Pinewood Derby a win for all

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

Fenton — Drivers carefully navigated a new landscape of orange barrels and rough, unfinished driving surfaces in downtown Fenton this week. As planned, road surfaces on westbound Shiawassee Avenue and southbound South LeRoy Street were milled this week to make way for new road surfaces.

See STREETSCAPE on 12

Heat lamp in chicken coop likely cause of house fire

By Sharon Stone
Sstone@tctimes.com; 810-433-6786

A heat lamp in a chicken coop is being blamed for a structure fire in Holly Township last Friday evening.

North Oakland County Fire Authority (NOCFA) Fire Chief Jeremy Lintz said his department received the 911 call on 7

Summary
Know your friends’ phone numbers, listen and be polite to the police and follow the law. If for some reason you do find yourself under arrest, call an attorney immediately.

By Emily Stocker
estocker@tctimes.com

‘First hand account of spending a night in jail’

The first weekend in August in Houghton Lake is known as Bud Bash, when 5,000 visitors pour into the little town to gather in the shallows for some partying that often begins well before 6 a.m.

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I wasn’t looking for a discount funeral. I was looking for an affordable one.

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Local greenhouses gearing up for spring debut of flowers and plants

By Sally Rummel

Fenton — The greenhouse at Gerych’s smells like a dewy forest, as endless rows of green sprouts peek out from small soil-filled planters. Grower Doug Doemer is busy filling these planters with soil, with the aid of two other Gerych’s employees, as they get ready for the Easter Sunday rush.

Easter Week is just the beginning of a busy floral season for area greenhouses that have spent all winter preparing for the spring debut of their flowers and plants.

Hundreds of Easter Lilies, the floral symbol of Sunday’s Christian holiday, will be delivered to area churches and area residents’ holiday dinner tables. Easter Week is the official kickoff for local floral centers all their attention on Mother’s Day rush.

The greenhouse at Gerych’s in Fenton, greenhouse manager Doemer labors intently in the confines of the greenhouse, transplanting thousands of tiny plants into larger pots to complete the growing process. Most of their plants come in as cuttings from specialized growers.

“We’ve been at it since Valentine’s Day,” said Doemer, who has seen dozens of gardening seasons come and go in his 30-year career at Gerych’s. “This week, we’re getting in ‘super-tunias, specialized grasses and coleus. We’ll start getting combo pots and hanging baskets ready for Mother’s Day. Hydrangeas are also really popular for Easter and for Mother’s Day.”

Doemer said gardeners this year will enjoy many new varieties of bedding plants, from lobelia to euphorbia and many new colors of petunias. “Geraniums are still popular, but there are so many other options now for color,” he said.

Carlson’s Greenhouses in Mundy Township plant most of their own flowers and plants in their main growing house of 26,000 square feet with an additional 10,000 square foot retail area they added last year.

“We plant all our annual spring flowers from either seedlings or cuttings,” said Tammy Carlson-Gregory, daughter of Carl Carlson-Gregory, owner of Carlson’s Greenhouses in Mundy Township.

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What April Fool’s prank do you remember?

Compiled by Vera Hogan, staff reporter

“My sister told our mom that she was pregnant when she wasn’t.”
— Tony Brown
Fenton

“Not one that I am willing to admit to.”
— Brice Cole
Argentine Township

“Putting salt in the sugar canister for my dad’s coffee.”
— Debra Sturgeon
Linden

“I took my brother’s Ouija board out of the garage, put a scary note on it and put it under his pillow. He woke up screaming.”
— Scott Lenhart, Fenton

“As kids, we took the top of the salt shaker. When Mom went to use it, it all fell out.”
— Pat Thomas
Byron

“My twin sister and I are always playing jokes, like switching identities and playing phone tricks.”
— Nena Costello
Fenton

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FROM THE LEFT
Bill Press
Nationally syndicated columnist

Bill O’Reilly’s a liar
It’s a dangerous time to be on television. Big-time TV stars are keeling over, left and right. First, NBC’s Brian Williams, caught in a lie. And now Fox News’ Bill O’Reilly. With one big difference: Nobody suspected Williams was a liar; everybody knew O’Reilly was. If nothing else, Bill O’Reilly, the arrogant, loudmouth bully and host of ‘The O’Reilly Factor’ is a television phenomenon. The leader of Fox News’ nightly lineup since 1996, the ‘Factor’ is consistently, year in and year out, the highest-rated program of all three cable television networks, averaging three million viewers. O’Reilly has repeatedly, on air and in print, told two big lies about his previous experience as a correspondent for CBS News: claiming he once reported from a ‘war zone,’ and claiming he had lived through ‘combat experience.’ But for O’Reilly, the problem is: Neither statement is true.

Did O’Reilly, as he has repeatedly claimed, report from the ‘war zone’ during the 1992 conflict between England and Argentina over the Falkland Islands? No! As reported by Corn and Schulman, O’Reilly, like every other American reporter, spent all his time in Buenos Aires, 1,200 miles away from the fighting.

What about his second braggling point? Did O’Reilly have any direct combat experience? No, again. O’Reilly describes covering an anti-military protest in Buenos Aires as the equivalent of combat experience because, he says, it turned so violent.

Again, sounds bad, but it never happened. Yes, there was a riot, Yes, there were rocks thrown, a couple of buses broken. But there was no gripe about O’Reilly, his crew, or his doctors being shot, captured, detained, or arrested.

What about the other claim? O’Reilly has repeatedly, on air and in print, told two big lies about his previous experience as a correspondent for CBS News: claiming he once reported from a ‘war zone,’ and claiming he had lived through ‘combat experience.’ But for O’Reilly, the problem is: Neither statement is true.

