

SHOP OWNERS: 'We need you'

► Downtown merchants concerned about survival, but optimistic about Streetscape's end result

By Sally Rummel
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Customer service has always been one of Karen Piacentini's favorite activities as owner of Fenton's Open Book in downtown Fenton. With only three customers on Thursday, most of her day was spent making orders, working on taxes and finishing up display ideas for her storefront window.

Right now her window's theme is construction, with toy trucks digging and hauling trucks mimicking what Piacentini sees going on outside her own windows. "I've had this in mind for a year, ever since I first knew about the

See DOWNTOWN on 21A

"My hope is that every one of the businesses downtown today is still open next year."

Marjie Andrejciw
President of Fenton Downtown Business Association



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Workers with Champagne & Marx install sections of the new water service under the intersection at LeRoy and West Elizabeth streets on Monday as part of the Streetscape project.

Planned
EVENTS
going on in
downtown
Fenton
See Page 21A

PAGE 5-11B
BUILD MUSCLE TO LOSE WEIGHT
HEALTHY YOU FEATURED PAGES

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2012 - 2013 - 2014 **NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR**

Linden couple charged with felony child abuse



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | EMILY STOCKER

Neighbors near Eric and Angela Corcoran's home on Bennett Lake Road say they were unaware of the alleged child abuse.

► Alleged abuse of 16-year-old adopted son took place over five-year period

By Emily Stocker
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A Deerfield Township couple remains lodged in the Livingston County Jail on felony charges of child abuse. Eric and Angela Corcoran, both 43, have been charged with second-degree felony child abuse of their 16-year-old adopted son. They are accused of mentally and emotionally abusing him based on Child Protective Services

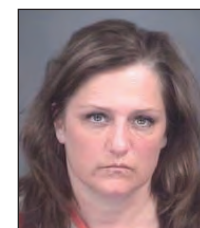
investigations dating back to May 2010.

According to a recent article in the Livingston Daily Press Argus, court documents allege that children's services case-workers reported the boy was threatened with a shotgun by his sister and punched in the gut by his brother. There are allegations that Angela Corcoran, the teen's adoptive mother, slapped his legs while he napped

See CHILD ABUSE on 22A



Eric Corcoran



Angela Corcoran

"I wished I had known, and could have told someone sooner."

Neighbor of Corcoran family

Fenton may dump 'bag and tag' trash system

► City leaders consider proposal to use rolling carts instead

By Vera Hogan
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In a few months, residents in the city of Fenton may be able to get rid of their weekly trash without having to buy and apply solid waste tags.

During its work session Monday, the Fenton City Council heard a proposal to eliminate the bag and tag system in favor of a carted service for trash and recycling. If approved, each household

will receive two, 95-gallon carts on wheels—one for garbage and the other recycling.

City Manager Lynn Markland told council members that he learned of the new type of solid waste collection while attending a conference recently. Speakers from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) presented the information.

"They informed us that this type of collection system results in doubling the collection of recyclables," he said.

See TRASH on 11A

"I will say the average city resident will see a reduction in cost."

Gary Hicks
Municipal Services Manager for Republic Services of Flint

This is the 95-gallon cart residents will be using if the current recycling collection system is changed. It is currently on display in the lobby of Fenton City Hall.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | VERA HOGAN

Holly man charged with domestic violence

► Argument while watching TV reportedly turns violent

By Sharon Stone
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Brian Lamar Jackson, 33, of Holly was arraigned on one count of assault and battery because of a domestic violence situation in Holly on April 5.

Holly Police Chief Michael Story said two Holly officers were dispatched to an apartment in the 3500 block of Grange Hall Road at about 2:40 a.m. in response to a 911 call. While en route, the officers were advised that the male suspect had left the apartment.

See VIOLENCE on 11A

810-771-TEXT (8398)

TEXT YOUR HOT LINE

"There will always be people abusing the system. I see people who use their wife's, husband's, parent's disability placards for themselves. Doctors need to take some responsibility also and tell more people 'No, walking is good for you.'"



"Wouldn't you love to see a show like '60 Minutes' do a special on people with a handicapped permit who are not handicapped. I would love to see them that interview. Step two, go interview the doctor who gave them the permit."

"California water shortage, drought; it's just weather, don't worry about it. I think that's what one dinosaur said to the other."



"There are currently 3,158 prisoners on Death Row. The average cost to incarcerate them is \$29,000 per year or \$91-plus million per year. The average time on death row is 11 years or \$319,000 per inmate. The average cost of a firing squad bullet — 49 cents. I rest my case."



tctimes.com COMMENT OF THE WEEK

"Hey, Linden City, I can't park on my lawn? I'm on a narrow lot with a short drive. You've made my street 'no parking.' What should I do when I have company? Guess I'll just gravel my front yard. Won't that look nice?"

Fenton Vision Center

►Leads the way in local optometry

By Sally Rummel

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Keep your eyes on the Fenton Vision Center. They continue to be the leader in style, technology and medical advances in the practice of optometry in the tri-county area.

The Fenton Vision Center offices of Dr. Juan Alvarado, O.D., Diplomate, American Board of Optometry and Dr. Cynthia L. Cupal, O.D., F.A.A.O., Diplomate, American Board of Optometry, are located at 212 W. Silver Lake Rd., in the heart of downtown Fenton. "Our patients and staff love our location," said Alvarado. "We're in the cultural area of the city with shopping and coffee shops. We also have lots of convenient parking."

Their building includes a fashion optical boutique, spacious exam rooms, an on-site optical lab, a conference room for staff training and families of young patients – plus lots of large windows to enjoy the downtown area while waiting for appointments, etc.

Their offices offer not only the latest in technology, but also one of the largest inventories of frames in the tri-county area. Patients will appreciate their high fashion optical area designed after upscale optical boutiques in metro areas. "Rather than having all of our frame selections out on a counter, they are narrowed down by design and kept in easy access optical drawers," said Alvarado. "Patients coming in to select frames can easily narrow down their frame choice with our system."

Some of the most in-demand frames include styles by Oakley, Coach, Dolce & Gabbana, Prada, Ed Hardy, Harley-Davidson, Juicy Couture and



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SALLY RUMMEL

Fenton Vision Center continues to create a positive energy within this local optometry practice.

Rayban. There are frame styles to suit just about every taste and budget.

Fenton Vision Center is pleased to have on staff the services of licensed optician Cherie Campbell. "She has been with us for more than 14 years and brings her skill in dispensing glasses and contact lenses as a licensed optician to our patients," said Cupal. "It's rare for a practice to have a licensed professional in this area, and we are very happy that she's part of our team." The staff of Fenton Vision Center includes seven employees, in addition to Cupal and Alvarado.

Together, they bring to their patients a high level of practice and specialization. "We're a full service optometry practice for all ages," said Alvarado. "We see patients under age 1 at no cost, so we can test their vision and eye development. Our patients then go through their senior years under our care, treating them for glaucoma, macular degeneration, diabetes-related vision issues and more."

Cupal's specialization in the diagnosis and treatment of glaucoma brings many patients from the Kellogg Eye Institute at University of Michigan for close monitoring at Fenton Vision Center. "We get referrals from the Kellogg Eye Institute at U-M Hospital to monitor the surgical success of patients who live in our area. We take this work very seriously." Cupal had practiced for five years at Bascom-Palmer Eye Institute in Miami, Florida and five years at the Kellogg Eye Institute before coming home to the Fenton area to open the practice in 2001.

Fenton Vision Center is also proud to specialize in vision therapy and low vision, offering vision help to all ages. They're committed to providing the latest in technology so that vision impairment, eye injuries and diseases of the eye can be detected and treated early.

“Our patients and staff love our downtown location. We're in the cultural area of the city with shopping and coffee shops. We also have lots of convenient parking.”

— Dr. Juan Alvarado, O.D., Diplomate, American Board of Optometry
Fenton Vision Center

Their latest equipment is a new Visual Evoked Potential (VEP) machine, which helps the doctors see how well the eye is communicating with the brain — in patients as young as 6 months. "It's like an EEG that measures the nerves in the brain that control the eye," said Alvarado. "We also have an Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) which is like an MRI of the eye without the need for radiation nor magnetic resonance."

Both Cupal and Alvarado are passionate about the importance of nutrition and eye health and are pleased to have been accepted as members of the Ocular Nutrition Society — a very strict group of doctors of optometry and ophthalmology that study nutrition as it relates to the eyes. "Your eyes tell a lot about your overall health," said Cupal.

For more information, call (810) 629-3070 or visit fentonvision.com.



**Dr. Juan Alvarado,
O.D., Diplomate,
American Board of
Optometry**



**Dr. Cynthia L. Cupal,
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Silver Lake Village

THE WESTERN FRONTIER



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | VERA HOGAN

Chuck and Sandy Berra's property is bordered by commercial development. The trees and retention pond behind them buffer their property from the Silver Lake Village in the distance.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

There is a strong variety of businesses on Silver Parkway, which keeps vehicles and commerce flowing through the Silver Lake Village Marketplace.

BEYOND DOWNTOWN

The development of Fenton

By Vera Hogan

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Nearly 40 years ago, in September of 1975, Chuck and Sandy Berra of Fenton moved into the home of their dreams.

Over time, they raised a family and enjoyed a daily life of peace and quiet, being located across Jennings Road from Silver Lake Park, and surrounded in all other directions by trees and fields.

Then, in 1988, they received a notice of a public hearing. Silver Lake Village Associates of Milford had petitioned the city to rezone

Summary

► Fenton couple spent the last 20 years watching Silver Lake Village develop around their home.

“All of a sudden, the project came to life again.”

Chuck Berra
Fenton resident

property and turn 172 acres of land around the Berra home into a planned unit development (PUD) of mixed uses.

The PUD was approved with lighter uses such as senior housing and office services to be located on the south end of the project

at the Owen Road intersection, and commercial and retail uses on the north end of the site at Silver Lake Road.

In February of 1990, however, the developer requested a modification of that plan, which was to move the shopping center planned at the north end of the property at Silver Lake Road, to the south end at the intersection of Owen and Jennings roads.

Developers told council members that a firm proposing to construct a commercial facility anchored by a Kmart store believed the south end was the better site for the first construction in the development. Although council members had concerns regarding the impact the change would make on other development plans, the modification was approved with several conditions.

See FENTON on 10A

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Top five reasons America is in moral decay

I love America. I always have. But I don't know that I always will.

America is in a death spiral of moral decay. Here are five examples of how the greatest country ever created is being hijacked and destroyed by radical leftists while we sit on our asses and pretend nothing is wrong.

