Was summer weather wacky?

 Churches for the Homeless have created a 200-ton snow sculpture to welcome anyone who needs a warm place to sleep. They will be open from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. through the weekend. The church is located at 1711 S. Saginaw St. in Flint.

**Honeycrisp apples — so good, but so expensive**

**Patented apple tree takes five to seven years to produce**

 An apple a day keeps the doctor away, or so they say. Sometimes those apples are bland and tasteless, and sometimes they are crisp, juicy, and the talk of the town — like the Honeycrisp apple.

 The Honeycrisp apple was created by the University of Minnesota in 1960, as part of their apple-breeding program to develop winter-hardy cultivars with high-fruit quality.

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 **See APPLES on 7A**

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 By Yvonne Stegall

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THIS WEEK’S OPEN HOUSES!

FENTON
899 W. Silver Lake Road
2 acres & commercial land property with excellent access to US 23. Structure currently has 2 residential rentals and one commercial rental. Lots of possibilities with some work. Don’t pass up this affordable commercial property in Fenton.
$159,900
Call Patrik Welty 810-750-2300

HOLLY
4687 Alden Drive
Beautiful, affordable country home with access to Tippecanoe Lake. Large living room with doorway to deck overlooking the lake. Updated kitchen and bath. Large master bedroom with walkin closet, 1st floor laundry for convenience. Third bedroom is in lower level walkout. Move in ready! $109,900
Call Shelia Rhoades 810-348-7357

GRAND BLANC
6097 Wilderness Pointe
New carpet & fresh paint throughout this beautiful ranch home located in the Maple Pointe sub in the Grand Blanc school district. Bright & welcoming open floor plan with lots of windows. 3 bedrooms and 2 1/2 baths on main level. You will find a large family room, 4th bedroom and 3rd full bath in the walkout basement giving you a total of 2200 sq. ft. of space!! $157,900
Call Mark Goddeworth 810-965-3736

FENTON
845 N. Leroy Street
Paradise in the city! Make this bungalow your home Sweet Home. River frontage on the Shiawassee! Beautiful lot and well maintained home. Nice original woodwork, spacious rooms, Michigan room for those summer evenings and close to all the downtown activities. Don’t miss this one! $109,900
Call Donna Mynatt 810-397-5779

GRAND BLANC
13265 Iroquois Woods Drive
Incredible lakefront opportunity. Formally mortgaged at 1.5 million and now only $439,900! Over 4000 sf of living space, two 2 car garages with added bonus rooms above, indoor pool, hot tub, grassed yard and so much more. Call today for your private viewing. Will not last long. $439,900
Call Patrik Welty 810-750-2300

FENTON
1115 S. Chipman Street
2 Bedroom, 1 Bath home on nice deep lot with newer 2 car garage. Large dining room with french doors and good size living room. Laundry area in kitchen. Repairs and painting are in progress. Deck off side entrance. Why rent when you could own? $51,900
Call Sue Fleming 989-627-0481

LINDEN
13063 Linden Road
Open floor plan on this ranch setting on one acre with 1631 sq. ft. Master bed and bath, large kitchen with island open to living room. First floor laundry and two car garage with opener. $92,900
Call Donna Fadraugen 810-845-1971

ROS TOWNSHIP
14206 Landings Way
Beautifully updated & well maintained home offering the enjoyment of all sports Lake ponemah! Canal front beauty with finished walkout lower level, gorgeous high-end kitchen, hardwood flooring, fireplace, and crown molding. Move in and enjoy boating, swimming and fishing on Lake Ponemah. 3 Bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, 2 car garage, RG system and water softener, too! Dock at the water with seawall. $250,000
Call Ann Hernandez-Gabler 248-240-2272

AUX UNDER 10K

ROSE TOWNSHIP
11203 Lennon Road
Cute 2 Bedroom, 1 Bath home on nice deep lot with newer 2 car garage. Large dining room with french doors and good size living room. Laundry area in kitchen. Repairs and painting are in progress. Deck off side entrance. Why rent when you could own? $51,900
Call Sue Fleming 989-627-0481

CARO
224 Pearl Street
Great income potential from this potentially 5 bedroom duplex! Lower level has been painted and hardwood floors redone for fresh look and feel. Great village lot walking distance from Downtown Caro and amenities. Separate upstair access but also access from the lower level makes this easily convertible into a single family home with up to 5 bedrooms and over 2000 square feet! Renter in upper unit willing to stay if that is what is desired. $79,900
Call Kevin Uselman 810-965-6552
How to use your sky miles

▶ A step-by-step guide for frequent flyers

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

If you fly often, you may have thought about joining an airline loyalty program, or a frequent flyer program. These programs are created to help travelers accrue credit toward free flights and flight upgrades, with the cost of taxes going to you.

While some people report issues with redeeming points of tickets online, according to airfarewatchdog.com, a simple phone call to reservations can resolve any problems.

Jackie King of Fenton flies quite a bit for her music. She said that she has had more good than bad experiences with using her free miles. She flies often, and actually flew to New York for free. “It’s not a fabulous deal, but it helps,” she said in regards to using these programs. “I’d recommend it to someone who loves traveling.”

Make sure you take some time to look into the rules of your particular program. Some of these programs have Sky Miles on SA

LONGISLANDBANKRUPTCYBLOG.COM

Earn rewards for (almost) free flights with frequent flyer programs and credit cards.
Killing kids’ communication skills

Isn’t today’s whole communication technology thing super-cool? Texting, tweeting, email, chats, instant messaging — it’s a simple and effective way to communicate. There’s only one downside to this technological phenomenon. Our kids are not learning the most important social skill in the world: the ability to communicate effectively in a face-to-face environment.

Here are the learned skills that experts agree are essential to success in the adult communication world — skills learned by past generations through years of experience. Skills not being learned by many of the current generation.

Eye contact — It really is a learned skill. Some 75 percent of all communication is non-verbal. Maintaining proper eye contact with people speaks volumes about your confidence and trustworthiness. Looking at the speaker signals to them that you are listening to what they have to say — whereas no eye contact is an instant deal-killer. Eye contact is at the top of the ‘body language’ mountain.

Phone skills — While nearly everyone can actually speak on the phone, many don’t know how to communicate on the phone. In business phone conversations, it’s important to introduce yourself and be as detailed, yet concise, as possible. Time is valuable — get to the point of the call, and don’t mumble or stammer. The tendency to text everything, as opposed to calling people, has left the younger generation criminally awkward with regard to phone skills.

Conversation — Asking appropriate questions about others, actively listening, and being able to read other people’s physical social cues are all part of being a skilled conversationalist. Those lacking that skill are ill-at-ease and anxious when they’re forced to actually interact face-to-face with people. And it shows!

Attention Span — Short attention spans affect so many aspects of young people’s everyday life — from the inability to focus on a specific task for extended periods of time, to the incapability to craft comprehensive reports or to analyze and solve complex issues. Part of having strong social skills is knowing when to focus, and pay attention — skills virtually unknown in the instant-gratification world of the Internet.

Writing — Writing skills (with a keyboard, not a pen) are going down the toilet. Electronic communication, by nature, is terse, cryptic and unemotional with no regard for punctuation, spelling and/or syntax. OMG doesn’t cut it in the professional world.

