Our butts are getting bigger as airline seats are getting smaller

Just one of many issues that make modern air travel annoying and uncomfortable

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

You’ve probably been there. You’ve just settled into a cramped airline row of seats, squeezed into your allotted space and whom, the person in front of you decides to recline their seat, literally putting their seat into your lap.

If you’re the least bit claustrophobic, that one move by an inconsiderate person can make for a miserable flight, but it’s not likely electrically annoying you’ll encounter while in the air.

Crowded flights contribute to boarding and deplaning headaches, shortages of overhead bins and personal space issues.

See SEATS on 8A

Michigan considering decriminalizing marijuana

By Tim Jagielo

One of 36 states with pending weed legislation

You still can’t light up in the city of Fenton, at least legally, but some cities have tried to make marijuana legal, in certain amounts, or in certain places.

In the most recent election, five Michigan cities — Saginaw, Oak Park, Berkley, Mt. Pleasant and Huntington Woods, all made small amounts of marijuana legal. “It will be very, very interesting to see how cities handle this,” said Denise Pollicella, a managing attorney for Cannabis Attorneys of Mid Michigan.

See MARIJUANA on 8A

Rundown of local store hours for Thanksgiving and Black Friday

More retailers than ever will be open on turkey day

By Yvonne Stegall

yslegall@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

It seems like every year Black Friday starts earlier and earlier. In an attempt to alleviate the craziness of this “holiday,” Cyber Monday, the first Monday after Thanksgiving, was created a few years ago. That initiative, however, hasn’t seemed to have made any difference to the die-hard shoppers who still blast in for doort Buster sales.

According to PR Newswire, one in three consumers feel that retailers being open on Thanksgiving Day gives those who have to work on Black Friday the opportunity to still get great sales.

Close to one in four Americans feels retailers being open on Thanksgiving Day gives people something fun to do on the holiday.

See BLACK FRIDAY on 7A

700,000 Michigan hunters heading to the woods this weekend

Avid hunter John Toth of Fenton is ready to head to the UP this weekend. He’ll join more than 700,000 registered hunters as he prepares for open firearm deer season. According to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Michigan is third in the nation for hunting, an activity that brings in $28 million annually in federal wildlife funds.

See story on Page 11A

Genesee County Sheriffs deputies seized several garden bags worth of marijuana plants in this 2011 file photo.

Genee County Animal Control Update

Commissioners say new management, not money, is the answer for GCAC

By Yvonne Stegall

yslegall@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Prior to Election Day, volunteers and members of G.R.A.C.E. (Genesee Residents for Animal Control Evolution) were asking voters to vote ‘No’ on the millage that would give more funding to the Genesee County Animal Control (GCAC). Why? Because they know that money isn’t the answer and isn’t the mechanism that is going to solve the problems at GCAC.

See ANIMAL CONTROL on 8A

810-771-TEXT (8398)

TEXT YOUR HOT LINE

“Michigan house lame duck session just voted to change the law that public ordinances no longer have to be printed in newspapers. We want more government transparency, not more secrecy. Cowards.”

“Lefty whiners claim every medium favors the right. The ridiculousness of that claim is more evidenced of their intolerance and blindness to any viewpoint other than their own.”

“When will some one stand up and initiate the end of the inane daylight saving time? This idiocy dates back to WWI and has no redeeming value. Utter government nonsense.”

“The Hot line about recycle bins is right on. Come on Fenton, get with it and demand larger bins, the ones on wheels preferably.”

“I really enjoy going through Fenton now and seeing all the hustle and bustle of a revitalized downtown. Great job to the DDA and city officials. Glad my kids will get to use it.”

tctimes.com

COMMENTS OF THE WEEK
“In today’s real estate market, you need to work with a company you can trust. Berkshire Hathaway HomeService Michigan Real Estate team can help make your homeownership dreams come true.”

**Building our Community one Home at a time!**

**Billion Dollar Celebration!**
Fenton Office Helps Company Reach ONE BILLION IN SALES – 2nd Year In A Row!

**New on Market**
- **Linden • $179,900**
  Lg. Kitchen, Family Rm w/Fireplace, Finished LL.

**New on Market**
- **Swartz Creek • $169,000**
  3 Bed, 3 Bath, 1726 Sq. Ft. Ranch w/Finished LL.

**New on Market**
- **Grand Blanc • $179,000**
  Lg. Kitchen, Family Rm w/Fireplace, Finished LL.

**New on Market**
- **Grand Blanc • $395,999**
  Custom Built Home w/3934 Sq. Ft., 4 Bed, 5 Bath, Private Setting.
  Spacious 2 Story Family Rm. w/Gorgeous Fireplace Wall. Prof. Fin. LL w/Wine Cellar, Wet Bar, Home Theater & Fireplace.

**New on Market**
- **Grand Blanc • $179,900**

**New on Market**
- **Grand Blanc • $96,000**

**New on Market**
- **Waterfront**

**New on Market**
- **Linden • $134,900**

**New on Market**
- **Byron • $179,000**

**New on Market**
- **Byron • $179,000**

**New on Market**
- **Fenton • $169,900**
  16088 Aspen Hollow
  Desirable Split Ranch Design w/3Bedrooms, 3 Baths. Vaulted Great Rm., Formal Dining, Open Kitchen, Fin. LL w/Wet Bar.

**New on Market**
- **Grand Blanc • $225,000**
  3374 Warwick Trail

**OPEN HOUSE Sunday, 1-3 pm**
- **Linden • $225,000**
  3374 Warwick Trail

**Your Dream Home is just a click away...**
www.realestatefenton.com
Buy the right generator for your home

Preventing for inevitable power outages this winter

By Yvonne Stegal
ystegal@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Last year around the holidays, we had a massive power outage that left many families with a less than happy holiday surprise. For those who were prepared for such weather, it probably wasn’t as much of an inconvenience.

One of the best ways to be prepared for power outages in nasty weather (which includes heavy ice and snow) is to have a generator available for usage when the lights go out. It is especially important for this in the winter, even if to just be able to heat your home. Jim Waite, an electrician with Craftsman Electric, said, “There are some issues with portable generators these days.” Those issues being the fact that they won’t run many of the high efficiency furnaces out there these days.

Waite said that the top three things people need to have backed up when the power goes out are water, heat, and the refrigerator. City folks won’t have to worry about their water, but those with well pumps do.

That being said, size matters when it comes to the right choice of generator. A small wattage generator, like a 5,500 watt, isn’t much when it comes to keeping the average household going. For the average home, you’d likely need at least a 6,000 to 7,500 watt range, which will get your television going, too. Even this range isn’t good for running an air conditioner though (something you don’t really need to worry about this time of year).

See GENERATOR on 20A

Necessities you’ll need to survive a power outage

Be able to cook, use your cell phone and stay warm — even when the power is out.