1) The decline of the family. Nearly half of American children (47 percent) are born to a mother who is not married. Over 43 percent of American children live without a father in the home. Over 30 percent of white children are born out of wedlock, as are 53 percent of Hispanic babies, and an astounding 73 percent of black babies. The costs to society of

these aberrations is immeasurable, both financially and socially.



2) Disability scams. Since 2009, 3.1 million workers have signed up for disability benefits. Twenty years ago, there was one person on disability benefits for every 36 people working. Now the ratio is an astonishing 1 to 16. You can thank leftist judges and lawyers for this outrageous theft of our tax dollars.

3) Our schools. Today, the typical American school teaches much less math, science, American history, English grammar, literature, music and art. Instead, due to unions and the proliferation of radical leftist teachers, more and more classroom time is dedicated to so-

cial justice agendas, activism, culture indoctrination, environmentalism and sex. They are not taught cursive writing, few know the difference between their and there, its and it's, then and than, and other common syntax basics. If you can't speak or write, you can't get a job.

4) Higher education. Nearly all universities have been taken over by radical professors and have become seminaries for indoctrination. They teach courses on Study of Porn, Star Trek, Cooking with Cannabis, Mother Goose Literature, Juggling and Patternmaking for Dog Garments. These are real classes. Most of all, they teach liberalism and the evils of America. Many of our top universities are the biggest factor in the moral decay of our country.

5) The loss of our humanity. Last year, in Kalamazoo, just 135 miles from

the Owen Road exit, party store surveillance video shows the body of 24-year-old Jerry Wright lying in the doorway of a convenience store while indifferent customers step over him with hardly a glance. Wright had been gunned down at the entrance of the convenience store just minutes before. The store clerks didn't even bother to check to see if he was alive or dead. This is what we are becoming under leftist rule.

If you believe that American society is in decay, it is your duty to fight to protect your family, especially your children. Being a vigilant and proactive parent is hard work, but it is your job. If you don't do it, who will? Start today. Time is running out for them, and America.

Conversely, if you don't believe that American society is in moral decay, well...you are probably part of the problem.

Opinions offered in If I Were King are the author's alone and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Tri-County Times or its staff. Email the King at king@tctimes.com. Some content adapted from the internet.

Hot lines

Submit at: tctimes.com, call 810-629-9221 or text to 810-771-8398

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

I CANNOT BELIEVE the light sentence that Judge Hayman gave Johnson for shooting his neighbor.

EASTER SUNDAY, REALLY? You abandoned your pet duck. It can't make it in the wild on its own. It's been looking for you. Shame on your for not taking care to ensure its safety and that it had food to eat. Instead, you dump it and expect it to fend on its own in the wild and survive. You're a coward.

REGARDING AMBER ALERTS, I have an elderly father who lives alone so I leave my phone on every night. It seems there could be a better system than broadcasting it to every cell phone in the state. Shouldn't we have to opt in?

FOR THE HOT liner talking about Fenton kids going, or rather not going, to U of M, a full Diploma candidate has a 70 percent acceptance rate to Ann Arbor, about 25 percent better than non-DP students do.

I JUST RECEIVED a call. It started out, 'I need you or your retained attorney to contact...' It was supposedly from Nicki Johnson of the IRS wanting you to return her call. Hang up, don't call. It's a scam.

THE LAST PROPOSED tax cut we

approved for big business resulted in their largest tax cut ever. They got the gold. This next proposed tax increase on taxpayers only replaces that last tax cut we gave big business. Now we get the shaft. I'm voting no. Once bitten, twice shy.

THE OPENLY GAY CEO of Apple has opposed the Religious Freedom Law in Indiana because it might allow discrimination against gays. However, Apple has no problem selling its products in countries that arrest or kill gays. What a hypocrite.

I LOVE THE Hot line saying climate and weather are the same. Then a sentence later, saying they are different. Maybe

a newer dictionary could explain the difference in climate change, climate and weather for you.

SHOULDN'T WE HAVE to opt in to receive an Amber alert? Just another governmental overreach. And why should they have my cell number in the first place.

WOW, YOU JUST passed three cars, and 10 miles down the road we are all behind you at the stop light. You didn't gain anything now did you? Ya'll slow down.

DOES ANYONE KNOW of a petition to cause the Tyrone Township board to put the public safety proposal up for election?

See **HOT LINE** throughout Times

Readers write

Letters, 150 words or less, must be signed and include a phone number. We reserve the right to edit for clarity and liability. Letters must be written exclusively for the Times.

Proposal 1

Dear Editor,
Everyone should vote 'yes' on Proposal 1 on May 5. Michigan's leading organizations of public safety officers and firefighters strongly support Proposal 1 on the May 5 statewide ballot. Every day they experience the dangers to motorists and first responders caused by Michigan's crumbling roads and bridges. I'm voting 'yes' on Proposal 1 because it is supported by the Michigan Sheriffs' Association, Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs, Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police, Michigan Fire Inspectors Safety Society, Michigan State Firemen's Association and the Police Officers Association of Michigan. Police officers and firefighters support Proposal 1 because, if it passes, every penny we pay in state gas taxes for the first time would be guaranteed in our constitution for roads, bridges and transportation. Let's get our roads and bridges fixed, our children deserve to be safe.

— Tom Peake, Holly

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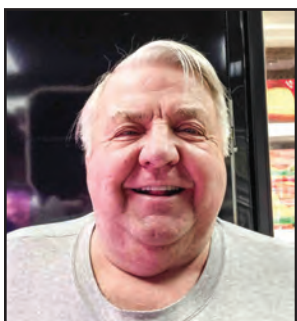
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Compiled by Alexei Rose, intern

What would you like to see come to Linden?

streettalk



"I would like to see a Red Lobster and Olive Garden, because it is so far to get to one from here."

— Rob Coates
Linden



"Johnny Carino's, because it is a good Italian restaurant."

— Wendy Temple
Linden



"I like Linden the way it is, because it has the small town appeal. There are enough places in Fenton."

— Alan Scott
Linden



"More parking, because there is more people than parking spots."

— John Marriott
Tyrone Township



"A mixed-use investment property, like the one in Fenton where the Broad Street restaurant was."

— Jim Lengel
Fenton



"I like the small town feel, but I would like to see more places like the Bridge 117 Café."

— Jane Brooks
Fenton

Police&Fire report

SUSPICIOUS PHONE REPAIR

On Feb. 6, a woman went to the Fenton Police Department to report a situation she was concerned about. Police Chief Rick Aro said the victim indicated that she had taken her cell phone to a local repair shop and when it was returned she discovered that an employee of the phone repair shop had found personal photographs of her and texted the photos to his personal cell phone. Because the photos contained nudity, she was concerned. Detectives conducted an investigation, including an interview of the suspect, and requested a warrant from the Genesee County Prosecutor. The facts of the case did not meet the standard necessary to authorize an arrest warrant in the matter.

PHONY TAX RETURN ALERT

On Tuesday, April 7, a 71-year-old Fenton man filed an identity theft complaint with the Fenton Police Department. Police Chief Rick Aro said the man learned that someone had filed taxes using his personal information. He was advised to contact the police. The man also contacted his accountant, who was unaware of the return. The IRS is investigating.

OWI – THIRD OFFENSE FOR FENTON MAN

At 7:30 p.m. on April 5, a Fenton police officer observed the driver of a silver Impala making an improper left turn from the U.S. 23 exit ramp to Owen Road. The officer followed the car and saw it weave within the lane. A traffic stop was initiated and contact was made with the 38-year-old male driver from Fenton. Suspecting the driver had consumed alcohol, field sobriety tests and a breath test were administered. Testing well in excess of the legal limit, the man was transported to the police station and then the hospital for a blood draw. Police will be charging the man with operating a vehicle while impaired – third offense, which is a felony. The case will be turned over to the prosecutor's office.

BREAK-IN ON LAHRING ROAD

The Genesee County Sheriff's Department is investigating a break-in, which occurred at a home on Lahring Road, near Ripley Road in Fenton Township. The owners were out of town, but a neighbor noticed that someone had broken through a window on April 1. Deputies checked the home and secured it until the residents returned. The case remains under investigation.

BREAK-IN ON FOUR LAKES AVENUE

On April 2, deputies with the Genesee County Sheriff's Department responded to a home in the 4200 block of Four Lakes Avenue in Fenton Township to investigate a break-in complaint. The residents reported that they were away from the house for a short while during the day and when they returned, noticed that someone entered the unlocked home and stole their TV, some jewelry items and empty pop cans. The case remains under investigation. If someone has information, they can leave a message for detectives at the Fenton Township office at (810) 629-1537. If anyone observes unfamiliar cars in the neighborhood or anything suspicious, they are asked to call 911 immediately.

FENTON POLICE INVESTIGATE BREAK-IN

The Fenton Police Department is investigating a break-in, which occurred at a home on Chinkapin Rill in Fenton Oaks sometime between noon and 6 p.m. on April 6. Sgt. David Reinfelder said the 50-year-old resident said he noticed the sliding glass door on the back of the home was ajar when he returned. A safe containing cash, along with a wedding ring was stolen, about \$4,600 total. Officers questioned neighbors, however, no one saw or heard anything.

BAY CITY MAN STEALS TO SUPPORT DRUG HABIT

At 5:15 p.m. on April 8, Fenton police responded to a store in the 3700 block of Owen Road for a retail fraud complaint. Loss prevention had a 26-year-old Bay City man in custody after catching him stealing the download codes from 60 DVD packages. Sgt. David Reinfelder said during an interview, the man said he had a heroin addiction and he would remove the codes from DVD packages and then sell the codes online to support his drug habit. Police recovered about 250 codes from several different stores between Fenton and Bay City.

Good news on cost of summer travel

►Gasoline prices expected to be lowest in a decade

If you are planning to do any traveling by automobile this summer, it's not going to hurt your pocketbook as much as it has in the past several years.

According to GasBuddy, an organization that constantly monitors gas prices, this summer's gasoline prices will bring the most affordable summer months since at least 2005.

GasBuddy projects that this summer's driving season (Memorial Day through Labor Day) will see the U.S. average price for gasoline come in around \$2.35 per gallon, a revision from its 2015 forecast it released last December. A recent Energy Informa-

tion Administration (EIA) projection pinned summer gasoline prices at \$2.45 per gallon.