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In his own lie, O’Reilly refused to apologize. Instead, he insisted that his audience should not believe the story in the first place. O’Reilly, the professional provocateur. And because, he says, it turned so violent.

I’m ALL FOR the raising of our sales tax, but the money must be used for the repairing of our roads and bridges only. You can’t use the money for anything else. Now the last thing I want is after four years the tax should go back to 6 cents. This way, a ‘no’ vote.

LAST YEAR ON Fenton Road, south of Center, I saw a bald eagle alongside the road eating a dead animal. This morning I saw one in my yard on Sullivan Lake, on White Lake Road. That is so great to see something good in this country.

ASIDE FROM THE obvious safety issues, it doesn’t make economic sense to oppose an annual $150 assessment for police and fire authority in Tyrone Township. I checked with my homeowner’s insurer — our annual rate will increase $276 without that protection. All the other insurers I called said the same.

I GUESS THE reader questioning Obama attempting to influence the Israeli elections forgot about the fact he sent money and advisers over to PM Netanyahu’s rival.

I MY BELOVED coffee shop on Silver Lake Road. I visit you at least once daily, however the pothole in your drive-thru is awful! My car is going to be wrecked. Please fix so our relationship can continue.

I’M NOT USUALLY a conspiracy theorist but I can’t help but see a connection between the plague of potholes and the plague of rats. I’m not saying there might be zombie rats burrowing into the asphalt, but I haven’t ruled that out.

IN ALL MAJOR religions, God expects people to care and have respect for, each other, all living creatures and the planet we live on. Jesus said it best. Father forgive them as they know not what they do.

THERE ARE PRISONERS in Guantanamo who were picked up because they had connections to Al-Qaeda in Afghanistan’s war with the Soviet Union. That was when we supported Al-Qaeda and armed them.

YOU USE CLIMATE change and weather as if they are the same thing. If you have no ability to understand the difference there is no reason to think you ever could or would try to make a difference.

I HOPE THEY don’t poison the rats. I have been enjoying seeing more birds of prey in the area including some bald eagles. It would be a shame if they were collateral damage.

THE MILITARY has a long history of risking the lives of soldiers so that no one is left behind, including those fallen. No one includes some that society may judge not to deserve that. But that is a code the military promises its soldiers and it shouldn’t be politicized.

LAKE FENTON SCHOOLS, it’s time to close School of Choice. Forty plus kids at the high school in math classes? We built our home in Lake Fenton for the great schools and don’t want to move because the schools are too greedy to do what’s best for the kids.

SINGLES 55-PLUS, please follow the Hot line for the date/time/location for the ‘meet and greet.’

See HOT LINE throughout Times

FROM THE RIGHT
Cal Thomas
Nationally syndicated columnist

A better 2016 agenda
‘In your heart you know he’s right,’ was Barry Goldwater’s presidential campaign slogan in 1964.

The critics of Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas), who announced Monday he is running for president, are effectively saying of him: ‘In your head you know he’s nuts.’

Even before his announcement, Cruz was labeled with the typical modifiers the left uses to scare people who don’t pay much attention: ‘extreme’, ‘far right’, ‘out of the mainstream’.

What the establishment and the left really dislike about Cruz is that he paints in bold colors. You know where he stands, whether or not you agree with his positions. There is little chance Cruz will say one thing on Monday and reverse himself on Tuesday to placate a different audience.

Here’s some advice, not only for Cruz, but for the other would-be candidates. Instead of nonstop attacks on President Obama, adopt a positive and future-oriented agenda.

Cruz and the other candidates can start by considering some uplifting new videos created by Bob Woodson, president of the Center for Neighborhood Enterprise and Rep. Paul Ryan (R-Wisconsin), who recently accompanied Woodson on a tour of some of America’s poverty pockets. The result is a just released seven-part online video series called ‘Comeback’ (www.opportunitylives.com/comeback).

The series highlights stories about drug addicts, alcoholics, abusers, gamblers, prostitutes and others, who with inspiration, motivation and perspiration are now inspiring others to pull themselves up and out of dire circumstances without help from the government. In fact, some of those interviewed say they had been through many government programs and that none of them helped.

There isn’t a one-size-fits-all answer to poverty and the videos show people addressing different challenges in creative ways. These approaches should not be the exclusive property of one political party or candidate. Focusing on what works is better than ideological bomb-throwing, as even Hillary Clinton suggests in recent remarks.

Woodson and Ryan have created something that could shift the political debate for 2016, if Cruz and the other candidates listen and get the attention of those voters who are disgusted with a dysfunctional and costly federal government.

FROM THE LEFT
Bill Press
Nationally syndicated columnist

Bill O’Reilly’s a liar
It’s a dangerous time to be on television. Big-time TV stars are keeling over, left and right. First, NBC’s Brian Williams, caught in a lie. And now Fox News’ Bill O’Reilly. With one big difference: Nobody suspected Williams was a liar; everybody knew O’Reilly was. If nothing else, Bill O’Reilly, the arrogant, loudmouth bully and host of ‘The O’Reilly Factor’ is a television phenomenon. The leader of Fox News’ nightly lineup since 1996, the ‘Factor’ is consistently, year in and year out, the highest-rated program of all three cable television networks, averaging three million viewers. O’Reilly has repeatedly, on air and in print, told two big lies about his previous experience as a correspondent for CBS News: claiming he once reported from a ‘war zone,’ and claiming he had lived through ‘combat experience.’ But for O’Reilly, the problem is: Neither statement is true.

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In his own lie, O’Reilly refused to apologize. Instead, he insisted that every word he said about reporting from the war zone was true.