Conclusion — One thing is certain. In today’s hi-tech environment, critical thinking is being eroded in an entire generation. Reading and math standardized test scores are declining every year. So-called behavioral experts argue persuasively that it’s due to technology. The writer believes our ability to think, analyze and communicate — all skills necessary to advance civilization.

As parents, we are the shapers of the future. The preservation of these basic skills is our responsibility — a responsibility as critical as food, shelter and love.

Of course, in the words of Dennis Miller, it’s just my opinion — I could be wrong.

By Foster Childs

“Some 75 percent of all communication is non-verbal.”

Compiled by Yvonne Stegall, staff reporter

What’s the most unusual thing you have used duct tape for?

“My daughter made a whole bunch of duct tape wallets and sold them at craft shows. She made over $1,300.” — Paulette Wallace, Fenton

“My friend actually duct taped his kid to the wall once.” — Melissa Sementelli, Fenton

“My wife uses it for wart removal.” — James Mason, Linden

“I helped my daughters make a duct tape wallet once.” — Dustin Orndovacik, Fenton

“I duct taped a camera to a skateboard dolly for photography uses.” — Chris White, Rochester

“I use it often for auto body repair.” — Pat Munch, Argentine Township

Hot lines

Submit at: tctimes.com, call 810-629-9221 or fax to 810-271-5708.

TO THE YOUNG woman who stopped and stayed with me during the traffic accident Friday in Holy. You were so kind and thoughtful. The world could use many others like you. I won’t forget and will try to do the same. — Dustin Ondovcsik

I BELIEVE THE article calling 1 in 14 eligible workers are on SSD. When I started collecting Social Security four years ago, after working 38 years, I visited the Social Security office, where I was by FAR the oldest person there — average age of people also waiting was 35. — Paulette Wallace, Fenton

SOUTHERN BORDER OVERRUN, rampant welfare and illegitimacy, government scandals, rising, UISSS reincarnating, atrocities in Iraq, Ebola purposely brought here, absent leadership, on high alert. Some change. Fare! — Paul Kowalkski

FOR OVER A year, Pentagon and military officials have provided Obama daily briefings about the growing threat to America from ISIS and their plans of protective action. Since then, Obama called ISIS the JV team and stated, ‘We have no plan. After America’s attack, will Obama supporters admit he’s failed?’ — Tim, Michele and Aaron Swingle

WHAT THE REPUBLIANS have said about Obamacare is not ‘completely false.’ You just wait until 2015, when all the new taxes kick in, and then you will see who is ‘helping the middle class.’ And it’s not Obama. — Tim, Michele and Aaron Swingle

I SAW A video of the shooting of Michael Brown on Fox. A guy was talking over it to tell you what he was happening. — Tim, Michele and Aaron Swingle

THERE ARE NO dangerous breeds of dogs, just dangerously stupid owners. — Tim, Michele and Aaron Swingle

I AM SO proud of our dynamic president that I can’t wear button down shirts because I would be constantly popping the buttons showing everybody how proud I am. That has to be the best joke of the year. — Tim, Michele and Aaron Swingle

I REALLY MISS Fenton’s old-time feel. I don’t like all this newstuff going up and out, these new buildings causing all this traffic. I don’t care for Fenton anymore and I will be moving out as soon as I can. This is a small town, not Ann Arbor. These roads aren’t for all this traffic. — Tim, Michele and Aaron Swingle

BECAUSE OF OBAMA’S anti-business sentiment, U.S. corporations have faced higher taxes and regulations. That’s why they aren’t hiring.

I’M A DEMOCRAT and at least I know President Obama isn’t running for office in November. — Tim, Michele and Aaron Swingle

WHERE ARE LEADERS like Truman, Kennedy, and Reagan when we so desperately need them? We have no leadership of any kind. There have to be people out there, with the desire to do it. — Tim, Michele and Aaron Swingle

TO THE PERSON who paid for my lunch at Shirley’s Cafe Thursday morning. Thank you very much. That was very nice of you. I wish I knew who you were. I will make sure to pay it forward. — Tim, Michele and Aaron Swingle

TYPICAL OF POLITICIANS to want to kill animals because they kill and eat other animals. How was that hamburger you had today? — Tim, Michele and Aaron Swingle

THE CITY COUNCIL isignon on a new automated waste removal company soon. I don’t want to store two huge waste removal bins, pay more, and put garbage men out of work. I hope they vote ‘no.’ — Tim, Michele and Aaron Swingle

See HOT LINE throughout Times
Discussing the ‘epidemic’ of college sexual assault

2010 report: one in five women sexually assaulted
By Tim Jagielo

tjagielo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

Classes are back in session at the local school districts, and also at colleges. There has been much discussion on sexual assault on college campuses, and what’s being done about it. Everything from public art installations, nail polish that reacts to a date rape drug in a cocktail, to the definition of consent changing in California are making rounds on social media, and for good reason — one study suggests that nearly 14 percent of college-aged women will experience sexual assault.

Some have interpreted that accumulated 2007 data to mean one in five women have experienced sexual assault. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has more stark numbers: half of all women experience sexual violence at one point in their lives, and one in five experience rape, according to a 2010 survey.

At the University of Michigan (UM), Diane Brown is the public information officer with the division of Public Safety and Security.

“It’s a significant issue for us, because sexual assault is a crime against persons,” she said, as opposed to the most prevalent crime, “theft of unattended personal items.”

“It’s not the personal violation that a sexual assault is,” she said.

In 2012, UM had 34 reported assaults. If that definition included intimate partner violence, stalking and sexual harassment, the number for 2012 is 47. There were 44 assaults in 2011 and 50 in 2010.

The victim has the right to not report an assault to campus, or city police, so more could be happening without being reported, and some colleges have been accused of suppressing rape reports.

Brown said the sexual assaults are a unique problem for college campuses because of the age of the population (17 to 24) and the density of them. Alcohol is often a factor in assaults.

Campus police are trained regularly to carefully handle sexual assault investigations — but what can be done to prevent them in the first place?

Holly Rider-Milkovich is director of the sexual assault prevention and awareness center.

How big an issue is sexual assault on campus? She has 117 working under her, including five full-time employees.

For UM students, learning about sexual assault and healthy relationships begins before they arrive on campus. They receive a variety of training, and the school makes it clear what consent is — direct affirmation, not the absence of “no.”

If someone is incapacitated, they can’t give consent. Another thing UM worked to combat is the disparity between reported cases, and actual cases. “It becomes clear that we have a serious under-reporting rate of these instances,” she said. Comparing the 2010 report to the numbers reported by college campuses revealed the under-reporting.

See ASSAULT on 7A

RECENT NEWS:

Combating sexual assault

• Date rape drug detecting nail polish: The North Carolina State University creation wasn’t actually an effective tool against date rape, but it did grab a lot of headlines.

• College campuses promoting a direct “yes” for sexual consent: For example, University of California-Berkeley students were taught that consent isn’t the absence of a “no,” but includes agreeing to what the partners will be doing, expressing intent to participate, and consenting voluntarily and freely.

• The California legislature passed ‘Yes Means Yes’ bill: This is actually a fresh idea to change the culture of consent; which would in effect require the promotion of what University of California is doing: silence is not consent, and implicit “yes,” is consent. It also includes victim support.