"That means more Americans can afford to pack up and go enjoy a summer getaway because the cost of getting there will likely be the lowest since 2005," said Patrick DeHaan, senior petroleum analyst with Gas Buddy. "The latest data from the EIA showed the largest week-to-week buildup of crude oil (10.9 million barrels) since March 2001 and that underscores the downward pressure on fuel prices. So, we're confident in our projection — that the summer of 2015 will see the national average come in at a seasonal level we haven't approached since 2005."

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Times

Random acts of kindness

►The idea is to do something nice without expecting anything back

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

Random acts of kindness go further than paying for someone's latte in the car behind you in the drive through. Although this seems to be the most common and frequent random act, some argue that they feel obligated to pay for the person behind them in line.

Is that what the "RAK" was meant to ensue? It's important to carry out a random act of kindness without expecting anything back.

The Monday morning we discussed



Emily Stocker

this topic in our editorial meeting, it was interrupted by a phone call from my son's school. He was sick and needed to be picked up. I drove to day care to pick up my 2-year-old, who was wearing his "extra clothes" because he had an accident. He was not feeling well either.

We rushed to my older son's school and picked him up. Half way home, he yelled to me to pull over and that he was going to be sick. I quickly pulled over to the side of the road, right into a ditch. The snow was so deep the ditch was completely covered and not visible whatsoever. A screaming toddler, a flu-ridden teen, late to pick up my daughter and now we're in the ditch in the snow.

I immediately called AAA and there was over an hour wait. Trying to make the best of it and calm everyone down, a man and his two young boys pulled over and got out of their car. Seeing I had two unhappy guys in my car, they worked for 20 or so minutes trying to drive, push and shove my car out. We had no luck. A tow truck driver happened to drive by. I waved him down and he told me he would be back after his run.

In the chaos, the man and his boys had pulled away, leaving with only a "thank you." The tow truck returned just a few minutes later, he grabbed his paperwork and told me the charge. I had waited this long, and AAA had to be close right? I told him that I would have to wait. He began walking to his truck and quickly turned around. "Get in your car and I'll hook up and get you right out. If my wife and child were in your spot, I would hope that someone would do the same." Of course, the tears began to flow and I thanked him repeatedly. Off he went.

I couldn't have been more grateful for that man and his boys' help, and the tow truck driver who helped me without a thought.

People today often second-guess themselves, often wondering if they should pull

Summary

►Flattery can get you everywhere, including your own happy place. It's a win, win, win. The person you are being kind to benefits from your kindness, you feel good for having helped someone, and the world is a better place through your kindness.

'Have a Nash Day'

The 9th of each month is dedicated and forever known as "Nash Day." Todd and Shelly Schupbach have dedicated the 9th of each month a day to honor their sweet son who passed away at just five months old. Family members came up with the idea of doing random acts of kindness in honor of Nash Gregory Shupbach. They do them on the 9th of each month, and hand out a card with a photo of Shelly's late son that reminded them to "Have a Nash Day." The Facebook page "When Nash Smiled" is available for people to tag detailing the random acts of kindness that they have given and received.

over, if they should help. Those people who chose to help me out that day have no idea the impact they have had in my life.

Researchers from the University of Houston gave some test subjects the general goal, "make someone happy" while another group was given the specific directive to "make someone smile."

Those with the specific goal reported the highest increase in happiness. Just giving a small gift or offering a kind word did the trick. "You're happier when you know you've met your goal," said leader of the study author Melanie Rudd, PhD. "When you're trying to make someone smile, the evidence is right there on a person's face."

One of the most fascinating research findings to come out in recent years is that whenever a simple act of kindness is

extended by a human being toward another, it results in a significant improvement in the functioning of the immune system and increased production of serotonin in both the recipient of the kindness as well as in the person extending the kindness, according to Undergroundhealthreporter.com.

What's even more amazing is that persons observing the act of kindness also experience a similar strengthening of the immune system and increased production of serotonin.

"You're happier when you know you've met your goal. When you're trying to make someone smile, the evidence is right there on a person's face."

Melanie Rudd, PhD
author

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Coconut oil is made from the pressed fruit of the coconut palm tree. It has hundreds of uses from the kitchen to the bath.

The hype about coconut oil

►From cooking and baking to moisturizing and shaving, there are hundreds of uses in your kitchen and bath

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

If you haven't yet added coconut oil to your kitchen pantry or bathroom cosmetic counter, chances are you've been hearing or reading all the hype about this natural oil.

Whether you use it for cooking, baking or to deep condition your hair, coconut oil has gotten a "thumbs up" for its health benefits as an important food source, and one that's also great for your skin and hair.

"Coconut oil is a naturally saturated fatty acid, your body's preferred source of sustainable energy," said Marjie Andrejciw, holistic nutrition counselor and owner of Marjie's Gluten Free Pantry in Fenton.

"It benefits your major muscle groups, your heart and your quads. It's also loaded with medium-chained fatty acids that are good for the thyroid. It's really good for balancing your metabolism and promoting optimal weight."

Pressed from the fruit of the coconut palm tree, coconut oil is ideal for light fare and subtly flavored dishes, according to wholefoods.com. It gives a perfect hint of coconut flavor to ethnic dishes and is excellent in baked goods, desserts and smoothies.

"You can also spread it on your morning toast or cook it with vegetables and lean meats," said Andrejciw.

If you're new to the world of coconut oil, you'll be amazed by the variety. Look for certified organic, either virgin (unrefined) or refined, depending on your recipe and your personal taste. Organic virgin coconut oil has a soft coconut aroma and more pronounced coconut flavor. If you

use virgin or extra virgin coconut oil, it can burn more quickly, making it more appropriate for use in medium to low-heat cooking.

To have the benefits of the oil with a more subtle taste and smell, use the organic refined version for sautéing, stir frying and baking, suggests wholefoods.com.

In addition to eating coconut oil, you can also warm it up and use it as a massage oil, or rub it into your skin and hair for a radiant shine. "Anytime

we're getting good fats into our skin, it's a good thing," said Andrejciw. "Sometimes your dry skin isn't dry because you're not hydrating enough; it's a result of not getting enough good fats."

You can also try it as a body lotion, a hair conditioner, to soften nail cuticles and to moisturize your face. Other suggestions include using coconut oil for shaving your legs, for more hydrating, less chemical effects, as well as removing your eye makeup.

Try making your own body scrub with ingredi-

ents you already have in your kitchen. Melt ½ cup of coconut oil at very low heat. Pour it over one cup of brown sugar and stir well. Add in five drops of your favorite essential oil or some pure vanilla extract.

When it comes to the uses of coconut oil, you're limited only by your imagination.

“It (coconut oil) benefits your major muscle groups, your heart, and your quads. It's really good for balancing your metabolism and promoting optimal weight.”

Marjie Andrejciw
Holistic nutrition counselor

Summary

►Coconut oil is all the rage lately, and for good reason. As a naturally saturated fatty acid, it's your body's preferred energy source, and also good for your hair and skin.

TEXT

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HOT LINE CONTINUED

I BELIEVE TOM Petty said it best, 'You believe what you want to believe, you see you don't have to live like a refugee.'

TO THE YOUNG junkies on the private property west of the Linden park; we've got your butane torch and your pipe caked with resin, black book bag with a Tigers logo and a red hoodie. They can be claimed at the Linden Police Department. Smoke your dope at home.

DON'T BELIEVE MAN can 'change the environment?' Look up hydrofluorocarbons and the ozone. If you're under 30, you may have never heard of it. Over 50, you may have forgotten.

CABLEVISION HERE IS way overpriced. I've had it with them. Can anyone tell me which satellite system is the best?

INCONSIDERATE SLOBS WHO would take a handicap parking spot should be jailed overnight. That would solve the problem.

HAS ANYONE ELSE noticed that Charter is taking away the golf channel? In order to get it, you now have to pay and additional \$10. When I agreed to

pay the ridiculous amount of money I am currently paying, the Golf Channel was part of the package. Why is my bill not lowered now?

ASK YOUR NEW neighbor two questions: Do you believe in global warming? Do you believe in Santa Claus? If they answer either with a yes, you are in trouble.

LOTS OF NEW laws being initiated in Linden. How come I haven't read much about it in the paper? Best to keep an eye on the current leadership in my experience.

THE ONLY ONE I hear complaining about climate change is you. Give it a break, it's enough already.

IF YOU DON'T like the way the city/state is run then perhaps you should have been the one to go to college and try to make every person happy. I don't see you taking on our problems and trying to create a solution. All you do is complain.

I'D LIKE TO congratulate the Holly police for tasing the man who threatened them with a machete. Maybe some of the police departments that are killing unarmed people for resisting should come to Holly and take lessons.

MICHIGAN VOTES

WHAT YOUR LEGISLATORS ARE CONSIDERING

MichiganVotes.org is a free, non-partisan website created by the Mackinac Center for Public Policy, to provide concise, non-partisan, plain-English descriptions of every bill and vote in the Michigan House and Senate. Now with one click you can approve or disapprove of key votes by your legislators using the VoteSpotter smart phone app. Visit votespotter.com to download VoteSpotter. This report was released on Friday, April 3.

The House and Senate are on a two-week spring break. Therefore, this report contains several recently introduced bills of interest.

House Bill 4219: Give some Detroit drug crime seizure proceeds to "community organizations"

Introduced by Rep. Harvey Santana (D), to mandate that 5 percent of the proceeds from the sale of property seized in Detroit drug raids and arrests be given to "community organizations" in the city. **Referred to committee, no further action at this time.**

House Bill 4226: Expand technology business subsidies

Introduced by Rep. Daniela Garcia (R), to increase from three to nine the number of areas in which "certified technology parks" (previously dubbed "smart zones") are permitted to "capture" school taxes. These entities collect the extra local property tax revenue that (hopefully) results from property value increases generated by their selective subsidies and projects, and use it to repay debt incurred to provide them. **Referred to committee, no further action at this time.**

House Bill 4229: Mandate police body cameras

Introduced by Rep. Rose Mary Robinson (D), to require uniformed law enforcement officers to wear a continuously activated body camera while on duty, with various exceptions specified in the bill. The bill also prescribes rules for how long recordings must be kept and for erasing them, prohibits agencies from using facial recognition programs with the captured images, and more. **Referred to committee, no further action at this time.**

House Bill 4232: Require police shooting reports

Introduced by Rep. Alberta Tinsley Talabi (D), to require the state Department of Civil Rights to investigate and give a report to the legislature and the employing agency whenever a law enforcement officer is responsible for the death of an individual who belonged to "a group or had a characteristic that has been the subject of past discriminatory practices." **Referred to committee, no further action at this time.**

House Bill 4240: Place 1st and 2nd Amendment plaques on Capitol grounds

Introduced by Rep. Martin Howrylak (R), to require plaques honoring the First and Second Amendments on the state Capitol grounds. Like several previous bills, the right to bear arms plaque would be one created by the "Brass Roots" organization in 1994. This bill adds an invitation for "an organization with a history of advocating for First Amendment rights" to provide a First Amendment plaque, and suggests the American Civil Liberties Union, Michigan Press Association, League of Women Voters, American Libraries Association and some others. **Referred to committee, no further action at this time.**

House Bill 4261: Ban "open carry" in prohibited concealed pistol carry areas

Introduced by Rep. Andy Schor (D), to ban "open carry" (versus concealed carry) of firearms in "gun-free zones" specified in the state concealed pistol license law, which includes schools, day care centers, stadiums, arenas, theaters, bars, churches, college dorms and classrooms, hospitals, casinos, and courts. Also, to add public libraries to this list. **Referred to committee, no further action at this time.**

The Rock goes mobile with two Sunday services

►Overflowing worshippers create need for mobile church and a new building

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

The Rock in Tyrone Township knows by the numbers that its ministry to teach and preach the word of God is headed in the right direction. The church's capacity at the corner of Linden and Bennett Lake roads is filled to overflowing for five services every weekend.

