayne County had more than 44,000 crashes, with 151 of them involving a fatality. Overwhelmingly, they happen on local streets versus expressways.

In all of last year, there were 9,811 crashes in Genesee County, with 29 of

MORATORIUM Continued from Front Page

to the past moratorium extensions, is that the city may have a final decision in near sight.

Fenton's Planning Commission is set to address the issue on Thursday, Aug. 28, while the current moratorium is set to expire on Sept. 1. The next scheduled city council meeting does not take place until after Sept. 1, however.

"Therefore, I am requesting the city council to extend the moratorium to Oct. 1, 2014. This will provide the city council time to take action on the ordinance before the end of the moratorium," wrote City Manager Lynn Markland to the council in a memorandum.

The council unanimously agreed to extend the moratorium.

Since the law was enacted in 2008, municipalities have struggled to understand the reach and scope of control they have over land use for medical marijuana. Many have chosen to enact moratoriums to avoid legislating on the issue until the framework of dealing with them becomes clearer.

The village of Holly was one of the few local municipalities who have enacted an ordinance regulating medical marijuana dispensaries.

them with fatalities, and 2,257 with injuries. Livingston County's 4,500 crashes lead to 15 deaths. Like others, many of the crashes happened on local streets.

All of the 83 counties in Michigan have traffic crashes, but amazingly a few had zero fatalities in 2013. Oscoda, Presque Isle, Luce and Keweenaw counties had no fatal crashes in 2013.

> In any county, drivers between the ages of 24 and 44 have the most crashes, but The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety reports that teenagers drive in lesser numbers than any age group but the oldest in the country, but are involved in a disproportionate amount of crashes.

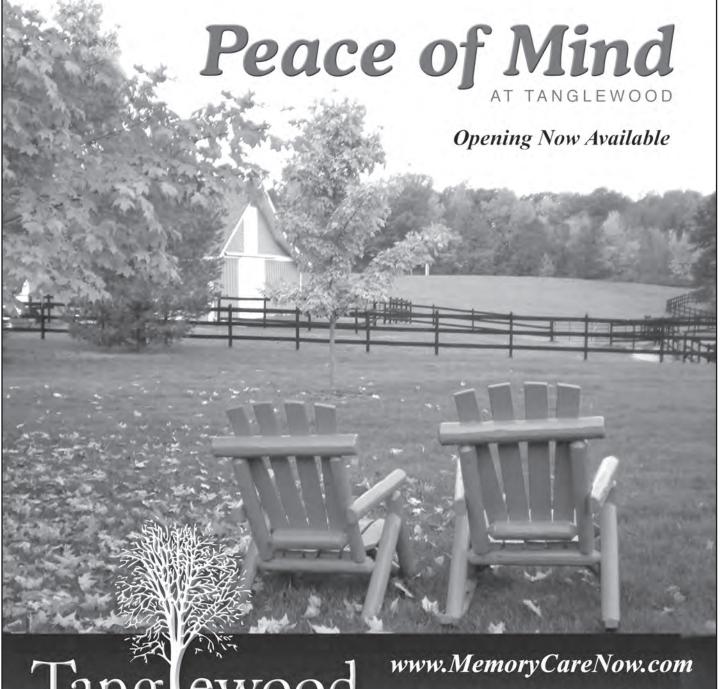
8. Between ages 16 and 19, the fatal crash rate per mile driven, is three times than that of the rest of the population, and the risk drops significantly after age 20. Those between

See CRASHES on 15



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

Fenton police responded to more than 445 crashes in 2013, many of which were at intersections within the city.



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area, Oakland County naturally had the most crashes, with more than 37,000 last year, with 54 fatal, and 3,700

injuries.

Changing jobs

Millennials will have more varied career path than previous generations

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282 Aaron Brooks, 34, has worked as a swimming coach, a pool manager, substitute teacher and an entrepreneur planning to build a home-based coffee roasting business.

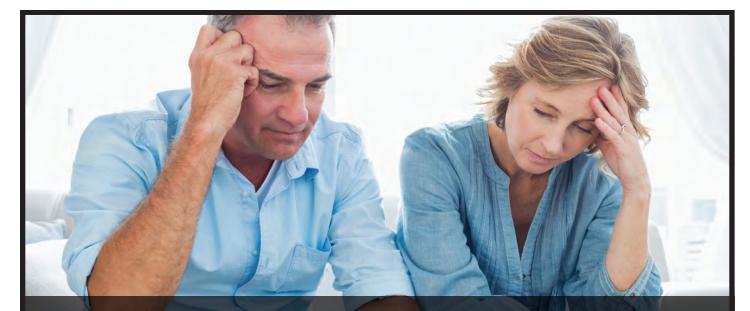
As a father of two working hard to support his young family, Brooks works more than 40 hours a week, but not for any one company.

"I don't foresee that I'll be working just one job in the future," said Brooks of Fenton. "I'll probably always have more than one job, working around what I hope will be a full-time teaching position in the future."

That's a huge contrast to Linda Ralston of Linden whose father, Ernie Nagy, had a newspaper career spanning 50 years, starting out as a paperboy at age 11 and working up to publisher, retiring from Mellus Newspapers in Lincoln



Aaron Brooks spends part of his week as a swim coach and pool manager at Spring Meadows Country Club in Linden.



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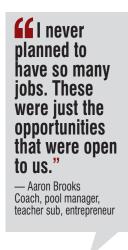
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www.tctimes.com

Park at age 62. With today's shifting corporate climate, many young people are re-inventing their skills by "job hopping" through several different career hoops rather than staying at one job for a lifetime.