Contact us today for more information!
Protect your credit card from a security breach

Monitoring your accounts regularly is a crucial safeguard

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

It wasn’t that long ago that Target shoppers found themselves with strange charges on their credit cards. Now, The Home Depot is at the center of the latest security breach to hit the news, and they are currently having it investigated. Some may not be aware that these aren’t the only two huge security breaches that affected people and their credit/debit cards, all over the U.S.

While people are often warned about online shopping risks, most don’t think that shopping inside a store is very risky. However, these recent security breaches attest to the fact that shopping anywhere comes with its own risks.

Tara Lee, security officer at The State Bank, said, “With stores, it is out of your control.” While most people know not to give out credit or debit card numbers over the phone, or through email, there is no real protection when it comes to security breaches such as these.

The best defense against false charges, according to Lee, is to check your accounts regularly. Debt cards that are attached to bank accounts, when breached, can cause a quick draining of all the money in the checking account. By using online banking, people can be better aware of fraudulent charges the moment they appear. This goes for credit cards, too. Check online accounts often, and keep track of actual usage.

Any charges on either card that were not made by the cardholder can be disputed, and you’ll get your money back once your carrier does its investigation.

Lee said, “Sometimes the bank knows before the company that a breach has occurred.” Usually this is because Visa has contacted them about strange charges coming in from one particular store. She added, “When this happens we will close out cards and issue new ones right away.”

Sometimes fraudulent charges never happen, but it’s better to be safe than sorry.

There are protection services available to help with identity fraud and credit protection. Lee said that these could be helpful, if you have the money for them. However, they can’t protect you 100 percent of the time, even if they make that claim.

To help regain customer confidence, breached companies like Target are offering a limited time of free credit monitoring, and are working toward ways to protect their shoppers’ accounts from within the businesses.

Your best defense is a good offense. Check your accounts regularly and pay attention to your own spending so that strange charges will stand out immediately. A good bank or credit union holding your account will also be an asset. Lee added, “We try to protect you as much as we can by being proactive.”
APPLES
Continued from Front Page
Spicer Orchards in Hartland Township.
She said, “Honeycrisp tastes so good because they are juicier than any other apple.” This is because the cells of this apple are larger, which makes it juicier when bitten into.

It seems people like them because they are crisp and firm, adding a nice crunch. Rowe said, “They have a mixture of sweet and tart that creates a unique and flavorful apple.” Another bonus of this apple, Rowe added, is that “they have a longer shelf life when stored in a cool, dry location.”

According to honeycrisp.org, “The outstanding flavor and texture can be maintained for at least six months in refrigerated storage without atmosphere modification.”

Honeycrisp apples are grown by anyone who has purchased them can attest to, Rowe said, “They are high priced because they have exploded in popularity and there are a smaller number of trees in production.” Because it takes five to seven years for a tree to begin producing, farmers aren’t quick to catch up to the demand.

She also pointed out, “They are more difficult to grow since they are a high-maintenance tree that needs special care.”

This special care includes picking more often since they ripen at various rates on the same tree, and the need for specific soil conditions to create that fantastic taste. Rowe said, “Our farm has been lucky because the natural soil conditions have led to an excellent flavored Honeycrisp.”

The price also reflects the higher labor cost, because they must be thinned by hand in the springtime because they produce many blossom clusters. “You want to have just a few blossoms per cluster to have a nice large apple,” said Rowe.

An interesting fact, shared on honeycrisp.org is that the Honeycrisp is protected under the U.S. Plant Patent Act (Plant Patent No. 7197). According to the site, it can only be propagated by licensed parties.

“Firms or individuals desiring to propagate and sell trees of Honeycrisp must apply for a license from the University of Minnesota, Office of Patents and Licensing.”

WHERE THE HONEYCRISP COMES FROM

- Macoun — originated in Trenton, Ontario, the fruit is similar to McIntosh, but smaller. It is richly flavored and aromatic. This east coast favorite is small to medium-size and wine red in color. It’s crisp, juicy and sweetly tart. The Macoun is considered an all-purpose apple, but is especially good for eating out of hand. Macoun apples make a perfect dessert choice.
- Honeygold — a cross between a Golden Delicious and Haralson, giving it the flavor and characteristics of a Golden, but harder. It is good for eating as well as for cooking, with a medium storage life. The flavor is sweeter and blander than Golden Delicious.

Source: Honeycrisp.org

“Honeycrisp taste so good because they are juicier than any other apple.”
Shannon Rowe
Spicer Orchards

ASSAULT
Continued from Page 5A

Of course, what she described as an “epidemic” can’t be changed with some training and rules. “In order for us to transform our culture, we need to entirely rethink all kinds of dearly held cultural norms,” she said. Meaning the way men and women interact, how masculinity and femininity are defined, the role of alcohol on campus, and how all these norms are reinforced by movies and music. “It’s a massive project,” she said.

She’s encouraged, but has a long way to go. “The road is very long, but I feel like we are starting to walk down the right path.”

Michigan State University said it will aim to improve its Sexual Harassment Policy and expand its 2004 Task Force on Sexual Assault and Relationship Violence this fall semester. According to a recent article in The State News, MSU President Lou Anna K. Simon said in an email sent to the student community Tuesday that MSU is working on improving campus safety, especially in regards to sexual violence.

The extra efforts have been added because the university is undergoing a federal investigation by the U.S. Office of Civil Rights for its handling of sexual assault allegations. MSU is one of more than 70 universities being investigated.

In her email, Simon encouraged students not to be “passive observers.” Editor Sharon Stone contributed to this report.
Social media posts often misleading

Don’t be duped — search before you share

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

On Monday, a 19-year-old man from the UK tweeted about Domino’s Pizza, frustrated that the pizza had been delivered with no toppings whatsoever. “It is just bread,” he tweeted, tagging the corporation directly.

Domino’s responded online, apologized and suggested he get in touch with the local restaurant. Three minutes later, he tweeted again: “Never mind, I opened the pizza upside down.”

The final tweet got 8,700 retweets, countless comments about the gaffe, a bunch of media coverage and all the kid had to do was turn the pizza over before sending a message to his 16,000 followers.

The pizza is a metaphor for the story someone shared that ended up being false — maybe there’s actually toppings on the pizza — you just have to turn the damn thing over.

“Turning it over” could mean checking the source of the story, questioning the website, and even considering why that person could have posted it in the first place. And this isn’t just a problem for individuals — news sites are regularly caught sharing false stories they didn’t bother to investigate.

Cracked.com, the comedy website has articles like “5 Clearly Fake News Stories that Fooled the Media,” and similar stories for individuals. Some spreading of misleading or false information is just silly or harmless — other posts help flare up racial hatred.

This week, some people were still angry about the local gas station manager, who happened to be from Yemen, who told a uniformed service member there was no premium gas — taken as “we don’t serve gas to you (an American soldier).”

The Arab man was misunderstood, but it led to a flurry of online posts. Even after the original post was essentially redacted, anger continued, many posters ignoring available information.

Back to the guy in London who tweeted about the Gulf — some have suggested even that his tweet was a ploy for attention.

Another good question is — was that guy for real? Who knows, I didn’t really look into it.

Hoax busting websites:

The best way to find a more accurate story is to consume several sources of a story before sharing, especially of sites that conflict with your own political beliefs.

Hoaxslayer.com analyzes stories in the news, and offers context. They follow big trending stories and also user submitted ideas. The Holly area gas station story was featured.