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

Because winter is coming, it may not be a question of whether power will be lost sometime, but when. In 2013, some lost power in the dead of winter for nine days, following the ice storm, but it also knocked power out for hundreds of thousands. Even if you don’t hook up a generator, see NECESSITIES on 22A.
Why do I live in Michigan?

I am often asked, as many Michiganders are, why do I live in Michigan? Like so many who have never visited here, the image most outsiders have of Michigan has been shaped by the national media’s chronicling of the decimation of the auto industry, in addition to the 20 years of Detroit’s death spiral under the leadership of corrupt mayors like Coleman Young and Kwame Kilpatrick. But all that’s ancient history. Today, Detroit — like the proverbial Phoenix — is rising from the ashes as we speak.

But, I digress. Here is why I live in Michigan.

As we all know, water is life. And man do we have water. The Great Lakes are the largest group of freshwater lakes in the world and contain an astounding 4% percent of the world’s fresh water supply. They also bless us with an astounding 3,126 miles of pristine sandy beaches more than any other state. If you are anywhere in Michigan you are never more than 84 miles from a Great Lakes beach.

If that doesn’t float your boat (sorry), simply seek out one of Michigan’s 11,041 inland lakes, or take a canoe or kayak ride on our over 36,000 miles of rivers.

Not a boater? No problem. Go hiking, biking or exploring among our 19 million acres of forest.

Higher aspirations? The Porcupine Mountains, which are one of the oldest mountain chains in the world, rise to an altitude of almost 2,000 feet above sea level in the U.P. (FYI, the Fernon area is 881 feet above sea level.)

To be fair, there are some things we don’t have. We don’t have mountains. We don’t have major wildfires that wipe out hundreds of homes like so many of the drought-plagued western states. We don’t have major floods that wipe away towns and homes like New Orleans. Heck, even if there were a flood we have an abundance of sand dunes to bag from. Speaking of which, Michigan’s Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore was named the ‘most Beautiful Place in America’ by ABC’s Good Morning America.

We are a major sports hotbed with the U of M vs. Michigan State rivalry, the Tigers, Red Wings, Pistons and, surprise, even the Lions are competitive this year.

‘Up north’ means traveling to the robust Traverse City area, the laid back Oscoda east coast, or any of the hundreds of sleepy meccas in between. Grand Rapids is a major city, but don’t expect much crime. Sleepy Douglas and Saugatuck are a laid-back haven of art and culture a mere couple hours drive away.

Mackinac Island is world-renowned for its charm and character.

We get to experience the beauty of four distinct seasons — sometimes all in one day.

Hey, news media, cold temperature is a minor quibble. The true winter is called ‘winter.’ It happens every year about the same time, and it is not news. Could you report on something more interesting?

Did it ever occur to you the reason so many folks hate Obama is because he is out of his league, a proven liar (as is most of his administration), has not fulfilled what he promised and in fact done much more harm in his six years?

Does the 21st Amendment argument get you on an airplane without ID? That is crazy liberal nonsense and no one is buying it. So very glad Michigan has voter ID laws. Makes it that much harder for the left to steal votes on Election Day.

I fail to see how Groveland Township’s new adventure park is going to bring money to the township, but I can only imagine how the noise and traffic will affect residents. Glad we sold our home out there and hope the State Police keep their post nearby. They’ll need it.

APHS CLASS OF 1859 looking for classmate Barbara Bloch Brown. Facebook APHS or call me you have my number.

If you want to drive the speed limit, that’s fine. Just don’t do it in the left lane. The left lane is for passing, not for driving the speed limit or under. Consider others and don’t hijack the left lane.

Harry Reid is now saying ‘let’s work together.’ So now, he what? What a laugh.

See hot line throughout Times.
Avoid these Thanksgiving dinner disasters

> Plan ahead so these 10 mistakes don’t happen at your holiday table

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

With out-of-town company, high expectations and dozens of different recipes to prepare, Thanksgiving dinner has all the makings of a kitchen disaster waiting to happen.

Even the most experienced cook can forget to put the rolls in the oven, serve lumpy gravy or run out of oven space for all the dishes.

The editors of Bon Appetit magazine and other food editors compiled a list of the most common Thanksgiving dinner mistakes and how to avoid them (this writer plans to hang this on the refrigerator to make sure nothing on this list gets missed!)

**MISTAKE #1**
Not reading the recipes first

This classic mistake results in “Oops, I don’t have that ingredient or the right pan, or oops, I didn’t know it needed to chill overnight.” Make sure you have dishes and ingredients needed and ample time to get the recipe done.

**MISTAKE #2**
Picking dishes that all require last-minute preparation

Figure out how it’s going to get put together and on the table at the same time. Know what can be done ahead, what can be rewarmed in the oven while the turkey rests, etc. Make a plan!

**MISTAKE #3**
Picking dishes that all need to be in the oven at the same time

Choose recipes that require different preparation and can be served at different temperatures; oven versus stovetop and hot versus room temp.

**MISTAKE #4**
Not having all the serving dishes and utensils needed

Reading recipes ahead of time will help you figure out what you need. Get everything out ahead, also, so you can see what dishes/pans are required for a particular recipe. If you’re short, borrow from friends and family.

**MISTAKE #5**
Undercooking the turkey

Rely on internal temperatures by using a meat thermometer, to determine when your bird is done.

**MISTAKE #6**
Overcooking the turkey

Start checking if it’s done about one-half hour before the recipe says it will be done. Check it fast, because the more you open your oven door, the more heat the oven will lose, increasing the roasting time. You can also use a probe thermometer.

See DISASTERS on 23A

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Failing to have all the necessary utensils, or planning dishes that all need to be in the oven at once are mistakes that can derail a Thanksgiving dinner.

**MISTAKE #7**
Baking Mostaccioli $31.95

**MISTAKE #8**
Baked Lasagna $35.95

**MISTAKE #9**
16" Cheese Pizza $24.95

**MISTAKE #10**
12 pc. Chicken Dinner $28.95

Baked or BBQ, includes Muffaletta!
**MARIJUANA**

**Continued from Front Page**

She said that four other cities have made enforcing marijuana laws a lower priority. To the Michigan Marijuana Policy Project (MPPP), Michigan is one of 36 states with pending legislation that will either decriminalize or reduce marijuana charges for possession of small amounts. While some of these bills have passed, some will die in committee, or expire before the “cross-over” deadline passed, meaning it had to pass the house or senate before be considered for signing by the governor. This is the likely case for Michigan House Bill 4623 (Senate Bill 626). It would “reduce the penalty for up to an ounce of marijuana to a civil fine; depending on the number of prior convictions, the fine would range from $25 up to $100.” Polic ellas said she’d love the bill to pass, but it hasn’t budged since last year. “I don’t think the Michigan legislature is ready to do anything about that right now.”