Today, the average worker stays at each of his or her jobs for about 4.4 years,

according to the most recent data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Ninetyone percent of Millennials (those born between 1977 and 1997), expect to stay in a job for less than three years, according to a Future Workplace Study.



Today, a third of the U.S. workforce is either self-employed or hired on a contract basis, with few of any benefits that used to provide a lifetime tie to a company. There's little loyalty on either side of the desk — as an employee or an employer.

Employers who hire young people today do so with the realization that they aren't likely to stay around long. With the expense of training and development, some employers never get a full return on their investment for an employee who isn't on the job very long.

For an employee, changing jobs can help develop his or her skill set and make them more employable in the future. While Brooks is seeking a full-time elementary teaching position, he is using his certifications as a lifeguard and pool operator to "fill in the gaps" with several part-time positions.

Employees who change jobs often do so as part of their plan for more of a balance in their work and personal lives. While Baby Boomers started working with an eye on gaining stability, raising a family and settling down, today's younger workers know that there is no guarantee for this kind of future, and they try to make the best of it. "I never planned to have so many jobs," said Brooks, married to the former Sonja Peters of Fenton. "These were just the opportunities that were open to us."

THE DO'S AND DON'TS OF JOB HOPPING

- Build and nurture your network before you change jobs.
- Change jobs for growth opportunities, keeping your eye on your goal. Each job should be a stepping-stone to something better.
- Find a common thread among your jobs, so they tell a story about your journey.

Don't . . .

- Change jobs without showing growth.
- Flee without fixing problems, thinking the grass is always greener somewhere else.
- Be less than truthful about your reasons for changing jobs.



Stewart Melrose is continuing the tradition of gardening with his father, but has more of an interest in tropical plants. There are about 140 feet of gardens in the front yard.

OASIS

Continued from Front Page

a continuation of the floral beauty that is so breathtaking, people stop to questions and meet the gardener.

But the show-stopping beauty of these landscapes is even more evident when you're able to see the colors, textures and floral architecture up

close. The flowers aren't your "garden variety" annuals and perennials. Many of the flowers and plants are rare, tropical finds that Melrose scours for on botanical garden websites and on his travels as a historical preservationist.

Where else will you find a Jack in the Bean Stalk plant that towers above many other garden plantings, or a Popcorn Cassia plant, with a stem that smells like buttered popcorn when rubbed (it does, I tried it.) Among Melrose's favorite plants are a fiber banana tree, a record-growing amaryllis, a giant Thailand elephant ear, to name just a few.

"Tropicals are my favorite, but I love everything in the garden," said Melrose, 45. "I enjoy getting outside after a large preservation job that usually keeps me indoors."

Melrose admits he got the gardening bug from his father, Howard, with whom he still spends many working hours outside. His dad always grew beautiful tall red salvia flowers, providing a striking contrast to rows of silvery dusty miller. "My likes have always been the traditional and formal gardens," said Howard. "Then we planted a lot of canna lilies and the garden began to get more tropical under Stewart's influence."

Melrose admits that gardening is much more than a hobby for him; it's a passion. "I'm out here every day. I water every day, even if it rains." He also brings his interest in architecture out to the garden, creat-

TRI-COUNTY TIMES I TIM JAGIELO The fibrous and detailed giant cockscomb flower of Spain, is one of about 700 flowers in the garden.

ing rock art out of stacked stones, even a unique garden gate he made himself.

Both he and his dad say that it's not just their garden, it belongs to the community, because so many people stop to see it up close. "On a typical weekend, I might have 30 people stop to see the garden," said Melrose. "When there's a festival going on, it might be closer to 100 people. I don't mind, though. I like people and I like to talk about gardening."

Howard recalls that a month ago, about 40 people in a group stopped and asked if they could have their photo taken in their front yard. "They were celebrating someone's 70th birthday," he said. "We've also had couples married at the gazebo, who want photos taken in our yard. It's interesting. We enjoy people, so we don't mind."

HOT LINE CONTINUED

THE NEXT DATE for headstone cleaning at Great Lakes National VA Cemetery in Holly is set for Saturday, Sept. 6 at 10 a.m. Please provide your own buckets and brushes. Lunch will be served. Please RSVP your headcount

to pardoncarl@yahoo.com or (248) 318-2042. Thank you!

SPEAK FOR YOURSELF. I belong to no

special interest group but like to see the diversity in our community in the parades.

HERE'S AN IDEA, why don't you schedule your own proprietary parade

and see how many local people show up to support your disturbing agenda? Note the part about local attendees, not bused in from out of town.

AMERICANS HAVE A right to vote. It's a shame how few do. Primaries are so important to who is running in the General Election. Wake up America..Giving up your choice to vote is not a good choice.

I'M CURIOUS, IS the 'King' a veteran of the Great War? He sounds like he's 125 years old.

JUST A LITTLE FYI for you Obama hater — Africa is not a country.

Sludge cleanup – necessary step in water treatment process

When we first

started doing this

the price was a lot

more than we are

paying now. 77

Lynn Markland

Fenton city manager

► Bi-yearly cost of \$185,000 is approximately 50 percent less than in previous years

By Ryan Tackabury

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282 **Fenton** — You can't make an omelet without breaking a few eggs — and the Fenton water plant can't properly treat water without producing some dried

lime residue. The sludge-like residue, a byproduct of the water-softening process, finds itself discharged in one of the two ponds by the Water treatment facility. The sludge collects for a two-year period, where it dries and becomes easiest to be removed.