Snopes.com also focuses on scams and misinformation. For example, a “scandal” at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) was caught suppressing information that autism was linked to vaccines. Snopes discussed how the rumor was started, how facts were misconstrued.

Slate.com also can debunk rumors and false stories, though they are a functioning news organization.

Politifact.com is a site that is part of the Tampa Bay Times. Right on the front page, statements from political pundits and even rumors about the Burger King/Tim Horton’s merger are rated from a “pants on fire” lie, to “mostly true.” You can even check on President Obama’s track record on keeping promises.

Factcheck.org — Who took the most vacation days in office, Obama or Bush? This question is right up at the top of the page. The “viral spiral” tab dives right into popular Internet rumors.

Road closure in Holly this weekend

The Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) expects to close Fenton Road/South Holly Road between Hickory Ridge and the Fenton border this Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 6 and 7, to replace a culvert under the road. The road is expected to close at approximately 8 a.m. on Saturday morning. During the closure, the detour route for through traffic will be Fish Lake Road to Orange Hall Road to LeRoy Street in Fenton and back to Fenton Road/S. Holly Road and vice versa.

Hartland Road to close for repairs

The Livingston County Road Commission will begin repairing Hartland Road on Friday, Sept. 12. The plan is to remove the first 500 feet north of White Lake Road, smooth it out and gravel it for weekend traffic. Hartland Road will be closed on Monday, Sept. 15 for about three days. The closure will allow the undercut and geotextile stabilization to be done in that 500 feet. The road will be re-opened on Thursday, Sept. 18 on a gravel surface. It will not remain gravel, but the paving is not yet scheduled. If you have further questions or concerns, call the Road Commission at (517) 546-4250.
The many uses of duct tape

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

Duct tape has been sticking things together since World War II. It was created because there was a need for a strong, durable, waterproof tape that was also flexible. It was needed for sealing canisters, repairing trucks and cracked windows, and much more.

Starting with medical tape as a base, Permacel, a division of the Johnson and Johnson Company, applied two new technologies to step up to the challenge of creating a tape strong enough for the military.

Polycoate adhesives gave the tape its unshakable stick and polyethylene coating allowed them to laminate the tape to a cloth backing, making it extremely strong and flexible, according to duck-brand.com. It was because of its ability to repel water that the tape was given the nickname “Duck Tape.”

The original tape was army green, and had no formal name. After the war, people continued to use the tape because of its ability to function for so many uses, and that is when the product was changed to its familiar gray coloring.

It wasn’t until 30 years after the war that the tape got its official name, Duck Tape (which is a registered trademark). The name was given to it by Jack Kahl, former CEO of Manco, Inc., who also began manufacturing and selling it. Since then, there have been other companies that have created similar tape, known as “duct” tape.

The popularity of duct tape extends past its basic functionality and has become a staple of the arts and crafts world in which folks are creating an array of items out of all of the colorful and fun options that are now available.

Duct tape can even be found at Art-Prize, a yearly art show held in Grand Rapids. Although there is only one duct tape artist this year, Director of Exhibitions Kevin Buist said, “It’s exciting to see how many materials artists can find creative uses for.”

Duck Tape brand actually fosters creativity with their hundreds of different colors and designs. Recently, they hosted the Stuck at Prom contest, offering scholarship awards to the winners who created their prom wear using Duck Tape. Scotch brand duct tape also offers an array of colors and designs, including holiday themes.

While duct tape is used in the arts and crafts world often now, it still serves general purposes, like fixing bumpers. Linda Zarnek of Grand Blanc said she needed to cover her cracked bumper so it didn’t receive any more damage, and needed a cheap “fix.”

“I wanted something decorative, so I went with the tie dye,” she said. “You can use duct tape to fix anything,” was a motto she heard from her sons, and it has worked well for her so far.

Things you can do with duct tape
- Make clothing and accessories, like belts and prom dresses
- Create art
- Use for household repairs
- Use to patch clothing
- Make a reusable lunch bag
- Use to seal grocery items, like bread bags and cereal boxes, to keep food fresh longer
- Shoel repair
- Car repair
- Repair cracked or broken toys
- Create things like wallets and picture frames

Source: duckbrand.com

Duct tape works wonders for mail box repair, such as holding the box to the post together it was damaged. The many uses of duct tape

From function to art, versatile tape a popular staple in most homes

You can use duct tape to fix anything.
Linda Zarnek
Grand Blanc resident

Unexpected airline fees you should expect

By Dr. Steven Sulfaro
personalcerescot.com

Your smile matters!

Sky miles

Continued from Page 3A

require you to book a certain amount of time in advance. Instead of being disappointed when you find out it’s too late to book for the trip you planned using your saved miles, know how your program works. Each airline has different rules for how and when miles can be used.

When you are ready to use your collected miles, it’s as simple as signing into your program account. Your online account will show your mileage summary. It’s important to understand that the miles you have don’t equal out to the amount of miles you’ll actually get to fly free through. According to extrapackofpeanuts.com, a certain amount of points will equate to a certain level of price (free flight), but it does not necessarily correlate with the actual number of miles that flight will be.

It’s important to know how many points you have before you start the redemption process, and look at the points chart to know what you need for specific mileage. Most reward programs have blackout dates, which are times when you can’t use your miles. There are also certain times when rates are higher, and when rates are lower.

Once you start the redemption process, you will have a few steps to follow. You will need to enter your airport code in the “from” and “go to” box on your site. You will need to pick what class of service you want, like economy or first class. Then it will ask for a few more details, such as your first name.

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I welcome your questions and comments. Feel free to e-mail me at drsulfaro@comcast.net

SKY MILES

Continued from Page 3A

require you to book a certain amount of time in advance. Instead of being disappointed when you find out it’s too late to book for the trip you planned using your saved miles, know how your program works. Each airline has different rules for how and when miles can be used.

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$1.9 million community center expansion making progress after nine-year journey

By Tim Jagielo

Fenton — On Thursday, Zimmerman Masonry was on site, laying 16-inch blocks for the entryway to the new 5,400-square-foot expansion, and renovation at the Fenton Community & Cultural Center.

From LeRoy Street, passers-by can see the structure rising, steadily changing the shape of the Center. Nearby is the Cornerstone building, the finished Fenton Fire Hall, and even a modest Habitat for Humanity House going up.

Project Superintendent Jim Roth with Rhoads & Johnson said people stop by frequently to observe the progress. “They stop and look. They’re excited it’s finally going.”

The building is projected to be finished by Feb. 27, 2015, said Roth, barring any major problems. This seems like a blink of the eye compared to how many times the project has been stalled.

The expansion was conceived in 2005. Fundraising was begun, but stopped by the recession. Last year, enough money had been acquired to move forward.

The $1.9 million project will be financed by a $1 million bond held by the city and paid for by the Downtown Development Authority (DDA), DDA monies totaling around $300,000, and around $600,000 in fundraising.

The new space will include studio classrooms on two floors, a walkout lower level, an elevator to make the building Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant, and an ADA-compliant restroom. More funds will be needed to furnish the expansion.

Roth said that footings are done, which was a big challenge after a negative soil study came back, prompting removal and replacement of contaminated earth in late July. Blocking the structure is currently in progress, and things are moving forward at a good pace.
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Untreated hearing loss tied to lower earning potential

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 and interpersonal relationships, stave off depression, and improve their quality of life.”