She said that while the Michigan legislature is rather conservative, there is hope for the mostly Republican-supported HB 4271, which already passed the house. This new act would protect dispensaries and persons acting under the Medical Marijuana Act.

This is because while states may pass laws, law enforcement agencies will likely support federal law, under which any marijuana is still illegal, under the Controlled Substances Act — where alcohol used to reside.

The city of Flint decriminalized marijuana possession of less than an ounce, for anyone older than 19 in 2012. According to local reports, the city police would continue arresting, acting under federal law. This also means that property can be seized from individuals that police believe have any connections to “drug money,” even if they are growing or using marijuana under the Michigan Medical Marihuana Act (MIMA.)

Polic ella said she would like to see marijuana removed from the Controlled Substances Act, and move the illegal $100 billion industry, into the legal light.

To her, the effort to legalize marijuana is beyond critical mass, with more states either allowing medical marijuana or decriminalizing it. “I don’t see this genie going back in the bottle.”

In Fenton, any marijuana is still illegal, and non-medical use is illegal in Michigan under state law. The 2008 MIMA regulated the use of medical marijuana in Michigan, allowing for dispensaries creating new business opportunity for growers.

Many municipalities, like Fenton, have passed moratoriums on dispensaries, and medical marijuana, preferring to wait for court cases to emerge, challenging other cities and their laws.

The guidance came this year, with Ter Beek the city of Wyoming, which kicked off the city’s efforts to regulate medical marijuana dispensaries inside the city.

The city ordinance has not been up for a vote.

### Selected legislation

**Washington, DC**

B20 409 replaced the penalty for possession of up to one ounce of marijuana with a $25 civil fine. It was approved by the D.C. Council on March 4, signed by Mayor Vincent Gray on March 11 and became law on July 17 after surviving a Congressional review period.

On Nov. 4, voters approved Initiative 71, which will legalize the production and cultivation of limited amounts of marijuana for adults 21 and older. The measure will only go into effect after surviving a Congressional review period.

**Florida**

SB 1030 was signed by Gov. Rick Scott on June 16. The new law allows patients with certain cancers or conditions causing seizures or muscle spasms to use marijuana with under 0.8-percent THC and over 10-percent CBD and allows five licensed businesses to dispense the medicine. There is very little chance of it helping patients because it relies on doctors violating federal law by issuing an “order” for the patients to obtain marijuana. Physicians would also have to take an eight-hour class to recommend cannabis and to pass a special exam.

**Illinois**

HB 4299, HB 4091, HB 5708; HB 4299 would reduce several marijuana penalties, including reducing the penalty for possession of up to 30 grams to a criminal fine of up to $100; HB 4091 would reduce several marijuana penalties, including reducing the penalty for possessing 5 grams of marijuana; however, the fine range is higher and is based on prior similar offenses.

The classification is also a petty offense. HB 5708 would reduce the penalty for possessing under 30 grams to a new category of offense called a regulatory offense, which avoids a criminal record and is punishable by a $100 fine.

*Source: MPPP.org*
Lots of local layaway plans available

Program helps cash-strapped customers avoid dealing with credit debt

By Christopher Jones
news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

For those who want to purchase a big gift for the holidays, but don’t have enough cash on hand or unwilling to rack up credit card debt, there are local businesses like Kmart, Walmart, Sawyer Jeweler and Sears Hometown Store, just to name a few, offering layaway programs for their items.

The programs allow customers to put an item on hold and make payments over a period of time until the item is completely paid for. For Kmart, electronics, TVs, and video game consoles are the items most often put on layaway, with payments of $10 for a 12-week contract for items over $300, after a down payment of either 10 percent or $30.

Tryshia Case, Kmart softline sales lead, said the benefit for the program is twofold. “You don’t get credit card charges and you don’t have to hide the gift from your kids,” said Case. Sawyer Jeweler is more lenient, as the business does not have a flat rate, according to sales associate Theresa Van Aver. Instead, the store finds a monthly rate that fits the needs of the individual. “We definitely have repeat customers who use our program for that fact,” said Van Aver, who said the program has been used for the past 50 years. Sears has eight- and 12-week layaway options for the convenience of its customers. Payments are made every two weeks and the product can be picked up when it has been paid in full. Store associates can provide further details. Walmart also has a convenient layaway plan. Adown payment of 10 percent or $10, whichever is greater, allows the customer to pay in payments. The final payment and pickup must be made on or before Dec. 15 at the same store layaway was initiated.

Guide to area store hours for Thanksgiving and Black Friday

- Walmart of Fenton will be open regular hours on Thanksgiving — 6 a.m. to midnight — and will open at 6 a.m. Friday and stay open until closing time Saturday evening.
- Target of Fenton will open 6 p.m. on Thanksgiving and remain open until 11 p.m. on Black Friday.
- Kmart of Fenton will open on Thanksgiving at 6 p.m. and will remain open until 10 p.m. on Black Friday. 
- Sears Hometown Store of Fenton will be open from 5 to 11 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day and 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Black Friday.
- Alpine Marketplace of Linden will be open regular business hours on both Thanksgiving Day and Black Friday.
- Tractor Supply Company (TSC) of Fenton is closed on Thanksgiving Day, and will be opening at 6 a.m. for Black Friday.
- Holly Foods will be open 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day and their regular business hours on Black Friday.
- VGs Grocery of Fenton will be closed at 4 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day. They will return to their regular 24-hour schedule starting 6 a.m. on Black Friday.
- Walgreens of Fenton will be open regular business hours both days.
- Family, Farm & Home of Fenton will be open 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Black Friday and they are closed Thanksgiving.

discounted price. It just depends on whether you want to deal with the crowds of people vying for those same items.

Don’t forget about Small Business Saturday, which is Nov. 29. This is a day to celebrate America’s small businesses and to pick up a few extra deals on discounted items.
SEATS
Continued from Front Page
— especially during this upcoming holiday season with fuller flights than usual. With a load factor of 86.4 percent in June, such a high average means many more flights are flying at 100 percent, according to USA Today. Flights haven’t been this full since airlines were troop carriers during World War II.

 Tight quarters and smaller seats mean less legroom and knee room than ever before. It’s not just your imagination. Airlines seats have gotten smaller in economy class, where most people fly, according to statistics in SeatGuru.com. Seat pitch — the distance in inches from a given point on one seat to the same point on the seat in the next row — is only 30 inches, when in years past, 31 or 32 inches were the absolute minimum. Spirit Airlines offers pitch of just 28 inches on some aircraft, though those seats don’t recline.