"We clean them, one

pond every two years. Part of the water making process utilizes making slime, and the leftover sludge is left out at the pond," said Public Works Director Daniel Czarnecki.

The lowest bid for the job came from ProLime Corp. of Washington,

Michigan with the a cost of \$91,500 to clean out the North pond, and \$93,500 to clean out the South pond.

The city has past experience working with ProLime. "They have done this for us on two other occasions and we had no complaints with that at all," Czarnecki said.

The sludge cleaning is a necessary step that has been going on for years. The city however, has worked to lower

> the cleanup costs, which used to be quite a bit more expensive.

> "When we first started doing this the price was a lot more than we are paying now," City Manager Lynn Markland said. "I just want to thank Steve Guy for

what he has done to get those prices down, it's costing us basically 50 percent what we used to pay then."

A 2010 article in the Times reported that cleaning lime from just one pond at the water treatment plant cost the city as much as \$148,700.

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Police, fire, ambulances arrive at park — for fun

Kids get hands-on with Holly Protect and Serve Day

By Tim Jagielo

tjagielo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795 **Holly** — On Saturday, children were in and out of the backs of ambulances and police cars, but for all good reasons. They could also see fire trucks and heavyduty equipment, like the Jaws of Life, up close as well.

Holly Protect and Serve Day came back to Crapo Park after a one-year hiatus, letting visitors chat with local police, firefighters, and paramedics under the



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO Protect and Serve Day is meant to be fun, while it introduces children to the police.

pleasant summer sun, instead of at an emergency.

Holly Police, North Oakland County Fire Authority (NOCFA) Holly/Groveland Fire Department and ambulances were there, doors open, and personnel ready to answer questions.

Holly Area Schools (HAS) provided free hotdogs to visitors, and a \$5 raffle was held for the toys situated on a table near the park benches. There was also face painting, crafts, live acoustic music and an inflatable slide.

"They bring us in here, to bring the community in to get the kids acclimated to what we do, and have a little fun doing it," said Holly Police Chief Michael Story.

He credits police and fire staff for putting the event on, namely Capt. Dan Meyers of the fire department, and Det. Heather Wolkow and Officer Bob Goedertier of the police department, along with fire chiefs Jeremy Lintz and Steve McGee. "They just put on a great event," he said. "It's a kid friendly eventd that we know will continue to go on."

L They bring us in here, to bring the community in to get the kids acclimated to what we do, and have a little fun doing it.

Michael Story, Holly police chief



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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

NOCFA EMT and firefighter Greg Allen explains standard life-saving equipment with Duncan Minnick, 5, of Holly Township on Saturday as parents Mike and Janell watch from outside. Allen hopes kids like Duncan understand that in an emergency situation, people like him are there to help.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES TIM JAGIELO Claudia Klemp, 7 (right) and sister Trinity, 8, get free hats at the activities table during Protect and Serve Day in Holly.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Mikael, 8, and Ava Putnam, 3, of Holly Township explore the back of a police car, while family reminds them, "That's not where you want to be sitting."

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Need a ride? There's an app for that

► Personal vehicle taxi app that started in San Francisco, now in Flint

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

In the trend of rentals akin to Airbnb, which is the world leader in travel rentals, Internet service/smartphone app Uber has come to Flint, as of late July. The Delaware company has only existed since 2009 with its first market in San Francisco, but it has expanded to 70 cities in the U.S. and 30 more internationally.

In Michigan, Uber is also in Detroit, Ann Arbor, Lansing, Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids.

The basic premise is that riders coming to a city need an economical way to get around, and drivers in that area who have a car, and some free time can make some extra money.

Uber is an app for your smartphone that connects drivers to riders in a certain area.

If a driver wants to shuttle people around, they have to provide documents and information about themselves to the company. If the company decides to let the person drive, they download the app, and then turn the app on to let potential riders know they're available. According to the company, drivers are paid automatically.

Riders also have the app, and use it to find someone in their area. It works with the GPS of their phone, and much of the operation happens easily, and automatically. Riders are charged automatically on their credit card, and sent a receipt.

Riders in certain markets can request basic vehicle styles, like "low cost," "SUV," or "Black." It basically lets riders decide how much room they want, and the rate changes accordingly. The minimum fare is \$25 for an SUV, or down to \$6 for a small car.

In Flint, for now, the options are limited to the "X" economy option, which happens to be the cheapest.



To get the app

Go to uber.com/go and fill out the information, which also includes a credit card for billing for rides.

News briefs

Linden saw great turnout for **Back to the Bricks**

Linden saw a large turnout for Back to the Bricks. It was so large that at one point they were turning people away because there was no place to park. Other than some concern for the children and elderly with all of the traffic, city officials were very pleased with how everything went. Councilor Ray Culbert said, "This is the hugest event Linden has seen in 35 years." Mayor David Lossing added, "I hope we can host it again in years to come."

Linden's Music by the Mill moves On Wednesday, August 20, begin-

ning at 7 p.m. Linden's Music by the Mill will be held at the Mill Pond in Downtown Linden. The city hopes to have people ride over in their boats, canoes and kayaks in order to enjoy the music from the water. There will still be plenty of places to sit on land for enjoying the music, including the hill by the gazebo. Bring a blanket or lawn chair and enjoy the music from beside the pond. The Saucecats will be playing a mix of New Orleans Funk, Zydeco, Blues, Latin and Caribbean.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

TO TIGER WOODS, nah, nah, nah, nah, hey, hey, hey, good-bye. Oh, and good riddance.

NORMAL PEOPLE WHEN coming up to a stop sign look both ways. The life you save could be yours.