What fate awaits Bill O’Reilly? Will he also be Rocky Balboa? Will he get paid for lying to his audience? Don’t hold your breath.

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Because, unlike Brian Williams, O’Reilly is not a news anchor, he’s a cable TV professional provocateur. And because, unlike NBC, Fox News is not a news organization, it’s a propaganda machine.
Local foreclosure rates drop significantly over past 18 months

By Emily Stocker estocker@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

High-end homes are not immune from the turbulence of the economy and foreclosure, however, that number is on the decline. According to Realtytrac, 65 properties in Fenton are in some stage of foreclosure, default, auction or are bank owned. There are 58 in Linden and 48 in the Holly zip code.

The most recent high-ticket foreclosure in Fenton Township sold for $415,000 with an original list price of $476,000. The four-bedroom, four-bath home sat on Lakeshore Drive, with Lake Fenton frontage. Another bank-owned Fenton home with Iroquois Lake frontage sold for $415,000 with an original list price of $476,000. The four-bedroom, four-bath home sat on Lakeshore Drive, with Lake Fenton frontage. Another bank-owned Fenton home with Iroquois Lake frontage sold at the end of February for $370,000 with an original list price of $490,000. It boasted three bedrooms, four and a half baths, with a wine cellar and indoor pool.

In Holly, the high-ticket foreclosure is on Ray Road. It had a list price of $455,000, selling in January for $375,000. A four-and-a-half car garage and more than 3,500 square feet of living space made this one of the largest homes in the area. “We have seen the amount of foreclosures really drop off in the past 18 months in the Fenton, Linden and Holly,” said Ryan Eashoo, owner of Remax Real Estate Team. “We are fortunate that in this area the level of foreclosures is small, especially in the higher end price range.”

Although we aren’t at the top of the charts, Genesee County is still higher in foreclosures this month than both Kalamazoo and Saginaw counties. Realtytrac reports that one in every 1,412 homes in the state of Michigan is facing foreclosure. We are just below Monroe County, which has one in every 693, and Jackson County at the top with one in every 563 homes in some phase of foreclosure. In Genesee County, one in every 802 homes is facing foreclosure. Consumer Affairs reports that completed foreclosures were down 22.5 percent from January 2014.

The mistake on the lake

The most infamous and expensive foreclosure in this area was the 12,178-square-foot home on the north end of Lake Fenton. When it was built, it boasted seven bedrooms and seven baths. The original list price for the home was $1.89 million. Sinking into the ground and then filling with mold, the Bayshore Drive home never received a certificate of occupancy.

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ARRESTED
Continued from Front Page
noon. An acquaintance of mine had quite a different experience at Bud Bash, which ended with him being arrested and taken to a jail cell.

For most of us, we’ll never know what that experience is like, but like most of us as well, I was so curious to find out the encounter “from the inside.” For this narrative, we’ll call him Joe.

Across M-55 from the lake is the high school. This is the most popular parking area for Bud Bash participants and where Joe and his friends parked their cars and engaged in some “pre-game” drinking and marijuana use.

Joe walked around the corner of the school to use the restroom. By restroom, I mean the grass. Upon his return to his buddies, two police officers spotted Joe and yelled for him to stop when he was and that they wanted to speak to him. Instead of stopping, Joe in his inebriated state, turned around and ran in the opposite direction. He turned to see another police officer pull up in his patrol car, open the back door, and release his partner, an 80-pound German shepherd. Joe immediately got down on the ground.

Handcuffs are painful
Joe was immediately handcuffed. “The handcuffs are so incredibly tight. The pain was constant from the second they were put on me, and they were on forever.” After a quick pat down, he was placed in the back of the car.

“Not having the use of your hands, along with the cramped space of the back seat made it hard to get into the car. The seat was a hard plastic formed seat, all once piece.” The plastic makes for easy clean up and so suspects cannot hide things. Not only were there three bars between you and the police officer, there are bars over the windows. The officer got in the car and said, “You know you can’t run from the police right guy?” “Yeah, yeah I know,” said Joe.

Miranda rights
They explain your constitutional rights. In many arrests, the police do not attempt to take a statement. You may not be read your Miranda warnings since they are only required to do so when they intend to question a suspect. Anything you say in the presence of a police officer may be used against you, even if the Miranda warnings have not been given. Police are even allowed to use statements that they overhear you make during a telephone call or while you were talking to other prisoners. So Joe’s “yeah” answer to the question was definitely admissible.

Legal counsel
Nicholas Robinson, an attorney with the Manley Firm in Flint said, “The biggest issue people have is with their natural reaction to explain their situation. It is never in your best interest to do so. If they ask, when did you arrive, and you reply with 4 p.m., you may have actually arrived at 3, and now are seen as untruthful.

Anything you say as a legal stipulation, they are building a case against you. It’s more information they had before they spoke to you. It may feel unnatural, but ask for an attorney immediately. At that point all questioning should cease, and your silence cannot be used against you.”

Joe was taken to the Roscommon Sheriff’s Department. It was extremely hard to get out of the car in handcuffs, his knees were at his chest because of the small space allowed for him in the back. By the time they got to the police station, he was in a state and his muscles were cramped.

Joe was searched at the station and his pockets were emptied and his shoes were removed along with his belt. Had he had anything in his pockets, they would have taken that until he was released as well.

Charges
“The booking process took three hours. There were so many people there because of Bud Bash. I sat handcuffed to a chair for a really long time.” Joe was asked a lot of general questions. He was also asked if he had committed any other crimes. “What crimes have I committed today?” he asked. He was charged with resisting and obstructing the police, which can include the use or threatened use of physical interference or force or a knowing failure to comply with a lawful command.