 Seat width has also gotten smaller, at the same time human hip sizes are bigger than ever. The worst seats today measure either 17 or 17.2 inches, when 19 inches was as tight as it got through the 1990s. In comparison, premium class seating at the front of the cabin on major airlines measures 21 inches.

 So what is an airline passenger to do? Here are some suggestions when looking for additional legroom:

• “Extra leg room” seats may be available on some carriers and the extra fee will be less than paying business or first class.

• Check out premium economy options.

• Confirm your seat assignment as soon as possible.

• Seats in door rows, emergency exit rows and bulkhead rows offer additional legroom, though there may be an extra charge.

• On widebody aircraft, select an “inside aisle” seat, since middle seats in the middle section often are assigned last.

• On airlines with open seating policies, paying extra to board early may be worth the extra money.

10 MOST ANNOYING BEHAVIORs ON AIRPLANES

• Traveling while sick. If you must, do your best to quarantine yourself and sleep, so you’re not infecting your nearby passengers.

• “Boozing” on planes — the major cause of most air rage incidents.

• Workaholic habits, like cell phone usage until the last possible second, spreading papers out, etc.

• Jumping up as soon as airplane stops and grabbing heavy luggage, trampling over tray tables, with no place to put it but the back of a person’s seat.

• Asking favors, such as switching seats, asking to put things under your seat, in your overhead bin, etc.

• Traveling with pets, letting a cat or dog crawl across passengers in flight, or for the lack of care given to pets by some bag handlers.

• Poor timing, i.e., people who get up when flight attendants are catering food in the aisle or get their magazine out when flight attendants are carting food down from overhead bin, with no place nearby passengers.

• Acting poorly, either hogging overhead bins, refusing to use the aisle.

• Chattiness, as in “non-stop” talk.

• Carry-on baggage offenses, from too many bags to oversized bags, hogging overhead bins, refusing to use overhead bins, etc.

Source: independenttraveler.com

‘Dickens’ to feature beer tent, Detroit Institute of Arts

Nation’s longest Dickens Festival begins with lighted parade on Nov. 28

By Christopher Jones

Holly — Volunteers have another two reasons to get excited for the Holly Dickens Festival beginning on Nov. 28 and spanning three weekends.

Now in its 41st year, the Holly Dickens Festival is officially the longest running Dickens-themed event in the United States. Set in historic downtown Holly, the annual festival spans three weekends between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA) has become a sponsor for the first and third weekend of the festival. The DIA will provide a mobile classroom trailer unit called DIA Away. The DIA reports that the mobile is meant to provide a hands-on learning experience to discover how artists imagine new worlds and combine everyday objects in unexpected ways. It features digital and graphical reproductions of five DIA works and interactive tools.

For adults, the BlackHorne Pub will host a beer tent for the first time in the festival’s history.

“We’ve had a great response from the community for beer tents before,” said pub manager Erica Kelly. Kelly wants to provide the festival with a place where people can be warm and enjoy a beer. The beer tent will feature two to four taps every day and traditional German wine served warm. The tent will also have non-alcoholic beverages like hot chocolate.

The Dickens Festival will kick off with a Lighted Parade at 7 p.m. on Nov. 28. The parade will be followed immediately with the arrival of Santa Claus in historic downtown Holly for the traditional Tree Lighting Ceremony.

Holly Dickens Festival

NOVEMBER

Saturday, Nov. 29 from 1-8 p.m.
Sunday Nov. 30 from 1-5 p.m.

DECEMBER

Saturday, Dec. 6 from 1-8 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 7 from 1-5 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 13 from 1-8 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 14 from 1-5 p.m.

Follow the Holly Dickens Festival on Facebook

ANIMAL CONTROL

Continued from Front Page

In case you missed previous reports on what has been going on at GCAC, volunteers and visitors have pointed out dirty conditions, poorly treated animals and lax employees.

One volunteer, who asked to remain anonymous, said that conditions have not changed, including dirty cages and locked wards where animals are being ignored. Like most of the people hoping for reform at GCAC, he said that the only way to change it is to get proper management in place.

In their plea to vote ‘No’ on the millage, voters were informed that GCAC has a budget of about $1.3 million. This new additional millage, per the wording on the proposal, is for 0.2 mill (20 cents on each $1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of seven years from Jan. 1, 2014 to Dec. 31, 2020. It has an estimated revenue of $1,705,467 in the first year.

It isn’t money they are lacking, but the management, according to the volunteer. That issue could be solved with the new seats being filled in the county Board of Commissioners office. Mark Young and Bryant Noland both won seats in their areas, and added to three other GCAC reform advocates on the Board, many of whom are convinced a change will happen in January.

Roberta Angelo, with G.R.A.C.E., said, “I think the new commissioners will be enough.” She said that she hopes the new board, once they take their seats in January, will be able to work out a plan and get the ball rolling to a better GCAC.

Angelo’s biggest hope is that this new Board will make good decisions for GCAC and hire the right people to run it.

Tony Brown, county commissioner for the local sixth district said the true resolution is for the county to privatize the operation. He did not want the millage placed on the ballot and voted to not place the proposal on the Nov. 4 ballot.

“The issue isn’t going away merely by throwing money at it,” said Brown.

When asked if any groups have expressed interest in taking over GCAC, Brown said some have come forward.

“However, the county board voted to not put it out for bid,” he said. Brown, along with Jamie Curtis and Omar Sims voted in favor of putting the privatization proposal out to bid. The motion failed with a 4-4 vote, with one commissioner absent.

Holiday Craft & Small Business Expo

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Local hunter’s garage a trove of hunting tales, family, life

By Tim Jagielo

tjagielo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

Fenton — On Thursday, John Toth of Fenton finished packing up to go hunting. He left early Friday, to make the seven-hour drive to the UP, with no exact plans of when he’d return.

He’ll join a group of hunters from Flushing who own a camp, as remote as can be in Michigan, where he’ll encounter few other hunters — or deer. He may bring a six-, or eight-point buck home, (he’s only taking about 15 bullets with him) but if he doesn’t, that’s fine too.

“I love it. I love to get out in the woods, at peace with nature,” he said. “There’s nothing better than a big owl to swoop down at you when it’s almost dusk, or a big woodpecker come through and hit the next to — something you wouldn’t even see living in the city.” Woodpeckers in the UP are more like the size of a crow.

He’s expecting temperatures in the 20s to a high of 30 degrees. “They just got pounded with right around 18 inches of snow,” he said of the area he’ll be hunting.

He’ll venture out, 20 minutes before daylight, and leave the woods just after dusk.

He expects to come back with a few stories, maybe an artifact to adorn the walls of his garage. It would join the 1,000 or so items big and small, carefully bolted to the drywall. His garage isn’t decorated like a restaurant franchise — everything is a personal item.