THE PERSON WHO got their vehicle towed. Shame on you for parking in

somebody else's driveway. I am glad you got towed. You shouldn't have been there in the first place.

DOGS, WHO NEEDS them? They are nothing but a pain in the neck. They are expensive, they are filthy, and they are absolutely useless. What good are they?

I HAVE TO say every time I see Obama on TV I get tears in my eyes. Actually, I'm crying.



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HOT LINE CONTINUED

DOES ANYONE KNOW when the backpack thing in Bush Park is? I haven't been able to find information anywhere.

ESSENTIALLY, THE BARGAIN that I think every President strikes with the American people is, 'you give me this office, then in turn my fears, doubts, insecurities, foibles, need for sleep, family life, vacations, leisure, is gone. I am giving myself to you.' - BHO 2008

FENTON COMMUNITY ORCHES-TRA 2014 fall rehearsals begin Thursday, Sept. 11, 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Fenton High School band room. Hope you can join us.

IF ALL THE scientific jibber jabber on the Big Bang Theory show has any validity, then that would explain the thinking of the Tea Party Republicans as Jibber Jabber.

IF FOSTER CHILDS is not a hate monger, he surely has me fooled. He often writes hateful things about anyone with whom he disagrees. Mr. Childs is a talented writer - he should be using that talent to spread reason, not anger and hate.



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- Cha-Cha Country Two-Step
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- Foxtrot
- Hustle
- Mambo
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MARIJUANA

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Continued from Front Page

have a blood alcohol content (BAC) of .08 or greater if over age 21 or .02 or greater if under 21. In addition, Michigan has a high-BAC law with enhanced penalties for anyone caught driving with a BAC of .17 or higher. Numbers aside, drivers can be arrested at any BAC level if they exhibit signs of impairment while operating a motor vehicle.

Drugged driving is driving a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs, including medical marijuana. Drivers with any amount of a Schedule 1 narcotic, like marijuana or even heroin, are subject to the same fines and penalties as drunk drivers. Even if they are showing no signs of impairment, they are still in the wrong.

Cannabis metabolites, however, are excluded under the law MCL 257.625(8), as this testing only shows recent use of the drug and not whether it is at an impaired level. Instead it goes by how much THC is found in the test. In Michigan the per se law is in effect, which means that a driver can be solely convicted for the amount of THC in their system, even though THC can stay in the body for days.

Fenton Police Chief Rick Aro said, "The use of marijuana, like any other drug, can affect your ability to drive. It is very important to assure that your ability to operate a vehicle is not impaired before getting behind the wheel."

In order to avoid the possibility of being pulled over and arrested for drunk and/or drugged driving, there are things a person can do:

• Designate a sober driver before drinking alcohol and using drugs.

· Call a friend, cab, ride service, walk, or take the bus.

• Stay overnight at a hotel/motel or friends.

In Michigan, a person is guilty of driving under the influence (DUI) if he or she operates a vehicle in any place open to the general public or generally accessible to motor vehicles while under the influence of a controlled substance, or a combination of alcoholic liquor and a controlled substance.

Some of the common penalties for driving drugged or drunk include: Community service for not more than 360 hours and/or imprisonment for not more than 93 days and/or a fine of not less than \$100 or more than \$500. The court may also order vehicle immobilization for not more than 180 days.

With risks such as fines, jail time, and loss of a vehicle, it seems a wise choice not to drive under the influence.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

I WANT TO give a big kudos to the funeral home in Linden for letting us use their parking lot during the warm-up cruise in Linden and for the flotilla on the following Saturday, not so much to the business that had the cars towed during the Fenton cruise.

CONSIDERING THE UNBELIEV-ABLE mess the Bush administration left behind, I think Obama has done a very good job of trying to get this country back on track. I voted for him both times. As for IQ, I will match mine against yours anytime.

HAS ANYONE NOTICED on the Cash for Life lottery tickets, all the losers have very large prices on them and all the winners have very small ones. What a rip-off scam.

carry more Summary

be cheaper at the big box stores. The

items found at a dollar store where ev-

erything is a dollar, and no more, will

Sometimes great bargains can be found at the dollar store. Other times it's just a waste of money.

SHOPPING

Continued from Page 3

off-brand items, and often more items that are only made for limited use. For example, picture

frames might fall apart when you put your picture inside, a new spatula might break when you try to flip your pancakes, and that off-brand box of cereal might not taste as good as the real thing.

A few keys to successful dollar store shopping include doing some research on the best pricing in the area, looking at the quality of items before checking out with them, and remember you get what you pay for! Another way to know about good

deals is to ask your friends and family members.

COSTS AND CONSEQUENCES OF DRUNK DRIVING

IF BAC IS .17 OR HIGHER

Up to \$700 fine
Up to 180 days in jail
Up to 360 hours of community

6 points on a driver's license

• Mandatory completion of an

alcohol treatment program

Ignition interlock use and

compliance after 45 days

license suspension is required

license. Convicted drunk drivers

to receive a restricted driver's

have limited driving privileges,

are prohibited from operating

a vehicle without an approved and properly installed ignition

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Source: Michigan.gov

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TWINS

Continued from Front Page

multiples; identical, fraternal, young and old, twins, triplets, quads and their families.

This year's festival hosted a great representation of Fenton twins, including Connor and Spen-

44 It's a fun weekend to hang out with your twin. **77**

Breanna Trecha Twin

after

Hunters. "We have been

cer Owen, Brad-

ley and Breanna

Trecha, and Don

and Dave Wolf.