What if he hadn’t run? My guess was a stern written warning would have been handed over to him. Now it was time for the infamous mug shot. Joe was escorted back down a labyrinth of halls to yet another place where he waited in line still in handcuffs. They took the photo and escorted him to the next step, fingerprinting.

“This is when I felt like a criminal, something about getting your fingerprints taken made it real.” By this time, the effects of Joe’s morning activities were wearing off and the hangover was setting in—just in time to be put into a cell with seven other men.

Your one phone call
What about the one phone call? Joe didn’t have his cell phone with him. He did not know one person’s phone number who was with him that day. He knew his parents’ phone number, but that wasn’t someone he wanted to contact at the moment.

By the time his friends realized he was gone, it was well into the evening. By default, his friends did call the police department looking for him. Luckily, they also were able to pool their money and bail him out the next morning.

Although he received a lesser charge, the court fees and fines were over $5,000. Remember that attorney you’re paying by the hour also has to travel up north a couple of times to appear in court.
TEEN SMOKES POT BEFORE DRIVING

Just after 9 p.m. on March 26, a Fenton police officer patrolling observed a vehicle pulled out in front of him on Torrey Road, near Georgetown Parkway. The officer initiated a traffic stop. When contact with the driver, a 19-year-old Fenton man, was made, the officer detected a strong odor of marijuana. The driver admitted to smoking marijuana right before driving. The driver was arrested for operat- ing a vehicle while under the influence of drugs and was lodged at the police station until sober. Pending blood tests, police will present their case to the prosecutor’s office.

HARTLAND WOMAN ADMITS TO SHOPLIFTING FOOD

At 3 p.m. on March 29, Fenton police responded to a grocery store on Silver Parkway to investigate a retail fraud complaint. The employee told police she took a deli turkey and exit the store without paying. The employee followed the woman, a 59-year-old Hartland Township woman as she walked along Silver Parkway. She told police she took the items because she was hungry. She was arrested for retail fraud and has a May 18 court date.

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FIRE

Continued from Front Page

call at 7:42 p.m. Friday, March 27. A neighbor and a passerby noticed that a home in the 1000 block of Grange Hall Road, just east of Eddy Lake Road was on fire. No one was home at the time of the fire.

Lintz said a heat lamp might have fallen over, which caused a fire in the chicken coop. The chicken coop sat on top of a large wooden deck attached to the backside of the home.

The deck caught fire, which then spread to the backside of a two story addition. With no one home at the time of the fire, the coop, deck and much of the two-story addition were fully engulfed in flames by the time fire departments arrived. The original front part of the home had minimal fire damage.

There were no injuries to firefighters, however, the homeowners lost a few chickens in the chicken coop fire.

Assisting NOCFAT was Fenton City, Holly Village, Groveland Township and Springfield Township. Lintz said the residents made arrangements to stay with family. The Linden Fire Department was on standby for Fenton City. Lintz said they cleared the scene about 11 p.m.

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IF THE LGBT community makes up less than 5 percent of the population why are they being allowed to change so many laws and rules? They need to be stopped before our country really is completely taken over by those who want to change us.

I DON’T KNOW whose idea it is for the Streetscape project, but it looks like a lot of work and expense for very little reward. I thought downtown was just fine the way it was.

THAT GOVERNOR OF ours, Rick Snyder, just pardoned one of his buddy’s drunk-driving convictions. After doing something like this, can you truthfully say that you trust his Proposal 1 to fix the roads? Vote ‘no’ on this.

I SUPPORT LOCAL police with Linden being the exception. On Sunday, cars had to go in the opposing lane to get around a recycle bin in the road. Rather than stop and move it for safety sakes, a police officer chose to go around it. Who are they hiring?

IF IF IS truly a great program then why is Fenton’s enrollment down? Quit wasting money on a name brand.

ASSUMING OCCUPANTS OF flight decks will be required to successfully pass mental health screening, so should any elected representatives of any shade or stripe.

IF THE IB program is so great then why is there such a hard sell for it? Shoudn’t a great program really sell itself? And I heard that there are only four seniors in the full Diploma Program. What does that say?
ALERT
Continued from Front Page

is of the essence in something like this. Brett Betts, the suspect, had made statements about harming both himself and his 6-year-old daughter Hailey. “We don’t just push the Amber Alert button on these parental kidnappings,” Kaiser said. “The child must be in immediate danger.”

The 200-mile radius of Flint was chosen for the phone alert blast based on the information the police had at the time. It reached hundreds of thousands of persons immediately.

Det. Sgt. Sarah Krebs, works in the Michigan State Police missing person’s coordination unit. She said that the alert has to meet very strict criteria before it is considered an Amber Alert situation.

"Time is of the essence in something like this. We don’t just push the Amber Alert button on these parental kidnappings, the child must be in immediate danger."

Chief Lt. David Kaiser
Michigan State Police

#amberalert
Many of the #amberalerts on Twitter Saturday were focused on spreading the news of Hailey’s disappearance, but many were grumbles of those who were a great distance from Flint. The hundreds of thousands alerted by the mobile phone Saturday morning quickly translated to millions with the help of both Twitter and Facebook.

"Time is of the essence in something like this. We don’t just push the Amber Alert button on these parental kidnappings, the child must be in immediate danger."

Chief Lt. David Kaiser
Michigan State Police

Saturday’s 5 a.m. mobile alert reached hundreds of thousands of people ultimately leading to a child’s safe return within hours.