Key Study Findings
- People with untreated hearing loss lose as much as $30,000 in income annually.
- 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.
- There is a strong relationship between the degree of hearing loss and unemployment for those who do not use hearing aids.

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 to 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 healthcare 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.

The links between hearing loss and dementia

Seniors who have untreated hearing loss may be at an increased risk for developing dementia, a loss of brain function that can affect memory, thinking, language, judgment and behavior. This is the finding of a study conducted by researchers from the Division of Otolaryngology at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

The study included 639 people whose hearing and cognitive abilities were tested over a period of time, starting in 1990 and concluding in 2008. Researchers found that study participants who had hearing loss at the beginning of the study were significantly more likely to develop dementia by the end of the study. How might hearing loss and dementia be connected? Investigators aren’t sure, but they think a common pathology may underlie both conditions, or possibly the strain of decoding sounds over the years may overwhelm the brains of people with hearing loss, leaving them more vulnerable to dementia.

The article concludes that, whatever the cause, these findings may offer a starting point for further research as to whether interventions, even as simple as hearing aids, could delay or prevent dementia by improving patients’ hearing.

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Lemond sees no barriers while running

By David Troppens
dtroppens@ctimes.com; 810-433-8789

Lemond — She’s only a freshman, but when one hears about Jessica Lemond’s passions, it’s obvious she has a clear vision when it comes to creating her own path in life.

While in the eighth grade, the Holly High student was on the Holly cross country team, on the track team and on the swim team. Lemond also has great passion for drama and is a great singer. Chances are if you go to any of the few sporting events in the area, people will hear her sing the National Anthem.

There’s another characteristic that many would use to describe the gregarious student-athlete, but is probably used less by Lemond herself. She is blind. Lemond has been since she was born. But it’s obvious to anyone who has met Lemond, she’s not going to let what others call a handicap hinder her from doing what she has a passion to do.

And on Wednesday, she proved her point once again, by performing in her first high school cross country season. Running the race with Holly assistant coach Nick Ejak with a tether connected to one hand on each runner, Lemond competed in her first prep sporting event, finishing the girls JV 5K race in 31:24.18.

“It feels pretty good to get it over with,” Lemond said after finishing her event in sunny and 80-plus degree weather. “I just have to try harder next time. I think I went out a little too fast today and-sort of died during the last mile. It’s a good learning experience.”

While preparing for her race, there isn’t anything that distinguishes Lemond as being any different than the rest of her teammates. She took part in every stretch and warm-up session prior to the event, with a little assist from varsity teammate Katelyn Sparynski.

“She doesn’t want to get babied,” Holly girls cross country coach Matt Weisdorfer said. “She told me that and I said, ‘If that’s what you want, I’ll make sure you do every single bit of work everybody else does,’ and she does.”

Initially the plan during the event was to eventually

Linden girls edge Flushing in Metro race

By David Troppens
dtroppens@ctimes.com; 810-433-8789

Linden — In 2013, the Linden varsity girls cross country team not only won their second straight Metro League crown, but the Eagles dominated the field while earning it.

No one came any closer than 36 points of beating the Eagles at any of the three league jamborees last year.

The competitive aspect was expected to change this year. And if the first jamboree held at Linden Middle School is any indication, it has. However, one meet into the season, the team on top hasn’t changed.

Despite losing the top two runners in the Metro League a year ago, the Eagles still found a way to take the top spot in the first league event of the season on Wednesday, winning it with 57 points. Metro newcomers Flushing were second with 59 points, while Ortonville-Brandon was a close third with 64 points. The Fenton Tigers (90 points) finished in fourth, just ahead of the fifth-place Holly Bronchos (91 points). The Eagles were excited to get out of the first meet with the Metro lead.

“We’ve been putting so much effort into practices and it’s great to see it’s working out,” said Linden senior Savannah Ferrara. “We have a strong team. We knew it was going to be really close. We put forth as much effort as possible and we got the win.”

See LINDEN on 18A
**TRI-COUNTY SPORTS**

**By David Troppens**

droppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

**Linden —** On paper, the Holly varsity boys cross country looked like the dominant team entering the first Metro League jamboree of the season at Linden Middle School on Wednesday.

On the course, the Bronchos proved it was true.

Holly did more than win the first jamboree, the Bronchos dominated it. Holly had its top five runners finish within the first 12 spots, earning the Bronchos the first jamboree victory. Holly, led by first-place runner Nate Frasier, scored just 32 points, or less than half the total of second-place Clio’s 65. The Linden Eagles slipped to third place (82), while the Fenton Tigers were fourth (89) in the eight-team meet.

“Our team is working really hard,” said Frasier, who finished the race in 16:35.59. “We are trying to get better. We really want to go to states this year and get at least top five. That’s our goal.”

“It’s a good check-point or measuring stick to see where we are at,” Holly coach Rich Brinker said. “I’ll go home and check the scores from last year. But this week we went to Mt. Holly on Monday and they are tired. Last year I brought the guys here and we did a light workout on the course. It is two different philosophies. ... Last year we had to prep hoping we could get by. This year I thought we were strong enough to do a hard workout to get ready for our other goals.”

It’s not that the Bronchos are taking the Metro title for granted, but it’s easy to see why the team might have their eyes set on higher goals, even in early September. With six of last year’s top seven runners returning from a squad that qualified for state and won a league crown, it’s easy to see why the standards are so high this season.

“Repeating (as Metro champs) is important to us,” Frasier said. “We really want to show what we are made of and we want to keep working toward our goals.”

Frasier’s goal was to win the race, and he did so rather convincingly in sunny and mid-80 degree weather. He beat the field by just over seven seconds. Fenton’s Jacob Lee took second in 16:42.77. Still, Frasier was hoping for a little bit more.

“I was hoping for a little bit faster today, but there was the heat, and I was really tired from the workout on Monday,” Frasier said. “I ran fine but not what I wanted to do.”

“I hit my first mile pace and the second mile I went a little slow. My last mile, I didn’t do what I wanted to do.”

The rest of Holly’s top five scorers included Dillon Lemond in fourth (17:12.99), Kurtis Cooley in sixth (17:16.22), Zac Felix in ninth (17:45.50) and Blake Stuffle in 12th (17:58.89). Dino Vivanco placed 17th (18:14.25) and Ben Stevens took 19th (18:17.99), rounding off the Bronchos’ top seven runners.

Linden’s third-place team finish was the lowest Eagles’ placing since the league went to the jamboree format in 2010.

Mikey Varacalli led the squad in seventh (17:19.39), but the Eagles only had two other runners in the top 20 overall.

The rest of Linden’s five scorers were Ryan Torok in 13th (17:58.29), Jack Eck in 16th (18:12.37), Kagen Griffith in 21st (18:27.60) and Nick McDonald in 25th (19:20.50).

“We’ve got a lot of work to do,” said Linden coach Clint Lawhorne.

The Fenton Tigers looked a lot like they did a year ago. With Lee taking second and Frasier taking eighth (17:30.23), the Tigers had two strong frontrunners. However, the key will be getting the other starters five to improve if Fenton is going to eventually contend for a spot higher than fourth. Lucas English placed 18th (18:15.50) as the Tigers’ third-best runner, but no one else was in the top 20. Andrew Bond finished 24th (18:36.60), while Lake Shabot placed 42nd (20:05.87).