"People are having to park on the grass and sit on the floor," said Pastor Wes Morris, a 1996 graduate of Fenton High School and a Bible major at Liberty University. "We've grown from about 230 members in 2007 to 1,700 attending five services every weekend."

Starting this Sunday, April 12, The Rock will be "going mobile" for two of its Sunday morning services to accommodate this growing non-denominational congregation.

The 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. "mobile church" will be held at Lake Fenton High School, where there is plenty of parking and seating. Services that will continue to be held at the original Rock church at 11400 South Linden Rd. will be Saturday night at 6 p.m., Sunday 8:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Services are also held Wednesday evening at 7 p.m.

This isn't the first time that The Rock has partnered with area schools to accommodate its growth. "We've also partnered in the past for Easter and Christmas services at Fenton High School and Byron Elementary School for space accommodations," said Morris.

While the mobile church solves the space issue temporarily, The Rock is in the process of a more permanent solution. Last October, they pur-



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTOS

chased 52 acres across the street with the plans of building a new church. "We are debt free to this point," said Morris. "Our plan is to raise enough money to build a basic functional church, about 50,000 square feet, then move to the new church by our tentative completion date in December 2016. We're more functional than fancy. Our goal is to care for people and preach the truth."

Morris is hoping that local people who would like to fellowship with a

church will consider looking at The Rock. "We've got something going on every day of the week, from Bible studies to small group ministries, kids' activities and more. If anyone is looking for a church family to help carry your burdens, we'd like to be a part of your life. We offer the basic Gospel to anyone who wants to listen."

For more information about The Rock visit: www.hisrock.net

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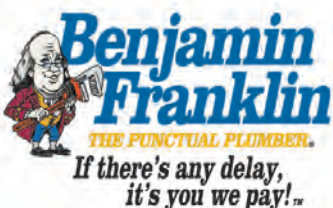
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There once was a field just west of U.S. 23 that ran all the way from Owen Road north to Silver Lake Road. Then in the early 1990s, construction began and the field was soon occupied by a new Kmart and VG's Grocery. The existence of these two popular stores became the dream for the countless businesses to follow throughout the years, hoping to cash in on the traffic brought on by those who came before them.

Today, the once empty field is called Silver Lake Village and is occupied by businesses offering goods and services of every description, including: apartments, arts and crafts, attorneys, auto parts, auto repair, a gas station, groceries, five banks, three credit unions, four beauty salons and one beauty supply store, home improvements, cellular phones, child care, cigars and cigarettes, clothing, dentists, comic books, department stores, a dollar store, dry cleaners, electronics, eye care and vision ser-



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTOS
(Above) An aerial view of Chuck and Sandy Berra's Jennings Road home in 1975 shows how it was surrounded by vacant land, which was eventually developed. (Below) The Silver Lake Village sign was placed, signifying the development that was about to commence.

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FENTON

Continued from Page 3A

Although the original development firm went bankrupt before the project could come to fruition, the swap of uses from one end of Silver Lake Village to the other remained and was picked up a few years later by the next developers, Talon Development Group.

"All of a sudden, the project came to life again," said Chuck. The struggle to protect the Berra family's property and rights began anew.

"When it first started happening we didn't know what to do," said Chuck. Speaking of the lack of comparable properties, Sandy added, "We couldn't even get our house appraised."

The representative for Talon told the Berras the company did not have to provide a buffer, which would separate their house and yard from the new commercial district. Not to be deterred, Chuck researched the zoning ordinances and learned that Talon would indeed have to surround his property with not only a 6-foot fence, but also a greenbelt.

"We were never against the commercial district," said Chuck. "Some thought we were trying to stop Silver Lake Village."

Sandy added, "We were just afraid that we would become invisible."

When attending meetings regarding the commercial district, Chuck, a former eight-year member of the Downtown

Development Authority (DDA) and four-year member of the DDA Citizens Committee, said he always tried to be prepared and present his case in a professional manner.

Chuck also said there were numerous rumors that Talon made them a big offer to buy their property.

"That never happened," he said. "I'm not stupid, if they had made an offer we may have considered it, but it didn't happen because the developer said it wouldn't be feasible to buy us out."

Today, the Berras are satisfied for the most part with how things have materialized. Their house is surrounded by a tall fence and mature trees. They are within walking distance of almost everything they need.

The traffic is not noisy, Chuck said. "If I really want to hear it, I hear it, but we're used to it now."

And the Berras say they have the best seat in the house for the Fourth of July festivities — their front yard is across the street from where the fireworks are launched.

After all the commercial growth they have witnessed over the years, Chuck and Sandy have one concern, the loss of small stores and restaurants in the Silver Pointe Shopping Center, adjacent to VG's.

"The vacant spaces really bother me," said Chuck. "Losing the mom and pop shops is not good," Sandy said.

TRASH

Continued from Front Page

Markland said the Solid Waste Committee has recommended the City Council agree to this change. The City Council is expected to vote on the matter at Monday night's regular meeting.

If approved, the new system will begin on Oct. 1, allowing enough time to provide education on the new program and give the public a chance to use the tags they have already purchased. Trash collection will continue to take place once a week, while recycling will be collected every other week.

Once the new system is implemented, each customer will be charged the same rate and will be invoiced on their quarterly utility bill for the service.

According to Gary Hicks, municipal services manager for Republic Services, the exact charge to city residents has not yet been determined. Currently, city residents pay \$1.60 for each trash tag they use. If two bags of trash are disposed of each week that comes to \$12.80 per month, or \$38.40 per quarter. Add to that the \$16 quarterly fee for recycling pick up, and the average resident pays now is approximately \$54.40 per quarter.

Republic Services plans to charge the city \$10.39 per household for the new system, for a total of \$31.17 per quarter. Hicks does expect some necessary administrative costs to be added by the city.

Hicks said, "I will say the average city resident will see a reduction in cost."

With an approved five-year contract with Republic, all pricing will be subject to an annual price increase of 3 percent, which will take place on the anniversary

About the 'super' cart

According to Republic Services, the carts have the capacity of either three 32-gallon trash cans, or five 18-gallon recycle bins. The carts, which residents will receive at no charge, are reportedly "user friendly," easily wheeled to the curb. They feature strong, self-opening lids and have handles for easy maneuvering. They are impervious to most household cleaning products and solvents, stay upright in high winds even when empty, and are easy to clean. The carts will eliminate the scavenging of animals, and the blowing and scattering of garbage during adverse weather conditions. The carts will remain the property of Republic Services.

in years two through five.

Councilman Leslie Bland said he does not have a problem approving the new system. "I buy at least 10 tags per week," he said. "If I don't have to haul all those bags or cans out to the curb every week, all the better."

Linden and Fenton Township officials have already approved this system of trash and recycling collection. Hicks said the rollout of Linden carts will take place at the end of this month. The Fenton Township carts should arrive some time in June.

What should residents do with their old trash cans and recycling bins? Hicks said they will not be collected by his company. "Turn 'em into a toy box or a yard waste can, repurpose them any way you want, or recycle them," he said.

Summary

► The Fenton City Council is considering dropping the "bag and tag" garbage collection system. They are expected to take a vote Monday night on switching to a cart system.

VIOLENCE

Continued from Front Page

Upon their arrival, the officers met with the female victim, a 35-year-old Holly woman. Officers observed that the woman was bleeding from a cut on her forehead and she had red marks around her neck. Medical responders arrived on scene to tend to the woman.

The woman told the officers that she and her boyfriend, identified as Jackson, were watching TV in bed when they began to argue about his ex-girlfriend. The verbal argument allegedly became physical and the woman sustained non-life threatening injuries. She was able to

escape from the bedroom and called 911 from her children's room.

At this point, she said Jackson left the apartment. While talking with the woman, the officers learned that Jackson was spotted walking near North Saginaw Street and Grange Hall Road. Police located Jackson and took him into custody. He agreed that he and his girlfriend had argued, but their stories conflicted after that point.

A computer search of Jackson revealed he had a prior domestic assault offense out of Oak Park. He remains lodged at the Oakland County Jail on a cash surety bond of \$7,500.

telling us now that they need more money. The billions of dollars they have spent over the years is ineffective. Look at the U.S 23 Bridge over Silver Lake Road that was started to be repainted almost five years ago and is still incomplete.

IF THE SAFETY Campaign is so important about Michigan roads, how did those overseeing the state budget reassess the entire state budget based on the safety needs of people?

WHICH IS WORSE, a person honking their horn for no good reason or a person not using their turn signals?

TO MR. FOSTER Childs; I double checked your March 29th pronunciation column against my American Heritage Dictionary. You are absolutely incorrect about zoology. And the word kilometer has two correct pronunciations.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

THESE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM acts have nothing to do with the Christian doctrine of love, peace, understanding and forgiveness but do promote the devil's work of hate and discrimination.

EVERY DAY, LAWMAKERS sit up there and just think about stupid things to vote on. At what price is this to us, and what benefits are they giving us for our money that we spend?

IN RESPONSE TO 'Watch out if you're putting rat poison out; watch your dogs,' Fenton has numerous rat problems however, neighbor, do not feed your squirrels. We've been setting rat traps and catching your rats because you're feeding squirrels.