“I could tell you a story about every single piece in here,” he said. The garage is strikingly decorated (it was the reason for the photo to begin with) and he could probably spend a lot of time sharing the stories of his past and beyond.

Toth’s collection is related to hunting, the outdoors and family history. He mostly displays his father’s items because they mean more — like the 900-pound moose his father hunted, behind him.

John Toth’s collection is related to hunting, the outdoors and family history. He mostly displays his father’s items because they mean more — like the 900-pound moose his father hunted, behind him.

Hunting in Michigan

- Michigan hunters boost the state’s economy, spending $2.3 billion on trip-related expenses and equipment in 2011. Wildlife-watching activities bring in $1.2 billion in trip-related expenses and equipment annually.

- Michigan’s hunter participation ranks third in the nation — 756,535 licensed hunters in 2011 — contributing nearly $28 million in federal funds to wildlife management and wildlife habitat restoration.

Source: michigan.gov

Local hunter’s garage a trove of hunting tales, family, life
Recently Pending & Sold Homes

Fenton - $167,500
Lake Fenton - $320,000
Linden - $379,999

Fenton - $320,000
Lake Fenton - $329,000
Lake Fenton - $399,999

Lake Fenton - $1,164,999
Lake Fenton - $1,349,999
Lake Fenton - $1,459,999

Hartland Schools - $649,999
Grand Blanc - $157,999
Swartz Creek Schools - $149,999

Swartz Creek Schools - $149,999
Waterfront

Lake Fenton - $574,999
Silver Lake - $574,999
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You might want to start hoarding chocolate

†Ebola closes borders in West Africa, causing limited supply and higher prices

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

You might want to start hoarding your kids’ Halloween treats, especially if you’re a fan of Snickers, Nestle Crunch or M&Ms. The price of chocolate has hit a three-year high, due to fear of the Ebola epidemic in West Africa and political/economic issues across the globe.

While chocolate lovers think of their treat as a delicious bite, futures watchers around the world view chocolate for what it is — a global agricultural commodity because of its roots in the cocoa bean. Prices have vaulted from a normal trading range of $2,000 to $2,700 per ton to as high as $3,400 in September, according to the Christian Science Monitor.

Seventy percent of the world’s cocoa production comes from four West African countries: Ivory Coast, Ghana, Nigeria and Cameroon. Ivory Coast and Ghana are by far the two largest producers, together cultivating more than half of the world’s cocoa, according to makechocolatier.com.

These countries neighbor the West African countries with the worst Ebola outbreaks, closing borders and shutting out many of the migrant workers who are needed to pick the cocoa beans that go into popular chocolate candies. Plus, small cocoa farmers have had to move to avoid exposing their fields of beans unpicked and unready for shipment, according to foodbeast.com. Because supply is limited, prices have been increasing.

Carol Schuler feels the affects of the Ebola crisis and other global political issues right here in Fenton. As owner/chocolatier of Sweet Variations, she’s awaiting her next shipment of chocolate that is the basis for dozens of homemade confections, from Tiger Paws to almond bark and more.

She said that much of the price increase is a supply and demand issue because China and Russia are buying more chocolate than ever.

“I’m not sure I really want to know how much it’s going to cost,” she said. “Our suppliers had a significant price hike last year and it was okay. This year, I just don’t know. I guess I’ll be surprised.”

What is cocoa?

Cocoa is the essential ingredient for chocolate. It comes from the seeds (cocoa beans) of the cocoa fruits (cocoa pods), which grow on cocoa trees.

The production of cocoa begins in the tropical regions around the equator, where the hot, humid climate is well suited to growing cocoa trees. The cocoa tree flowers, and bears fruit all year round and produces large cocoa pods that need to be cut down with large sticks or machetes.

Each cocoa pod contains about 20-30 seeds sitting in a sweet, white pulp. These are the actual cocoa beans. It takes a whole year’s crop from one tree to make just over a pound of cocoa.

After the pods are harvested, they need to be cut open with machetes and the beans are removed. The beans are then fermented, dried, cleaned and packed into cocoa sacks. That’s when farmers sell the product to intermediaries, who then export the beans. Beans then need to be processed, by crushing them, removing the shells, roasting, and then grinding them. The result is cocoa liquor, which is used to manufacture chocolate, or is further processed for cocoa butter and cocoa powder.

Source: makechocolatefair.com
Snow at Mt. Holly!

*Photos by Tim Jagielo*

On Thursday, management at Mt. Holly started making snow with the anticipation of another early start to the ski season. Once the temperatures reached above 29 degrees, the snow cannons were switched off by maintenance workers like Carlos Fuentes, pictured bottom right. The resort will be open Saturday, Nov. 15. Go to SkiMtHolly.com for more information.
TRIVIA COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Q When was the last time Michigan State football finished the season No. 1 in the AP poll?

A It happened in 1952 when MSU was ranked No. 1 all but one week of the season.

DAVID’S DABBLINGS

It looks like Michigan State’s chances of being in college football’s first-ever Division 1A football playoff ended last weekend with the loss to Ohio State.

I was pulling for the Spartans and I thought they had a good chance to win because they were at home, but one thing that amazed me all week was how it seemed so few people were giving Ohio State much chance at all.

That confused me because while the Spartans only had the one loss to Oregon, I think the squad was a little bit over-rated. To me, Michigan State certainly hasn’t looked like last year’s Spartans at all. MSU’s trademark in recent years has been its defense. Simply stated, even before the Ohio State game it was apparent this team wasn’t as strong defensively as it was the last two years. It’s probably weaker than the Spartans’ defenses since this strong run of seasons has begun.

I think people have kind of overlooked that point this year, assuming the defense has been the same. Unfortunately for MSU fans, it hasn’t been.

Fenton siezles last chance

Swimmers qualify for state meet in three more events at meet

By David Troppens
droppens@tctimes.com

The Fenton varsity girls swim team had a little unfinished business after the Flint Metro League meet was completed at Fenton High School on Nov. 8.

Sure the Tigers dominated the meet, capturing their 11th straight Metro League title by beating second-place Brandon by 161 points.

However, the Tigers wanted more state-qualifying times. Fenton swim coach Brad Jones and his squad got those state cuts on Tuesday at the last chance meet held at Ann Arbor Skyline, earning three more state cuts for Friday’s D2 state swim meet to be held at the Holland Aquatic Center. The Tigers got the 200 medley relay team and the 400 freestyle relay squad to qualify. Brianna Costigan also qualified.

See CHANCE on 17A

Tigers stumble vs. Novi

Wildcats end Fenton’s tourney run in regional semifinals

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

West Bloomfield — It was a year of many highs.

A season involving a district championship and 38 victories will have its share of highs.