The Wolf brothers

are stars of the hit

TV reality show

Big Rig Bounty

going to Twinsburg for 13 years and have enjoyed meeting other twins from all over the world," said Breanna Trecha. "It's a fun weekend to hang out with your twin." Her twin brother Bradley said, "The twins parade on Saturday is really cool and we get to walk down the street throwing candy to the people."

Bradley and Breanna took second place in Least-Look-Alike male/female in the 6-15 year old category.

More to life

Twin Facts

- A woman's age increases her chances of having twins.
- There is a "twin gene" fraternal twinning, which is the result of a woman releasing more than one egg at the same time, is genetically predisposed.
- Identical twins are the result of a random split of a single egg and cannot be genetically predisposed.
- Male twins will not have twins unless their wives have the ability to produce two eggs.
- Identical twins share the same DNA but do not have the same fingerprints.
 About one in 250 pregnancies
- Some estimates suggest 1 in
- 8 people started life as a twin while 1 in 70 is actually a twin.
- Once you have fraternal twins, you are 3 to 4 times more likely to have another set!
- 40 percent of twins invent their own language.
- The average birth weight for a twin is 5 pounds, 5 ounces. Source: modernmom.com

CRASHES

MIDWEEK TIMES

Continued from Page 7

16 and 17 are at the very highest risk of all teen drivers.

Of the more than 16,000 crashes, 398 in Genesee County involved alcohol, and most were between the ages of 25 and 44, with 20 being under-age.

The most populous counties had the most people involved in crashes, Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and Kent counties were the highest. Wayne County, home of the city of Detroit had 85,980 people involved in a traffic crash.

Oakland had 71,273, while Genesee had 16,723 involved in traffic crashes.



In 2013, Fenton had 445 crashes at local intersections, and 217 as of late May 2014.

So who in the U.S. has the worst drivers? According to Allstate, drivers in Washington DC are the worst in the U.S., with more than twice the likelihood of getting into a crash than the national average, and an average of only 6.7 years between crashes. The insurance company surveys the 200 biggest cities in the U.S. Fort Collins Colorado was the safest, a distinction it won three of the past nine years.

Fortunately, no Michigan cities made the top 10 of the cities with the worst drivers.

TRI-COUNTY TIMES FILE PHOTO In 2013, there were 9,811 automobile crashes in Genesee County. Of those crashes, there were 2,257 injuries reported and 29 crashes involved a fatality.

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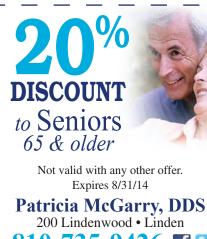








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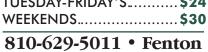


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Which American track star won four gold medals at the 1984 Summer Olympics?

This should've been an easy one. Carl Lewis won the 100 meters, the 200 meters and the long jump individually. He also was the anchor leg of the 400 meter relay team which won a gold medal.

DAVID'S DABBLINGS

With the fall prep sports season right around the corner, this seemed to be a good time to address some interesting issues surrounding the topic. **Flushing in the Metro**

Fenton High School has won the Metro League's All-Sports Trophy every

season since the 2003-04 school year, but there will be a new threat to the Tigers' run during the 2014-15 school year. With Flushing joining the Metro League, there could end up being a new sheriff in town.

The Raiders should fair well in a lot of sports in the Metro League. Now, should the Tigers just give up now and admit defeat? Of course not, but winning an 11th straight All-Sports Trophy will be a challenge. **Changes in**

football practices

Teams won't be able to wear full pads until Friday. Once the season begins, teams will be allowed just two "collision" practices a week. It's a good move. It won't impact the caliber of play and it could help protect the student-athletes themselves.



Football teams hit the field at midnight

► Fenton continues tradition of beginning practice at 12:01 a.m.

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789 **Fenton** — If one drove into the Fenton High School parking lot near Ivan Williams Field about 11:50 p.m. on Sunday, there would've been a sense that something big was going to happen.

For the first time in months, the football field lights were on, but all that was easily seen on the field were some helmets and bags. But a turn to the field's locker room suggested a bit more activity. In one of the open doors Fenton varsity coach Jeff Setzke's voice is heard. He is talking to his team. Roll call is being done, and after that, there is a little discussion about what is going to happen during the next week with the ending of that talk surrounding next week's scrimmage against Midland.

"They are going to play physical football and that's a good thing because that's what we want to do," Setzke says to the players.

"That will be a nice way to start our season."

By 12:01 a.m. on Monday, the meeting was over, and it's time for the real reason why the Tigers everyone is around at such a late hour. It's practice time.

The Tigers charged on to the field to begin their first official practice of the 2014 prep football season. Since Jeff Setzke took over at Fenton High School eight years ago (2014 will be his ninth) the midnight practice on the opening day of football practices have become tradition. And while remaining awake for the practice can be a challenge to some of the athletes, the atmosphere always seems to be pretty festive prior to the start.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES

DAVID TROPPENS (Above) Lake Fenton's football team charges to their starting spots during a drill Monday at about 12:40 p.m. Before the Tigers could take the field for their practice (right), they had to move a large tire located on the field. Prep football practices started on Monday. Lake Fenton and Fenton began their sessions at 12:01 a.m.

Fenton player Dominic Weiss was excited to get the season going despite the fact it was a long day for him.

"I'm a night person, but I had to be up at 6 to work this morning, so I'm exhausted," Weiss said. "I pressure wash trucks, so it's pretty tiring.

"But I've been counting down the days. It kind of seemed like



it was farther away, but it's here now, so I'm psyched."