The Clio Mustangs have been knocking on getting in the top two for a few years now, and finally did it. The Mustangs got their entire scoring five within the top 20, completing Clio’s score before Linden and Fenton got their fourth runners to finish.

The race counted 25 percent toward the final Metro League standings. The second jamboree is Sept. 34 at the EA Cummings Center in Mt. Morris.
Holly edges Devils for first win of the season

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

Lake Fenton — Getting goals and victories has been a pretty big challenge for the Holly varsity boys soccer team this year.

On Thursday, they got both.

The Bronchos got two goals from two unsuspecting sources and then held on, earning a 2-1 non-league victory against the Lake Fenton Blue Devils.

The first goal was provided by someone who is used to spending time as the keeper — Sean DeGnan. He scored the Bronchos’ first goal of the season off a cross from Tyler Tomash with 24:44 left in the first half.

In the second half, it was a defender’s turn to score as Austin Chmura scored by driving the net and scoring on a shot from about 15 yards out with 22:41 left in the contest.

Lake Fenton (1-3) fought to get back into the game feverishly, cutting the gap in half with 15:02 left in the contest. Jared Smith was foiled in the box, setting up a penalty kick attempt for Joey Reitano. Reitano scored it, and Lake Fenton trailed by just one.

The Blue Devils tried to get the equalizer and had several nice chances to do just that. A dangerous cross by Jacob Newblatt with 8:30 left in the game was caught by Holly’s second-half keeper, DeGnan, thwarting one chance. With about six minutes left, a pass sent from Nick Gorelick to Reitano created another chance, but the shot by Reitano soared wide.

The final chance came on a corner kick during the final 10 seconds of the game. However, the shot attempted during it by Smith soared wide as well.

The Bronchos (1-4) entered the game with a couple of injuries and players missing due to tennis team commitments. That forced Holly coach Mike Steibel to shuffle the lineup, looking for some offense. It worked.

“My goal wasn’t expected because I don’t play forward. I play defense,” Chmura said about the game-winning goal. “I saw the thru ball and took a touch. I thought it was too big, but the goalie stayed back and I saw the net there and kind of kicked it toward the net. I didn’t pick a shot. I just kicked it and it went by the goalie. I was putpublic notice

Fenton tennis begins season on super hot streak

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

The Fenton varsity boys tennis team began the season with only three returning starters from last year’s squad.

However, any thoughts of this fall being a rebuilding season have been dashed really quickly.

The Tigers have begun their season with two quad victories, a Fowler Invitational championship and two Metro League dual wins.

The Tigers began this week with an 8-0 victory against Swartz Creek, and capped it with a 7-1 victory against Brandon on Thursday.

“So far we are off to a good start,” Fenton coach Michael Dumbrille said. “We had a really deep JV team last year. Whenever they were able to play last year, they played well.

“We have good depth. The big difference between this year’s and last year’s team is they are so new to the varsity style of play, but they don’t know who the good or bad teams are. They approach everyone as anyone else. They don’t realize this team is supposed to be good and have those thoughts in their mind (before a match). That’s a good thing.”

The Tigers dominated Swartz Creek, winning all eight flights in straight sets. Two ended up being 6-0, 6-0 matches. Those victories were earned by the No.

PREP REPORT

VOLLEYBALL

< Clio def. Lake Fenton 25-11, 25-15, 25-21: The Blue Devils improved upon their service receive but were unable to defeat the Mustangs. Lake Fenton coach Angie DelMorone said, “Unfortunately, we gave up way too many unearned points. Lake Fenton (3-4) was paced by Hannah Garvy’s seven kills and five aces, while Alyssa Frank had five digs and three kills. Alyssa Rodgers, Molly Draigier and Zoey Howieson led the team’s strong service reception day.

GIRL’SFUT

< Holly 196, Linden 204: The Bronchos had three girls post sub-50 rounds at Spring Meadows Country Club, earning the victory. Linden’s Hannah Joslin was the medalist with a 47, but the next five top scores were all Holly performers. They are Katelyn Durance with a 48, Jenna Pepper and Chelsia Bowles with 49s and Amandan Pucher with a 50.

Linden’s Ashlyn Robinson and Deanna Jenkinson each shot 52s. Jenkinson played her first varsity round of her career and earned a par on the first hole she played. Sydney Bond and Alex Promo each had 53s.

< Fenton 199, Swartz Creek 221: The Tigers’ Madison Stigus carded a 46 at Tyrone Hills Golf Course, leading Fenton to the victory. Molly Gundry carded a 47, while Sarah Cummings had a 51. Keegan Miller scored a 55.

See HOLLY on 18A

TRI-COUNTY SPORTS
LINDEN  
Continued from Page 15A  

It was an interesting meet on the basis of how the top three teams earned their point total. Flushing finished with three of the top four runners in the race, but the Raiders’ fourth and fifth runners finished 25th and 27th, respectively. Meanwhile, Brandon’s top five runners each finished within the top 17, which was two places better than where Linden’s fifth runner finished. However, the Blackhawks’ pack of runners, who finished between seventh and 17th, couldn’t compete with Linden. Each of the Eagles’ first four runners placed slightly better than Brandon’s runner at the same position, helping Linden by Brandon. Against Flushing, Linden’s entire top seven finished better than Flushing’s fifth runner. The Eagles entered the race expected to be among the contenders, but with two top runners gone, it wouldn’t have shocked many if Flushing found a way to capture the top spot. However, the Eagles made sure that didn’t happen with their work over the summer.

“It made us extremely nervous (about losing two strong runners) so we worked hard,” Ferrara said. “We had a positive attitude all summer and we kept going. “Winning the Metro League is pretty important. We have to work for it.”

Flushing freshman Paige Deitering won the race in 20:15.39. Ferrara was Linden’s top performer taking fifth in 20:52.79. She was followed by teammates Jordan Holshcer in eighth (21:08.03), Courtney Davis in 12th (22:00.46), Taylor Ganger in 13th (22:14.10), Maya Gossett in 14th (22:16.20), Kailee Cocco- ran in 22nd (23:59.04) and Maya Gossett in 19th (23:44.88).

The Fenton Tigers had one runner in the top 10. That was sophomore Jenna Keiser in ninth in 21:17.29. The other Fenton scor- ers were Emma Lane in 11th (21:50.25), Danielle Hack in 18th (23:20.32), Emily Battaglia in 21st (23:57.50), and Mickey

HOLLY  
Continued from Page 17A  
on forward just to try it, to see how it went.

“We got two goals, but we got two goals from people we didn’t expect to,” Steibel said. “I am missing a couple of forwards. ... As the game went along, it was good to see the guys, slowly, start playing the ball to feel more. I think as a team, we are playing a little bit better. We had four hard games. This (game) was good because we played some- body kind of at our level. We were able to move people around a bit and see what people can actually do.”

Lake Fenton remains a pretty young team with 10 freshmen or sophomores

on the varsity team. That has made the start of the season kind of a work in progress.

“We are growing,” Lake Fenton coach Michael Korhonen said. “We have a lot of simple things we need to figure out. The first thing, especially when you are playing a lot of freshmen and sophomores, is getting them ready to compete at the high school level, which is different than your club level. The first obstacle is getting them ready to compete and we’ve done a good job of that over the last two games. We are battling and trying to win every ball. From here on we are going to work on some more detail-oriented stuff like playing wide and playing a little smarter in the offensive third.”