AFTER DECADES OF neglect, they are



ASK THE MECHANIC

Chris Wilkinson,
Certified Mechanic

Q: Chevy 350 smokes. Other than a rebuild, what do think about no smoke products such as bars no smoke, or engine restore? Looking for a temporary fix until I can get a rebuild. Thank you, Clark.

A: Clark, I have never had any luck with these quick fix items that you mentioned. On the 350 Chevy engine, this is a common problem when they get old. One thing that is most common is the umbrella seals on the valve stems cause smoke on start up then goes away while driving. Other causes are sometimes a lower intake manifold leak. This can be checked by removing the pcv valve, plug all vents and dipstick tube holes, then checking for vacuum to be present in the crankcase. If there is vacuum then the intake manifold gasket needs to be replaced.

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YOUR SMILE MATTERS!

By: Dr. Steven Sulfaro

WISDOM TEETH

The third molar teeth are last teeth to develop and erupt into the mouth. This usually occurs when a person is around 18 or 19 years of age. They are called wisdom teeth because these teeth appear in the mouth once the person has reached the "age of wisdom." I think most would agree that this is a misnomer for I personally can't think of any 18 year old exhibiting much wisdom. Few people have adequate room in their mouth for their third molars to erupt into full position. For those that do, my philosophy, in their case, is if they can keep their wisdom teeth healthy then they can keep them. Most wisdom teeth, however, are problem teeth. Few people have enough space for their developing third molars. This lack of adequate room causes most wisdom teeth to become impacted. An impacted tooth is trouble. Impacted wisdom teeth create pressure which can cause damage to the other teeth. Impacted third molars can become infected and can sometimes develop cysts and can develop periodontal disease which can spread throughout the mouth. It is best to have impacted wisdom teeth removed. Removal of impacted third molars involves surgery. It's best to have wisdom teeth surgery between the ages of 18-20. At this stage in their life the person is young and healthy, the third molar teeth and bone are not fully developed, and there is no active infection in the area. Third molar surgery in this situation usually considered minor surgery and recovery is fast and easy. Conversely, the impacted third molar surgery on a 50+ year old is often considered a more major surgery with a much prolonged and difficult recovery.

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



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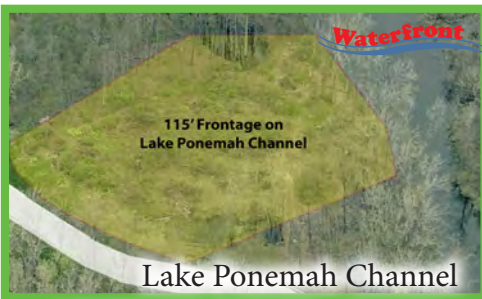
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iCloud, Dropbox, Google and other storage solutions

►So many ways to safely save photos, personal computer files

By Emily Stocker

estocker@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

In the past, most have purchased a computer with a hard drive and stored personal files there. But if someone needed that file somewhere else, or wanted to share it, or didn't have a printer, they had a series of steps to follow that included various forms of software, hardware and a tech-savvy teenager.

The computer user was stuck downloading files onto a CD or toting around an enormous external hard drive.

Then, along came the cloud.

Anyone's data may live in the cloud, but it's not some metaphysical space in the air. It's actually a very physical space. When someone saves their data to the iCloud, Dropbox, Google Drive or Amazon, they are saving their information on the

company's server.

The user is paying a minimal monthly fee, however, there's no worry of spilling coffee on the laptop and losing a presentation that took months to create, or a fiscal year's worth of transactions for a business. Files are "safe."

Gizmodo.com, the leader in everything gadgetry, reports that depending on its particular privacy policies, the company can actually hand over anyone's data whenever authorities ask for them. Sometimes, police agencies don't even need a warrant. Companies like Google publish transparency reports

“If you're running a business, or are looking to back up all your files, you'll want to pay for additional storage.”

Irina Gorlik

Computer tech at Fenton Computers

on a regular basis that show how many hundreds of times this happens every year. This should be kept in mind uploading something to Google Drive instead of storing it locally.

When uploading files to Apple's servers, the user has already agreed to the company's terms of service. Apple.com

allows for 5 GB of free storage when someone signs up. If the user needs additional monthly storage, they can choose a monthly fee plan that is extremely affordable. For \$.99 a month, they can have 20 GB of storage. If they are looking to back up their business, or their entire lifetime of photos and music, 1 TB of storage is \$19.99 a month.

Irina Gorlik of Fenton Computers said, "With students, flash drives are popular because they can take them everywhere. You can use them in your home computer, laptop, and then plug them into a printer, copier, etc. You can upload your documents files or pictures, and access them from anywhere."

Gorlik added that with iCloud, and even the storage customers receive for free with their phone, most people won't use it all. It's usually a few gigs. "If you're a business, or are looking to

back up all your files, you'll want to pay for additional storage. You can purchase an ample amount of storage very inexpensively, for around \$5 to \$15 a month," she said.

Summary

►iCloud, Dropbox and Google Drive storage solutions are simple and reasonably priced. The upside is users can access their files anywhere, anytime from their computer, laptop, tablet or phone.

Besides iCloud, Dropbox is also becoming very popular. If someone wants to share a file, Dropbox allows users to share large files, like audio and video files without signing up for special software, or waiting to upload. Users can set it to automatically back up their files, and for businesses, that can be their company's asset.

iCloud global warnings

Matt Stopera of Manhattan, New York was scrolling through his photo stream on his iPhone only to find dozens of pictures that weren't his. "There were doz-

ens of selfies, orange trees, menus in another country." Stopera quickly realized the photos were taken in China on his iPhone

that was stolen in January. Somehow his stolen phone had made it all the way across the world. Still signed into his iCloud account, the photos were in the "cloud" streaming to his current account. If your phone is ever lost or stolen, notify the service provider immediately.

Source: CBSnews



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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

The State Bank trust department consists of (back row, from left) Bev Dresselhouse, vice president and trust officer, Debbie Bewbaker, investment assistant, and Dennis Leyder, president of Wealth Management. In the front row are Sheryl Nixon, operations assistant and Tom Hufton, vice president and trust officer.

The State Bank celebrates 25 years of 'trust'

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

A trust can be a helpful third party when it comes to managing a family's assets from one generation to another.

The State Bank's Trust Department has been managing assets for local families for the past 25 years, since their charter to operate a trust department was granted on April 18, 1990.

"We're a separate entity of The State Bank," explained Dennis Leyder, president of Wealth Management, which includes trusts and estate planning, wealth management and insurance. "We're the last independent trust department in Genesee County."

Leyder has run the trust department for 15 years, overseeing vice presidents Tom Hufton and Bev Dresselhouse, portfolio manager Debbie Brewbaker and estate manager Sheryl Nixon.

This small group of individuals works with clients, CPAs and attorneys around the country, as people move further away from their families and roots in the tri-county area. "A lot of people want to deal with someone local when it comes to making financial decisions with their family," said Leyder. "Our assets are safe; they're kept on Wall Street in New York City."

Not everyone needs a trust, according to Leyder. "Everyone needs a will, durable power of attorney and health care power of attorney. If you have a will, your estate will go through probate court, which is an event of public record. A trust is a private event that spells out the decedent's wishes for how assets are to be retained and kept for generations."

While not everyone needs a trust in their estate plan, a trust can be a helpful tool in many situations, especially for families

who are taking care of education or the special needs of the next generation. High net worth clients automatically have trusts, according to Leyder.

In some cases where family dynamics are an issue, a trust can serve as an objective third party and resolve any issues that arise at the loss of parents. In other cases, a client may want to provide a trust for a particular non-profit organization.

"Everyone thinks it's an honor to name their son or daughter as an executor in their will," said Leyder. "But sometimes an outside party can come with a different perspective."

The bank is celebrating this milestone 25th year with a birthday party every Friday throughout

the month of April at each State Bank location in Fenton, Linden, Holly and Grand Blanc. Customers are invited to enjoy birthday cupcakes while doing their banking.

"A trust is a private event that spells out the decedent's wishes for how assets are to be retained and kept for generations."

Dennis Leyder
President of Wealth Management at The State Bank

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TRIVIA

BASEBALL

Q When was the last time the Detroit Tigers started the season with three straight home wins?

A It wasn't long ago. It happened in 2012 with three wins against Boston.

Linden's
Brady Sarkon



Five Eagles preparing for college baseball careers

▶ Two other players on squad going to play football

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com

Linden varsity baseball coach Steve Buerkel has to smile when he thinks about the future of the players on his Linden varsity baseball team. When the 2015 spring season ends, a huge chunk of his talented senior squad will be headed to

collegiate pastures to continue their athletic careers. Five of his players — Austin Buerkel, Travis Petts, Tim Sines, Brady Sarkon and Hunter Jacobson — have either signed or verbally committed to collegiate baseball programs, while two others — Marshael Ryan and Ethan Quesnelle — are headed to collegiate football squads. "It's pretty special to have

so many athletes committed to playing at the next level after their high school careers are over," Buerkel said. "That's a huge number for one team. I think that tells you how special these kids are."

Austin Buerkel is going to Division 2 Northwood University, while Sarkon (University of Chicago) and Petts (Olivet College) are going to Division

See FIVE on 17A

Times

SUNDAY,
APRIL 12, 2015
PAGE 16A

Sports

INSIDE SPORTS

SOFTBALL PREVIEWS

Tri-county area's softball teams' seasons are previewed.
See Page 18A



DID YOU KNOW?

▶ This is the first time the Tigers have started without allowing an earned run three games into the season.

FOURTH-ANNUAL TIGER TROT SLATED FOR MAY 16

The fourth-annual Tiger Trot is May 16 at Fenton High School. The 5K walk and run begins at 8:30 a.m. The children's race for ages 3 to 10 will be at 9:30 a.m. and be held exclusively on the Fenton High School track. Each child earns a medal. The 5K course begins at Fenton High School, runs thru the City of Fenton and finishes at the high school track. The cost is \$25 with a shirt and \$20 without one. For more information or to register go to www.fenton.k12.mi.us.

TIGER TRIVIA

1. How many times have the Detroit Tigers won at least 100 games during a regular season?

2. How many times have the Tigers lost at least 100 games during a regular season?

3. Who has hit the most home runs in one season in a Tigers' uniform?

Answers: The Tigers have won at least 100 games five times, the last time coming in 1984. The Tigers have lost at least 100 games six times. Hank Greenberg hit 58 home runs during the 1938 season.

Blakely soars to the top

▶ Holly resident captures national title in slopestyle snowboarding

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

Chase Blakely has invested a large portion of his life into his primary passion, snowboarding.