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**BEES Continued from Front Page**

The bad news is that weather is only one factor in the declining bee population in Michigan. Pesticides, parasites and beekeepers moving bees to California where 85 percent of the world’s almonds are grown using billions of honeybees for pollination also contribute to this problem. “These are all stress-ors in the bee population,” said Roger Hoopingarner, past president of the Michigan Beekeepers Association.

Terry Toland, current president of the MBA, lost only 30 percent of his hives this year, compared to a 100-percent loss last year. “Bees need a warming trend every three weeks to a month, to give them a chance to break cluster. If they work their way into a corner, they’ll die of starvation. Last year, there was two solid months of freezing cold weather, while this year, cold and warmer temperatures fluctuated throughout the winter.”

“It’s a positive step,” he added. “If hives make it through the winter, their numbers begin to grow. You can manipulate colonies so they won’t swarm, so you’ll have more colonies in your yard instead of all of them dying off. That means we’ll have more bees this year than last year.”

He’s still waiting to hear the outcome from other statewide beekeepers. “Reports I’m getting from around the state look at a 20 to 30 percent loss,” he said.

Local beekeepers Richard and Carole Beauchamp of Mundy Township are down to two hives after this cold winter. “Production was way down,” said Richard. “Usually we get about 150 to 200 pounds of honey from our hives; this year, we got only 10 pounds. What you’re buying this year was harvested last fall.” The Beauchamps will be ordering two new “bee packages” in May, hoping to replenish their hives and honey production.

The Laundry in Fenton, which added a rooftop beehive colony last May to produce honey for their own use at the restaurant, lost all their colonies after this winter.

This year, they’ll take a slightly different approach to launching their hives, according to Holly Nachtigal, marketing director for The Laundry. Rather than purchasing southern bees, they’ll purchase smaller honeybee colonies from a Michigan source with an active queen bee and worker bees that are already producing honey.

“These bees will have already been brought through a Michigan winter by a beekeeper here in Michigan and should be more likely to survive future Michigan winters,” she said.

The Laundry harvested about 15 gallons of honey last fall for use in granola, marinara sauce, raspberry vinaigrette dressing and chicken brine.

“We’ve experienced the benefits of a healthy hive and want to ensure we can sustain the honey supply we enjoyed last season,” she said. “We also want to do what we can to sustain the honeybee population in the Fenton community.”

---

**No bees? How would that impact us?**

“If we didn’t have any bees, our diets would be very simple, primarily wheat, grains and protein,” said Roger Hoopingarner, past president of the Michigan Beekeepers Association.

About one mouthful in three in the U.S. diet directly or indirectly benefits from honeybee pollination. Commercial production of many specialty crops like almonds and other tree nuts, berries, fruits and vegetables depend on pollination by honeybees.

“We’re a big fruit state,” said Hoopingarner. About 17 varieties of fruits and vegetables that bees pollinate include Michigan’s huge apple, cherry and blueberry crops.”
Continued from Front Page

Motorists driving on Silver Lake Road across LeRoy Street have experienced some delays, as the left-hand turn lane is now closed.

Until November, traffic can only move northbound on LeRoy Street between Silver Lake Road and Elizabeth Street.

Shiawassee Avenue is only eastbound, between Adelaide and LeRoy streets.

The Downtown Development Authority (DDA) reminds residents to be safe and aware of their surroundings, as it is an active construction zone.
Local robotics team heading to states

Holly and Brandon high school students show skill, leadership in recent competition

The robotics team comprised of students from Holly and Brandon high schools, has accumulated more accolades recently and will now advance to the state championship. FIRST Team 68, Truck Town Thunder (T3), participated in the Center Line FIRST Robotics District Competition last weekend at Center Line High School. They seeded 11th. Qualifications matches had an average score of 50.50, according to Andrew Spiece of T3.

With that accomplishment, the team was invited to join FRC Team 573, Mech Warriors, and FRC Team 5225, Shamrocks, in their alliance during the alliance selection process. The competition became progressively more exciting as the quarterfinals began at the start of the playoff matches. T3 and its alliance partners pushed through the quarterfinals with an average playoff score of 81.60, and they moved on to the semifinals. The alliance, however, was eliminated with the conclusion of the semifinal.

See ROBOTICS on 17

www.tctimes.com

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO

Members of the FIRST Team 68, Truck Town Thunder (T3), comprised of Holly and Brandon high school students pose with their Chairman’s Award.

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Easter Worships

St. Rita Catholic Church invites you to worship this Easter

Saturday, March 28 Palm Sunday Mass Vigil, 4pm
Sunday, March 29 Palm Sunday Mass, 8am, 10am, 12noon & 6pm
Thursday, April 3 Good Friday Stations of the Cross/Passion, Veneration of the Cross, 12-3pm
Saturday, April 4 Easter Vigil 4pm

Easter Sunday Masses

Sunday, April 5 Easter Sunday, 8am, 10am, 12 noon & 6pm

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EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 5TH - 9AM OR 11:30AM

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**FLOWERS**
Continued from Page 3

owners Ron and Shirley Carlson. “We’ll wholesale over 10,000 annual flats to businesses for decorating, non-profit groups for fundraising and other growers and garden centers. We’ll grow another 1,000 flats for retail.”

A full-time crew has been growing plants in the Carlson greenhouses since early January, taking just a brief break between Christmas and New Year’s. “We’re open year ‘round,” said Carlson-Gregory. “We’re busy right now getting ready for our retail season starting with Mother’s Day, and we’re getting ready to plant fall mums. In the summer, we’ll do rosebushes and perennials, and that’s when we start our own gardening.”