The Tigers' first practice is never too difficult. It's about 50 minutes long and it always involves special team work for many of the skill position players. However, many defenders did work on some of their block techniques as well.

See **PRACTICE** on 19

Devils' fans join the festivities during late-night session

PAGE 16

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789 **Lake Fenton** — When it comes to the opening day of the prep football season, a lot of teams like to make it special by starting practice at 12:01 a.m. on Monday.

The Lake Fenton football program agrees, but they like to make it feel like an event.

Most schools who participate in the midnight practice only involve their varsity squad. That's not the case for the Blue Devils. All three teams

— varsity, JV and freshman were on the football field at 12:01 a.m. preparing for the approximately 60-minute practice. Also, there was something other midnight practices don't have — there were a nice number of fans at the Devils' session. While the offense drove the field, the fans cheered. All that was missing were the hotdog sales.

"It's fun," Lake Fenton player Mason Rinks said. "It's fun to come out in front of the fans and get everyone excited. It's night, it's under the lights and it's an exciting time.

"I'm not a night person, but I'd get up for this team any time of the day. We are a brotherhood. It's not easy (being here at midnight), but we have our adrenaline going and we have our fans here to support us. It's easy right now. If it were not for the fans it wouldn't be as easy. We do this because it's fun."

This was the fourth year the Blue Devils have hosted the first official practice of a season right after midnight. Lake Fenton See FANS on 18



Winch Wars bring out competitive side of water enthusiasts

Pond in front of Action Water Sports hosts its sixth-annual event

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

It's not a very big pond. It's likely a football player could punt a football from one side of the shore to the other

Action Water Sports' man-made lake positioned in front of their business hardly looks like a place where something like a wakeboarding competition could take place. But once a year that's exactly what happens.

Action Water Sports, located on 8051 Old US 23, hosted their sixth-annual Winch Wars water sport event on Friday afternoon and evening.

Twenty-nine competitors from as far as Denver, Colorado and Cincinnati, Ohio, of various skill levels competed in the event. However, most of the competitors are from Michigan, with quite a few from the tri-county area. The DeLong family was represented in this year's event.

"I've been doing this for two years," said 15-year-old Derek DeLong after competing in the Advanced Division of the competition. "I am able to do it just every once in a while. This is one event I do ever year, though. I like this one."

Unlike most water sport trick events, there isn't a boat powering the competitors through the course. At Action Water Sports, a winch at one end of the lake is used. A winch is a hauling device consisting of a rope which can be pulled out but then brought back to the device by a power source. This enables to the competitors to hold on to the rope and be "rode" across the water as though they are behind a boat. The competitors begin on a wooden dock-like surface, are pulled into the water by the winch. Competitors must choose one of three apparatuses to attempt their tricks on. One of the apparatuses is a ramp called the kicker. The other two look more like water versions of apparatuses you'd expect a skateboarder to try their tricks on. Because the competitors are not attached to their wakeboards, perhaps the biggest challenge is completing the tricks by landing back on the wakeboard without falling.

The competitors seem to enjoy the event.

"I was here last year. I had some friends that went up to it two years ago, so they invited me and I came up," said Cincinnati resident and Wake Skate Division winner Guenther Oka. "My dad water skis and he put me on a wakeboard when I was 3. It's a lot like skateboarding (on water)."

It's a sport for both sexes and any age. Shannon Sahinbas is 13 and from the Walled Lake area. She took second in the Girls Division. On one of her practice runs during Friday afternoon, she did what is called a heal-side 180. She nailed the landing.

"I tried wakeboarding when I was nine, got hooked on it and started doing things," Sahinbas said. "I just enjoy doing the sport and how everyone is so nice."



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Evan Beaudrie heads to shore after one of his successful practice runs at the Winch Wars competition held at Action Water Sports on Friday.

The beauty of the competition is it gives rookies, as well as professionals a chance to compete. Realizing there were only two other women in the girls division, Action Water Sports employee and Linden resident Jordan Garcia, 22, was prodded into competing. She struggled with entering the water on her first couple of practice runs, but eventually got

the hang of it and finished her final practice run without falling.

"This is my first ever dock-start, going across the pond. I was pretty nervous,' Garcia said. "I've wakeboarded behind a boat, but haven't done it in two to three years. It's completely different than being in a boat, though.

See WINCH WARS on 18



TRI-COUNTY TIMES I TIM JAGIELO Shannon Sahinbas, 13, attempts a trick off of what is called the kicker, but looks a lot like a ramp, at the Winch Wars hosted at Action Water Sports on Friday.





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FANS

Continued from Page 16

coach Eric Doyle appreciates the event. "It's fun. It's growing every year," Doyle said. "The first year we did it it was up to (the players), we had a couple of kids and that was about it. Now, it's a happening. It's an event. It's a credit to them to help build this. People are excited about football."

Probably the neatest aspect of the Blue Devils' event is the fact all three teams do compete during it. At the end of the practice, the Blue Devils do an event called the team pursuit drill. In it, there are four lines of players and four pylons. Each line begins in a defensive stance near a tire. Once there's a snap, the players put their hand in the tire, rotate around the tire and then run to the pylon. Once there, they must do knee lifts until a whistle blows. The next player begins on a whistle, and when that person comes to the end, the people who have already completed the

ate a program bond. "We have the whole program together which makes (the drill) a little easier," Rinks said. "It's great having all the programs here, especially for the upperclassmen. We get to see the freshmen, get to see who is coming up. We can adopt them as little brothers in school. We are a brotherhood from the smallest guy to the biggest

drill encourage the other players to fin-

ish the knee lifts as strong as possible.