The Holly resident loves the sport so much he's attended Carabassett Valley Academy, a private school located at Sugarloaf Mountain in Maine, to improve his skills the last three years. The institution not only teaches academics but gives the students high-caliber coaches to improve upon their passions for either snow skiing or snowboarding.

Blakely is starting to see the fruits of his labor. Blakely captured a national championship in the Junior Men's (16-17) division in slopestyle snowboarding at the USASA National Championships held at Copper Mountain in Colorado on May 29. Blakely was confident entering the competition.

"I was on the top (of the mountain preparing) for my first round

See BLAKELY on 19A



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO

Chase Blakely won a national championship in slopestyle snowboarding at the USASA National Championships held recently at Copper Mountain.

Joslin heading to Alma College

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com

Hannah Joslin wasn't happy with her senior golf season.

Joslin, a Linden student, wants to make up for it. She'll get that chance at the collegiate level. Joslin will continue her golf career at Alma College.

"I made an NCSA (National College Scouting Association) profile and I started looking for a college," Joslin said. "I was dealing with coaches all the time. I found Alma. I was really lucky. Everyone there is nice. The team is awesome. I'm really excited."

Joslin said she knew she wanted to play collegiate golf for a long time.

"I knew that as soon as I started I wanted to get to the next level," Joslin said. "I didn't know what that level would be for me, but I always knew I wanted to step it up and just keep going farther and farther."

Joslin has been the top golfer on the Eagles' roster for awhile now. She's

See JOSLIN on 19A



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Missy

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David's Dabblings

A few thoughts about the area's sports scene and some others not dealing with sports at all.



WE ARE CURLING CHAMPS BUT WE REMAIN HUMBLE

It has happened!

I am officially a part of a curling championship team. And the coolest part of the whole story is, my wife, Anna, was one of my teammates.

As most reading this know already, I've had a great curiosity for the sport of curling — that game with the large rocks, slippery shoes and funny brooms — since I was a kid. Finally, three years ago I did something about it and joined a Sunday night league at the Midland Curling Club. And while I proved myself to be the worst player in the league, I had fun. Apparently Anna saw I was having fun, because she joined the next year. Since then we've been teammates.

Both seasons we were fortunate enough to be paired up (a curling team is made up of four players) with another couple with great patience. This season we started to play better.

We started the season with a strong start stringing a lot of victories, putting us in first. At the time, it was 'cute,' but I thought someone would eventually catch us. It wasn't until there was about five weeks left and we were up by two matches, I realized we truly were the favorites to win this thing. Suddenly it felt like if we didn't win the title, we'd feel like complete losers. With three weeks remaining, we remained in first place by two games, but we had some adversity. Our playing partners (and let's be honest, the two better players on our team), Steve and Diane Dicken were leaving for vacation for the rest of the season. That means it was up to us and two subs (albeit quality subs) to lock the title up.

The first week the Dickens were gone we faced who I thought was the best team on paper. We lost that match, but it was a 'good' loss since we maintained a great tiebreaking edge in the standings.

However, the next Saturday we faced our next issue. I suffered a knee injury that not only put me in the hospital on a Sunday morning, but also kept me from competing later that night. While being able to do nothing more than watch, I witnessed our team lose another match. Suddenly, we were tied in first place with just one more match left.

The next weekend, my knee problems were still serious. I left three hours early to work on being able to allow my knee to bend down low enough and push off what we call the hack (our starting point). After two hours of stretching out the knee and gradually working to my normal starting position, I realized I was going to be able to play.

We not only had a good day, but we had one of our best matches of the season, won the match and captured the league title. And now, just two years after becoming a half of a team, we can call ourselves curling champions. At the risk of being a bit cocky, I can say we are the best curling performers living in the City of Fenton (since we don't know of any other curlers in the area).

So if anyone wants any curling pointers or wants hear some great curling stories, just give us a buzz. In the most humble fashion possible, we'll make sure you learn how impressive we are in our newfound sport. And believe me, we are impressive players. At least until next year when we finish in last place.

Good curling, everyone!

FIVE

Continued from Page 16A

3 institutions. Sines (Rochester College) and Jacobson (University of Northwestern Ohio) are headed to NAIA (National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics) schools. Another player, Jake Marshall, hasn't committed to a college yet, but has options.

Sines will be a pitcher at Rochester College. Sines was one of the Eagles' key hurlers a year ago and is expected to log big innings again this spring. He's expected to pitch at Rochester College as well, but Sines hopes to have a chance to get some additional playing time at other positions.

"It just means all of my hard work has paid off," Sines said about signing.

"All of the goals I set for myself, I've accomplished. I've thrived. I'm really happy."

Currently, the Warriors are 10-10 this season with a roster of primarily Michigan-based athletes. The Warriors top two pitchers in terms of innings pitched are seniors. The Warriors have used 17 pitchers this season, so apparently it's a program that likes to give everyone opportunities to prove themselves.

"It's a small campus and this is what I wanted," Sines said.

"They are a good baseball club and I just fell in love with the college."

Petts selected Olivet College, a Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association conference member (MIAA), instead of Clearly College. The Comets are currently 4-17 overall with a 3-9 mark in the MIAA. However, the squad was 20-20 just as recent as 2013. Petts expects to play outfield at Olivet College, the same position he plays at Linden.

"When I went to Olivet, I really liked the place," Petts said. "I liked the coach. It seems he really knows a lot about baseball, and I thought it would be a good fit for me."

Sarkon has a 4.3 grade point average and is expected to be his class' valedictorian, so selecting a school with the academic standards of the University of Chicago isn't a shock. Sarkon said he loved the area. Prior to making his selection he was looking at Hillsdale, Northwood and Dartmouth.

"You don't feel like you are in Chicago," Sarkon said.

"It's a great campus. I will be getting a great education at an outstanding school and I'm getting an opportunity to play baseball."

The baseball team holds a 5-10 mark currently, but the squad was 24-14 under the same head coach, John Fitzgerald, as recent as 2013. The Maroons were 23-12 in 2012.

Sarkon expects to remain at catcher when he heads to the University of Chicago. The team's current starting catcher is a freshman, but he's struggling with a .167 batting average.

"I expect to have the same opportunities as anyone else on the team," Sarkon said.

Jacobson is expected to play first and do some pitching for the Eagles this spring. His next home will be with the Racers who are currently ranked 25th in the NAIA ranks with a 27-7 mark. Ex-Linden Eagle player Bryce Benedict is a member of the program's JV squad.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

Tim Sines (above) is one of five Linden varsity baseball players who have made plans to play collegiate baseball next season. Two other players on the squad will be playing collegiate football. Sines is headed to Rochester College, where he'll be pitching.

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2015 SOFTBALL PREVIEWS

Tigers, Devils look poised for big softball seasons

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

Last year's softball season involved Fenton and Lake Fenton capturing league and district titles.

Expect a lot of the same when it comes to the 2015 softball scene.

But both teams will approach what they hope to be a successful 2015 in different ways.

The Fenton Tigers will try to repeat their success with many of the same faces that made 2014 so successful. The Tigers return eight players from last year's squad, and most played pivotal roles in the last season's success.

"We had a pretty good season last year which was a huge plus for our program and especially our eight returning players," Fenton coach Stefanie Roberts said. "I truly hope this year's squad gels as well as last year's group."

The opposite is true for the Lake Fenton Blue Devils. While there are several strong players back from last year, one can expect a new group of talented players to make their mark on 2015 and help make Lake Fenton a power once again. The Blue Devils will have to do it without some of the bats that provided 27 team home runs last year.

"We are replacing four college ball players and that is never easy," Lake Fenton varsity softball coach Amos Rinks said. "I

am curious to see as to whether we can put up those same numbers. If we can, we will be better than last year.

"My expectations are pretty high. I would be disappointed if we didn't win the GAC and districts again this year. I feel we have the talent to be real good this year."

Linden and Holly appear to be squads at least a year away from being any sort of contender, but each probably should be looking to be a bit better than a year ago.

Here's a detailed look at each team.



Lake Fenton's Kim Roe should be one of the tri-county area's top prep softball players this spring. She's a strong pitcher and a strong hitter.

LAKE FENTON BLUE DEVILS

Coach: Amos Rinks

Graduated All T-C players:

Alexis Melton (Catcher), Kayla Ward (Inf), Allison Petts (OF), Patricia Whitaker (OF).

Returning All T-C players: Kim Roe (P), Melody Draeger (Inf).

Summary: Lake Fenton a lot of new faces, but they are talented. The four players who do return — pitcher Kim Roe, catcher Melody Draeger, first baseman Sidney Sheyachich and utility player Allison Petts — are all strong performers from last year's GAC Red title squad.

Freshman pitcher Kalani Lau should be strong as well as fellow freshman Erin Ezell. Others who should fill up the starting lineup are Emily Angus, Sidney Conn, and Kaitlin Sparks. The rest of the team includes Alexis McMichael, McKenzie Wright, Paige Fiebke and Grace Dotsie.

Coach Rinks says: "Nine of the 13 girls did not play for me last year, so I will be hoping to build some team chemistry so the girls will improve on team skills such as communication and trust. ... We are more athletic this year (than last year) with more speed on the bases."

Projection: The Blue Devils have a great chance of defending their league title and district crown again. But getting through a tough regional will be demanding.

FENTON TIGERS

Coach: Stefanie Roberts

Graduated All T-C players:

Player of the Year Ellie Cowger (P/SS), Dori Carpenter (Inf), Rachel Siekierski (OF).

Returning All T-C players: Paige Dean (P/Inf), Katey Cairnduff (Inf), Emma Brant (OF), Taylor Mowery (Inf), Macie Keller (Inf).

Summary: The Tigers had a fun season last year, winning the Metro title and capturing a Division 1 district trophy. This season, the Tigers return eight of the players that made last year possible. Four are seniors. Paige Dean returns on the mound. Katey Cairnduff provides power within the team's lineup, while Emma Brant provides speed. Sabrina Cleis also provides more veteran leadership.

The others returning players are juniors Brenna Hatch (OF) and Macie Keller (2B); and sophomores Logan Carter (C) and Taylor Mowery (SS). The team newbies will be juniors Hayli Byers and Myla Wolosonowich.

Coach Roberts says: "We had a pretty good season last year, which is a huge plus for our program and especially the eight returning players. I truly hope this year's squad gels as well as last year's group."

Projection: The Tigers will be one of the Metro contenders again this year. Expect Fenton softball to be a pretty fun and exciting product to watch this spring.

HOLLY BRONCHOS

Coach: Matt Kessler

Summary: The Bronchos were a young team a year ago, and while they are a year older, the squad remains a young.