FENTON  
Continued from Page 17A  

Corvallis (No. 1), Noechele Podreedy (No. 2) and Jack Schneider (No. 4), fenton’s No. 1 doubles team of Nathan Brown and Joey Perea- rara also won. At Fowlerville, Fenton had five flight champions, scoring 20 team points. Les- lie/Lansing Christian took second with 15 points in the eight-team event.

The singles champions were Carr (No. 3) and Schneider (No. 4). Doubles

winners were Goodman and Shampine (No. 2), Cislo and Lincoln Heaply (No. 3) and Doyle and McMaster (No. 4).

Dumbrell loves the makeup of the players.

“They really want to perform well. They are very critical of themselves, which is good,” Dumbrell said. “They really care about doing a good job. They don’t want to just get the win, but they also want to feel like they played better than the last time.”

LEMOND  
Continued from Page 15A  

was to have three varsity members on the team run with Jessica about a mile or two. However, Ejak was available and has acted as a guide for Jessica in the past as well. During the race, unless one notices the other, it’s possible one wouldn’t notice Jessica is indeed blind. She looks like a runner, providing a normal cross country stride at the pace she feels comfortable. Early in the race, a smile was pasted on her face as well. As the race ended, the look changed to one of determination and then just a desire to finish the race.

“I’m awesome,” Ejak said about run- ning with Lemond. “I think it’s amazing she is out there doing it just like everyone else. I can not imagine being able to do this and not being able to see.”

Running without knowing what is coming up is Lemond’s biggest chal- lenge.

“It’s really hard because I don’t know what’s coming,” Lemond said. “I con- stantly feel like I’m going to run into something. I have to put my complete trust in my guide, and I have had a couple of mishaps. But, overall, everyone has been really good and it’s working.”

Jessica growing up

When Jessica was born, it became readily obvious to her parents that some- thing seemed wrong, but it took awhile to point out the issue.

“I knew there was something wrong because she was my second child and she wouldn’t look at me,” said Lemond’s dad, Darin.

They took her to a neurologist that said Lemond was going to be wheelchair- bound and never would be able to walk. I never believed it at the time, but at that point we did realize she was blind.” Darin said. “Immediately I just looked at it from the point she can do... She can swim. She can dive off the diving board. She can do this and that. Growing up, we’ve always been optimistic and we’ve never really ever discussed what she can’t do, only what she can do.”

Running becoming a passion

Running wasn’t an immediate pas- sion for Lemond. Holly Middle School track and field coach Julia Tschirhart helped move the process along.

“Julia said she’d take her and I called her and said, ‘Come and get her,’” Darin said.

“She’s a phenomenal singer and ac- tress and that was her love at the time. She didn’t have time for both,” Tschir- hart said. “We got her back from a mission trip last year and she

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WEATHER
Continued from Front Page
He did say that the data on rain can seem misleading because heavy thunderstorms were more spotty this summer. Depending on where you were, you may or may not have received some of the heavy rain that others got.

“We did have a really nice stretch of weekends from late spring into summer, where the weather was warm and dry,” said Kirtek.

Looking ahead, Kirtek says that the North Atlantic Oscillation will be more significant than El Niño patterns in determining what the winter will be like. The NOAA is a climatic phenomenon in the North Atlantic Ocean of fluctuations in the difference of atmospheric pressure at sea level between the Icelandic low and the high. It controls the strength and direction of westerly winds and storm tracks across the North Atlantic.

“It will be colder than normal even though there’s an El Niño in progress,” said Kirtek.

He also said that the activity of the sun will affect winter’s weather. The sun has been very quiet the last few years without a lot of sun spots. Typically, a quiet sun cools down the temperature.

Will there be much snow? “Cold doesn’t necessarily mean snow,” said Kirtek. “Last year, we had cold plus record snowfalls. We’ll have to wait and see where the storm track hits. If it’s up further to the west, we could end up with slightly warmer weather. Last year’s snow was mostly light and fluffy, with less moisture content.”

What is an El Niño?
El Niño, an abnormal warming of surface ocean waters in the eastern tropical Pacific, is one part of what’s called the Southern Oscillation. The Southern Oscillation is the sea-saw pattern of reversing surface air pressure between the eastern and western tropical Pacific; when the surface pressure is high in the eastern tropical Pacific, it is low in the western tropical Pacific, and vice-versa.

Because the ocean warming and pressure reversals are, for the most part, simultaneous, scientists call this phenomenon the El Niño/Southern Oscillation or ENSO for short.

South American fishermen have given the phenomenon the name El Niño, which is Spanish for “The Christ Child,” because it comes about the time of the celebration of the birth of the Christ Child—Christmas.

Source: kids.earth.nasa.gov

PRISON
Continued from Front Page
The men both pleaded to one felony count in May after federal prosecutors claimed that their company sabotaged the job to an unapproved, out-of-state third party after the Fenton firm had difficulties with the welds.

When welds were determined to be faulty, the FBI began its investigation by confirming whether the Fenton company was doing the work to the government’s specifications. The Fredericks told FBI agents that the Fenton business was doing the work, but the investigators learned otherwise. The men cooperated with investigators and admitted responsibility.

Mike Manley, the Fredericks’ defense attorney, said federal guidelines called for 30 to 37 months in prison. The government requested 18 months. Manley had the right to ask for less and asked for 18 months house arrest. In response, the judge gave a sentence of one year and one day.

Manley said by tacking on one extra day to the one-year sentence for a federal sentence, both men will be eligible for up to 56 days off their one-year sentence for good behavior, if the Bureau of Prison decides they qualify. Had the sentence remained at just one year, the sentence could not have been shortened for good behavior.

U.S. District Judge Terrence G. Berg ordered the men to pay $1.6 million in restitution to the government over the next six years. Restitution is to cover the cost of thousands of missiles that had to be recalled or inspected. Manley said the men made their first annual payment of $250,000 on Wednesday and they will continue with this agreement through 2020.

In the next few months, the Fredericks, who are out on bond, will receive a notice as to which federal prison they will report to. Manley said they requested Morgan-town Federal Prison in West Virginia, which is a minimum-security facility. The Bureau of Prisons will make this decision.

Manley said Brian Frederick would serve his sentence first, followed by the father Dennis, who is caring for his ill wife.

The local attorney says the Fredericks are wonderful people and they’ve done a lot for the community. “They’re ashamed for what happened,” said Manley. “National security was never at risk.”

Manley believes the judge ordered prison time to send a message to any other contractors who sign certifications. “If you sign and it’s not true, you’ll go to prison.”

The focus of the sentencing was for saving the company, which employs nearly 50 people. “This saves jobs for people who work there,” said Manley. “They know they did wrong and they are gracious with the outpouring of support. They’re humbled.”

“I was honored to represent them. They are good people.”

About the Tomahawk cruise missile system
According to navaltechnology.com, the Tomahawk is a long-range, all-weather, subsonic cruise missile in service with the surface ships and submarines of the U.S. and Royal Navy. Originally produced by General Dynamics, Tomahawk is currently manufactured by Raytheon.