However, the Fenton varsity volleyball season saw its season end on Tuesday night at the Class A regional semifinals. Despite an outstanding performance by Fenton senior Carly Granger, the Tigers didn’t have enough firepower to hold off the second-ranked Class A team in the state, dropping a 25-20, 25-12, 25-22 verdict to the Wildcats at West Bloomfield High School on Tuesday night.

Despite Tuesday night’s loss, the Tigers left the court with their heads held high, capping a pretty strong 38-17-4 season.

“Winning districts was big for us,” Granger said. “It was one of our goals, so it was really cool to accomplish that. And also our tournament play — when we were at tournaments, we placed really well for what we were expected to do going into the season.”

“Being a first-year coach, I had a lot to learn. I had to learn about the girls and what they do,” Fenton’s first-year varsity head coach Jerry Eisinger said.

“At first it was tough figuring the lineups. But I think we settled on a pretty decent lineup. We play a lot of tough teams, a lot of top 10 schools and we like that. It’s fun to play those teams in tournaments.”

The Tigers found themselves back in the hunt for a Golden Ball in the district meet this weekend.
Eagles cap perfect Metro season

▶ JV squad ends year with strong 28-8-9 record

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

At the varsity level, Linden volleyball has never won a Metro League championship.
But it looks like those fortunes could be changing sometime soon. The Linden JV volleyball squad proved this season that the future of the varsity program is in good hands.

The Linden JV team finished the Metro season with a perfect 7-0 mark. Included in that list of victories, of course, is a win against the Fenton Tigers. Linden defeated Fenton by a 25-21, 29-27, 21-25 in the last match of the season, capping the undefeated Metro season. Fenton is on the other side of the spectrum when it comes to Metro League championships, winning six straight before finishing runner-up this season. Before this year, no one is sure how long it has been since the Eagles defeated the Tigers’ JV program. Everyone knows when the last time was now.

“When we played Fenton and beat Fenton we were so proud of them because it’s something they’ve never done before,” Linden JV coach Lisa Howell said.

In that match, the Eagles used a balanced attack to capture a victory. Emma Kenny and Allie Conly had seven kills each, while Kim Freitas has six kills. Cayla Turner had 14 assists, while Christina Clemons had 10 assists. Defensively, Emily Pearce provided 25 digs, while Clemons had 12 digs.

Linden’s JV volleyball team finished the Metro League season with a perfect 7-0 record and with two tournament championships.

The Eagles weren’t only good during the Metro season, however. Linden had a strong season overall, finishing with a 28-8-9 record overall, earning tournament championships at the Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard Invitational and at the Bende Invitational.

Howell wasn’t shocked by the team’s talent. She’s coached many of the players in the past during the AAU season.

“I’ve known a lot of the kids so I knew these girls were talented. Being able to coach them was a highlight for me,” Howell said. “With their work ethic, I knew start to finish it would be a team that would continually improve throughout the season. I knew they would have opportunities to win tournaments and they did.”

It was a young JV squad, with five freshmen and seven sophomores.

“It’s a very fun group of kids,” Howell said.

Height wasn’t a team strength, but Howell said the team played taller than they physically were. Conly was an all-around strong player and usually led the offense with kills. Another strong attacker was Kenny.

The Eagles ran a 6-2, offense, meaning it took two setters to make the offense go. Those regular setters were Turner and Clemons. Pearce was a strong defensive specialist and typically was the team’s libero. Meanwhile, Emily

See EAGLES on 18A

AGS hoops team is perfect again

▶ Girls eighth-grade squad finishes MS career 24-0

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

Experiencing one perfect season in a lifetime can be downright memorable.

The members of Fenton’s eighth-grade girls basketball team just doubled those memories this fall.

For the second season in a row, the squad finished a perfect season. As seventh-graders last year, the team went 12-0. The Tigers repeated that performance this season going 12-0 once again.

“This group of girls are athletes,” Fenton eighth-grade coach Denise Bakker said. “They work very well together. They love to play and it shows. They worked hard every day they walked into the gym.”

The squad had 16 players on the roster. Every player who was available for a given game played. That was no problem for Bakker because she said each player participated in each victory.

“Every kid played in every game and every kid did something good every time she stepped on the court,” Bakker said. “I’d say in five different girls and wouldn’t lose anything. It was a lot of fun to coach this group of kids.”

Every kid scored this season. Every kid reboundsed and every girl played good defense. If someone didn’t score at all, she had seven or eight assists.

See AGS on 18A
Continued from Page 17A
They all took turns scoring. There was always someone there to step up and score.”

There were some close games this season. The closest matches during the season were played against Clio and Brandon. The team concluded this year’s season with a road victory against Grand Blanc West on Oct. 20. Bakker said if a game was close, the squad usually took control in the fourth quarter to earn the victory.

“There were a couple of girls on the team who would refuse to lose, and if the score was close they would take over and win. That’s the only way I can describe it,” Bakker said. “I’m excited to watch this group when they get higher (play at the high school level).” Bakker said the team tried to keep from talking about the undefeated record.

“They didn’t talk about it much,” Bakker said.

“They mentioned it once in a while, but once they did someone would say ‘shhh’ and ‘knock on wood.’... That says a lot about their maturity as eighth graders.”

Fenton’s eighth-grade AGS girls basketball team recently celebrated the completion of a 12-0 regular season. As seventh-graders the squad also went a perfect 12-0, giving the girls a combined 24-0 record for their two seasons at AGS.

TIGERS
Continued from Page 16A
playing one of the top-ranked teams in a tournament once again on Tuesday, and in two of the sets were competitive with the Wildcats. However, when playing one of the best teams in the state, keeping mistakes to a minimum is critical, and in each set there were moments when the Tigers struggled. In the opening set, it was at the beginning where the Tigers had issues. Novi took an early 6-0 lead with the help of two service reception errors, an ace and an overpass that resulted in a Novi kill.

The Tigers were fought back. Fenton tied the set at 20-all on a Novi hitting error, but the Tigers followed it with a service error and never scored again. Novi’s Jennifer Smith responded with a kill, followed by a Victoria Iacobelli block kill. Fenton had a free ball fall on their side of the court for the 24th point and followed it with a hitting error, earning Novi’s first-set win.

The Tigers struggled throughout the entire second game. Fenton was tied at 2-2 all after a Granger kill, but Novi’s Paulina Iacobelli responded with a kill, and it was followed by three service points by Iacobelli as well. Fenton trailed 6-2. The Tigers struggled in that second set, getting only five kills while recording four hitting errors. Fenton’s final kill of the set came at 15-7 by Granger. Conversely, Novi had 15 in the set, earning the dominating 25-12 victory.