While geraniums still are the top selling bedding annual at Carlson’s, new varieties of petunias will catch gardeners’ eyes this year. “We love the wave petunias,” said Carlson-Gregory. “We grow the old standbys, but always keep up with the new varieties.”

Container gardening is beginning to overtake flowerbed gardening for today’s gardeners, and other trends include more herbs, heirloom and other specialty tomatoes.

“It all kicks off at Easter,” said Carlson-Gregory. “Not so much for retail, but we do supply a lot of churches and fundraising groups with Easter Lilies and Dutch bulbs. We’ll sell more than 2,000 Easter Lilies this year.”

**Scout project teaches respect for earth, community, families**

(Top) Jimmy Appleton, 9, drags brush out from amid gravestones at Fairview Cemetery in Linden on Saturday. Jimmy was one of 35 scouts and their families who helped clean the cemetery as part of Jean-Claude Howd’s Venture Scout project. Pam Howd, Jean-Claude’s mother, said the project teaches respect for the community, nature and families. (Left) Scott Fowler of Linden decides how to properly dispose of a tattered American flag that Jimmy found.

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Easter Brunch Buffet
Sunday, April 5th
11:00 am - 1:30 pm, Reservations Please.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Brunch Prices</th>
<th>Adults $21.50</th>
<th>Children (12 &amp; Under) $9.95</th>
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<tr>
<td>Hand Carved Slow Roasted Beef with mushroom marsala sauce</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baked Honey Glazed Ham with fruit cocktail sauce</td>
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<td>Poached Salmon with cucumber sauce</td>
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<td>Smoked Whitefish Spread</td>
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<td>Candied Sweet Potatoes with honey, molasses &amp; brown sugar</td>
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<td>Leroy Street Salad</td>
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<td>Oriental Slaw Salad</td>
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<td>Spinach &amp; Feta Cheese Quiche</td>
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<td>Hotel Scrambled Eggs with ham, onions &amp; peppers</td>
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<td>Scrambled Eggs</td>
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<td>French Toast &amp; Waffles with choice of six toppings</td>
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<td>Mac &amp; Cheese</td>
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<td>Lox, Bagels and Cream Cheese</td>
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<td>Link Sausage &amp; Bacon</td>
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<td>Fresh Fruit &amp; Dessert Table</td>
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An update on Young v United Parcel Service

A couple months ago I wrote a two-part column about Young v United Parcel Service, which was then a pending case before the United States Supreme Court. The issue in Young involved work accommodations that Ms. Young believed should have been given to her by UPS as a pregnant worker under the Pregnancy Discrimination Act (PDA) when she was told by her doctor that she could not lift more than 20 pounds.

Last Wednesday the Supreme Court rendered its opinion in Young.

In a 6 to 3 decision, the Court held that neither the arguments made by the plaintiff or the defendant were entirely valid, and instead fashioned a remedy which sent the case back to the federal trial court to implement a newly announced test for pregnant workers in employment discrimination cases.

Justice Stephen Breyer wrote the majority opinion with Justice Samuel Alito writing a concurring opinion. Justice Antonin Scalia wrote the dissent with Justices Anthony Kennedy and Clarence Thomas concurring.

In Young, the Court was required to decide the meaning of the PDA and a remedy for a violation.

Justice Breyer recognized that the plaintiff Young believed there should be very broad protections for pregnant workers with UPS urging a much narrower protection.

Justice Breyer’s decision is generally considered by commentators to be a middle approach. He indicated that in a case like this the controlling rule is the 1973 United States Supreme Court case of McDonnell Douglas Corp v Green.

This rule is typically described as ‘burden shifting’ where in a disparate treatment employment case, a plaintiff must make out a prima facie case of discrimination. The employer then has the burden of proof to rebut the claim by showing legitimate nondiscriminatory reasons for the denial of an accommodation. If this is done, the employee may then attempt to show that the reasons are pretextual.

Justice Scalia was critical of this in his majority opinion with Justice Samuel Alito writing a concurring opinion. Justice Scalia was critical of this in his majority opinion with Justice Samuel Alito writing a concurring opinion. The employer’s burden of proof has been much stricter as a result of Young.

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For those interested, the opinions make waves of the Supreme Wand to produce the desired result.

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Smith leads our girls Tri-County hoops team

Holly junior expanded her game during 2014-15 season

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

On the basketball court, Kaitlyn Smith can do a lot of things well. She can shoot, drive to the basket, hit free throws, rebound, make her teammates better with her passing ability, play defense and be a strong leader for her Holly Lady Bronchos basketball squad. However, as much as he may like Smith’s abilities, there’s one basketball tendency Holly varsity girls basketball coach David Hall knows Smith isn’t good at. That’s when it comes to turning in practice jerseys.

“She always forgets her practice jerseys,” Hall said. “She has about four practice jerseys. ... We turned in uniforms the other day and I asked her, ‘Where are your practice jerseys,’ and she said she only had one. I said, ‘No you don’t.’ So that’s one of the things I think about — she has quite a few practice jerseys.”

Asked about the jerseys and Smith admitted having enough to field a team.

“I have like a few of my house,” Smith said. “I keep adding every year. I’ll give them back eventually.”

But Hall can deal with the practice jersey issue, because on and off the court, that seems to be her only blemish. In fact, since her freshman season, she’s been one of the most important players on the Holly varsity girls basketball team. And with the loss of Division 1 player Allyssa Copley, Smith was forced to take a larger leadership role than ever before. The junior did that and more, helping lead her to 2015 Tri-County Girls Basketball Player of the Year honors. She beat out three other worthy tri-county basketball players — Linden’s Taylor Smith and Fenton’s Emma Evo and Sarah Cummings.