Each line has a variety of varsity, JV and

freshmen players within it, helping cre-

guys. We like to have each other's back." "We do run things as a program as opposed to three separate teams, but this is (one of the few times all the teams practice together)," Doyle said. "We tell the kids this is fun."

The Blue Devils put together a busy summer. Rinks likes what he saw from the squad during the summer events.

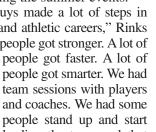
"A lot of guys made a lot of steps in their football and athletic careers," Rinks said. "A lot of people got stronger. A lot of

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS Lake Fenton players huddle up near the end of their first football practice held on just after midnight on Monday.

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leading the team and that was a cool experience." When the practice session

ended, there was one last breakdown and a couple of comments from Doyle.

"Let's bring it tomorrow," Doyle said, reminding the players that the festive practice was just the start of a gruelling week.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES I TIM JAGIELO

Fenton resident Derek DeLong tries to land on his wakeboard after doing a trick at the Winch Wars competition held at Action Water Sports on Friday.

WINCH WARS **Continued from Page 17**

"It's really nice everyone was so

supportive and patient while I learned." Four winners were declared. Highland's Megan Bolend won the Girls Division, while Oka was the Wake Skate Division victor. Colorado's Mike Tanz won the Advanced Division and Cincinnati's Jonnie Paul won the Pro Division. Five of the top three performer in the four divisions were tri-county competitors, with DeLong taking second in the Advanced Divi-

sion and Davisburg's Steven Jesinowski taking second in the Pro Division. Fenton's Al Morrison was third in the Advanced Division, while Tyler De-Long took third in the Pro Division. But one gets the sense that just competing in front of fellow wakeboarding enthusiasts makes the tourney well worth it for everyone involved.

"I look at it as a fun barbecue," Derek DeLong said. "Everyone is having fun. When everyone comes out and shows their talent, it's nice."



PRACTICE

Continued from Page 16 "It's kind of symbolic," Weiss said about the first practice being right after midnight. "It's also kind of fun."

It was a busy summer of travels for the Fenton football squad, as they hit several 7-on-7s around the state and performed well at them. They included trips to Notre Dame and Detroit's Ford Field. The team likes what they saw this summer as well.

"The commitment is different from last year," said player Connor Kovacs during the recent Metro League media day.

"We had a lot of returning seniors that weren't as enthusiastic (last year) and enthusiasm is a really big part of our team this year. They really want to be here. That's a big plus for us."

Based on the recent Metro League media day, the coaches selected the Tigers as the favorites to defend their cotitle this year. The Tigers hope to do just that, and a little bit more.

"I want to win the Metro, but I want to win it outright," said senior quarterback Ross Ebert at the media day.

"I don't want to share it with anyone. Obviously, a state championship, is the ultimate goal, of course, but what we want is to go to regionals and be the first Fenton team to win 10 games. It would be a big accomplishment."

The Tigers have a ton of talent. The program consistently produces outstanding records at all levels, meaning once the kids get to the varsity level they What's up next?

Here's a list of some of the significant dates coming up for prep sports players, coaches and fans.

Today: While prep football teams began on Monday, the rest of the fall sports teams can start practices today. Also, today is the first day football teams can practice with their shoulder pads on.

Friday: This is the first day football teams are allowed to wear a full-paded outfit.

Aug. 20: This is the first day girls golf and girls tennis can compete in an actual event this season.

Aug. 21: Football teams will compete in scrimmages all around the state.

Aug. 22: Cross country, boys soccer, volleyball and girls swim-

ming can compete in actual events. **Aug. 28:** Most varsity football teams will begin their seasons on

this date.

are accustomed to winning. The biggest key may be to keep an even keel.

"To make that work (become league champions), we just have to stay humble," Weiss said.

"I see a lot of times people will get a big head. When they think they are the best, they don't think they have to practice as hard. We need to work hard."

All of that hard work, officially, began at 12:01 a.m.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES I DAVID TROPPENS

Fenton lineman Reid Thompson does a drill during the Tigers' midnight practice at around 12:15 a.m. on Monday. All state prep football teams were allowed to begin their first practices of the 2014 season on Monday.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES I DAVID TROPPENS Fenton's Forest Spitzer (front) and the rest of the Tigers' varsity football team does stretches prior to the start of Monday's first official practice of the season. It started at 12:01 a.m.



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MIDWEEK TIMES



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Obituaries, Funeral Services and Memoriams

Michael J. Ashley 1942-2014

Michael J. Ashley - age 71, of Holly, died Friday, August 8, 2014. Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 11 AM Wednesday, August 13, 2014



ebrant. Burial will be in Lakeside Cemetery, Holly. Visitation was held from 2-9 PM Monday and Tuesday at the Dryer Funeral Home, Holly. Mr. Ashley was born in Detroit on December 7, 1942 the son of William and Marjorie (King) Ashley. He was a member of St. Rita Catholic Church, the Holly Moose, and Holly American Legion. He enjoyed hunting, golfing, bowling, ice fishing, attending his grandchildren's activities, and spending time at his pool for the past 30 summers. Surviving are his wife Barbara; 3 children, John (Catherine) Ashley, Renee Ashley Scott, and Michele Ashley (Vernon) Wilson; 5 grandchildren, Jennifer, Sean, Lauren, Zachary, and Jillian; siblings, Dennis (Monica) Ashley, Brian (Kathy) Áshley, Patricia (Aaron) Kleckner, Dan (Christine) Ashley, and Colleen (Tom) Cianciolo. Memorial donations may be made to Reunion With A Cause. www.dryer funeralhomeholly.com.