Holly has a few seniors. They are catcher Rowenna Bemman, first baseman Brooke Jackman and outfielder Jessica Riksers. Sadie Kessler is a junior at second, while sophomores Lilly Raymer (short) and Hailey Thompson (third) will patrol the left side of the infield. Sophomore Michelle Konarcewski and junior Hanna Landwerlen will play

the corner spots in the outfield.

Coach Kessler says: "We are still working on the building (rather than wins and losses). I'm allowing them to create their own goals. That's what they have to do as a team."

Projection: This is a program that hasn't finished in the upper division of league play since 1997, so it's realistic to think it's going to take a few more years before the Bronchos will rise to that level. Winning three Metro contests, and being more competitive overall is a nice goal for this season.

LINDEN EAGLES

Coach: Gordon Jamison

Summary: Linden struggled to a 3-13 mark in the Metro a year ago. The squad has seven players returning so that should help this year. On the mound, the Eagles have Alexa Marsh returning and freshman Christina Clemens. Molly Churches caught last year, but will probably play first this season. The rest of the infield spots will be filled by Sterling DeGayner (second base), Megan Klavitter (third/short) and Emily Williams (third/short). The outfield has Rhannon Morse returning and three

others competing for the rest of the spots. It looks like Cayla Wierenga will play left and Makia Ash and Samantha Polidan will split time in right. Kim Freitas and Brittney Vargas will catch.

Coach Jamison says: "This team needs to form its own identity. They were young last year and, at times, were overwhelmed. They have to, for their own identity, play more comfortable and get more consistent."

Projection: Doubling their Metro win total from last season certainly seems like a good goal.

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BLAKELY

Continued from Page 16A

of slope and I told (my coach) Will (Rivera) I have to win this and he said, 'Win this thing,' Blakely said. 'I thought about that and got an 87.5 on my run and got first.'

'I had been watching practice and thought that these kids are good, but felt I had a strong chance of winning the slopestyle event. I felt during practice my rail tricks were on point. My jumps were real clean and I had some style, and the judges liked the style I had.'

Blakely's coach for just over two years thought it was Blakely's time to shine as well.

'That day weather-wise the weather changed from cold to warm and a lot of kids were having issues on the course,' Rivera said. 'He trusted his run and he nailed his first run ... and his score held through the two runs. It was a difficult day. For him to put it down on his first run was definitely good.'

Slopestyle skiing was new to the Winter Olympics in 2014. The event includes a variety of obstacles including rails, jumps and other interesting terrain features. The competitors score points based on their amplitude, originality and the quality of their tricks. Many of the tricks featured are ones people may expect from a skateboard performer. Judging is done by six different judges who score each competitor for different portions of the run down the mountain. The maximum score for any judge is 100. The six scores are averaged, giving the competitor his score. Blakely, who will turn 17 on April 26, scored 1,795 points, earning an average of 87.50.

Blakely also competed in the halfpipe competition, placing 16th with an average score of 37.67. The halfpipe has competitors start from the top of a semi-circular ditch that resembles an icy pipe cut in half, exposing only the bottom half of the pipe. Competitors accelerate down the pipe to ride to the top of the other half and then do aerial tricks while flying off the top of the pipe. The competitor then attempts to land back on the pipe so he can accelerate and attempt more tricks while preparing for more tricks on the other side of the pipe. Competitors are judged based on



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTOS
(Above) Holly resident Chase Blakely (center) stands on the podium after winning the gold medal in the Junior Men's (16-17) class at the USASA National Championships in slopestyle snowboarding on March 29. The victory should set up Blakely, who goes to school in Maine so he can train, for a chance to compete in more prestigious competitions in the future. (Right) Blakely competes in the slopestyle event at nationals.



the execution of the tricks, the difficulty, pipe use and amplitude.

'I like slopestyle,' Blakely said. 'When I first started doing halfpipe, it was fun.'

Blakely, a junior, has competed in nationals four times, but missed it last year due to a broken collarbone. The national title was his first of his career.

'I wanted to win because my coach is real influential on my snowboarding and he told me how good I was,' Blakely said. 'He said I picked up tricks on the first try. Other people on the team do the tricks, but they come natural to me.'

The victory should open some doors for Blakely. Rivera said he's automati-

cally invited to next year's national championship, and said Blakely will be moving up to the open class, which is a step up. He'll also do more national events on the Revolution Tour. His first-place finish at the meet pre-qualifies him for that tour, which also is a step higher in the snowboarding world. The next step would be the Grand Prix of Snowboarding. At that level competitors can qualify for the Olympics.

'The sky is the limit for him,' Rivera said. 'He's a naturally gifted athlete which helps him. He learns tricks fast and brings them together quickly for either event.'

JOSLIN

Continued from Page 16A

earned the girls Junior Golf title at Spring Meadows in the past, and completed her senior season at Linden with a state-meet score of 91-89-180 at Forest Akers West Golf Course. She also placed runner-up at the first Metro League meet with an 83 at Fenton Farms. She placed third in the second meet with an 87. Joslin qualified for the state meet by carding a 93 at regionals. Joslin was nursing an ankle injury for a good chunk of the fall golf season.

'I feel like my biggest thing is I didn't play how I intended to,' Joslin said. 'I did some real damage to my ankle. It was like a third-degree sprain where I tore a bunch of stuff in it. It was right after the pre-Metro tournament, and I played the whole season with that.'

'That had a huge impact on my game. So, I feel in college I'm redeeming myself. I plan on coming back and making a return for myself, because last year was such a disappointment.'

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FRI-SAT 10:40 1:25 4:10 6:55
9:45 11:05
SUN-WED 10:40 1:25 4:10 6:55 9:45
THUR 10:40 1:25 4:10 6:55 9:45 11:05

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***MONKEY KINGDOM (G)**
THUR 7:00 9:05 12:05

****PAUL BLART: MALL COP 2 (PG)**
THUR 7:00 9:20 12:05

***TRUE STORY (R)**
THUR 7:30 9:55 12:05

***UNFRIENDED (R)**
THUR 8:00 10:05 12:05

CONTINUING

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The Barn — ‘a bar with really good food’

►New restaurant hosts
Grand Opening April 16-18

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Jason Warda, 39, always knew he wanted to open his own full-service restaurant someday. As the owner of Jimmy John's in Grand Blanc for more than a decade, he knew he had what it takes to be successful in the bar/restaurant business.

Located at 715 Torrey Rd. in the former MoDoggie's location, The Barn embodies Warda's vision of a California-style eatery amidst the historic backdrop of a barn setting. Fenton builder Scott Tarkleson gave Warda the wood after a fire felled an historic barn on Tarkleson's Mundy Township property.

The Barn, themed with "Surf Shack" décor, will host its Grand Opening on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, April 16-17-18. Guests will enjoy \$5 burgers, drink specials and nightly entertainment. "We're a bar with really good food,"

said Warda. "We want to be the place for people to come have dinner, then hang out afterward, enjoying our California-style specialty drinks, martinis and craft beers."

He credits his great-grandmother for recipes that have earned The Barn's rave food reviews. "I've been making what we call our 'Barn Dip' and 'Barn Burger' since I was 12. Ninety percent of our food is made from scratch, including our hamburger buns."

In addition to the signature Barn Burger, the menu includes a variety of Stuffed Burgers, all hand-pattied with Certified Piedmontese Beef. A Baja Burrito Bar contains all the fixings for a design-your-own burrito.

The Barn is also building its lunch crowd, open weekdays at 11 a.m. for lunch, including a Burger and Beer special for just \$8.50. "We serve brunch every Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to noon with upscale breakfast sandwiches, French toast, bottomless Mimosas and Bloody Marys," said Warda.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

The Barn owner, Jason Warda, said his business is a sports bar first but also has gourmet food and Michigan craft beers. Open since September, the grand opening celebration is this coming week.

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News briefs

NAMI Genesee County

NAMI Genesee County has support groups for persons with mental disorders, their relatives and friends. NAMI Connections for persons with mental disorders and the Family Support Group have trained facilitators. Meetings are 6-7:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays. New location is the McLaren Behavioral Health Center at the Oak Bridge Center, 4448 Oak Bridge Dr., Flint. The Oak Bridge Center is off the east side of Linden Road between Corunna and Lennon roads. Use the west entrance. This is no charge for NAMI meetings and classes. Call (810) 232-6498 for more information.

Walmart employees to get pay raises

Walmart has announced that as part of the company's additional \$1 billion investment in its workers this year, 11,595 associates in Michigan started getting a pay raise on April 4. With the raises, associates will earn at least \$1.75 an hour above the federal minimum wage and \$0.85 above the Michigan minimum wage. The new full-time average hourly wage at Walmart in Michigan is now \$13. This is the first company-wide increase in wages since its announcement in February to provide even more opportunity for its workers. As of April 4, all Walmart associates earn at least \$9 per hour, and by February 2016, all current associates will earn at least \$10 per hour.

THIS WEEK'S INSERTS

- Alpine Marketplace
- C & L Ward Brothers
- CVS Pharmacy
- Holly Foods
- Rite Aid
- Sears Hometown Stores (Agency)
- Target
- VGs
- Walmart
- Yes! Coupon Book

DOWNTOWN

Continued from Front Page

Streetscape project," she said. "It's been really slow today, but I don't know if it's because of Easter and spring break, or because of construction. It's going to be tricky."

Piacentini is just one of dozens of merchants affected by Fenton's downtown Streetscape project, now entering its third week. One-way traffic snakes through the orange barrels of the downtown area on Shiawassee Avenue east from Adelaide to LeRoy Street and northbound on LeRoy from Elizabeth Street up to Ellen Street.

Work continues on the water main project, and next week workers will install directional drills under the Shiawassee River, likely affecting traffic on Ellen Street, according to OHM Construction Manager Alan McComb. Work will also continue on the Sweet Variations building, with OHM Construction putting on an ADA-compliant landing and steps, plus a supportive retaining wall, at the street access to the second-story apartment. "They (customers) can still get in at the front of the store," said McComb.

Following a very busy Easter holiday, the staff at Sweet Variations is spending this week in cleaning mode. "My whole building is shaking," said owner Carol Schuler. "We had to take some jars off the shelves. We'll have to see what happens next. We all know we're going to take a hit."

Merchants like Piacentini and Schuler are concerned about their day-to-day survival throughout the project, but optimistic about the end goal.