“I grew into an all-around better player,” Smith said. “My freshman year I was more of a shooter. As the years have gone by I’ve tried to develop new things every year. Every year I’ve gotten better at something new.”

During the 2014-15 girls basketball season, that meant she had to get better doing just about everything. And, statistically, she pretty much did that. In the past, Smith got a good bulk of her points behind the three-point arc. This year she focused more on attacking the basket and it worked. She averaged 15.4 points a game, earned by getting quality shots closer to the paint and through making free throws (96-for-134) after inviting fouls.

She also improved upon her rebounding (112 boards) and blocked a decent amount of shots (22). She also finished with 59 steals and 54 assists.

“When she first came in our program, she wasn’t very strong. She was tall and was a good shooter, but she wasn’t very physical,” Hall said. “I think that’s one of the things she’s improved on this year — she is more strong.”

See SMITH on 20

All Tri-County Girls Basketball Team

Player of the Year Kaitlyn Smith

Class Junior Team Holly

Comment:
This was a tight battle, but Smith earned the nod. The Holly junior averages 15.4 points a game, netting 339 for the season, scoring from 75 points behind the three-point arc, 168 inside it and 96 from the charity stripe. She finished the season with 112 rebounds, 59 steals, 54 assists and 22 blocks.

Note:
The players on the team and the Player of the Year were selected by the sports staff.
Farrell creates his niche in the fantasy sports world

By David Troppens
dhtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-435-6769

Dennis Farrell had an idea. The Fenton resident had a good life, but he wanted to try something different.

“I work for Ford Motor Company and I found myself coming home and going through this routine of an average life, and I got bored,” said the Fenton resident. “I love fantasy sports, so I decided to go out, buy a microphone and see what happens.”

A lot has happened to Farrell because of his purchase. What began as a hobby to fight off boredom has become a popular podcast show about fantasy sports that has about 6,000 downloads a week. Through the process Farrell has done fantasy sports work on many radio stations and for Fox Sports Detroit. He’s heard on the Armed Forces radio and his work can be found on several websites. His primary podcast show, which is still done from his home, is his fantasy sports Internet radio show called “The F Word,” a play on the word Fantasy.

Indeed Farrell, who remains a full-time assembly line worker in Flat Rock, has become some sort of fantasy sports expert and celebrity in five short years.

“In early August 2010, I bought my first mic and 10 days later I did my first show,” Farrell said. It was painful. Only eight to nine people listened to it, maybe my folks. But I learned how to do a podcast and it slowly grew from there.”

About his third year, his second career started taking off. He began doing a fantasy sports radio show for ESPN radio station 1010 AM and also does a show for the Armed Forces Radio Network. It was when he was invited to a CATCH charity softball game that was hosted by 1011 FM the WRIF and Detroit sports radio station 105.1 FM, that he realized that in some ways he had hit the “big time.”

“Doing radio was a pipe dream for any kid, at least it was for me. When it happened, and even now, it remains a very surreal experience. For a long time I felt like I didn’t belong. I felt like an outsider and that I didn’t know what I was doing,” Farrell said. “But when I went to the CATCH celebrity softball game, I felt like I belonged. I didn’t feel star-struck even if I was the least famous person there. It was really cool.”

And now, if one wants to listen to his shows, he can be found on popular fantasy Internet radio sites like blogtalkradio.com, stitcher.com, foxsports.com/Detroit, iTimes or at his own website, DennisFarrellRadio.com. While on his show he provides his expertise concerning fantasy sports — primarily baseball and football — he occasionally talks with celebrities. For example, Farrell has a recent interview with actor Robert Wuhl during an early February show.

“It’s a pretty cool experience. I am someone who works 50 hours a week and then has celebrities call him for fantasy advice,” said Farrell, who includes baseball player Travis Hafner and actor Ron Livingston as some of his fans. “My job is to help educate people … help people make educated guesses. I can’t predict injuries and slumps, but what I can do is give the best information in an entertaining way so the listener may learn something or at least walk away being entertained.”

Farrell, a Boston native, considers fantasy baseball his first love but also is a strong fantasy football player. He said the first season he did a fantasy football league team was the year Barry Sanders retired. His draft was three days before Sanders retired and he had picked him up. He learned a fast lesson that first year. If you want to be successful, you have to do your homework.

“Fished dead last that year,” Farrell said. “It frustrated me because I wanted to be better. I didn’t want to be last. I drove me to do my homework earlier. I started the hunt for my next championship the day after that championship was over.”

He used to be in as many as 16 leagues during a season, but now’s scaled back to about four a season. He’s been in expensive buy-in leagues with Major League Baseball players and coaches and has been in other free leagues with his buddies.

With the start of baseball season coming soon, Farrell is busy once again. He finds himself answering questions from his fans hundreds of times a week.

“On Saturday and Sunday mornings I have about 300 to 350 tweets from people asking me for fantasy advice,” Farrell said. “I love it. I’m helping people, but sometimes I’m right and sometimes I’m wrong. It’s fun. I think I have a pretty good success rate because people keep coming back.”

And coming back they will continue to do as long as Farrell, 38, continues his hobby. He said he has no intention of making it a full-time job.

“That’s the one thing I’m wrestling with, is how long will I do it,” Farrell said. “I’m relatively young and I understand there is a shelf life … If I’m enjoying it and it’s fun, I’ll continue to do it.”

It’s fair to say Farrell is still having fun.

SMITH

Continued from Page 19

physical. She took it upon herself to be a better rebounder and to be more physical. Her scoring has increased every year. This year she didn’t shoot as many threes as she has in the past, because she’s attacking more.”