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Paula Ann Gilreath 1966-2014

Paula Ann Gilreath - age 48, of Linden, died Friday, August 8, 2014. Funeral services will be held 12 Noon Saturday, August 16,



Linden. Visitation will be held 1-8 PM Friday with a 7 PM prayer service, and 10 AM - 12 Noon Saturday. Those desiring may make contributions to University of Michigan Cancer Center. Paula was born April 30, 1966 in Hamtramck, the daughter of James and Frances (Topolski) Kalisz. She worked as a dental technician. Paula is survived by husband, Clarence "Al" Gilreath; children, Angela (Jeff) Vadasz, Brandon Gilreath, Kara (Sean) Boillat, Scott Gilreath; grandchildren. Nicholas Hiers, Chloe Palmer, Cade Vadasz and Casey Vadasz; sisters, Louise Prusac, Jenny Ream, Francine Kalisz; brother, James (Teresa) Kalisz; several nieces, nephews, aunts and uncles.She was preceded in death by her mother, Frances Ann Kalisz. Tributes may be shared on the obituaries page of www.sharpfuneralhomes.com



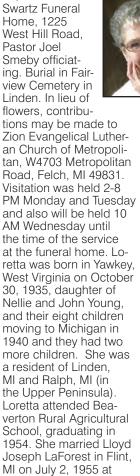
Stephen, Cynthia, Lisa and Karen. She worked for General Motors while Lloyd served eighteen months in the military. She remained a "stay at home" mom until 1973, when her political career began at Argentine Township as a Deputy Registration Clerk. She held several elected positions until her retirement from Argentine Township in 1997. She was very active, serving on the Board of Review, Deputy Clerk and Deputy Treasurer. Loretta was named "Business As-

sociate" of the Linden

Chapter of ABWA (Ameri-

Loretta Frances (Young) LaForest 1935-2014

Loretta Frances (Young) can Business Women's LaForest - of Ralph, Association). In 1992 MI, formerly of Linden, she ran successfully for Argentine Treasurer. age 78, died Saturday, August 9, 2014 at home. She served her four year Funeral service will be held at 11 AM Wednesday, August





term, was re-elected in 1996 and served one year. She resigned to move to the Upper Peninsula, where she and Lloyd built a beautiful home on the 120 acres they

had purchased.

Loretta kept busy

after moving to the U.P., being very active at Zion Lutheran Church as financial secretary and a quilter. She continued her political career by being elected trustee of West Branch Township. She was also a member of the Board of Review, the Planning Commission and the Tri-County Ambulance Authority. Surviving are children, Rebecca Kosal, Cynthia (Bryan) Umphrey, Lisa Eby (Robert Mathis) and Karen (Carl) Smith; grandchildren, Joshua (Jessica) Harris, Michal Kosal, Kyle (Brianna) Harris, Jennifer (George) Gfall, Ryan Eby (Kayla Powell), Tyler Wells, Samantha Smith and William Smith; greatgrandchildren. Oliver and Henry Harris and Alianna Eby; siblings, Luther (Lola) Young of West Virginia and Lucille Scheele of Tennessee. She was preceded in death by son, Stephen M. LaForest, who was killed in an auto accident the night of his high school graduation in 1977; her husband, Lloyd J. LaForest, in 2007 after fighting a courageous battle against lung cancer. Loretta was also preceded in death by seven of her siblings; her parents, John and Nellie Young; in-laws, Lawrence and Elizabeth LaForest and many other close friends and relatives. Your condolences may be shared with the family at www.swartzfuneral homeinc.com.

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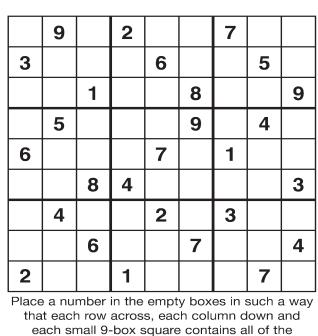


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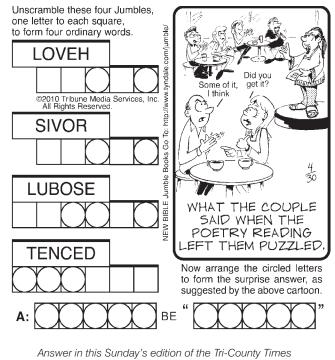
Answer in this Sunday's edition of the Tri-County Times

To your Good Health

DEAR DR. ROACH: My mother, 88 years old, recently switched her medicine for hypertension from timed release, which she has been taking for 10 years, to one that is not timed release, because the timed release was too expensive. I'm worried. Has she compromised her health by doing this? Her cardiologist gave her the go-ahead. – J.R.

ANSWER: In my opinion, timed-release versions for high blood pressure are preferable to non-timed-release because the level of the medication in the blood can go up and down to a greater degree with the regular-release formulation. However, it does depend on the medication, and her cardiologist knows more than I do about her particular situation.





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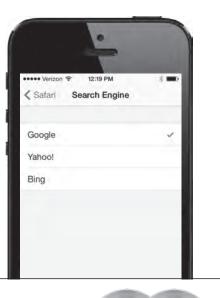




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Start Three Months Prior to Wedding Date

- Ten Private Dance Lessons
- Two Group Lesson Series



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 ٠
- Rehearsal Time (no instruction)
- Performance at a Studio Dance Party

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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 lime (no instruction)
- Performance at a Studio Dance Party

Start your Journey to Dancing Success! 3180 W. Silver Lake Rd. Fenton 810.750.1360

Ballroom and Latin Dance Studio