"Business has been pretty good, although this week they've gotten into the nitty-gritty, especially on our end of LeRoy," said Nick Karayanis, owner of Round Town Cupcakes. He's scaling back on his baking, knowing that fewer customers will be walking through his door. "The end result is going to be great, though, with wider sidewalks."

Merchants are now turning their concerns into activism as part of the Fenton Downtown Business Association. "We've been somewhat organized for a year, but really stepped up in March," said President Marjie Andrejciw, owner of Margie's Gluten Free Pantry. "Our next organized event will be Ladies Spring Fling on Friday, May 1, from 4 to 9 p.m. We have 25 participating merchants from Spa Naturelle to the north to Sweet Variations to the south. I'm thrilled this is happening."

Two weeks into the Streetscape project, Assistant City Manager Mike Burns said that he hasn't received many complaints from either residents or merchants. "You can still walk around and drive through this area," he said. "We're trying to get everything done as fast as we can."

With a lightened work day and fewer customers coming in, Karayanis of Round Town Cupcakes reminds residents to keep shopping and eating downtown. "Don't forget all of us," he said. "We need you."

Summary

► Never has the "Shop Local" initiative been more important than now, with downtown Fenton residents needing the support of shoppers as the Streetscape project continues through November.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Businesses like Sweet Variations (back view shown) on Shiawassee Avenue already have limited parking, which will be further limited by ongoing Streetscape construction.

Downtown Fenton plans promotions and events

These promotions have been planned with the marketing assistance of New Moon Visions, hired by the Fenton DDA:

- **"Ladies Spring Fling,"** Friday, May 1, from 4 to 9 p.m.
- **"Shop & Win,"** kicks off April 30 throughout construction. With each transaction, a customer will receive cross-promotion coupons and specials redeemable at other area merchants. In honor of National Pay it Forward Day April 30, individual merchants at different times throughout construction will offer promotions with portions of proceeds to benefit Fenton Firefighters Charities.
- **"Momentum Musical Festival,"** hosted by A Joyful Noise Music Studio, on Sunday, May 17, from 2 to 9 p.m., will feature student rock bands, plus local talent including classical, bluegrass and rock bands on the grounds of the Fenton Community & Cultural Center.
- **"Fenton Family Fun Fest"** on Saturday, June 13 by Fenton City Hall along the Shiawassee River, featuring games, races and a scavenger hunt through area merchants.

Regular summer events like Concerts in the Park, Farmers Markets, Art Walk, Fenton Freedom Festival, A Taste in Fenton, etc. are still planned for downtown.



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HOT LINE CONTINUED

ANOTHER TWO-WEEK break for our state legislators. A break from what? Sitting on your (blank) in Lansing all day shouldn't be that exhausting.

■■■■ **HOW DUMB CAN** people be when you have an illegal vehicle and we tell you that you can't park it in our lot because it's not legal so you park it in somebody else's.

I THINK THE Amber Alert notification is great. Granted, they should make it a silent notification because either way, people will visually see it. But to sit there and complain about an amazing idea that could save a child's life is selfish, arrogant, and simply cruel. Have some empathy!

■■■■ **JUST SAW AN** article on CBS news about a Michiganistan. I didn't know something like that even existed, but

judging by the gunfire here in my neighborhood, looks like a lot of people are going to be well prepared for it.

■■■■ **LESS THAN HALF** of the \$2 billion raised by the gas tax and these auto-registration fees goes to fix the roads. The rest go to the DNR, Education, Secretary of State and the General Fund. Why can't we can't get a gas tax passed that's used just to fix the roads.

CHILD ABUSE

Continued from Front Page

and struck him with a hanger. She is alleged to have held him on the floor with her foot.

Livingston County Prosecutor Bill Vaillencourt did not respond with comments to the Times by press time. DHS of Livingston County indicated it does not comment on neglect and abuse cases at any time.

Allegations include the son's meals being left for him on the steps for him to eat alone in the basement. When allowed in the main home, the teen was only permitted to sit in one corner of the room.

Both parents admitted to protective services that the family kept the door between the main living area and the basement locked.

Court documents also show that Eric Corcoran admitted to protective services, that because the door is always locked, the teen had to use the camping toilet in his living area when no one was home.

Summary

►A 16-year-old male has been placed in foster care and his adoptive parents have been charged with second-degree child abuse for mental and emotional abuse in part by isolating him in the basement of their Bennett Lake Road home.

The teen has been placed in foster care, a decision supported by Christopher Nalley who has been court appointed to represent the teen.

Despite the close proximity, a neighbor of the Corcoran family, who wishes to remain anonymous, said Thursday morning that he never heard anything unusual coming from the home. He would see the family go in and out, but heard nothing more than a polite hello. He learned of the allegations in the news, and said, "I wished I had known, and could have told someone sooner."

The couple is currently in Livingston County jail with a \$500,000 bond. The probable cause hearing initially set for last week has been adjourned until April 16 to allow for more time for negotiations and discovery.



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Community robotics team wins Chairman's Award

► Hopes to advance to world competition

By Sharon Stone

sstone@tctimes.com; 810-433-6786

Recently the G.R.A.Y.T. Leviathons FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) FRC Team 1322 competed against 40 other teams at the Escanaba Qualifier in Escanaba. They competed in robotics competition and for the Chairman's Award, the most prestigious honor a team can earn.

The robotics team includes students from Fenton, St. John's, Linden, home schooled, Flint and Grand Blanc. "We are a community team," said team leader Kim Weber.

At the end of the competition, they were a part of the seventh-seed alliance that came in fourth place overall.

The team, which worked for two years on the Chairman's Award submission, waited until the last award to be called to find out they also won the Chairman's Award with their dedication to their video and a presentation to a board of judges. The Chairman's Award granted them an automatic advancement to the state level of competition in Grand Rapids.

They will compete with 18 teams at the state

competition for the Chairman's Award. Three of these teams will win the award and receive automatic advancement to the highest level of competition in St. Louis, Missouri. Seventy-three will advance to world competition, which grants the team a large chance of success.

To help sponsor the robotics team

If the Leviathons advance to the world competition, they will need your help to get there and do well. The entry fee of \$5,000 will be covered by generous sponsors. They need help with covering their travel expenses. The team will be holding a can/bottle drive to help with expenses. If you have cans you would like to donate, you can email team leader Kim Weber at kmweber@charter.net. The team also has a Go Fund Me account under Team 1322 FRC World Championship.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO

The G.R.A.Y.T. Leviathons robotics team, comprised of Fenton, St. John's, Linden, home-schooled, Flint and Grand Blanc students, show off their recently won Chairman's Award.



Holly manufacturer acquires Germany-based supplier

► Transaction marks first international acquisition for Burgaflex NA

Burgaflex North America, a Holly-based leading manufacturer of coolant system tube and hose assemblies serving the heavy truck, agricultural and off-road markets, announced the acquisition of Burgaflex GmbH, a Germany-based supplier of tube and hose assemblies for the heavy truck, bus, construction and agricultural equipment industries.

Burgaflex NA and Burgaflex GmbH were both previously part of the Burgaflex Group, which disbanded in 2010.

Now, five years later, the companies are reunited and stronger than ever.

The transaction marks the first international acquisition for Burgaflex NA, and will provide them with a key European location to help better service their global OEM customer base. Blackford Capital, a Grand Rapids-based private equity firm that partnered with Burgaflex NA in July 2014, helped facilitate the acquisition.

Burgaflex NA is located at 10160 Gainey Dr. in Holly. For more information, visit www.burgaflexna.com.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

I KEEP THINKING about that Obamacare advisor who said the American voter is stupid.

I'VE SEEN STORIES about this in the paper but I actually just saw the little red box with all the books in it on Silver Lake Road. I just wanted to say to that lady, God bless you.

TO ALL THE people mad at us for not wanting to be jerked awake at 5 a.m. for an Amber Alert, how many of you got up and looked for the missing girl yourself? Rest my case.

IT WOULD BE nice to know when the last day of school is for Fenton. Families would like to start planning summer vacations, but we are still at the mercy of the teachers' union that keeps us in limbo with no calendar yet.

CROMAINE LIBRARY WANTS to place a second tax on your property tax bill. You already pay a tax to Cromaine in your Winter Tax Bill. This issue has been voted down two times, enough is enough. I encourage you to vote 'NO.'

IF PROPOSAL 1 passes, \$116.1 million will go to mass transit. This means that we may be paying for the Detroit Street Car and the People Mover, which operates at a deficit of about \$4 per rider. Illitch and Gilbert make their millions while taxpayers pay the transportation costs.

THE NATIONAL NEWS media have an agenda. They choose what to cover and how to cover it. They hire the reporters, decide who to interview, and what questions to ask. The media then edit the results and tell us what to think about it. Be skeptical.

WHAT A SURPRISE that some drivers don't know the rules of the road. Have these people been hiding under a rock? It

has been more than 50 years that drivers have had to wait for traffic to clear before making a right turn. Amazing!

AGAIN, ANOTHER POLICE officer is thrown under the bus. The SC police officer has been charged, convicted and sentenced by the media. No one has seen the altercation that occurred prior to the shooting. I thank our police daily for protecting us from the lunatics who are running around.

THE LGBT COMMUNITY expects others to be embracing of their lifestyle, but they do not accept the fact that there are those who don't believe in their lifestyle. And just because they don't, doesn't make them a 'hater.' Stop with enacting new laws seeking to push their agenda.

EXCUSES, EXCUSES, EXCUSES, the city of Fenton will never repair our residential area roads. They are more interested in downtown and the retail areas. Those of us who live here will never see our roads repaired.

I AM SICK of Obama, liberal secularists and the radical Muslims' war against Christians. I am Christian and infinitely proud.

TO THE 'COMMENT of the Week,' complaint on the 5 a.m. Amber Alert. Are you that selfish? I bet you are lying. No way are you a parent. None of the parents I know share your ridiculous gripes!

FOR THE PERSON looking for a walker, Loose Center in Linden loans out medical equipment free of charge. Walkers, bath seats, toilet risers and chairs, and canes. Also adult diapers in limited sizes. April 25 is a free Caregivers Class at Loose. Check the newsletter online at loosecenter.org.

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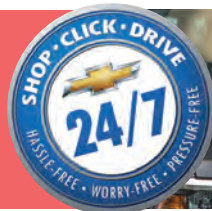
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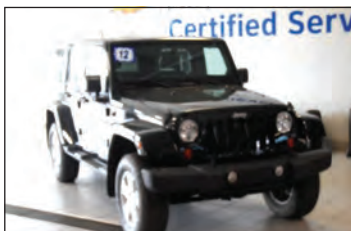
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