The Tomahawk can strike high-value or heavily defended land targets. The Block II TLAM-A missile achieved its Initial Operating Capability in 1984. The missile was first deployed in combat during Operation Desert Storm in 1991.
**AIRLINES**
Continued from Page 3A

While Spirit Airlines isn’t mentioned in the airfarewatchdog.com survey, Consumer Reports didn’t mince words when it comes to its review of this no-frills domestic carrier. “Spirit Airlines receives one of the lowest overall scores for any company we’ve ever rated,” reported Consumer Reports. While it charges fares that can be 90 percent less than other carriers, its fees include $10 to $19 to book a flight, $3 for a soda, juice or candy and $35 to $100 per carry-on bag.

Bishop International Airport in Flint handles daily flights from Southwest, Delta, American and United. Southwest makes up 46 percent of its traffic, Delta Airlines, 37 percent and American and United comprise the remaining flights.

“People are already booking for our busiest season, which is Thanksgiving, Christmas and the first quarter of 2015,” said Pat Corfman, director of marketing at Bishop International Airport. Their traffic is up 11.49 percent this year, compared to 2013.

Southwest Airlines had the lowest consumer complaint rate of all airlines—0.34 per 100,000 passengers. Southwest routinely has the fewest customer complaints among U.S. airlines. Frontier had the highest rate of customer complaints, with 3.09 per 100,000 passengers.

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• Pay registration fee ($cash or money order ONLY) no checks or credit cards.
• Students who are 20 or older by September 1st 2014 may register from any geographic area
• Students 16-19 years of age must live within Fenton, Lake Fenton or Linden School Districts.
• Students 16 and 17 years of age wishing to register must be accompanied by a parent and a waiver signed by their previous high school.

**Registration:** Lake Fenton High School Main Office
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For more Information: lakefentonschools.org

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Pat Corfman
Director of Marketing at Bishop International Airport

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**Pickled**
Continued from Front Page

Original information from the caller was that the vendor, who reportedly worked at the “Bill the Pickle Man” booth, was out passed in his vehicle with what may have been stolen property in his vehicle. The Fenton man woke up and drove away on Dixie Highway at a high rate of speed, almost striking one of the security guards.

The sheriff’s department said the man returned and argued with security and then tried to run a security guard over with his silver 2006 Ford Escape. The security guard was struck by the suspect’s vehicle but he was not injured.

The Fenton man was suspected of being under the influence of alcohol and in possession of narcotics. A deputy from the Alcohol Enforcement Unit responded to continue the investigation. A preliminary breath test revealed a blood alcohol content of .19 percent. An arrest warrant is pending the results of the toxicology report, which could take a few weeks.

The property he had in his possession was not stolen and was secured in his vehicle, which was impounded to Byer’s Towing.

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**Holidays are a busy time at the airport which means a lot of foot traffic.**

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**Oakland County Sheriff’s Department**
Deputies working at the Renaissance Festival in Groveland Township were dispatched to assist security guards with an intoxicated pickle vendor.
Holly Middle School returns to Sherman Campus after three years

By Tim Jagiello

Devon Orrin teaches sixth-grade Intro to Spanish on Friday.

Holly Township offices.

There were the typical glitches, like problems with lockers, but overall, students have done well. Schmidt said being at the bigger building is exciting, especially after she saw all the advantages. “It just made total sense. It was a win-win for the elementary, and middle school.”

“A building like Sherman sitting vacant was a travesty to many,” she said.

Holly Middle School received other good news — the school has been taken off “focus” status for reading ability, said Schmidt, meaning the gap between the highest, and lowest achieving students has lessened.

Migrating the middle school back to the Sherman Campus was a significant undertaking. The cost of moving the students, teachers, technology, adding bus routes, was estimated to cost around $240,000, which in October last year was suggested to come out of the HAS district’s general fund.

Kathleen Martin of Holly has three children who experimented both the Karl Richter Campus and SMS. “I feel like, to me, everyone is excited to be there, everyone is ready to hit the ground running,” she said. “I’m actually very excited. I think it’s a much better fit.”

She believes that the best place for sixth-graders is at the middle school, as opposed to the elementary school.
Meet Leslie Toldo

By Sally Rummel

Leslie Toldo, 46, has been well-known on TV as a weather specialist for 24 years from Wyoming to Michigan, and is now re-discovering her passion for writing, life coaching and teaching. She lives in Fenton Township with her husband, Rick, and their three dogs, Daisy, Bear and Gus.

How did you get your first job on TV? You’re not going to believe this, but I was working in a doughnut shop in Wyoming, where I went to college to be close to my grandma. A regular customer who was in radio sales came in and said his station was looking for someone to read a couple of commercials. I was in need of an internship to graduate, so that’s how it started. The program director liked the commercials so well, he wanted me to do my own drive-time radio show.

Then I was hired by the local TV station because a guy from the Wyoming Radio Network had heard my show and liked it. I was their weather girl, even though I knew nothing about weather at the time. They hired me even though I dropped an expletive at the beginning of my taped interview because I was so nervous.

What happened next? My biggest break came when I received a call from WKBD-Detroit (Channel 50) to interview for a job there. It was a big leap from Wyoming to a top 10 TV market. That’s when I decided to go back to school to study broadcast meteorology. I worked in the Detroit/Flint TV markets for 20 years.

In looking back at my career, it’s funny. I never looked for any of these jobs. They always found me.

So what’s next on your horizon? I’ve been working on many different things lately as I decide what I’d like to do next. I’ll be teaching a class at Genesys Hurley Cancer Institute this fall about quality of life issues for cancer patients. I’ve been doing quite a bit of writing, both on my blog (bloggertoldo.com) and for assignments. Plus, I’m going to write a book. I’ve always had a writer’s heart. That’s my passion.

You mentioned that you’ve also added a spiritual title to your name. I’m not some great theologian, but I have performed half a dozen weddings and a couple of funerals as an ordained minister through Universal Life Monastery. The biggest one I have done was a wedding for my former colleague, Autumn Perry and her fiancé, James MacClaren.

I also performed the wedding ceremony for Allen and Jennifer Korth, and then presided over her funeral about a month later, when she died from cancer. It was an honor, and tremendously humbling, to be there for Allen and the rest of Jennifer’s family.

The hardest thing I’ve done, but also the most powerful, was delivering the eulogy at my grandmother’s funeral. I was honored to be able to help my family in this way.

That’s why being an officiate is such an important part of my life now. I have found that there is joy in celebrating life’s moments, even when it is a celebration at the end of a person’s life. Do many people stop you and say, “Don’t I know you from somewhere?” Yes, they do, and I’m honored. Most people are really, really nice about it. One man with the best of intentions even said, “You’re nearly as fat in real life as you look on TV!”

What has been your life’s biggest lesson? Above all else, be true to yourself. I don’t regret a single thing in my life. I’ve learned something in every situation.

What has been your life’s biggest challenge? Overcoming addiction to alcohol. I’ve been sober for 11+ years now. I’ve learned through recovery that all the faiths are based on the same teachings of love and service. If telling people my story will help just one other person, then it’s worth speaking out. I know that I am here for a reason.

What is one thing most people don’t know about you? I’m not nearly as confident as people think I am.

“I’m a huge dog person. Our three dogs are ‘our kids.’” Leslie Toldo Board member, Humane Society of Genesee County

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