“I was a lot better dribbling, pulling up, shooting and taking it to the basket,” Smith said. “I was scoring in a variety of ways.”

“It made me a more confident player individually. Knowing you have those other opportunities to get a basket if you are not knocking down (your jump shot) creates confidence. Now I can drive to the basket and get to the free-throw line, as I try to get my shot back.”

Mentally, Hall felt Smith took a stronger leadership role as well.

“She stepped up her leadership,” Hall said. “She organized a lot of the things with the kids. She was always a voice, but she was also very good at hearing the other players’ voices too. She wasn’t a dictator at all. When she had things to say, she said them. But when she had to listen, she was able to listen and take other people’s suggestions. I also think her ability to play harder for
 casually to no supervision. Pay is based on flat rate, depending on ability, $21-$30. Must have own tools. Shop will supply Major equipment, scanners, hoists, Alldata, etc. This is a 1st shift position with an occasional Saturday. Benefits include: holiday pay, vacation, health benefits and 401k. Please apply in person to Flint Auto Auction, 3711 Western Rd., Flint, MI 48506 or email resume to brydep@flintaam.com. Drug Free Workplace EOE.

DIRECT CARE - Fulltime openings on Midnight and Afternoon shifts in Davison. MORC trained staff preferred but not required. Good starting pay and Health Insurance. Call 248-634-5122.

SIGN UP for Text blasts to receive local help wanted listings. Text JOBS to 810-475-2030.

LOOKING FOR experienced lawn maintenance foreman and laborers. Call 810-965-4087.

LAWN MOWING SPECIALIST - Fulltime opening for energetic, detail oriented person. Must have great attitude, drivers license is a must. Experienced preferred but not required. $9-$13 per hour with paid training, bonus after 60 days. 810-409-7270.

PIPE FITTER - Looking for a journeyman pipe fitter for machinery and equipment. Understanding of air logic and pneumatic circuit design required. Please submit resume to: wands@spentechusa.com.

SHOEMAKER SERVICES is now hiring an Irvington Technician with a minimum of two years of experience. Email your resume to careers@shoemaker services.com or apply at 380 S. Fenway, Fenton. 810-714-3707 on April 9, 2015.

TRI-COUNTY TIMES is looking for inserters—Wednesday through Friday starting at 8 a.m. with Friday evening. Contact Kristin Schroeder at kschroeder@tctimes.com or call 810-433-6797.

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**Obituaries, Funeral Services and Memorials**

**Susan (Cartter) Acree**
1944-2015

Susan (Cartter) Acree - age 71, of Holly, MI was born on White Plains, NY on February 16, 1944. Sue grew up in Ann Arbor, MI where she graduated from Ann Arbor High School in 1962. She is the loving wife of Thomas B. Acree and mother of Scott Acree (Lisa Hoadley Acree) of Hamburg, MI and Shelby Acree (Kevin Dean) of Holly, MI. Sue is also survived by her grandchildren: Brooke Palarchio, Christopher Acree, Jason Acree, Ethan Acree and Justin Dean, as well as her brothers: Dr. Matthew Cartter of Hartford, CT and Christian Cartter of VT and their families. She was preceded in death by her parents Bud and Jeanne Cartter. Sue is a retired Cosmetologist. She and her husband loved to travel and filled their lives by traveling to 48 states, 31 countries, and 5 continents. We will all miss her sense of humor, caring nature, compassion and overwhelming love for her family. The family will receive friends and family Wednesday, April 1st from 4-5 PM with a Memorial Service at 5 PM at Sharp Funeral Homes, Fenton Chapel, 1000 Silver Lake Rd., Fenton, Michigan. In lieu of flowers the family has asked that donations be made to "Oakland County Animal Control Pet Adoption Center." Auburn Hills, MI. Online tributes may be posted on the obituaries page at www.sharpfuneralhomes.com.

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**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19)
An unexpected problem should be handled as quickly as possible so that it doesn’t cause too much of a delay. Someone who knows what you’re facing could provide needed advice.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20)
An unsettling situation seems to be taking forever to be resolved. Fortunately, your Bovine aptitude for patience is strong this week, so you’ll be more than able to wait it out.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20)
Taking a stand against an uncalled-for situation involving a friend or co-worker isn’t easy, but somehow you’ll rise to the challenge and do it. Rely on advice from someone you trust.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22)
There are still some questions on all sides that need to be dealt with in order to allow hurt feelings to heal. Get your workplace tasks done early so that you can devote more time to loved ones.

**LEO** (July 23 to Aug. 22)
Consider a new spring makeover that will show all you Leos and Leonas in your best light. A new hairdo and some fashionable new clothes can help put a fresh glow on your image.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)
Some stormy, emotional weather can blow up in the workplace when an irate co-worker has strong words for you. But if you believe right is on your side, you’ll be able to ride it out.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)
Creating more balance in your life is especially important now so that you’re not distracted when you get into projects that will make demands on both your physical and mental energies.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)
As much as you enjoy being right when others are not, show your generous side by offering to use what you know to everyone’s benefit. This way, you gain admirers and avoid resentment.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)
This is a good week for the Archer to aim at healing relationships. Whether it’s at home, at work or among your friends, get everyone to set things straight and make a fresh start.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)
Although you like things done your way, this is a good time to listen to ideas from others. You might even find yourself agreeing with one or more of their suggestions.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)
Aspects favor positive action to reclaim your ideas from someone who might want the glory without doing any of the work. Expect to find many people rallying to support you.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19 to March 20)
You might feel uneasy about taking that step forward at work or in your private life. But who knows better than you that while treading water keeps you afloat, it doesn’t get you anywhere.
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