The Tigers’ best performance came in the third set. Capped by a Granger kill, Fenton led 6-1 early. However, from that point on, the Wildcats spent the set whittling down that lead. The last time the lead was as many as five came at 20-15 after a Granger kill. However, when Granger was forced to the back row at 21-18, the Tigers lost their only consistent attacking option, resulting in Novi taking control. There were several long volleys, but Novi won all of them, taking their lead of the set at 22-21 on an Ally Cummings kill. Fenton tied it at 22-all on a Novi passing error, but the Tigers ended the night with a hitting error, a service reception miscue and a hitting error on Novi’s final three points on the match.

“It stings because it is a tournament, so if you lose you are done,” Granger said. “You have to bring it every game and, obviously, we didn’t do that. It hurts because it’s not like we get a second chance at it.”

“I think it was the energy. During our last couple of games we were all there and we were all in the game. This one it was like we are going to show up for a few points and the next few points we are not going to show up. It was one of those games I guess.”

The Tigers also played without one of their strong middle hitters Jessica Warford. Warford suffered an injury late during the regular season.

“The biggest difference is it really hurt not to have Jess Warford,” Eisinger said. “Not that Jillian (Kaye) didn’t play well because she did, but Jess is a four to five kill a game person. When you lose that it makes a big difference.”

Granger capped her Fenton prep career with a match-high 18 kills, while also adding a team-best 12 digs. Jessi Eastman followed with five kills and two blocks, while Kaye had four kills. Setter Kelsie Fischer capped her varsity career with 27 assists and three kills. Novi’s offense had more options. Victoria Iacobelli provided 15 kills and her sister Paulina had 12. Cummings chipped in seven.
Local orchestra celebrates five seasons

► Concert scheduled for Dec. 12 at FHS

The Fenton Community Orchestra (FCO) invites the community to celebrate its fifth season with a concert at the Fenton High School Ruby Zima Auditorium on Dec. 12 at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free but donations are greatly appreciated. Fenton High School is located at 3200 West Shiawassee Ave. in Fenton.

The Fenton High School Jazz Ensemble, under the baton of Director Andrew Perkins, will join the FCO in concert. The FCO will perform a variety of holiday pops, jazz, and classical works including Mozart’s “Marriage of Figaro,” Leroy Anderson’s “A Christmas Festival” and Trans Siberian Orchestra’s “Wizards in Winter.”

“Our Community Orchestra turned 5 years old and we began our fifth season with a solid foundation,” said Jennifer Fleck, co-founder and president of the Board. “We are over 60 musicians strong this season. By developing partnerships with the schools and area businesses, we are positioning ourselves for further growth.”

Fleck recently received The State Bank’s “Community Contribution to Education Award” from the Fenton Education Foundation for her work with the FCO and Fenton High School band program.

“It’s wonderful to live in a community that values the efforts of those involved in the arts. We offer so much more than just great music.”

The Fenton Community Orchestra is a multi-generational orchestra (ages 11 to 70) that provides a place for musicians of all ages to connect through music by offering an educational and entertaining music program for its members and audiences.

The FCO is 501c3 non-profit organization. To make a donation and learn more visit www.fentoncommunityorchestra.org.

A BIG THANK you to the boys in Scout Troop 111 in Linden for their honoring of Veterans at their last meeting. ■■■

PLANNING A TRIP up to the North Pole to see Santa, anybody want to go? ■■■

TO THE NOV. 12 contributor, please be more specific. What school? What flags? ■■■

THERE WERE SOME comments about Michigan retirees getting taxed. What did the Unions do for you when you retired? Absolutely nothing! I am a government retiree and I get a COLA. Why didn’t your union give it to you? ■■■

LET’S TALK GOVERNMENT. Now that we got rid of the Democrats, maybe we can get something done. Also, American citizens should stand up to the President and demand that all illegal (undocumented) aliens be removed from American soil. Allow them to come in to this country legally. ■■■

EVERY AMERICAN SHOULD contact their Representatives and Senate and ask that they develop and pass tougher laws against school bullying. ■■■

CAN’T BELIEVE THERE are so many ‘little boys and girls’ who want to waste their day by riding ORVs in a former gravel pit. There has to be something more productive to do with their time that wouldn’t pollute the environment just for their pleasure.
Addiction to technology may cause a disconnect to nature

Nature deficit disorder affects everyone, including kids

By Yvonne Stegal
ystegal@abc13.com • 713-367-6702
Too much screen time and too little time in the outdoors makes Jack a dull boy, and it can have a negative effect on children. It is believed that a lack of regular time spent in nature can cause poor academic and developmental growth.

This side effect of limited time in nature is called Nature Deficit Disorder (NDD), a term coined by author Richard Louv in his book “Last Child in the Woods.” He uses numerous examples to explain how our societal disconnect with nature is affecting today’s children.

In an email from Louv, he said, “I always make clear that it’s not a medical diagnosis, but a useful term to describe the human costs of alienation from nature, as suggested by recent research.” Some of the costs he pointed out include diminished use of the senses, attention difficulties, higher rates of physical and emotional illnesses, a rising rate of myopia, child and adult obesity, and other maladies.

He has addressed how our lives, no matter our age, might be enhanced if our society embraced nature with as much enthusiasm as it has embraced technology.

According to Louv, we have entered a new era of suburban sprawl that restricts outdoor play, which in conjunction with a plugged-in culture keeps children inside. Our busy adult lives, constantly connected to everything we do through our tablets and smartphones, has caused a disconnect for many age ranges.

Because our nature-oriented existence is hard-wired into our brains and not quite ready for the over stimulating environment we’ve carved out for ourselves, Louv said there remains a struggle. Some children, and adults, adapt. Those who don’t adapt develop the symptoms of NDD, which include attention problems, obesity, anxiety, and depression, according to Louv.

One answer to the issue of NDD is environmental education, according to education.com. “Environmental education increases public awareness and knowledge about environmental issues or problems. In doing so, it provides the public with the necessary skills to make informed decisions and take responsible action,” Environmental education not only increases attention span, but it also creates more creativity and imagination. As well, it teaches children about the Earth and nature.

Limit your child’s screen time and make sure they spend some time outside every day. While there are no specific amounts of time for a cure, any time spent in nature can help fight the effects of NDD.

Local ways to experience nature, for children and adults
• Seven Lakes State Park in Holly offers hiking trails and lots of nature for families to enjoy.
• Southern Lakes Parks and Recreation offers many different outdoor events, especially during the spring and summer.
• Genesee County Parks offers a great nature preserve in Burton, For-Mar Nature Preserve and Arboretum, with natural wonders of the woods and the animals that live within.
• Spend time fishing or hunting with children.
• Take nature walks, through the woods or even within the city.

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Meet Daniel Boehler

- German exchange student
- Senior at Lake Fenton High School
- Soccer player

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

Daniel Boehler, 16, has been in the U.S. for eight weeks through American Field Service. Although he is a senior at Lake Fenton High School, back home in Munich, Germany, he will have two more years of high school before graduation. His host parents are Ken and Barbara Johnson of Fenton Township. His German family includes parents Stefan and Michaela, sister Leni, 7, and brother Dominik, 13.

What did you expect the U.S. to be like, and how is it different from your expectations? This is my first time overseas, and I tried not to have too many expectations — I wanted it all to be a surprise. I don’t like stereotypes. I prefer to take things as I find them.

What has been your biggest surprise so far? How big everything is! You can fit seven Germans inside the U.S., so I knew the U.S. was big, but everything is big, from malls to streets, drinks and food. I love U.S. malls: clothes are so much cheaper here than in Germany.

You speak excellent English. Has learning the language been difficult? In Germany, we’ve got many attachments to the U.S.; there are lots of military bases there. I’ve been learning English since third grade. When I first got here, it was so tiring to have a conversation in English because I had to translate what someone was saying in my head, then think of an answer, then translate that back. I was exhausted when I got home from school! My goal is to be so comfortable with the language that I can dream in English, maybe by Christmas?

Have you made many friends so far in the U.S.? Americans are much more friendly and open-minded. Here, you can know someone for two weeks and become good friends. It helped that I joined the soccer team; it’s easy to connect with people through sports. In Germany, people are cold and distant in the beginning, and then you’re friends for life.

How is school different in the U.S. than in Germany? We don’t have any “fun” classes, like I’m taking here at Lake Fenton, things like body conditioning, meteorology or senior seminar. I chose to come here and take some of these classes and not have this school year “count” back in Germany. I wanted to have a more well-rounded school experience here instead of taking all AP-type classes.

Back home, teachers travel from class to class while students stay in one classroom.

What do you hope to do in the future? I’m interested in chemistry, engineering, IT. My favorite subjects in school are chemistry, physics and math. I also took a religion/ethics class back home in Germany and really liked it.

How do you like American food? In Germany, we eat a lot of sausage; there are about 500 different types. Beer is like a meal for us; it’s part of our culture. I love U.S. foods like Taco Bell, which we don’t have in Germany, and pizza. My favorite food is sushi. I do miss the dark bread we have in Germany. I haven’t found anything like it here.

Where do you hope to travel while you’re here? We landed in Chicago when we came to the U.S., but didn’t really see anything. I hope to go there and maybe New York City. In Michigan, I’ve been to Frankenmuth, Michigan Adventures and Lake Michigan. I loved that and can’t wait to go up north in the spring. I really want to see Niagara Falls. That’s one of the reasons I was so excited to come to Michigan, because it’s not far.

I was told by my exchange program that Americans are like peaches: soft inside, but if you do something wrong, you can hit the pit. Germans are like coconuts; hard to crack the shell, but what you find inside is good; it just takes longer.”

Daniel Boehler
German exchange student

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

SEASONAL BAKES

Holiday Favorites
- Pumpkin Pie
- Cranberry-Walnut Pie
- Pumpkin Roll
- Tom Turkey Cake
- Panettone
- Stollen

Traditional Favorites
- Pecan Pie
- Apple Pie
- Berry Pies

This week’s inserts
- Alpine Marketplace
- CVS Pharmacy
- Holly Foods
- Knott
- Rite Aid
- Sears Hometown Stores
- Target
- VG’s Food
- Walgreens

To have your insert/flyer viewable online, call Gail Grove at 810-433-6822.
NECESSITIES
Continued from Page 3A
some basics should still be on hand for everyday needs. Ready.gov is the federal government’s website for disaster preparedness. It outlines basic items everyone should have in their disaster kit.

Food
For starters, there should be one gallon of water, per person, for at least three days, for both drinking and sanitation.

Ready.gov suggests stocking a three-day supply of food in case of an emergency.

Either buy pop-lid aluminum cans, or keep a manual (hand-cranked) can opener in your drawer.

If you have an electric stove, you’re out of luck for stove-top cooking without power, so consider buying a camp stove — either propane, or butane powered. There are even ones out there that will charge your smartphone.

As always, be careful with smoke, heat, ventilation.

Lighting, safety
To stay in touch, consider buying a battery-powered, or hand-cranked radio for weather updates. Flashlights with extra batteries should be on hand, as should lanterns. While power outages don’t usually include personal injury, a first-aid kit isn’t a bad idea either, nor is a whistle to signal for help.

Shelter
Ready.gov also suggests having plastic sheeting and tape, to insulate a shelter if needed, especially if damage to a home occurs.

Health and sanitation
Dust masks may be important in some disasters.

Extra garbage bags with ties are important for sanitation, as well as moist towelettes.

Be ready to shut off utilities
According to ready.gov, explosions and fires following disasters tend to be from natural gas leaks. Learning how to turn it off can be a matter of safety. Turning off water and electricity until utilities are safely restored can be important for safety also.

More notes on food:
- Store at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food.
- Choose foods your family will eat.
- Remember any special dietary needs.
- Avoid foods that will make you thirsty.
- Choose salt-free crackers, whole grain cereals and canned foods with high liquid content.

More notes on water:
- One gallon of water per person per day, for drinking and sanitation.
- Children, nursing mothers and sick people may need more water.
- A medical emergency might require additional water.
- If you live in a warm weather climate, more water may be necessary. In very hot temperatures, water needs can double.
- Keep at least a three-day supply of water per person. Source: ready.gov

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Sally’s make-ahead mashed potatoes

Ingredients:
10 large baking potatoes, cooked and mashed

Add:
10 oz. cream cheese, softened
½ cup butter
2 cups sour cream

Mix together:
4 eggs
1 cup milk
salt and pepper to taste

Add this to potato mixture. Place in two 13x9 pans. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes.

MISTAKE #8
Not serving hors d’oeuvres
Your guests will be less ravenous if you put out some light snacks that will put less pressure on you to get the meal on the table.

MISTAKE #9
Dishing out cold gravy
You can keep your gravy at serving temperature indefinitely by keeping it in a pot of barely simmering water that comes halfway up the sides of the gravy boat (if you’re using your grandma’s china, you might want to switch it to a ceramic bowl). If bland gravy is your problem, keep Kitchen Bouquet on hand and add it to the gravy while stirring.

MISTAKE #10
Setting the table at the last minute
Set the table one day ahead, and you can even use post-its on serving dishes to say what recipe goes with what platter or bowl. Make a note to remember any dishes you have in the refrigerator, so they don’t get forgotten in the busyness of the day.

What to do if your turkey is too dry?
You’ve stuffed butter under the turkey skin, roasted it slowly and basted often, but still, the white meat is dry. If the turkey is not brined, pour pan juices over the meat, reserving some for gravy. If you brined the bird, drizzle the meat with warmed chicken stock, since the pan juices may be too salty.

Source: Woman’s Day
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